

January 3, 2024

Second Press

A publication of Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, Arkansas

From the Pastor's Desk:

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be a few days into 2024. I'd imagine many of us have made resolutions and/or goals for this new year. Maybe yours were focused on being healthy or more active or maybe you are planning to spend more time outdoors or with family and friends. I wonder if you'd entertain making an additional resolution for 2024. Here it is:



Would you resolve to attend worship at Second Presbyterian Church every Sunday you are in town this year? (And, yes, worshipping online via livestream is worship!) It's a big

ask, I know! And there's more. Within that same resolution, would you commit to attending church every Sunday this year, even if you are out of town? Say you are out of town visiting family or friends or on vacation, I wonder if you'd resolve to attend worship at another church that Sunday (if you do, will you bring back a bulletin from that church?)?

Why, you might be asking, would I resolve to do this? It's a great question and one we all must grapple with every Sunday.

Let me offer a few answers. First, our faith is a testament to the God who gives meaning to our lives. By attending worship each week, we proclaim our need for God to be the center of our lives. That's what happens in worship – everything we do is centered on and around God. Our prayers, hymns, sermons, and fellowship are all centered around the Triune God. Coming to worship each week reminds us of this truth.

Another reason to make this resolution is that you recognize the need for others to aid you in your journey of faith. When we attend worship, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses – both physically and spiritually. I hope you know that people light up when you come to worship. Those who worship around you are giddy with joy knowing that you've joined them in worship; conversely, when you aren't there, they miss you. This is because you add something to their worship of God – your voice and very presence are an aid to everyone's worship.

Lastly, I'd offer another answer – because we harbor a belief that God will transform our lives. We believe that God is actively involved in the world and in our lives in particular ways that aim to make us disciples – ones who proclaim the good news that God's love, grace, and hope are for each of us. And the reason we have this belief is because we've heard it in scripture and we've experienced in our lives and what we realize is that we need to be reminded of this and worship is where that happens. Worship is when God's good news comes to us, reminding us that God will transform our lives.

It is a big ask, I know and I ask because we believe in a big God who does miraculous things. Know this—I'm praying for each of you as we all enter a new year together and I hope to see you this Sunday in worship—and many more throughout 2024! I also look forward to seeing the bulletins you bring back from places and church far-and-wide. Happy New Year!

Your pastor,

Rev. Ben

STAFF UPDATES

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY



With great joy and thanksgiving, we announce the name of our new Director of Children and Families Ministry. After an 18-month-long search, God led us to Doug Barr, a wonderful fit for our children, their families and our community.



Doug brings twenty years of experience in children's ministry, creativity and heart for discipleship. His wife Rachel King Barr (daughter of Roxanne and John King) grew up at Second Pres, and they were married

here. Their two children Hadley (5th grade) and Hudson (3rd grade) look forward to making new friends.

Doug has served congregations in Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama. His degree in theatre has served him well as he sings, teaches, preaches and plans on his feet and in perpetual motion. Doug was unanimously called by the search committee with a unanimous votes in Personnel Committee and our Session. He will begin his ministry with us in March, and his family will move from Memphis to join him this summer after the school year ends. Join us in celebrating and praying for Doug's family through their move and settling.

WHAT'S NEXT IN MUSIC MINISTRIES?

In late December, Mary Ibis, our long-serving Associate Music Director announced she was taking a new call as a teacher at Terry Elementary. As we plan for Mary's departure from our staff after 22 years of service, we celebrate what God has done in and through her life, witness, and ministry. She's been a gift to our music ministry especially with our children's, youth, and handbell choirs and ensembles. We invite you to join us in honoring Mary on Sunday, January 14 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

A MESSAGE FROM REVEREND ALISA

Grace to you, and I hope you celebrate with me a new year. I'm excited about a number of things in our congregation and hope you are with me in considering a few things exciting in my life. I will be away January 7-22 in Texas for a week of continuing education at Austin Seminary, followed by a week of anticipated brand-new grandbaby hugs in Dallas. Historically, I've not been very good at taking time away, because my family has recently travelled to me. Ever since I entered seminary in 2004, I have been home base to my kiddos. Now it's my turn to go to them periodically like such a time as this! I expect highlights along the way that I'll want share with you when I return. While I'm away, my pastor colleagues and our fabulous diversely gifted staff will cover ministry well. We have a plan. And I'll keep you all in prayer, joining you as I'm able online. More when I return to you...

In peace and joy, Alisa

MARY IBIS RECEPTION

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 LRSD board of education. Come join us January 14 and celebrate Mary and her music ministry here at Second Church.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bevan Keating



Stewardship Campaign 2024

We are inching closer to our goal of funding a budget of \$2,500,000 to do the work God's called us to do here at Second Presbyterian Church. Many of you have generously pledged to fund this mission and we are praying that many more of you will commit in the coming days. As we enter this new year together, we are aiming to close out the 2024 Stewardship Campaign of *Joining Christ on the Mountain* at the end of January with more participation than ever. Will you join Christ and us on the mountain?

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.



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. 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 11am 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

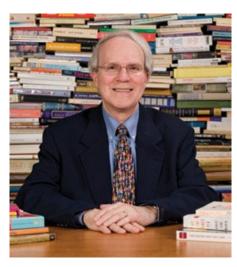
January 28: "I Am the Resurrection: Salvation Through Faith"
John 11:25

In Christ,

Rev. Ben

The Church office will be closed Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Second Hall Adult Education January and February 2024



God's World in Selected Poems by Emily Dickinson

Led by Chuck Chappell

January 7 and 14

Open the year with a delightful review of the innovative and enlightening works of Emily Dickinson, led by former Hendrix professor Chuck Chappell. No pre-reading required, but bring a cup of coffee to muse on the themes and craft of one of America's most important poets, as her work continues to resonate and illuminate today on topics like immortality, creation, and death.

A Deeper Understanding of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

Led by Dr. Rebecca Glazier

January 21 and 28

In what is sure to be a large and popular class, we welcome UALR professor and Cotham Lecturer Rebecca Glazier to speak insight into the history and ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. Dr. Glazier is a Professor in the School of Public Affairs, focusing on Middle Eastern Studies; her research agenda is focused on issues of religion, framing, and U.S. foreign policy. Her published articles and book chapters focus on political Islam, religiously-motivated violence in Iraq, and just war theory. Dr. Glazier teaches courses on global terrorism, religion and politics at UALR, and is also the Director of the Little Rock Congregations Study (of which Second Presbyterian is an active and long-standing participant). We welcome her insight and guidance to this challenging but important topic.



Rethinking Church: Our Good Future Beyond More Things To Do

Led by Rev. Dr. Ben Kane

February 4, 11, 18, and 25

Author Andy Root is a professor of Youth and Family ministry and teaches courses on theology, ministry, youth ministry and culture. His latest works focus on issues surrounding the intersection of faith and our secular age - particularly the book "When Church Stops Working." Rev. Kane uses this thoughtful reframing of our "current church crisis" to stop the endless cycle of doing more and rather to simply "be" in God's presence. Experience affirmation, encouragement, and empowerment from Rev. Kane and authors Root and Bertrand, who share what active waiting looks like and the saving grace it can hold.

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. In this new year, we will begin a new study: Six Themes in the Bible Everyone Should Know by Barry A. Ensign-George and Eva Stimson. CWJ will meet Wednesday, January 10 and January 24 at the home of Philip and Leah Shell, # 5 Berwyn Drive. During our gathering time on January 10 we will tackle Chapter 1 of Six Themes of the Bible Everyone Should Know. On January 24, we will look at Chapter 2. Rev. Ben Kane will be our special guest that evening. Contact Catherine Allsbury or Justin Villines if you want to join us: villinesjustin@gmail.com. ALL are welcome.

Presbyterian Women January 2024

As we turn the corner following our journey, we adventure into the New Year. And so, we imagine many possibilities, options and potential bucket lists. We found the baby Jesus and now we go about our daily lives knowing that He is the King of kings, the Messiah and our redeemer. We hope that 2024 brings on good times among loved ones, neighbors and church family. But, what-ever comes our way, we will meet each challenge through faith. (Justification by faith, Romans 5:1-5)We will take in lesson four and five: "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus" and "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus". Rev. Alisa Secrest will lead us through these lessons at the PW Gathering on Tuesday, January 9, 10:00 a.m. The Anna Circle will meet Sunday, January 21 and Huldah Circle will meet Wednesday, January 24 at 11:00 a.m. Boxed lunches will be served— \$10.00 per person. Notify your Circle leader to RSVP by Friday, January 5. Go in Peace.

Pam Babb, PW Moderator

NEW MEMBERS

Sam and Beth Highsmith (joined 12/10/23)

Sam and Beth joined by Transfer of Letter from Trinity Presbyterian Church. They were former members of Second Pres and we are so glad they have returned. Sam was our former Clerk of Session and Beth has always been very active in Presbyterian Women. Both Sam and Beth have always been very active in the life of Second Presbyterian Church.



Carol Faust (joined 12/17/23)

Carol Faust joined by Transfer of Letter from First Presbyterian in Helena, AR. Carol is a retired school teacher. She is sister to Kate Franks and aunt to Thomas and Libby Franks. Carol has been attending Second Presbyterian since she moved to Little Rock and she has been a volunteer from Second Pres at Bale Elementary.

Houston Downes (joined 12/17/23)

Houston Downes joined by Transfer of Letter from Trinity Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. He and member Laura Dunnagan are engaged to be married in the spring.

George Ann Streett (joined 12/17/23) George Ann Streett joined by Reaffirmation.

CHURCH-WIDE LUNCH!

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).





January 2024 Minute for the Earth

Did you know? Easy Winter Nature Crafts

ICE ORNAMENTS -- If you've got kids to entertain or a few minutes to spare and the weather's cold outside, make ice ornaments. Gather some brightly colored berries, sliced fruit, seeds, leaves and other plant materials and arrange them in the bottom of muffin tins. Cut a 8- to 10-inch piece of yarn or string and tie a knot at the end to make a loop. Place one end under your materials and let the other hang outside the muffin tin. Carefully fill each tin with water. Freeze (or leave outside if it's cold enough) for 8 hours. Dip the bottom of the muffin tin in hot water for a few seconds to release the ornaments. Hang outside and see if birds discover these treats.

LEAF ART – Take a walk and gather fall leaves, flower petals or other flat items. Arrange on a piece of wax paper and then cover with another sheet of wax paper. Cover with a thin towel and iron with your iron set on low. Increase the heat setting as needed. You can use a cheese grater and unwrapped crayons to make brightly colored wax shavings to add pops of color to your art. Poke holes in the corners and hang in your windows to brighten up the view. Or cut into heart shapes for Valentine's greetings.

EGG CARTON WALK – Grab an empty cardboard egg carton and head outside. Look for small plants, leaves, berries, sticks and other items to fit in each section. You can add a layer of skill by making it scavenger hunt with categories such as something green, shiny, round, prickly, fragile, etc. Make a paper grid with categories and tape it to the top of the egg card for easy reference. Display your treasures and watch how they change until it's time for the next adventure.

CHEERIOS BIRD FEEDER – Bend the end of a pipe cleaner so the Cheerios don't fall off and thread Cheerios onto three pipe cleaners, leaving an inch on each end. Twist the ends of two pipe cleaners together to form a circle. Place the third pipe cleaner across the middle of the circle and twist the ends to attach where the other two connect along the circle. This bar can serve as a perch for small birds. Tie a string to hang in a tree outside.

BIRTHDAY FUND: Sunday, January 14

If you have an January birthday, you may give a gift as well as receive a gift. You are invited to give a dollar celebrating each year of your age to our church's endowment fund. You may also give in honor or in memory of the birthday of a loved one. Our endowment fund supports all of the ministries of our church, such as outreach missions, youth scholarships, pastoral care, music, Christian education and more. Celebrate your birthday at the Birthday Fund table today in the narthex. Birthday Fund envelopes are located at the table, at the Welcome Center and in the church office.



CHRISTMASTIME at SECOND!



3:30 P.M. Children and Families Christmas Eve Service



Second Presbyterian Youth (SPY) Lock In



Pastoral Care Poinsettia Delivery



5:30 P.M. Traditional Christmas Eve Service



Sharing the Light of Christ



Welcome to Second Advent Wreath and Swags



Facing grief this time of year? Come to the monthly Faith and Grief community support group for encouragement and listening. It is a safe place to sit and listen and a safe place to name your loved one, if you like. We meet the third Tuesday of the month (January 16) in Second Hall at Noon. Lunch is available. Please let us know of your plans to attend by registering through the office or at faithandgrief.org.

Second Presbyterian Church A Community of Care and Prayer

"We were glad to share not only God's good news with you but also our very lives because we cared for you so much."

I Thessalonians 2:8

Life is messy. Celebrations and challenges can keep us seeking steady footing, as if life is a roller coaster. None of us can avoid grief and loss in our lives. None of us can avoid challenges. None of us can avoid transitions in life. What we do to help each other get through difficult times can be complex, yet it also can be so simple.

As people of faith, we are committed to healing and wholeness. Sometimes we can just show up and reach out. Other times, we offer words of comfort of a listening ear. If you're not on Pastoral Care, you might not know what we're celebrating or who needs prayer and care. To remedy that, we set up a Care and Concern line for your benefit.

Just call (501) 227-6117 for the latest recording of known joys and concerns. (If you've asked us to keep your matters confidential, we don't report them in the recording.) The recording is updated on week days. To share your joys, concerns and updates, please inform a pastor or contact the office. You can also use the prayer cards in the backs of the Sanctuary pews. Join us in prayer and care.

Care for Caregivers

Our Dementia Caregiver Support Group gathers for support, resources and sharing of experiences. There will be no meeting in January. For more information, contact the church office or Sandra Rogers.



Give Online to Support the Ministries of Second Presbyterian Church

You now have the opportunity to support the ministries of Second Presbyterian Church through online giving. Visit secondpreslr.org/

giving or use the QR code to contribute to the Annual Budget, make a Memorial Gift or Birthday Fund contribution.

Missed a Sermon?

Did you miss one of the sermons? If so, you can watch recent sermons on the church website at secondpreslr.org. To receive a copy of a sermon either by e-mail or regular mail, contact Karin Howze@secondpreslr.org or (501) 227-0000.

Those Serving Our Country

Taylor Douglas, son of Susan & Kevin Douglas – San Diego, CA

Jackson Hudkins, son of Jay Hudkins and Becky Latch, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, England

Greer Johnson, daughter of Cory and Stephanie Johnson, granddaughter of Kelly & Judy Johnson - Air Force Academy, CO

Jonathan Johnson, grandson of Helen Scott, nephew of Clarke & Cindy Scott Huisman – stationed in CO

Daniel Jones, Marjorie Watkins' nephew, Sarah Ceja's cousin – stationed in Offut AFB, NE

Kyle Rought, Mary Ibis' cousin – stationed in Fort Hood, TX

Cogan Wade – Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune



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

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

CHILDREN & FAMILY SPRING NEWSLETTER

Spring with Children & Family Ministry is a wonderful opportunity for families to pray together, continue to grow our faith, and play together.

Miriam Training January 7

Miriam Training for all volunteers--Sunday School teachers & W.A.C.K.Y volunteers who support Children's programming will follow the 11 o'clock service. Lunch will be provided.

Ladies Day Retreat Youth Building February 10

Ladies will gather for a day retreat featuring a yoga session, discussion with child therapist centered on raising children, and fellowship together.

Please contact Leslie (870) 391.6790 for more information

Family Retreat Ferncliff April 12-13

Families will gather at Ferncliff for a weekend of spiritual growth and connectivity.

Please contact Leslie (870) 391.6790 for more



Milestone Ministry

- January 21st: lunch in Great Hall with Ben after 11 o'clock. Worshiping Together milestone with 1st & 2nd Graders
- February 18th: during 11
 o'clock service. 3rd Grade
 Bibles milestone with 3rd
 graders.
- March 8th: Lock- in. Practicing our Faith milestone with 4th & 5th graders.
- March 10th: during Sunday School. Praying Together milestone with Kindergarteners.



- January 21st: Lunch & bowling together after 11 o'clock service
- February 25th: Service Project
- March 8th: Lock- in. Practicing our Faith milestone with 4th & 5th graders
- April 14th: Nature Afternoon at Pinnacle Mountain

Please reach to Maggie (501) 352.3245 with questions.



Church Family Dinners

- January 14th: Dinner at Hankins 4-6
- January 28th: Dinner at McCormacks
- February 11th: Super Bowl Watch Party at Hankins
- March 10th: Dinner at Hankins
- March 24th: Dinner at McCormacks
- April 14th: Dinner at Hankins
- April 28th: Dinner at McCormacks

Join for fellowship from 4-6 these Sunday evenings.

Hankins House; 9 Cape Cod McCormacks House: 2 Northwest Court

Save the Date for VBS

June 10-14



Sunday Online Worship Service

Available beginning at 11: 00 a.m. at secondpreslr.org

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane

Associate Pastors Rev. Alisa Secrest Rev. Lindy Vogado

Parish Associate
Dr. Robert Williamson

Interim Director of Adult Education Rev. Marie Mainard O'Connell

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Elizabeth Cahoon

Director of Music and the Arts

Dr. Bevan Keating

Interim Directors for Children and Family Ministries

Leslie McCormack Maggie Kirchner

Organist Adam Savacool

Business Administrator

Aileen Moore

Director of Planned Giving

Malinda Kirchner

Facilities Manager David Beach **Administrative Associates**

Karin Howze Tracy May Carrie Johnson

Food Service Manager

Brenda Majors

Child Care Coordinator

Karin Howze

SextonGuy Howze

Bulletin Board

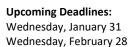
Hospitalized (*Discharged) *Bob McCarley, *Betty Herron, *John Lloyd, *George Babb, *Sherry Mashburn, *Mary Lou Hilles, *Bill Hilles, *Windsor Henry, *Brenda Majors.

We celebrate with Ian McVinney and Pratheepa Ravikumar who were married in India on December 15. Parents of the groom are Barry and Diane McVinney; Sandra and Ed Rogers on the wedding of Sandra's niece Leah Hoover-Gearing.

Our sympathy goes to Alfred Williams and Elaine Eubank, on the death of sister and sister-in-law, Quendy Veatch; Marie and Ryan Holder and Susanna and Tudor Moldoveanu on the death of Marie's great-aunt, Lois Sandusky; Galen and Carolyn Wenger on the death of Galen's brother, Larry Wenger; Terri and Tom Bonner, and Ferrell Bonner on the death of Terri's mother Judy Franks; the family and friends of Gloria Hohlfelder.

We would appreciate your help in keeping the church office informed when there is a sickness in your family, when someone is in the hospital, or a death has occurred. Please also keep us updated on the sickness or concern so that the information we have on our Care and Concern Line is accurate. Members and friends can call the Care and Concern Line, (501) 227-6117, on weekdays to receive information about prayer concerns in our church family. We will honor all requests for confidentiality, but in order for us to offer pastoral care we need to be aware of your situation. We also want to know about the joys, accomplishments and achievements of members of the church. Please call Alisa Secrest or Sharon Howard in the church office with information, (501) 227-0000, or e-mail alisasecrest@secondpreslr.org or sharonhoward@secondpreslr.org. Thanks for your help!

Newsletter articles may be e-mailed to: newsletter@secondpreslr.org







Please prayerfully consider including our Church in your estate plans. Your gift will support our ministries for many years past your lifetime.

SECOND PRES YOUTH SUMMER TRIPS

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 7

2024

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MONTREAT MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

July 17-21 | Maryville College, TN Presbytery of Arkansas Trip \$335.00

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION WEEK

August 4-10 | Little Rock, AR SPC Local Mission Camp \$150.00

HIGH SCHOOL

APPALACHIAN SERVICE PROJECT

June 23-29 | Appalachian Mountains SPC High School Mission Trip \$300.00

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 21-27 | Montreat, NC Presbytery of Arkansas Trip \$700.00



February 25, 2024

at Second Presbyterian Church in the Great Hall 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Come listen and learn, as we shine a light on the mental health needs of our teens.

Speakers:

Youth Testimonies Young Adult Testimonies NAMI Speaker **Local Therapists**

Breaking down the stigma of teenage mental illnesses

Depression Anxiety Bipolar Disorder Panic Attacks Social Phobias Suicidal Ideations ...and more





Office: (501) 227-0000 Fax: (501) 227-6513 Care/Concern: (501) 227-6117

www.secondpreslr.org





