

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. 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, 2026 moves Second Presbyterian Church one year closer to celebrating our bicentennial milestone. After reflecting on our achievements and evaluating our current mission, we have identified 5 strategic pathways that will help us meet the needs of our congregation in 2030. We invite you to 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

11 a.m. TOLLING OF THE HOUR

With the sounds of the Prelude the worship service has begun. You are encouraged to use this time for meditation and reflection prior to your participation in the service.

PRELUDE *Meine Hoffnung steht auf (My Hope is in God)* Gottfried August Homilius
Mengfei Xu, organ

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Dr. Gregory Ross, President & Head of West End School*

INTROIT *Praise Ye the Lord* Dale Grotenhuis
The Octet (8:30); The Sanctuary Choir (11)

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

*HYMN 643 *Now Thank We All Our God* NUN DANKET

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

Loving God, you reveal your grace to us in so many ways. Yet we confess that too often we demand more. We want greater blessings, and fewer responsibilities. We cry for more help, but less involvement of our time. You invite us to walk in your sacred path, but we complain that it asks too much of us. Forgive our selfish and demanding ways, O God. Soften our hearts, and open our eyes once more to the beauty of your grace.

Time for silent prayer.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Believe and proclaim this very Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and always shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

*11 a.m. Children of all ages are welcomed to come forward. Following the Peace,
children ages 3 through 2nd grade will be dismissed through the side door for activities;
3rd grade through 5th grade may return to their seats.*

11a TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** *read responsively*

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

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

SECOND READING

Matthew 11:28-30

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

SERMON

Welcome Home: Call to Worship & Means of Grace

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *read in unison*

from the Barmen Declaration

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body is joined and knit together.”

The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.

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!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Clap Your Hands

Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Octet (8:30); Sanctuary Choir (11)

O clap your hands, all ye people;
shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible.
He is a great King over all the earth.
God is gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God; sing praises.
Sing praises to our King; sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth.
Sing ye praises with understanding.
God reigneth over the heathen.
God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness.
Sing praises unto our King. Sing praises. - *Psalm 47*

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD 100TH

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 297

In Christ, Called to Baptize

ST. DENIO

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Hyfrydol

R. Vaughan Williams

*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

Introduction from Rev. Barrett:

You may recall, at the end of August, I delivered a sermon where I looked straight into the camera and invited some of your children to join us for Sunday worship. During that invitation, I asked them to see worship as different from any other gathering in society. I believe that's true. You can find community, aka "your people" at a concert, football game, or even a coffee shop. But what we do in worship evokes a different feeling and understanding of community. Every Sunday morning, we begin worship with two simple words: *Welcome Home*. These words form the basis of why we are here and how we are called to move in this space. For worship, just like the home, can only function if we all participate. Sometimes that means walking in for the first time to sense the overwhelming feeling of newness - think joining your fiancé for that first family Christmas. Sometimes it means reluctantly coming out of a sense of obligation - think doing the chores. Sometimes it means coming because that is the rhythm of life - it's Sunday and it's time for church (this one definitely applies to me!).

The point is we all arrive here from different directions, from different homes, and in this season we hope you will join us as we explore why everything we do for the next hour - from the Prelude to the Postlude and parts of worship in between - is meant to draw us closer as a family of faith, as siblings in Christ, and hopefully leaves you with a sense that your faith is deeply rooted or at least welcomes you to ask a question and plant a seed.

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

Our life is in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. The Bible is the written witness to Jesus Christ, therefore it is "The Word of Life." Our lives are claimed by God through our baptism. It is God's seal on who we are as the children of God, therefore it is "The Font of Identity." The Table is the center of our home in the Body of Christ, the place where we are welcomed, renewed, and strengthened for the life to which we are called, therefore it is "The Table of Sustenance."

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given by Cheryl Crutcher in celebration of her granddaughter Cate's birthday, and in loving memory of her daughter Courtney.

THE FLOWERS IN THE NARTHEX are from the wedding of Maddie Duane and Swaim Davis, given in loving memory of Mr. Frank Calhoun Minter, Mr. and Mrs. James, Donald Kessler, Mr. Edward Donald Duane, Mr. Jesse Theo Davis Jr.

USHERS

8:30 Peter Conway, Lorrie Conway

11 Edie Wells, Patrice Paton, Curt Engelstad, Julie Engelstad, Tony Duncan,
Elaine Duncan

GREETERS (11)

Sarah Middleton, Gale Brezosky, Armand Hayes, Linda Watson

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, preacher; Rev. Andrew Bowman, Lorie Williamson (8:30) and Michael Harper (11), liturgists

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

11 Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; William Vicic, camera

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We Lift Up in Prayer

The family and friends of Lamoine Cash on her death, 9/8/26.

The family and friends of Bruce Lunsford on his death, 9/5/26.

Watson & Kendy Courtenay and grandchildren Tyler, Matt, and Alex and their families on the death of Watson's mother, Edith McFerran Courtenay, 8/27/26.

Guthrie, Lisa, & Drayden Zaring on the death of Guthrie's father, Ben Zaring, 7/26/26.

Bob Cox and family on the death of his sister, Jean Cox Hill, 7/12/26.

Mark Your Calendars for These Churchwide Events!

Sept. 13, 20 & 27, 9:45 a.m. - New Member Classes - Library

Sept. 16, 5:30 p.m. - Wednesdays Together and Children's Choir Program Return

Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. - Young Families Meet-Up in Great Hall (Gym)

Sept. 20, 3:00 p.m. - Charlie Castner Celebration Concert - Sanctuary

Sept. 26, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. - Habitat Build - 1828 Lytle Street

Oct. 4, 9:45 a.m. - Rev. Dr. David Gambrell - Worship Topics - Pathways Class - JFHA

Oct. 17, 6 p.m. - Fellowship Family Feud Event - JFH

643 Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:

who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

In Christ Called to Baptize 297

1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace
 2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,
 3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach
 4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,

and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.
 a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.
 the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.
 for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.

In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,
 Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.
 By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise
 E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.

then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.
 One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.
 in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.
 In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

Written for use at the 1997 meeting of the Lutheran World Federation, this text about Christian vocation and ministry organizes the first three stanzas around verbs: baptize, banquet, witness. The final stanza is a prayer for the Spirit's gifts to empower all these callings.

Ruling Elders

Class of 2026

Vacant

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

Class of 2028

Caroline Dicken
Mary Clay Edinger
Priss Hovious
Crystal Kannapell
Henry Kelsey
Alexandra Ortiz
Larry Sloan

Youth Elders: Scott Davis & Lillian Powers

Clerk: Chip Snyder

Deacons

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

Class of 2028

Cheeky Bahe
Mac Barr
Lee Best
Terry Cissell
Sara Gilford
Nick Hertzman
John Williams

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*

Jeremy Doyle *Director of Facilities*

Earl Toepfert *Maintenance Technician*

Yilena Romero Aguilera *Custodian*

Paula S. Roberts *Organist Emerita*

babernethy@2ndpreslou.org

abowman@2ndpreslou.org

eclay@2ndpreslou.org

kwright@2ndpreslou.org

lwilliamson@2ndpreslou.org

jrittenhouse@2ndpreslou.org

mharper@2ndpreslou.org

mengfei@2ndpreslou.org

akiefner@2ndpreslou.org

jdoyle@2ndpreslou.org

yraguilera@2ndpreslou.org



SECOND
Presbyterian
CHURCH

3701 Old Brownsboro Road
Louisville, KY 40207
502.895.3483
info@2ndpreslou.org
YouTube: 2ndPresLou