

**Large Print Bulletins, Large Print Hymnals and Hearing Devices are available.  
Please ask an usher.**

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 24, 2023**

**11:00 A.M.**

**The Congregation will speak aloud the bold print in responsive readings.  
\* Please rise in body or spirit.**

**GATHERING**

*Worship begins with God. God takes the initiative and calls the Church into being.  
In the name of Christ, we heed God's call and gather as the community of faith.*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WELCOME**

*Please provide us a record of your attendance. Take the red friendship pad, sign your name, and pass it down the pew and back, noting the names of those worshipping with you. We encourage our guests to share your information that we might be aware of your presence with us.*

**PRELUDE**

*Sinfonia from Messiah*

G.F.Handel

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;  
**with our mouths, we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**  
We will declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
**your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.** (Psalm 89:1-2)

**\* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (RESPONSIVE)**

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.  
(The fourth candle is lit.)

*Cantor:*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's  
peace.

**Congregation:**



The Lord will give you a sign:  
Look, the young woman is with child  
and shall bear a son  
and shall name him Immanuel (God with us).

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**\* HYMN NO. 105**

*People Look East*

BESANCON

**CALL TO CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)**

The Lord is on the move.  
**Our call is to witness what God is doing.**  
Let us quiet any voice but the Lord's  
**so we may hear anew the invitations from God.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE)**

Lord of the ordinary and extraordinary,  
**each day is special because of your presence.**

This day holds even more significance as we prepare to welcome your Son,  
**who will be born as a child tonight.**

There is so much to be done, so much to prepare;  
**but you call us to drop everything  
and follow your star to a humble place.**

You remind us that your call is not overwhelming  
**it is simply to listen to you and follow your ways.**

Lord of the ordinary and extraordinary,  
**slow our minds, ease our hearts, and renew our spirits,**  
so we can join the choirs of angels that'll soon sing of your Son's birth.

**Allow us to reveal to you that which keeps us from listen;**  
invite us to bear witness to who you are and how you act in our lives.

**We pray all of this as we open ourselves up  
to confess our sins to you...**

*(Silent confession)*

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer -  
cy up - on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON (RESPONSIVE)**

Create in us a clean heart, O Lord **and renew a right spirit within us.**

Remind us that your grace **showers us with forgiveness and acceptance.**

May we know these words are true: **We are forgiven.**

**\* PASSING OF THE PEACE (RESPONSIVE)**

The peace of Christ be with you!

**And also with you.**

Let us stand and greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.

**PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD**

*Gathered in God's name, we now open ourselves to God's life-giving Word.*

**TIME FOR THE CHILDREN**

Lindy Vogado

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

2 SAMUEL 7:1-17

OT, P. 281

**ANTHEM**

*Mary Wondered What it Meant*  
SPC Small Ensemble

N. Telfer

**GOSPEL READING**

LUKE 2:1-8

NT, P. 58

**ANTHEM**

*I Wonder as I Wander*  
D.C. Miles, tenor  
Ethan Ezell, guitar

John Jacob Niles

**SERMON**

*Dancing Our Faith*

Rev. Ben Kane

**ANTHEM**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
SPC Adult Choir  
Eugene Ezell, tenor

C. W. Douglas

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

*The proclamation of God's Word invites responses of faith.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)**

One: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Many: **Come Lord Jesus.**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

*Gloria: Vivace e ritmico #3*  
SPC Adult Choir

J. Rutter

Jesu, thou only art Holy.  
Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only art the Most High.  
Glory to God the Father.  
Amen.

**\* DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SENDING**

*The God who calls us together in worship now sends us out in service.*

**\* INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

**\* HYMN NO. 100**

*My Soul Cries Out*

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* CHORAL POSTLUDE**

*Carol of the Bells*

M. Leontovych

**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane

Rev. Alisa Secrest

Rev. Lindy Vogado

Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell

Dr. Bevan Keating, Director of Music and the Arts

Adam Savacool, Organist

Clint Brockway, Interpreter

Liturgists: J. Dyke, Garry Mertins and The Pickell Family

Cantor: Ashlyn Lallier

Welcome Center: Cindy Feltus

Elder of the Day: George Keck

Ushers: The Lloyd Family, Gus Bower, Carol Young, Marsha and Lindsey Taylor

Please notify the church office of hospitalizations,  
joys and concerns. For a full listing of prayer  
concerns, please call the Care and Concern line at  
(501) 227-6117

### STATEMENT OF WELCOME AND INCLUSIVENESS

As one part of the church of Jesus Christ, we are inspired and guided by Christ's vision of God's realm—one that includes all who seek to love God and neighbor.

Second Presbyterian Church welcomes all people.

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we invite those who respond in trust and obedience to God's grace in Jesus Christ to become part of the membership and ministry of the church.

We would be pleased to have you join us in our journey of faith, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic or family status, ethnic background, mental or physical abilities.

**A WEATHER REMINDER:** Weekday church events are canceled and the church office is closed if the Little Rock Public Schools are canceled or dismissed due to weather.

### OFFERINGS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

Your generosity is a meaningful expression of your faith in God and your commitment to Christ's work in the world. Contributions can be made to the 2023 Annual Budget, Memorial Gifts and the Birthday Fund. You may support the ministries of our church by placing your offering in the offering plate, through online giving at [secondpreslr.org/giving](https://secondpreslr.org/giving) or mailing a check to the church office, **600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72227.**



**MIRIAM PROJECT TRAINING:** On January 7, following the 11:00 a.m. service and our church-wide lunch, the Children and Family Ministry will host a Miriam Project Training. The Miriam Project is the name of our protection policy to keep children and vulnerable persons in our congregation safe. We would love to have all of our Sunday School teachers, WACKY volunteers, Stephen Ministers, and those who work with our Afghan refugee families participate. If you have done Miriam Project training before, this will be a great refresher as you volunteer your time to serve our church. Please reach out to Maggie Kirchner, (501) 352-3245, or Leslie McCormack, (870) 391-6790, if you have any questions.

### STEWARDSHIP 2024 UPDATE



Prior to launching the *Joining Christ on the Mountain* Stewardship campaign, the team and I decided not to create a numerical goal as we weren't exactly sure what the needs of the church would be (plus I didn't want to aim too low!). We are excited to announce that we are well on our way to increasing our 2023 pledging numbers and would like to increase it more. Last year we had a total of 419 giving units pledge \$2,175,000 and this year we are aiming to increase both. So far, our pledging units are increasing, and we are aiming to raise \$2,500,000. That seems like a big leap, but we are God's people, and our God believes in taking big steps!

Thank you to those who've pledged and for those who haven't, would you consider making a pledge to Second Presbyterian Church? You can do so online or by filling out an Estimate of Giving Card in the sanctuary or main office. And, just as importantly, would you pray for Second Pres. and all the faithful members and friends as well as the ministries inside and outside our church walls as we seek to be God's people today, tomorrow, and in 2024. To make your 2024 Estimate of Giving, complete the Estimate of Giving card located in the pews, go to the church website or use the QR code.



**DID YOU MISS ONE OF THE SERMONS?** If so, you can watch past worship services on the church website at [secondpreslr.org](https://secondpreslr.org). To receive a copy of a sermon either by e-mail or regular mail, contact Karin Howze, [karinhowze@secondpreslr.org](mailto:karinhowze@secondpreslr.org) or (501) 227-0000. Printed copies are available in the narthex and the church office.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

600 PLEASANT VALLEY DRIVE  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72227

OFFICE: (501) 227-0000  
FAX: (501) 227-6513

CARE & CONCERN LINE: (501) 227-6117

[WWW.SECONDPRESLR.ORG](https://www.secondpreslr.org)

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**3:30 P.M.**

*Children and Families  
Service*

**Sanctuary**

**5:30 P.M.**

*Traditional Candlelight  
Communion Service*

**Sanctuary**

**11:00 P.M.**

*Youth-Led Worship  
Service*

**Youth Building**

*Birthday Party for Jesus*  
**Second Hall**

**WHAT ARE THE COLORFUL SWAGS AT OUR FRONT ENTRANCE?** Advent is a season of hopeful waiting AND a concept that isn't well understood by many of our unchurched neighbors, so how do we share our practices like the Advent Wreath and candles? This year, we decided to go big! Inspired by Bruce Rentz and assisted by Roxanne King, J. Dyke, Gary Mertins, Joseph Yancey and staff members Marie Mainard O'Connell and Guy Howze, we crafted huge, bright, welcoming fabric swags in colors that match our oversized outdoor Advent wreath. We hope the sweeping visuals will draw the eye not only to our front doors, but also towards our Advent wreath and the candles lit each evening as we eagerly await Christ's birth. Like any outdoor art installation, we've had to contend with the weather, but we're excited to expand our welcome and evangelism. If you hear folks ask, "what's that all about?", we hope you can share about our Advent practices and excitement for our Christmas Eve services.

**OUTREACH TREES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:** Many thanks to all of you who helped to make the season brighter for our partner organizations in the community. Our Outreach trees in the narthex (main lobby of the sanctuary) were decorated with ornaments listing donation requests that will help our community members in need. This year we chose to support Women and Children First, Youth Home, and our Afghan Welcome Project. It is not too late to turn in your contribution. Please return any remaining donations to the church office with your ornament attached, and contact Lindy Vogado ([lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org](mailto:lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org)) with any questions or for more information.

**THERE'S ROOM AT THE TABLE!** We've had such great feedback from recent all-church meals that we'd like to start offering ways for our larger church family to share meals together on a regular basis! Beginning January 7, the Belonging Ministry will be hosting a church-wide lunch after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of every month. We will gather at the Lord's Table during worship and then gather round our Great Hall tables to enjoy a delicious meal together. Our lunch for January 7 will catered by Moe's Southwest Grill. The cost will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Please make a reservation using the QR code or by calling the church office. For more information, contact Lindy Vogado ([lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org](mailto:lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org)).



**RECEPTION FOR MARY IBIS:** Please join us on January 14, following the 11:00 a.m. service, in Second Hall, to celebrate Mary Ibis, her family, and her twenty-two years of service to Second Presbyterian Church. We are very appreciative of all the hard work that Mary has done for us over the last twenty two years and she will be missed. Mary has played an integral role in the life of our church and she will be difficult to replace, as we begin the process of looking for our next member of the Music Ministry team. I would personally like to wish Mary the best of success in all future endeavors as a music educator for the LRSB board of education. Come join us January 14 and celebrate Mary and her music ministry here at Second Presbyterian Church.

**TUESDAY MEN'S GROUP MINISTRY:** Each Tuesday at 7:00 a.m., men gather in Second Hall and on Zoom for encouragement, support, and Bible study. Free donuts and coffee! Men of all ages are invited to visit or join. Contact Vic Fleming ([judgevic@gmail.com](mailto:judgevic@gmail.com)) or Vernon Markham ([vmarkh3@gmail.com](mailto:vmarkh3@gmail.com)) for further details.

**CHEESES WITH JESUS:** We are a dynamic community, bridging the gap between 'young adulthood' and retirement with grace and zeal. Our doors swing wide to welcome newcomers seeking spiritual enlightenment and treasured long-time members alike. We start our meetings with a time of fellowship and libations/food followed by study. Meeting in a member's home, we transcend the ordinary, embarking on a journey of connection and spiritual growth. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. We will finish up our study of The Walk on Wednesday, **December 27**. We will meet at Catherine Allsbury's home, 32 Kanis Creek Place. We will start the new year with a new study: Six Themes in the Bible Everyone Should Know by Barry A. Ensign-George and Eva Stimson. CWJ will meet on Wednesday, **January 10** at 4009 Ridge Road in NLR, 72219. This is also a housewarming for Diane, proud new homeowner. Members are encouraged to bring a little something for the house. During our gathering time we will tackle Chapter 1 of Six Themes of the Bible Everyone Should Know. Contact Catherine Allsbury or Justin Villines if you want to join us: villinesjustin@gmail.com. ALL are welcome.

#### JANUARY PREACHING SERIES

*Claiming Our Identity: How Christ's 'I Am' Statements Form Us*

What shapes your life? Was it a person, a place, or maybe an experience? How was God involved? What is shaping your life now? These are big questions we'll be exploring at Second Presbyterian Church in our initial 2024 Preaching and Worship Series in January and early February. Using the 'I Am' statements from the Gospel of John, we'll discover how Christ's proclamations help form our identities and make who God has called us to be. If you are asking the big questions about who you are and who God is, this series is for you. Join us at Second each Sunday in the new year at 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. for worship and Sunday School at 9:50 a.m.

January 7: "I Am the Light of the World: Christ's Light Lights our Path"

John 8:12 (*Epiphany Sunday*)

January 14: "I am the Bread of Life: Being Fed by Christ"

John 6:35 (*Baptism of the Lord Sunday*)

January 21: "I Am the Gate and the Shepherd: Will You Trust Christ?"

John 10:7 and 11

January 28: "I Am the Resurrection: Salvation Through Faith"

John 11:25 (*Kirkin' of the Tartans*)

#### SECOND HALL SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES IN JANUARY

**GOD'S WORLD IN SELECTED POEMS BY EMILY DICKINSON:** Join us **January 7** and **14** for a delightful review of the enlightening works of Emily Dickenson, led by former Hendrix professor Chuck Chappell. No pre-reading required, but bring a cup of coffee to muse on the meaning and craft of one of America's most important poets, as her work continues to resonate and illuminate today.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW:** On **January 21** and **28** we welcome UALR professor and Cotham lecturer Rebecca Glazier to speak insight into the history and ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, more details to come.

#### ONGOING ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:50 A.M.

*Sunday School classes will not meet December 24 and 31.*

The *Seeking More Light* class meets in room 67. We are discussing Lost & Found: Reflections on Grief, Gratitude, and Happiness by Kathryn Schulz. The *Bible Study Class* on Zoom and in the Library at 9:30 a.m. remains focused on studying The Fall Uniform Series on "God's Law is Love" and moves through key passages of Luke, John, Romans, Galatians, Acts and First Corinthians to explore how Love Completes, Faith Triumphs and Christ Frees. Curriculum available digitally or printed free of charge. *Spiritual Nourishment* is reading Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers by Anne Lamott. Join them at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room or online Sundays. Newcomers always welcome as we slowly digest these wise, funny words from one of our favorite modern writers. *The Connections Class* meets in Room 62-63.



**CELEBRATING 31 YEARS OF  
STEPHEN MINISTRY AT  
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN!**



*commissioned May, 1992*

If you or someone you know is hurting and you would like more information about receiving Stephen Ministry care, please contact any of our Stephen Leaders.

Kay Combs 501-517-5007

Cathy Crass 501-951-5890

Steve Dunnagan 501-590-9768

Laurie Stueart 501-658-7966

Jana Villemez 501-517-1474

JoAnn McQuade, Grief Care

Rev. Alisa Secrest 501-227-0000

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

**GIVING COMFORT, LIFTING SPIRITS**

**USHER/GREETER VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS APPRECIATED:** Those who serve as ushers and greeters for our worship service are providing a ministry of hospitality for members and visitors to our church. Along with providing an important leadership role for worship, those who serve as ushers and greeters are also afforded a wonderful opportunity to meet and work alongside other members of the congregation. You may contact the following deacons who serve as usher captains to volunteer as ushers or greeters.

**DECEMBER WORSHIP USHER CAPTAINS**

**8:30 A.M.**

**11:00 A.M.**

(12/31) Johanna Lewis

**CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

***Christmas Eve***

"Big Music Sunday" 11:00

Children and Families Service 3:30

Traditional Candlelight Service 5:30

Youth-Led Service 11:00 p.m.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25**

***Christmas Day***

Church Office Closed

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26**

Church Office Closed

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

Adult Choir 6:30

Youth Basketball Practice 7:00

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

***New Year's Eve***

Worship 11:00

\* Denotes announcement in bulletin