

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.



With gratitude to God, 2025 marks our 195th anniversary, and as we move toward our bicentennial, we have a great opportunity to reflect on our many accomplishments, evaluate our current mission, and identify new strategic pathways that will help us meet the needs of our congregation and community.

Please join us on our continued journey to preserve, strengthen, and innovate our community of faith.



Children of God, welcome home!

***Bold** type indicates where we share the liturgy together.*

Service for the Lord's Day

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"- Luke 1:42-45

The Gathering

11:00 a.m. TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE	8:30 a.m.	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	arr. Alexander Matthews
	11:00 a.m.	<i>A Pleasant Thought</i>	Florence Price
		Mengfei Xu, organ	

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT	<i>Creator of the Stars of Night</i>	CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM
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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *read responsively*

8:30 a.m.	Delise Bilharz and Lacey Costin
11:00 a.m.	Michael, Hunter, Elizabeth, and Sarah Arton

from Luke 1:78-79

The dawn from on high breaks upon us
to give light to those who sit in darkness.

We light this first candle to remind us of the hope we have in Christ's
promised coming.

In hope, we await the Light of the World.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

Ever-present God, we confess that we are not always patient.
We want life to speed up. We wish our prayers were answered yesterday. We rush instead of wait, and think slowing down is a sign of weakness. We dislike unanswered questions, and struggle with hearing “not yet.” But your time is not our time. In this Advent season, help us to slow down so that we might see you. Teach us to let go so that we might hear you. Invite us to trust so that we might embrace.

Time for silent prayer.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let us celebrate this very Good News:

Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, refrain*

VENI EMMANUEL

*11:00 a.m.: Children ages 3 through completed 3rd graders are invited to come forward;
they will be dismissed through the side door for activities following the Peace.*

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE *read responsively*

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Luke 1:39-45

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Luke 1:67-79

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Light Dawns: Elizabeth & Zechariah

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

The Response

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *congregation remains seated*

Thou Shalt Know Him

Michael Sirrett

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by any din of drums,
Nor his manners, nor his airs,
Nor by any thing he wears.
Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by a crown nor by a gown,

But his coming known shall be,
By the holy harmony
Which his coming makes in thee.
Thou shalt know him when he comes.
Amen. Amen.
- anon. 15th century/ad. Sirrett

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*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!*



HYMN 109 *seated*

Blest Be the God of Israel
vs. 1, soloist; vs. 2 & 3 Congregation

MERLE'S TUNE

*DOXOLOGY 143 *Angels from the Realms of Glory, vs. 4*

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.**

The Sending

*HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

GENEVAN 42

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BuxWV 211

Dietrich Buxtehude

We are called to go out from our worship to share the grace of God with one another and the world.

You are welcome to remain seated for the postlude or exit quietly.

In Worship Today

THE CHAPEL ADVENT CANDLE STAND

The Advent candle stand found in the Chapel is constructed of cherry and maple wood, stained red cherry and finished with lacquer and polished with paste wax. The lathed candle holders are etched with 3 rings representing God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Attached at the bottom of the main pole is an acorn symbolizing God's abundant forgiveness, love, and grace. The stand was constructed by Dr. Larry Boram and the wood was donated by Dr. Lynn Ogden.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given by Ann MacDonald and Ron Ross in Thanksgiving for Second Presbyterian Church, and family, and all who enter in.

USHERS

8:30 Bill Creason

11:00 Brad Hume, Glen Hume, Holly Gathright, Joe Gathright, Sandy Bailey

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, preacher; Elizabeth Clay, liturgist; Christina Recktenwald, Lay Reader

The Octet (8:30); The Sanctuary Choir (11); Jim Rittenhouse, director; Mengfei Xu, organist

Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; William Vicic, camera (11)

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We Lift Up in Prayer

Gene and Connie Smith and family on the death of Gene's sister, Elizabeth Land, 11/20/25

The family of Natalie Brymer on her death, 11/20/25.

Ann and Roy Bowling and family on the death of her brother, Bruce Kleinschmidt, 11/18/25.

James, Allie, and Claire Seiler and family on the death of their son and brother, 10/30/25.

The family of Anne Anderson on her death, 10/22/25.

Sallie, John, and Lee Ann Cunningham on the death of Sallie's father, Robert L. Bellamy, 10/19/25.

Wayne, Christie, Sims, and Marie Wilson on the death of Wayne's mother, Linda, 10/18/25.

The family of Wallace Horine on his death, 10/18/25.

Lucy Hovis and family on the death of her sister, Eva Sirach, 10/12/25.

Lee Ann and David Dorsey and their family on the death of Lee Ann's sister, Roberta Gordon Barnett, 10/8/25.

Announcements

November 30, 2025

TO OUR VISITORS - Welcome to Second Presbyterian!

Please help us get to know you better by filling out an information card (in the pew pockets). You are welcome to hand the card to a pastor in the Narthex or place it in the offering plate. *Thank you!*

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - will be held on Sunday, December 7th. There will be two meetings, one after the 8:30 a.m. service and one after the 11 a.m. service, so everyone has a chance to elect church officers (you don't need to attend both meetings).

CHILDCARE is available for all Sunday morning events. Childcare is available in room 120 for children from birth through age 5 until 10:45 a.m. and birth through age 3 for 11:00 a.m. worship. Older children are asked to remain in 8:30 a.m. worship. Childcare & activities for 1st through 6th grades are available during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.) in room 180 off of the youth suite.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are in need of a helper in the nursery in addition to our nursery staff each Sunday. Please consider volunteering during 11:00 worship. Sign up by scanning the QR code or contact Lorie Williamson at lwilliamson@2ndpreslou.org. (All volunteers must be members and are subject to background check and training.)



CHILDREN'S CHURCH- Older 3's (by 8/1) through 6th grade attend worship and exit to activities after the Passing of the Peace. Children can be picked up after worship in the following rooms: PreK-K room 153, 1st-3rd grade room 152, 4th-6th grade room 180.

ADVENT SERVICE, DINNER & WORKSHOP - Today, 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to this annual event celebrating the start of the Advent season. The evening begins with a service led by our children & youth in the Chapel and continues with dinner and the opportunity to create advent wreaths and other crafts of the season in the Great Hall. Please bring a non-perishable food item of your choice as an offering.

COCOA AND CAROLING - Sunday, December 7, join us in the Fellowship Hall for hot cocoa at 4:30 PM, followed by caroling at 5:00 PM. We will share the joy of Christmas as we walk through the neighborhood for about an hour. All voices are welcome. Bring your friends, your holiday spirit, and a flashlight!

PARENTS NIGHT OUT - Saturday, December 13, Birth through third grade are welcome to join for gym time, craft, movie time & more! RSVP to Lorie Williamson by Monday, December 8 at lwilliamson@2ndpreslou.org.

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF JOY SUNDAY - On Sunday, December 14, both 8:30 and 11 a.m. services will be in the Sanctuary. The Choirs of Second, Symphonic Chamber Orchestra, and Mengfei Xu, Organist, along with our pastors and readers will present "Redemption's Happy Dawn," with music of CPE Bach, Dan Forrest, David Willcocks, and more. Preludes begin 15 minutes before.

PLEDGE CARDS - If you have not had a chance to turn in your pledges for 2026, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards have been sent in the mail, and extras are available at the tables outside of the worship spaces if you need one. We still have quite a few yet to be returned, so let's keep those pledges coming. *Thank you!*

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH - For the month of December we are collecting monetary donations for foreign mission outreach to both PC(USA)'s Global Ecumenical Partnerships and mission co-workers, Dustin and Sherri Ellington currently working in Lebanon. Please make checks payable to Second Presbyterian Church or online through our giving page.

ONLINE DIRECTORY - We would love for everyone to have a current photo on the online directory. You can update your contact information and upload a picture through the Instant Church Directory app or visit: <https://www.2ndpreslou.org/about/directory/>. If you need assistance, please call Amy

Kiefner at 502-895-0346 or email akiefner@2ndpreslou.org. See Seconds to Go for more information.

CALLING ALL STORYTELLERS - Do you have a passion for sharing stories or writing news/human interest articles? Are you actively using social/digital media to generate engaging content? If so, please email watson.courtenay@gmail.com. See Seconds to Go for more information.

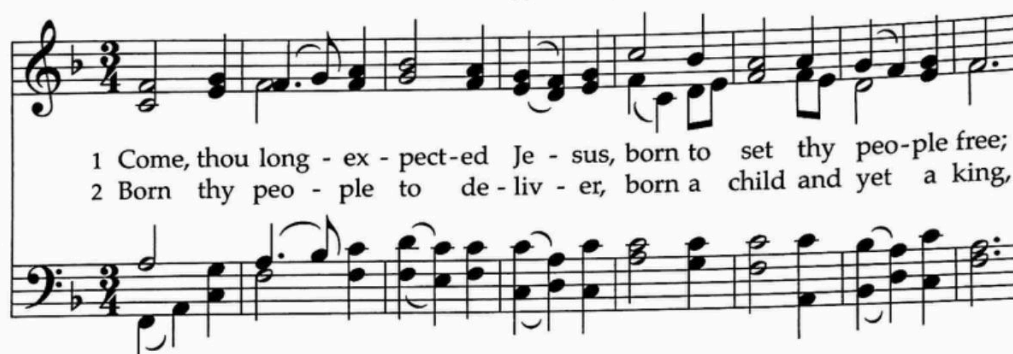
Upcoming Events - November 30, 2025

Sunday, November 30	<i>The First Sunday of Advent</i>	
8:30 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day	Chapel
9:45 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation	Rooms 251, 252, Parlor, JFH
11:00 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day	Sanctuary/Live Streamed
3:00 p.m.	SPOT: Mah Jongg	Room 168
5:30 p.m.	Advent Worship, Dinner & Workshop	Chapel/Great Hall
Monday, December 1		
1:00 p.m.	Monday Afternoon Club	Room 252
2:00 p.m.	Santa's Elves Party for 85+	Home of Carolyn & Ed Lewis
Tuesday, December 2		
7:00 p.m.	Open Gym	Great Hall
Wednesday, December 3		
10:00 a.m.	SPOT: 2nd Act	Offsite
7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room/Sanctuary
Thursday, December 4		
1:00 p.m.	SPOT: Mah Jongg	Room 168
Friday, December 5		
7:00 a.m.	Men's Weekly Bible Study	Room 251
1:00 p.m.	SPOT: Mah Jongg	Room 168
Sunday, December 7	<i>The Second Sunday of Advent - Holy Communion</i>	
8:30 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day	Chapel
9:00 a.m.	Cabbage Patch Wrapping	Great Hall
9:45 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation	Rooms 251, 252, Parlor, JFH
11:00 a.m.	Service for the Lord's Day	Sanctuary/Live Streamed
3:00 p.m.	Mah Jongg	Room 168
4:30 p.m.	Cocoa & Caroling	Fellowship Hall
5:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study	Parlor
Monday, December 8		
1:00 p.m.	Monday Afternoon Club	Room 252

Please visit 2ndpreslou.org/calendar, or scan this QR code, for a complete list of events at Second. See our weekly email, Seconds to Go, for details about upcoming activities and Zoom links. To learn more about the ministries at Second, contact us at info@2ndpreslou.org or 502-895-3483.



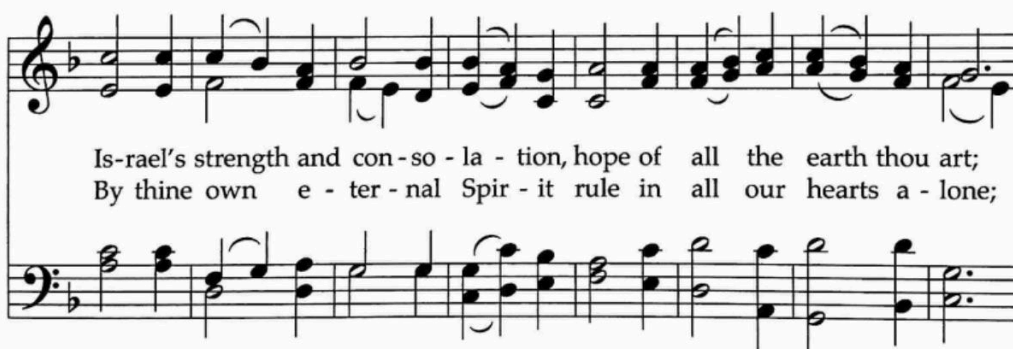
82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for-ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

109 Blest Be the God of Israel

Song of Zechariah

1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
 2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
 3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,

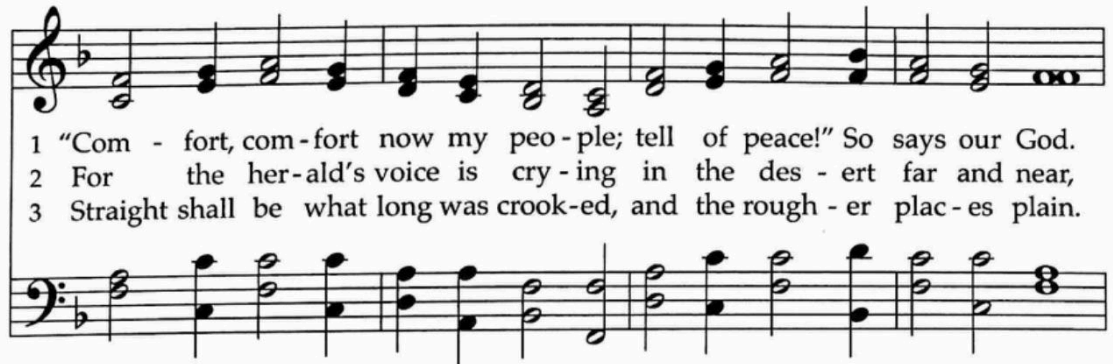
who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.

The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.

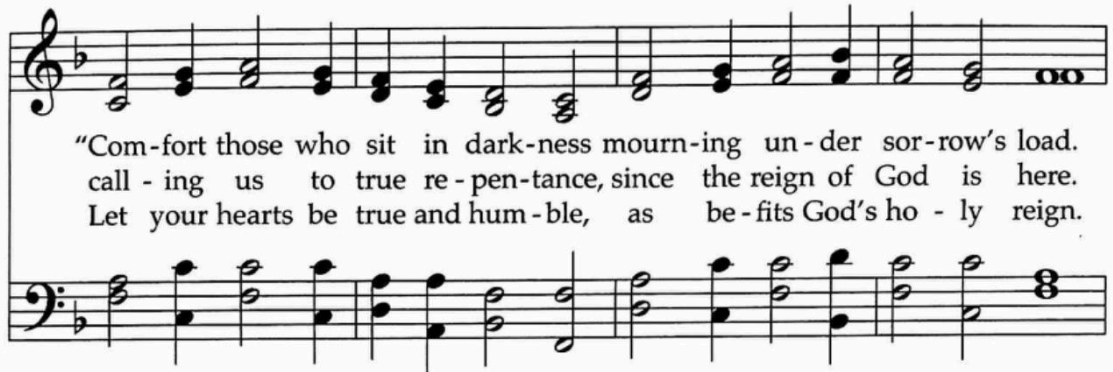
God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

This 20th-century British paraphrase of the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68–79) broadens the implications of what John the Baptist's father says in order to affirm that God's work is ongoing. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.

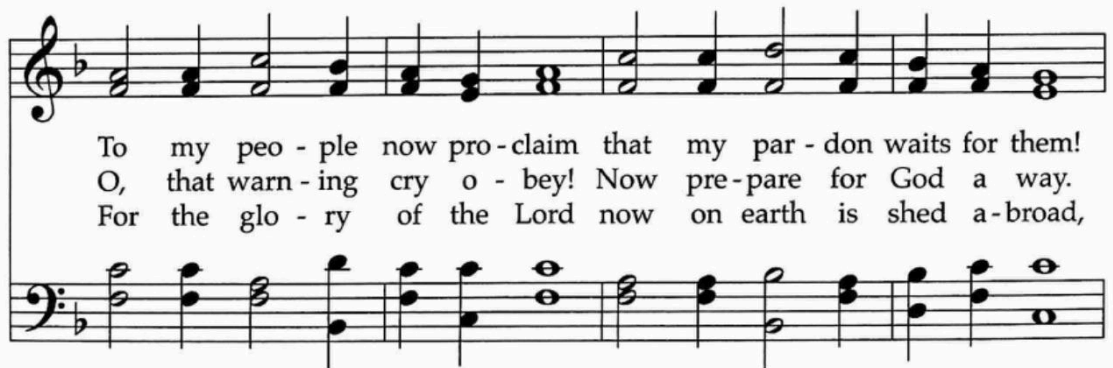
87 Comfort, Comfort Now My People



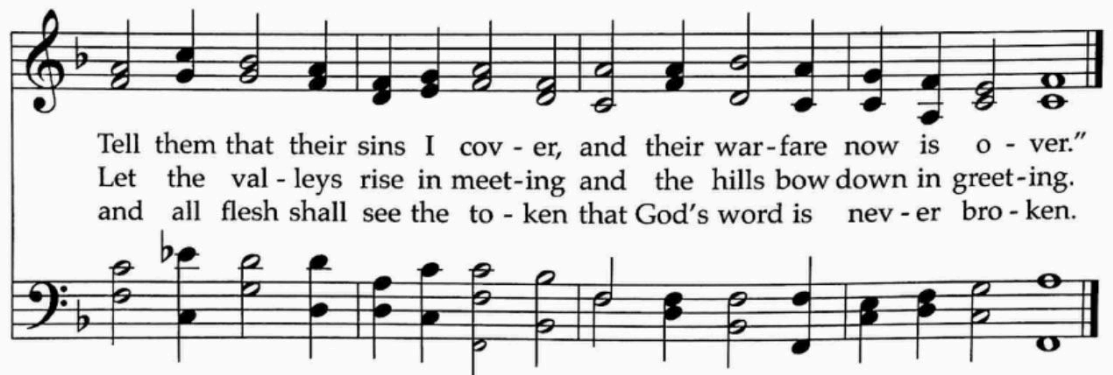
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken."

Ruling Elders

Class of 2025

Paul Costel
Elaine Duncan
Bob Horton
John Hubbard
Elizabeth Scinta
Linda Watson
vacant

Class of 2026

Miriam Ballert
Marilyn Duke
Liz Ratliff Evans
Lindsey Hundley
Lucy Kosse
Deb Vetter
Whitney Watt

Class of 2027

Ann Bowling
John Cunningham
Angela Duffy
Stephanie Fellon
Larry Jones
Justin Powers
Kyle Wiggins

Youth Elders: Morgan Fellon & Wilson Masick

Clerk: Chip Snyder

Deacons

Class of 2025

Sandy Bailey, *Clerk*
Prentice Brown
Scott Carothers
Cathy Flowers
Jane Roth
Martha Spencer
Lowell Stevens

Class of 2026

John Davis
Nathan Dicken
Glen Hume
Sissy Judy
Susan McDowell
Paige Reinstine
Kristi Smith

Class of 2027

Kelly Bryant
Tim Clark
Kitty deVoogd
Jim Haynes
Patrice Paton
Kay Reis
Sunny Seale

Staff

Barrett Abernethy *Pastor & Head of Staff*

Andrew Bowman *Associate Pastor for Community Life*

Elizabeth Clay *Coordinator for Pastoral Care*

Karla Wright *Director of the Weekday School*

Lorie Williamson *Director of Children's & Family Ministry*

Jim Rittenhouse *Director of Worship & Music Ministry*

Michael Harper *Coordinator for Youth Ministry*

Mengfei Xu *Organist and Assistant Director of Worship & Music*

Amy Kiefner *Communications Specialist and Technology Administrator*

Tammy Kissling *Ministry Coordinator for Faith Formation & Mission*

Jeremy Doyle *Director of Facilities*

Earl Toepfert *Maintenance Technician*

Yilena Romero Aguilera *Custodian*

Paula S. Roberts *Organist Emerita*

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