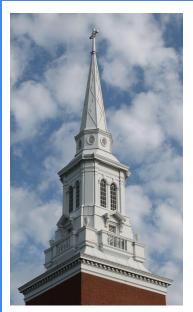
# Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church

Sharing the grace of God with one another and the world around us.



This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Please visit our website 2ndpreslou.org to connect with various ministries, or to contact the office for more information about our faith community.



If you are new to us, scan this QR Code to visit our website and learn about our life at Second.

Children of God, welcome home!

Thank you for silencing mobile phones and other devices to honor the sanctity of our worship.



For our worshipers who use hearing devices, please be reminded that we have the T-Coil system available. If you have the T-coil feature on your hearing device, and most devices do have that feature, you simply need to switch it to that setting. If you would like a unit, please ask an usher to provide one.

\* Please stand if you can do so comfortably.

Bold type is sung or read in unison.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>+</sup> Texts and translations can be found in the back of the bulletin.

# The Gathering

**PRELUDE** 

Prelude to Christmas Oratorio String Quartet; Samuel Libra, organ Camille Saint-Saëns

+Gesu Bambino

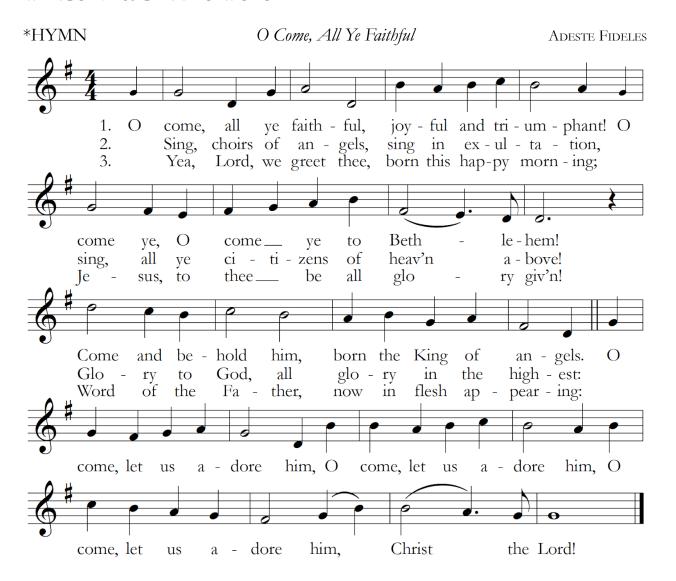
Pietro Yon

Christina Recktenwald & Molly Mehlan, sopranos; Laura Atkinson, mezzo soprano

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly Samuel Libra, organ

trad. Polish carol arr. Keith Chapman

## WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP



## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION read in unison

God of grace and truth, in Christ you offer us the gift of yourself, but we are distracted by presents under the tree. You come to us in human flesh, but we fail to recognize you in the humans right beside us. You shine brightly in the world, but we focus on the darkness in the daily news. Forgive us, and renew our hope and trust in you. Draw us closer to the one who loves unconditionally and welcomes all, the one who drew near to us: Jesus Christ, our Lord born this night.

Time for silent prayer.

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE The First Nowell The First Nowell

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought:
Nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel!

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

# The Word: A Service of Lessons & Carols

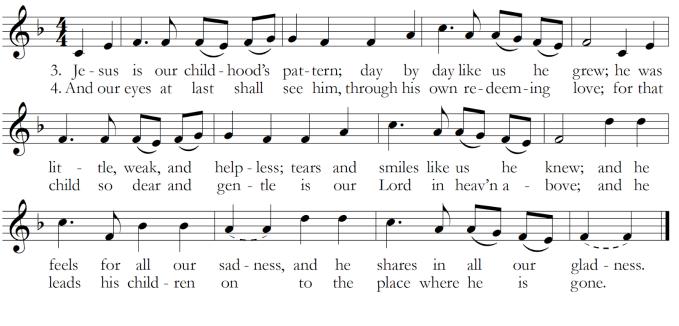
### **BIDDING PRAYER**

\*PROCESSIONAL CAROL Once in Royal David's City

**IRBY** 

vs. 1: Amanda Hood, soloist; vs. 2: choir; vss. 3 & 4: congregation

- Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
   Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
   Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; With the poor, and meek, and lowly, lived on earth our savior holy.



LESSON Christ's Birth and Kingdom Are Foretold Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

Lawrence Palmer-Ball

ANTHEM \*\*Adam Lay Ybounden Boris Ord
The Octet

LESSON The Angel Appears to Mary

Rev. Jordan Akin

Luke 1:26–38

ANTHEM \*Gabriel's Message Stephen Paulus
The Sanctuary Choir; Samuel Libra, piano

LESSON The Birth of Jesus

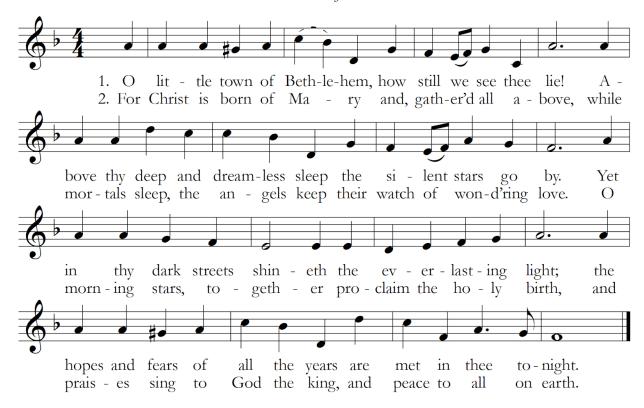
Kit Davis

Luke 2:1–16

ANTHEM

\*My Dancing Day trad. English carol

The Sanctuary Choir Arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw



**LESSON** 

The Magi Follow the Star

Matthew 2:1-11

Rev. Andrew Bowman

**ANTHEM** 

<sup>+</sup>Midnight Clear

Russell Schulz-Widmar

The Sanctuary Choir; Samuel Libra, organ

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE read responsively

Ronnie & Sunny Seale; Stephanie, Drew, & Morgan Fellon

Those who walk in darkness will see a great light.

For a child is born to us, who will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace.

There is Good News of great joy—

Joy for all people!

As we light the Christ candle, We glimpse the light of heaven.

No matter how impossible it may seem, God's promises will be fulfilled.



HOMILY Rev. Steve Jester

# The Response

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH read in unison

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You are invited to pass the Friendship Pad found at the end of the pew. We welcome you to scan this QR code and visit the Giving page on our website. You can fulfill your pledges and offer your financial support for the ongoing ministries of Second Presbyterian Church. Thank you!



Anthem \*Star Carol John Rutter

The Sanctuary Choir; String Quartet; Samuel Libra, organ

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord's Prayer read in unison

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

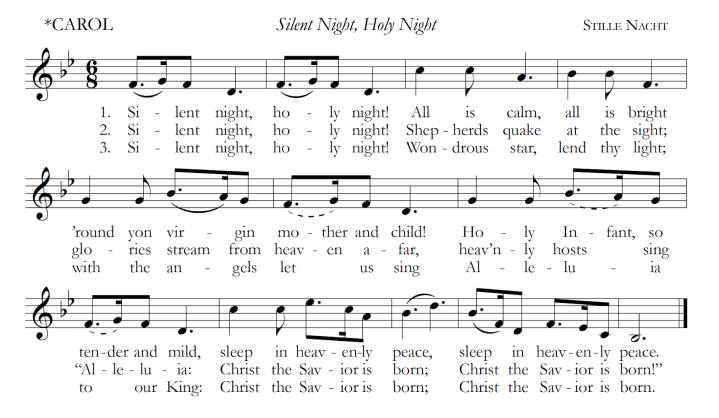
All those who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to take part in the sacrament. A choice of red wine or white juice is offered. Gluten-free bread is available in cups on the plates. You are invited to say, as you pass the bread, "Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life" and as you pass the wine, "Jesus Christ, the Cup of Salvation."

Music during Communion \*O Holy Night Adolphe Adam Christina Bouras Recktenwald, soprano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### \*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

To light, please tilt your unlit candle toward the lit candle of the person next to you.



# The Sending

## \*BLESSING & DISMISSAL

We are called to go out from our worship to share the light of Christ's coming and the grace of God with one another and the world around us.

# In Worship Today

#### THE CHRISMON TREE

In 1986 a former member of our church, Edith Breed, President of the Women of the Church, had a dream of one day having a Chrismon Tree during the Advent Season in our church. Many women in the church researched the symbols of Christianity and handmade all of the decorations that you see on the tree in the Sanctuary. White is the liturgical color of Christmas which refers to the purity and perfection of Christ, and gold to the majesty and glory of Christ. The first Chrismon Tree was put in the Narthex for all to see in 1989. Please enjoy this piece of our history, which represents the work of so many women of our church.

## THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given...

In memory of Charles & Jerry Pence by their daughter, Sallye.

To the glory of the newborn Christ child, and in loving memory of Judy Brown and son and brother, Chip, by Prentice Brown, Allison & Will Duncan, and family.

In loving memory of his mother, Pat Jaegers, and his brother, Ken Jaegers, Jr., by Eric Jaegers. To the glory of God, for all of our earthly and spiritual blessings, by Nancy & John Hubbard.

A special thank you to Bonnie Boram, House and Gardens Committee, our office administrators, children from our Weekday School, and many others who helped to decorate our indoor and outdoor spaces so beautifully.

#### **USHERS**

Tom Tyrrell, Lawrence Palmer-Ball, Rosemay Palmer-Ball, Tony Duncan, Elaine Duncan, Kit Davis

### **OUR WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Steve Jester, preacher; Rev. Andrew Bowman, Rev. Jordan Akin, liturgists; Lawrence Palmer-Ball, Kit Davis, lay readers

The Sanctuary Choir (Octet\*): Laura Atkinson\*, Mary Ayers, Maryann Bell, Ricky Case\*, Lamoine Cash, Terry Cissell, Dick Clay, Jane Cleary, Jeanne Curtis, Patty Dailey, Stan de Voogd, Linda Dukes, Russell Dunlap\*, Richard Ellis, Chris Ellis, Sara Gilford, Ann Grissom, Jodie Goldberg, Karen Hadley, Krista Heckmann\*, Jean Herp, Lindsey Hundley, Carol Hull, Emma James, Clay Kannapell, Molly Melahn\*, Bill McDowell, Susan McDowell, Kenneth Oeth\*, Harrison Palmer-Ball, Becky Peer, Christina Bouras Recktenwald\*, Janet Rittenhouse, Deborah Skaggs, Larry Sloan, Martha Spencer, Jason Steigerwalt\*, Camille Williams-Neal, & Jesse Wright.

The Strng Quartet: violin: Sabrina Parry, Misaki Hall; viola: Laura de St. Croix-Vicic; cello: Luke Darville.

Jim Rittenhouse, Director of Worship & Music Ministry

Dr. Samuel Libra, Organist and Assistant Director of Worship & Music Ministry

Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; Elliott Nichols, Technology Coordinator

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# We Lift Up in Prayer

Martha Spencer and her family on the death of her sister, Fuchsia Nelson, 12/18/23. LaMar Gaston, Joan Gaston, Page Penna, and their family on the death of LaMar's son, Mark, 11/24/23.

Sue Rogers and her family on the death of her father, O.D., 11/8/23.

# Texts & Translations

## Gesu Bambino (The Christ Child)

Pietro Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night, Was birth the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light. The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced. And at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart of rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of Love and Light. Let every voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell, From paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell.

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Frederick H. Martens

## Adam lay y bounden

Boris Ord

Adam lay ybounden, Ne had the apple taken been, Bounden in a bond; The apple taken been, Four thousand winter Ne had never our lady Thought he not too long. Abeen heavené queen. And all was for an apple, Blessed be the time An apple that he took, That apple taken was, As clerkes finden Therefore we moun singen, Written in their book. "Deo gracias!" 15th c. English

### Gabriel's Message

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail!" said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!
"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

## trad. Basque carol, arr. Stephen Paulus

"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."

Most highly favored lady, gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born,
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favored lady, gloria!"

Sabine Baring-Gonld

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,

## My Dancing Day

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance To see the legend of my play, To call my true love to my dance; Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, This have I done for my true love. Then was I born of a virgin pure, Of her I took fleshly substance Thus was I knit to man's nature

To call my true love to my dance.

It came upon the midnight clear,

## trad. English carol, arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was
So very poor, this was my chance
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass
To call my true love to my dance.
Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard I from above,
To call my true love to my dance.

trad. English

Yet with the woes of sin and strife

## Midnight Clear

That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heaven's all-gracious King"—
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.
Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds
The blessed angels sing.

### Russell Schulz-Widmar

The world has suffered long; Beneath the angel-strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong; And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring;— Oh hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing! For lo! the days are hastening on By prophet bards foretold, When with the ever circling years Comes round the age of gold; When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling, And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing. Edmund Sears

#### Star Carol

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies; Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle, Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary! See his star shining bright In the sky this Christmas night! Follow me joyfully; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary! Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory. Bear the news with its message of good cheer: "Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us, Hurry to Bethlehen to see the son of Mary!"

John Rutter

See his star...

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping; Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep. Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him, Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary. See his star...

Let us all pay our homage at the manger, Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night; Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star...

John Rutter

O Holy Night Adolphe Adam

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name all oppression shall cease, Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! Placide Cappeau, trans. John Sullivan Dwight

# The flowers and wreaths are given to the glory of God by...

## Wreaths:

Susanne & Jess Wright in honor of their children and grandchildren.

Lorrie & Peter Conway in honor of our grandchildren Eleanor and John Gleason, and Rose, Josephine, and Dorothy Conway.

Janie Duerson Scovil & family in memory of her parents Jack and Jane Duerson.

Jay O'Brien in memory of Lucy and E.J. O'Brien.

## Poinsettias:

The Dunbar, Hall, & Parker families in memory of Thomas E. Dunbar and Evan T.J. Dunbar Ronnie & Sunny Seale in honor of our grandchildren, Morgan Fellon, Jackson & Ruby Seale Caroline Wells

Cheryl & Dan Russell in memory of our wonderful family in heaven; In memory of our loved ones. Forever in our hearts.

Margaret Brown in memory of William Lewis Brown

Prentice Brown and Kim Muir Craven & family in memory of Joan Muir

John & Bonnie Stone in memory of our parents

Ann Buckman in loving memory of J.D., Angelina, and Carletta Buckman

Martha Clay Nichols in memory of Robert W. Nichols; In memory of Tom B. Nichols

Kelly & Joe Seiler in honor of our children, Campbell and Elizabeth

Kelly, Joe, Campbell, and Elizabeth Seiler in memory of Mr. & Mrs. John G. Seiler Jr.

Sandall & Tom Tyrrell in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Tyrrell; In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Dade; In memory of Mr. Gerald G. Tyrrell

In memory of Peyton Wells by his family

In memory of Caroline & Jim Mapother and Marion & Peyton Wells by their families

Lisa Houghlin in memory of Jim & Joan Bell; In memory of David Houghlin

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Lewis in memory of Clinton Glasscock; In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hughes and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lewis



Lynn Dunbar in memory of Evan Thomas Joseph Dunbar; In memory of Tom Dunbar; In honor of my children, April, Sergey, & Allysa; In memory of Joseph Cieskiewicz; In memory of Joseph Kelly Cieskiewicz

Sarah Middleton, Brian, Libby, Margaret, and Matt in memory of Kenneth Middleton

Heather, Amelia, & Colleen Campbell in memory of Christina Larsen Campbell;

In memory of Judith Coye Gilchrist; In memory of Arthur Keith Gilchrist;

In memory of The Honorable William J. Campbell; In memory of Marie Cloherty Campbell

Margaret Flowers in memory of Louise Horine and Lynn Adair

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Glasscock in memory of Jane Shewmaker; In memory of Clinton Glasscock

Linda Watson in honor of Elizabeth Clay

Laura Davis in honor of our children Abby, Allison, & Scott Davis; In honor of our parents, Bill Davis, Linda Watson, & Jim Watson, and in memory of John's mom, Caroline Davis

Becky Shaw in memory of Judd Shaw

Linda & Wayne Rudloff in honor of their 5 children and 4 grandchildren, and in memory of our parents

Stuart Ferguson in honor of Anabelle, Beau, and Elise; In honor of the House and Garden Committee Members; In memory of Bruce L. Ferguson, Jim Kneisley, Bruce W. Ferguson, and Alyssa Kneisley

Nancy Ostertag in memory of Barbara & George Dudley

Evelyn Hwang in memory of Henré Hou, Eric Huang, and John Church; In memory of M.C Hwang, Maria Nice, and Hedy Shao

Edith and Charlie Huber in loving memory of our parents, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph F. Huber and Mr. and Mrs. Z. Charles Justice

Jamie and Walt Swyers in honor of our grandchildren Marin, Tyler, Bennett, Sam, and Lily

Nan Dobbs in memory of Dr. Charlie Dobbs

The Costel Family in honor of Bill & Shirley Rutledge; In memory of Virginia & William Costel

Gene & Connie Smith in memory of their parents Mr. & Mrs. Mason Venner Smith and Mr. & Mrs. Lester J. Rausch

An anonymous donor in memory of Viola & George Austin;

In loving memory of Frederick C. Ehrman, M.D., by his family

Joyce Kneisley in honor of the Stuart Ferguson family, with love from Joyce Kneisley, Jennifer's mother

Maryann Bell in honor of Ellen Rudd

Lynn Maddox in memory of Robert Tyler Maddox

The Duffy family in honor of Evelyn Hwang

Henry & Debbie Kelsey in honor of our children Caroline, Henry, and Rachel;

In memory of Ronald Sanders (Sandy) Ligon

Jim Seiler in honor of our children and grandchild, Allie & James Seiler and Katie, Alex, and Turner Harkess

Tom & Karen Sweets in memory of their parents

Leigh & Latham Speiden in honor of Chase, Melanie, John, Lucy; Frank, Tricia, Louise, and Maymie Speiden; In loving memory of our parents Mr. & Mrs. John M. Nichols and Mr. & Mrs. Fillison L. Speiden

Cindy & Mike Dickman in honor of Lillie, Maggie, and Jack;

In honor of Maxie Key and in memory of Lester Key, Norma McCray, and Bill Dickman

Ward Tabler in honor of William & Andrew Tabler; In memory of Elizabeth K. Bondurant

Rosemay Palmer-Ball in memory of Shirley & Helen Palmer-Ball

Susan Langford in honor of 2nd Act

The Lyles Family in memory of Martha Bryant

Angela Florence in memory of Shirley Rizzo

Drew, Stephanie, & Morgan Fellon in honor of Grace Fellon, Sunny & Ronnie Seale; In memory of Leonard Fellon

Cheryl Cooper and Walter Crutcher in memory of Courtney Cooper

Ed Wilson in memory of Jeanie Wilson

Amy & Frank Parker, and family in honor of Jean Groskreutz; In honor of Cathy Hollander

Carole Nadar in honor of my brother, Leonard DeToma, Jr., and his unwavering faith despite critical health concerns; In memory of beloved parents, Carolyn and Leonard DeToma, Sr.

Hunter & Sissy Judy in memory of Randy Canfield

Betty Kilgore Gibbs in memory of George S. Gibbs III

Betty Kilgore Moss Gibbs, and grandchildren Gwinn & Jack Moss, in memory of her parents Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Wesley Kilgore Jr.

Susan Elliott Moss, and grandchildren Elliott, Wesley, & Rhodes Moss, in memory of her parents Bill & Louise Elliott

In honor of Betty Kilgore Moss Gibbs by her grandchildren, Elliott, Wesley, & Rhodes Moss

Kyle, Andrea, Kate, and Zara Wiggins in memory of Mac Wiggins, father of Kyle Wiggins

Frances & Charlie Scholtz in honor of Latham Weisshaupt; In memory of Mary Haggin and Charlie Scholtz

Elizabeth and Doug Owen in loving memory of our parents Alice Carn & Eugene Farmer Leelia Reynolds Hill and Douglas St. Owen

Tom & Jeannette Pardue in honor of Pastor Steve Jester

Patty & Bill West in loving memory of their parents

Liz Evans in memory of my grandmother, Jane Ware

Kitty Keeley in honor of Hal Keeley; In honor of Graham Keeley; In honor of Ches Keeley

Susan & Bill McDowell in honor of Trey, Leslie, & Dutch

Jane & Annie Roth and Lucy, Patrick, & Claire Kosse in honor of my precious family, Annie, Lucy, Patrick and Claire; In loving memory of Jack Roth

Timothy & Sharon Clark in honor of our grandchildren Logan Michael & Isla Elizabeth; In memory of our parents Charles & Ruth Clark and John & Ethelyn Jeffords

Kitty & Stan deVoogd in honor of our granddaughters Amelia Joy and Eleanor Kay; In honor of Kitty's father, Bill Billingham

John and Cindy McCarthy in memory of John & Jane McCarthy; In memory of Bess & Leon Stone; In memory of John & Margaret Moss

