

JANUARY 2021 | Volume 55 - Issue 1

SECOND THOUGHTS

Congregational Meeting Called for January 31 page 5.



Sharing grace ...

Second Presbyterian Church
www.2ndpreslou.org

Contents

Upcoming Events	3
Music.....	4
Worship.....	5
Children.....	9
Weekday School	10
Youth	11
Formation.....	12
Stewardship.....	14
Mission	15
Fellowship.....	18
FYI.....	19



3701 Old Brownsboro Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40207
502.895.3483

www.2ndpreslou.org

Facebook: @secondpresbyterian

YouTube: @2ndPresLou

Our Mission

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

“Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified” (Luke 2:9)

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, we will have been through what may be the most unusual Christmas in any of our lives. But despite the anxieties and fears, the disappointments and sadness over separations, Christmas came. We heard the story again, maybe with fresh ears. I know I did. Because a church friend sent me some thoughts and materials on angels, I began to notice how much these “messengers” from God permeate Luke’s story of events leading to Jesus’ birth and the birth itself. Angels are everywhere in movies, television programs, art and books related to Christmas. It was a Christmas tradition for Diana, David, and me to find an angel calendar for my mom.



What is it about angels that grabs our attention and populates the imaginations of even those who are indifferent to the reality of God? Perhaps it’s the reassurance that we aren’t alone in the struggles of life, after all. Perhaps it’s the suggestion that there’s something beyond ourselves out there. Perhaps it’s the relief that comes from the possibility that there is more to life that we can see, hear, touch, or measure – that something called “mystery.” Or maybe it is simply that many of us enjoy the beauty of these winged creatures as imagined by creative and gifted artists through the ages.

There’s something flashy, even exotic, about angels. But when we get down to basics, the word for “angel” in Greek simply means “messenger.” For the most part, in Scripture, angels are those who convey the will, purpose, and words of God to oftentimes frightened and always surprised humans. Though we tend to domesticate angels, make them friendly and accessible, in the Bible they are most often intruders into how things are, those who speak a word that wakes us up and shakes us up. Those “favored” by angel visitation, like Mary, often aren’t exactly thrilled and comforted by their presence.

As we turn the page to 2021, we need angel visitations that comfort and reassure, that challenge and disturb us. If nothing else, life in 2020 has awakened us profoundly to what matters most and what doesn’t, to what needs to change in our lives, the church, and the wider world. This past year has reinforced our need for something beyond our own strength and wisdom, for an infusion of mystery into the mundane. The fact is, what we need most, what we long for most deeply, isn’t dependent on the visitation of those “sweetly singing o’er the plains,” but is offered in the one to whom they witness, Jesus the child of Bethlehem. In him, God promises never to leave us alone, God holds out the great mystery of the holy entering into everyday human life, God challenges us with the truth that love is the only thing that matters and that love will be victorious.

Jesus usually isn’t flashy or exotic. In fact, it’s easy to miss his presence, to not hear his voice. But still he comes, still he speaks, and still he knocks on the door of our lives. Will we let him in?

Grace and Peace,
Steve

*Steve Jester is Pastor at Second
Presbyterian Church*

upcoming events



DON'T MISS OUR NEXT CONCERT!
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021, 3 P.M.

RADIANCE OF TWO

Louisville's many radiant musical couples will be featured in beautiful chamber music. Among the artists are Gabriel Lefkowitz (Concertmaster/L.O.) and Julia Noone (Assist. Concertmaster/L.O.). A highlight will be the viola transcription of José Elizondo's sumptuous *Otoño en Buenos Aires* performed by Evan Vicic (Assistant Principal Viola/L.O.) and Laura de St. Croix (Vicic). And our own Christina and Jim Recktenwald will be featured performers for a work of Scarlatti.



Spotlight Mission Offering:



Recorded Live Performances will be aired on YouTube: 2ndpreslou

And thank you for supporting our Nov. 22 concert - now more than 690 views, and we helped raise \$1,000 for the Hildegard House!

Kudos & Thanks!

- Our deepest thanks to KENNETH OETH for the decorating of our Sanctuary and grounds this Season ... your dedication and care is so appreciated. The decorating helped us all be in the spirit of Christmas!
- For our Audio/Visual team members NICHOLAS MOLONEY, CHELSEA BEASLEY, EVAN VICIC, and VIRGINIA FORTNER ... these folks make our livestream and live services sparkle, and their commitment is inspiring ...
- Congratulations to SIERRA WILLIAMSON, daughter of Lorrie Williamson, who was named Principal Trumpet for the KY All State Orchestra. She is a student at YPAS, and studies with Jim Recktenwald. FANTASTIC!

WELCOME, SAM LIBRA!



Second Presbyterian Church is thrilled to announce the appointment of

Samuel (Sam) Libra

as Organist beginning January 1, 2021. After a national and regional search for our open half-time position, we are honored to welcome Sam to the music ministry staff and the family of Second Presbyterian!

Sam comes to us from Seattle where he has most recently served as Associate Cathedral Organist for St. James Cathedral. He holds a doctorate in organ performance with emphasis in music theory at the University of Washington in Seattle as a student of Carole Terry. His research focuses on symphonic and keyboard music of 19th-century France and Belgium. In 2016, he had the opportunity to travel to France for a summer course of study with Jean-Baptiste Robin at the Royaumont Foundation.

Sam received his Master of Music degree in organ performance with emphases in sacred music and music history from the University of Washington, and his Bachelor of Arts degree in music, with emphases in organ performance and church music from Luther College in Decorah, IA. He proudly credits his Lutheran upbringing for his understanding of church music and ministry. Sam has served in a variety of capacities at churches in the Seattle area, including as administrator and director of children's, handbell, and adult choral groups, and as coordinator of concert programs and recitals.

In addition to his service to the church and his studies, Samuel has given performances at a number of churches throughout the Puget Sound region, and frequently enjoyed collaborative performances, playing harpsichord and organ in cantatas and chamber works with the University of Washington Baroque Ensemble. He also had the opportunity to collaborate with a variety of Pacific Northwest ensembles, including the Cathedral Chamber Orchestra and Cantorei, Seattle Bach Choir, Seattle Choral Company, reSound: A Northwest Chamber Ensemble, the Sammamish Symphony, and the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Samuel is an active member of the American Guild of Organists and Organ Historical Society, having been a Biggs Fellow at the latter's 2017 convention. For the AGO, he is formerly Member-at-Large of the Seattle Chapter board, and presented several programs on various topics at their events. He also served as Deputy Convention Coordinator for the upcoming 2022 AGO national convention in Seattle.

Please pray for Sam and Dylan who are settling into their home in Louisville, and in these days of acclimation to our city and the life of Second. His first Sunday to lead us at the organ is January 3.

THANK YOU, GUY YOUNCE!



Second Presbyterian Church is ever grateful for Guy Younce and his ministry as Interim Organist over the past few months. We have been honored to have a fine musician, a good friend, and a patient and caring person in leadership. Bless you as you go, and know that we send you with our blessing, and eternal gratitude!

worship

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31

Following 11 a.m. Worship

To discuss 2020 Annual Report; review 2021 budget; and approve Terms of Call.

Details on logistics to follow in upcoming Seconds to Go.

Ordination & Installation of New Elders & Deacons

Sunday, January 24

During 11 a.m. Worship

Details on logistics to follow in upcoming Seconds to Go.

Light From Light: *Celebrating Advent*



Communion during Advent.



Service of Light.

Confirmands Light Up Advent

We thank our confirmands for lighting the Advent candles and saying the prayers each week. Below are some photos from the videos taken and used in Sunday services. Below left, the Powers family; right the Farnan family, and at the bottom left, the Rogers family, right, the Burrice family.



Light From Light: *Celebrating Christmas*



We thank Guy and members of our Octet for performing at our outdoor service.



Lighting of the candles at 5 p.m.



Lighting of the candles at 5 p.m.



Our musicians at our live-stream service.



A Christmas Eve homily.



Communion on Christmas Eve.

Flowers & Decoration for Advent & Christmas Services

Our thanks to those who donated wreaths, flowers, and luminaria for the season.

The poinsettias in the Sanctuary were given ...

In memory of J.D., Angelina, and Carletta Buckman by Ann Buckman.

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

In memory of our dear mother, and Nana, Betty Reuther by Rob, Betsy, and Will Reuther.

In memory of Peyton Wells, Caroline and Jim Mapother, Marian and Peyton Wells by their family.

Wreaths decorating the building ...

Two wreaths at the chapel entrance are given in loving memory of their parents, Robert and Marilynn Smith and Ruth Conway, by Peter and Lorrie Conway.

Two wreaths are given in loving memory of her parent, Mr. H. Lyle Duerson, Jr., and Jane Duerson Potter, by Mrs. W.T. Scovil and family.

One wreath on the minister's entrance door is given in loving memory of Dr. Jerry Flowers by his family.

The wreaths on the chapel doors are given in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ben W. Kilgore, Jr., by their daughter, Betty Kilgore Gibbs, and their grandchildren, Gwinn and Jack Moss.

Two wreaths at the office entry are given in loving memory of Barbara Hancock by her family.

One wreath on the Sanctuary Door is given in loving memory of William Hancock, Jr., by Mary Collis Hancock and family.

The wreaths on the two side doors to the Sanctuary Hall are given in loving memory of Lucy Scott O'Brien and E.J. O'Brien III, by their family.

Luminaria for the outdoor service were given ...

In memory of Charles and Jerry Pence by their daughter, Salbye Pence.

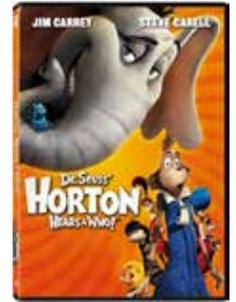


children

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School has been a lot of fun this year! In the fall we started monthly movie nights. Sunday School for children was then based on the movie that had been shown for the month. The first movie was *Moana* where we learned about our identity in Christ. In October, it was *Coco* where we learned about our call and how to recognize that. We ended the year with *The Grinch*, where we learned how to let our hearts grow. We will continue the theme for the rest

of this year, only please watch the movies with your family at home at least until we can get together again safely. Movies for the Spring semester include: *Frozen*, *Horton Hears a Who*, *Prince of Egypt*, *The Lorax*, and *Brave*. Of course, a craft bag will accompany the lessons! Craft bags will be available in their usual spot underneath the portico, and videos will be sent out each Sunday through the children's newsletter, *2PK*, and will be on the church's website under the resources tab the following week.



Advent Bags

It was so wonderful to see all the pictures of the advent wreaths created from the "Advent in a Bag" provided this year in place of our annual Advent Workshop. Being able to share the creating of the wreaths brought us together in spirit at a time when we couldn't be together in the physical sense.

I hope you had a chance to experiment with the family devotional, *In Light & Darkness*. If you didn't, then perhaps you can revisit it during the Christmas season some time. It is a wonderful guide to help us recognize the good in both light and darkness, realizing that one cannot exist without the other. It culminates with a "Shadow Box Theater" that is fun to make and meaningful for all ages.

Lorie Williamson is director of Children's Ministries at Second Presbyterian Church



weekday school

Adapting to Change

The beginning of the holiday break represents the end of this first challenging semester of being in session during the pandemic. It is a time to celebrate our adaptability and collaboration as a community. It is a moment to pause and reflect on all that we have accomplished to prepare for this school year and to remain safely open. It is also an opportunity to marvel at the resilience of children, as every day they model for us how kind, loving, hopeful, open and present one can be, even in times of disequilibrium. A beautiful picture of this was observed today: A three year old child who is moving away gave her classmates and teachers big goodbye hugs at the end of the day. Walking out of the building for the last time, she said with a watery smile, "I feel the tears coming to my eyes." She was full of the bittersweet mixture of love, gratitude and sadness as she continued walking to her car to head into a new period in her life. This snapshot of resilience and the fullness of experience is also a fitting metaphor for our school community's steady march forward through the challenges and triumphs thus far in the school year. It hasn't been easy, but it has stretched us all to adapt, think creatively, accept things out of our control and find new ways to connect, learn, sacrifice, communicate and care for ourselves and others.

Much joy and peace to you during this holiday season.

With you,

Hayley Abell,
Director



2PY Christmas Party



On December 13, 2PY gathered in the chapel circle with gloved hands and sipping hot cocoa. We had a great time gathered together around the campfire for fellowship and festivities.

Rev. Jordan Akin is Associate Pastor for Youth at Second Presbyterian Church

2PY
Youth and Family
Ski Retreat
for a day at
Perfect North
January 16

Due to our inability to confidently provide a safe ski retreat to Peek 'n Peak in January 2021, we will be having a day long ski retreat to Perfect North Slopes in Lawrenceburg, IN on Saturday, January 16.

This trip is open to youth 6th-12th grade and their families. We will be carpooling in family or small groups but will not need to stay in these small groups upon arrival.

The total cost of the trip is \$75 per person.

2PY Calendar

January 10	Sunday School resumes
January 10	Ski trip Zoom meeting at 5 p.m.
January 16	Ski trip to The Perfect North
January 24	Mentor faith breakfast
Feb 5- 7	Confirmation Retreat

One of our youth, Zara Wiggins, organizing the stockings for the boys' cottages at Bellewood.

2PY Serves

The 2PY Service Group, led by Andrea Wiggins, is a group of high school parents working to provide ongoing opportunities for youth to complete service projects and service hours. It will also serve as a space that empowers and encourages our youth to be leaders by creating and overseeing service projects/donation drives in their communities.

This Christmas, members of the group and other 2PY families collected and donated items to create 12 Christmas stockings for the teenage boys' cottage at Bellewood. Thank you to all who helped us to share the grace of God with Bellewood this Advent season! We are excited to see the ways this group will continue to encourage our 2PY youth and families to share the grace of God with one another and the world around us.



If interested in joining this group, please contact Jordan Akin.

adult faith formation

Unless otherwise directed, Zoom links to Adult Studies programs are found in *Seconds to Go*. You may also contact the church office to receive the information, 502-895-3483.

Biblical Studies

The Biblical Studies class covers historical, critical scholarship related to the Bible. In-person class meetings depend upon the church's in-person worship service schedule. Biblical Studies will meet at 10 a.m. any time that there are in-person services. While the church building is closed, Biblical Studies has a remote class session via email each week. For anyone interested in receiving these sessions, whether or not you are a regular class member, please email Dr. Ostling, lingjr@twc.com.

Race Matters

The "Race Matters" film discussion group will start 2021 with a bang! We're working our way through a series of historically based films: from *Birth of a Nation* (1/4), to *Selma* (1/18), to *13th* (2/1). Here's the lineup:

4 Jan - *Birth of a Nation*, dir. D.W. Griffith (1915): This landmark silent film was the first blockbuster Hollywood hit. Representing the Civil War and Reconstruction through a white supremacist lens, it has been called "the most controversial film ever made in the United States."

18 Jan - *Selma* - dir. Ava DuVernay (2014): Culminating with the march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge, this film dramatizes the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Representative John Lewis, among others.

1 Feb - *13th* - dir. Ava DuVernay (2016): A look at how race and the justice system interact with the crippling mass incarceration problem in America. It received Best Documentary nomination at the Academy Awards, and an Emmy win too.

"Race Matters" is every other Monday at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

2nd Sunday

2nd Sunday is for parents of children from birth through teenage years. The class meets on the second Sunday of each month and deals with issues facing young parents trying to raise faithful children in this tumultuous and ever-changing world. Class members share experiences and ideas, to help each other find ways to make God the center of our families.

The class meets on Zoom each second Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. with moderators Lee and Vic Baltzell.

Reading the Bible

The Reading the Bible Class meets on Zoom each Sunday at 10 a.m. and is moderated by Marty Soards. Please contact Marty Soards at marion.soards@att.net for questions or if you are interested in joining the class.

Pathways

Members of the Pathways Class are united in their pursuit of knowledge of biblical, historical and social issues, and all other facets that lead to a balanced Christian life. The class is also a community that has a yearly retreat, a Derby party, and a Christmas get-together along with other social events. We also have a mission component and try hard to provide a hands-on mission opportunity at least four times a year.

The class meets on Zoom each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. with moderator Elizabeth Clay. If interested in joining the class, please email Elizabeth at eclay412@gmail.com.

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study will continue to meet via Zoom in January at 7 a.m. on Fridays. The schedule for the month is as follows:

Study material: *An Introduction to New Testament Christology* by Raymond E. Brown

- Jan. 1: Holiday - No Class
- Jan. 8: *An Intro to NT Christology* - pp. 41-52 - Chap 4, Jesus and Religious Matters.
- Jan. 15: *An Intro to NT Christology* - pp. 52-59 - Chap 4, Jesus and Religious Matters, continued.
- Jan. 22: *An Intro to NT Christology* - pp. 60-70 - Chap 5, Jesus Deeds and Proclamations.
- Jan. 29: *An Intro to NT Christology* - pp. 71-80 - Chap 6, Jesus the Messiah.

To join via the Zoom link, contact Beth via email, bethh@2ndpreslou.org or find the link and topic in the weekly *Seconds to Go* email.

Sisters in Spirit

In 2021, Sisters in Spirit will continue to meet on the second Tuesday, by Zoom for now. We will finish Max Lucado's *You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Turbulent Times* ahead of our original schedule, so please let Ann Fleming know if you have a short study for April and May. To join this study, contact the church, bethh@2ndpreslou.org.

- January 12- Chapters 9, 10 & 11
- February 9- Chapters 12 & 13
- March 9- Chapters 14 & 15

Morning Joy

The Morning Joy weekday Bible study beginning January 7 is: "Luke's Jesus: A Thematic Study of The Gospel According to Luke." The pastor, theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said that the primary question for Christians in our time is, "Who is Jesus Christ for us today?" Who is Luke's Jesus? How does Jesus in this Gospel speak particularly to us as he focuses on themes such as the universality of God's love, a particular concern for marginal people, and the importance of prayer in the life of discipleship?

Morning Joy meets on Thursdays at 9:45 a.m. We currently meet through Zoom, and the link is sent to those who are registered as well as appearing in Seconds to Go. If you would like to be on the Zoom mailing list, please contact Chelsea Beasley at cbeasley@2ndpreslou.org or call her at 895-3483. Steve Jester leads the weekly discussion.



Presbyterian Women of Second

Greetings, Presbyterian Women of Second!

Since we are still facing the challenges of Covid-19, we will not meet in January. We will continue to pray for one another and for healing and peace in our community and the world.

The *Horizons* Bible study "Into the Light" by P. Lynn Miller Lesson 5 is "Lamenting Life" as found in the *Book of Job*. Job's life is "tested" with unbearable chaos and injustice. Job asserts his innocence and refuses to repent. His friends are at a loss. Lamenting his condition before God enables Job to put his hope, his trust, and his fate in the hands of his Redeemer. Sometimes, we are like Job enduring life's difficulties. Other times, we are like his friends trying to advise rather than listen. In our community of faith, suffering and hope are held together. Let us be listeners of each other's laments while trusting, together, in the silent presence of God. *John* 10:10 assures us that, as children of God, we are blessed with an abundant life of grace and a peace that surpasses understanding.

Guidance for the practice of lament suggests we speak aloud our troubles beginning with "Even though ..." followed by the affirmation, "I am a child of God."

Thank you to all who supported the Presbyterian Women Thank Offering and the UCHM Christmas Connection. Your generosity is so very helpful to those in need.

The presbyterianwomen.org website has opportunities to order the *Horizons* study book, subscribe to the *Horizons* magazine, view a Webinar introduction to the 2020-21 study by the author, follow a blog with insights to the study, as well as find information about Presbyterian Women in God's world.

Presbyterian Women of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery will hold our 2021 Annual Spring Gathering "virtually" on Saturday, March 20, at 10 a.m. The theme will be "For the Beauty of the Earth: Climate Change."

May the love of Christ and the joy of our friendships be with you, now, as always. In Christ,

Amy Parker, Moderator
AmyParker158@hotmail.com
 (502) 897-5076



Presbyterian Women

mission & stewardship

Update from Stewardship and Mission

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

As we continue our journey through the Covid-19 changed world, Second Presbyterian Church continues to show its compassion and love for others. With the generosity of our time, talents, and wealth, we are truly making a difference to ourselves and communities around us both locally and abroad.

Finances

- 2020 pledges-\$1,316,000 Budget-\$1,300,00. # of pledges- 277.
- 2020 money received from pledges-\$1,164,701. Deficit-\$151,937.
- 2020 non-pledge income- \$57,899 Budget-\$135,000.
- 2021 pledges- \$924,841. # of pledges-171.
- Covid-19 Response Fund: Donations- \$70,001
- Session & Pastor Fund- \$68,460

Total Disbursements- \$131,995

Covid-19 Fund Giving

Since our last report in November \$19,296 has been distributed for the following Covid-19 related needs of our mission partners.

- **Bellewood-Brooklawn** Covered Covid-19 deficits and assure Christmas gifting for clients; provided Thanksgiving dinner for all residential clients

- **Peace Second Community Partnership** Help provide Christmas meals to those in the community
- **El Salvador** Provided food, crop replenishment and medical needs
- **Produce and More** Distributed appropriate Thanksgiving and Christmas food to those in the West End
- **UofL Emergency Room staff of 50** Donated a very special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day dinner as thank you for their Covid-19 response dedication
- **Buckhorn Children's Home** Helped with monetary deficits secondary to Covid-19

Mission Committee Disaster Fund

- \$5,000 to Accion Cristiana Medica in Nicaragua for food and shelter following hurricane Eta

Cabbage Patch Christmas

- \$28,000 to make sure every child and adult in their system has a wonderful Christmas

To continue our wonderful church endeavors, please everyone remember to honor your 2020 pledge commitment, make a 2021 pledge, and continue your contributions to the Covid-19 fund. We thank you all for your continued compassion and generosity as we serve others to serve God.

John Hubbard Larry Sloan
Stewardship Chair Mission Chair

Transferring Stock to the Church

For stock transfers, please include name of donor and use the information below:

DTC Eligible Securities	Institutional ID: 0054 7 Agent Bank: 0054 7 DTC Participant: 0547 (self-clearing)	Account: #3848-1053 Account Name: 2nd Pres Church Company Name: Robert W Baird & Co DTC: #0547
----------------------------	--	---

In addition, please email Jackie Grimley at jgrimley@2ndpreslou.org, so she can keep an eye out for the check.

News from Our Refugee Family

Happy New Year, friends! Our family from Afghanistan is quickly becoming part of our community. We hope all of you at Second Presbyterian Church can meet them in 2021.

The Amiris will receive their green cards in short order. Their Special Immigration Visas qualify them for rapid processing. Amiri worked with US military personnel for 15 years in at a military base in Afghanistan.

A Zoom meeting on December 4 with Maha and interpreter Kadija Shojae from Kentucky Refugee Ministries (KRM) introduced all the Refugee Team to our new friends. We learned about their family history and about their long journey to safety in the U.S. The family is from Jalalabad, Afghanistan, on the Pakistani border. Amiri worked at Jalal Abad Airport, currently used as a U.S. military base. He moved incoming supplies from arriving planes and was experienced in forklift operation, equipment

maintenance, and radio communication. His English is very good and he is anxious to integrate his family into our community. His lovely wife Katul is pregnant and due in May. She and the rest of the family have had medical checkups and are well. The three daughters are delightful! Bibi is 8, Anosha is almost 6, and Hanasa is 2. Bibi has had some school experience, but it was religious instruction as they are Muslim. The girls will need help with reading. The Amiris have large families still in Afghanistan.

Sarah and John Hunter graciously donated a 2004 full-sized Chevrolet van to the family. Negotiations are ongoing to transfer the van at the appropriate time. Amiri will soon take his driver's tests in English. Many thanks, Sarah and John! We were pleased to have you join us in the Zoom meeting!

Thanksgiving dinners were delivered to the Amiris and to our first large Congolese family from 2018. Holly Gathright took a Cracker Barrel dinner with all the trimmings



to the Amiris and they were excited to have a big turkey dinner! Martha Spencer took a turkey and sides to Genevieve, Immaculee, and Judith. Those enterprising young ladies went to YouTube for cooking instructions and produced a yummy looking meal!

All our refugees from 2018, 2019 and 2020 are well and growing in Louisville. Thank you, Second, for your faithful love and support in these sponsorships. Our new neighbors are a vital part of Louisville.

Peace,
Refugee Team, Mission

The Mission Committee Thanks You!

Due to the continued generous giving of our congregation, we are able to utilize the Covid-19 Emergency Mission Fund for needed services during the pandemic.

On Thanksgiving, the Mission Committee had the opportunity to provide needed PPE equipment, specifically goggles and face masks, to Covid-19 frontline healthcare workers at the University of Louisville Emergency Room.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas day, Second Presbyterian Church provided a meal to two shifts of frontline healthcare workers, totaling 50 people at the UofL Hospital emergency room.

Please remember to keep these frontline workers in your prayers as they serve the community!



Note from West End School Alum



West End School
3628 Virginia Ave
Louisville, KY 40211
www.westendschool.org
502-776-5236



195

Dear Second Presbyterian Church of Louisville,

I am one of West End School's first alumni. I graduated from St. Francis High School, went on to be a first-generation college student and am now the Head Deposit Trainer at River City Bank. West End School asked me if I could share my story and experience with supporters like you, and I could not be more thrilled.

I grew up with my grandmother. She always wanted the best for me and believed in me. When we made the decision to enroll me in West End School, I did not realize the sort of family I would be joining. Each of my teachers gave me nearly undivided attention when I needed it, considering my class had less than 10 students each. I lived and graduated with close friends who turned into family. Not only did they know the circumstances I lived in, they empathized. We all understood what it was like to have five outfits. We all understood the situations going on in our lives. We were there for each other, not just because of these similar circumstances, but because we all knew we had a golden opportunity to succeed and we were hungry for it.

I am just one example, but my brothers in my class each have similar stories. As Thanksgiving looms, I am so grateful for the family I built in my time at West End School. I will always give back when my school asks me because I owe so much to this experience. I am also thankful to you. I didn't realize it at the time, but your support meant the world to me. I hope you continue to give this year, because I know your gift is really a gift for students like me.

Sincerely,

Kenny Gray '10

Head Deposit Trainer at River City Bank



2020 Board of Trustees

Mr. Daniel Hall
Board Chairman

Mr. Paul J. Perconti
Board Chair Emeritus

Rev. Russell Awward

Mr. Barry Barlow

Mr. Ulysses "Junior"
Bridgeman

Ms. Nancy Bush

Dr. Emmanuel Collins

Mr. William Crawford

Mr. John Fleming

Mr. Robert Blair

Mr. Terry Gill

Mr. Darrell Griffiths

Mr. Rick Guillaume

Mr. Walt Kumu

Dr. Ekumene M. Lysonge

Mr. Rishabh Mehrotra

Mr. Nick Melinich

Mr. George Nichols

Mr. Akure Alaghotu

Parafis

Rev. Matthew Smyzer

Mr. Powell Spears

Mrs. Amy Trager

Mr. Darryl Williams

Mr. Jackson Woodward

At left is a letter by Kenny Gray, an alumnus of West End School (WES). WES is a mission partner of Second Pres, and this letter is just one story of what a positive impact the school is having in the lives of the children enrolled. As Dwight Bransford, Head of WES, states, "Welcome to West End School, where we believe it takes a village to raise a child." One part of the WES village is the Kilgore Counseling Center. Kilgore, another mission partner of Second Pres, is committed to regularly offering therapy support to the youth who attend WES! It is exciting to learn of our mission partners sharing in the needs of one another in such an impactful way!

Food, Glorious Food! For Christmas

Santa added to the joy of helping others on December 21, when he joined the Peace-Second Community Partnership! Along with the volunteers from Second and Peace Presbyterian, he handed out food to over 300 people.

Second's volunteers regularly join the organizers and helpers at Peace to distribute boxes of food to citizens needing assistance. If interested in serving, please contact Jodie Goldberg. 303jodie@gmail.com.

Shown with the food mission in action are, left to right: Maurice Guerin, Sr.; Scott Carothers - Santa; Caleb Howard; Dr. Barbara Shanklin; Preston Edwards; Charlinda Anderson



Second Presbyterian's Response to Hurricane Iota

Hurricane Iota hit Nicaragua on November 14 as a category 5 hurricane.

The Mission Committee has chosen to respond to this crisis by providing \$5,000 to Accion Medica Cristiana (AMC), a Nicaraguan, faith-based non-profit organization that is established in Nicaragua.

A report by Tracey King-Ortega, PC USA Mission Co-worker based in Nicaragua:

AMC has been working for over 36 years to strengthen capacity in remote, impoverished communities

of Nicaragua in community health, food security and disaster preparedness and mitigation. With an ongoing presence in the North Autonomous Caribbean Region, AMC is uniquely positioned to respond to the aftermath of Hurricane Eta with immediate food aid and medicines and later on with rebuilding and replanting. AMC works with all stakeholders; among them government institutions, other NGOs, and most importantly, the trained community health leaders that help identify needs and deliver support in response.



The Cabbage Patch Christmas Gift Basket Project

We reached and exceeded our goal raising a total of \$28,220!

The 2020 pandemic has been hard on everyone, but the effects on the most vulnerable in our community are unimaginable. Many people are having a hard time finding hope, especially with the extra expenses of Christmas looming. Second Presbyterian congregation has given more this year than ever before and this generosity will go toward supporting those families who need it the most.

Thank you for your support to The Cabbage Patch through the giving of a contribution and/or Christmas card!

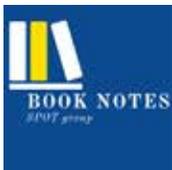
fellowship

SPOT

Second Presbyterian Options Together

A small group ministry of Second Presbyterian Church

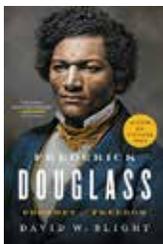
SPOT serves to unite people who share a common interest and deepen their faith in Christ through building relationships and reaching out to others.



Book Notes

Book Notes' first book of the New Year, January 5, 10 a.m., will be *Frederick Douglass, Prophet of Freedom* by David Blight.

This biography of the abolitionist leader has enjoyed great reviews and was selected by Larry Sloan.



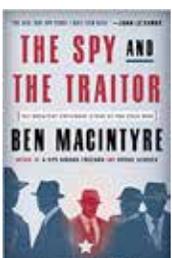
Busy Needles

To learn more about Busy Needles, please contact Mary Ayers, (502) 429-3415 or marywayers@aol.com; or Bev Wahl at (502) 423-9271 or bevwahl41@gmail.com.



Walkers

To learn about the program, please contact Bev Wahl at (502) 423-9271 or bevwahl41@gmail.com. New walkers are encouraged to join.



The selection for February 2, 10 a.m., is *The Spy and the Traitor* by Ben Macintyre. It has been called "the greatest espionage story of the Cold War." John LeCarre raved, calling it "the best true spy story I have ever read." Thanks to Elizabeth Owen for this recommendation.

It seems most likely that January and February meetings will be on Zoom. Jean O'Brien will keep you informed.

Over these many months of restricted activities and confinement, we hope all of you readers have enjoyed many happy hours with your books. But here's to 2021. May it be a good year for all.

Join us anytime. We faithfully support UCHM food closet. Jean O'Brien, jeanobrien502@gmail.com, (502) 897-0950.



Paint SPOT

Linda Wood (502) 893-3330
el.wood@twc.com



Pilates

Susan Schmidt (502) 523-5934
puremovementlv@gmail.com



Dinner Groups

Jennifer Scott (502) 326-3145
jscott@cabbagepatch.org



2nd Act

2nd Act remains waiting for a time to perform again. Susan will share more if the current situation changes. Susan Langford, toursplus@aol.com or (502) 897-3789.



Prayer Group

Beth Haendiges (502) 895-3483
bethh@2ndpreslou.org

Join One of Our Grief Groups

Traditionally, when we think of grief, we think of the feelings of loss, anger, and denial we have when someone close to us has died. But grief can come from many other losses - retirement, physical limitations due to aging or medical conditions, divorce, caring for a loved one who is ill, and many others.

We have launched two separate grief groups, one for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one and a separate group for people experiencing grief from life's other losses.

The group focusing on those who have died will meet twice a month for six to eight months. The other will meet monthly. At least in the beginning, we will meet via Zoom.

We will talk about the stages of grief and many of the feelings and thoughts people have as they work through grief. There is no "right" way to grieve. Everyone grieves in their own way, but it can be helpful to share with others who are traveling the same road.

If you are interested in joining either group, contact Elizabeth Clay, (502) 409-3230 or eclay412@gmail.com.

Session Highlights from December 17, 2020

At the December 17, 2020 stated Session meeting held over Zoom:

- Session received the Clerk's Report, the Minister's Report, the Deacons' Report, the Financial Report and various other monthly Committee Reports;
- The Finance Committee reported that Second continues to operate at a deficit in November. It is hoped that December giving will be strong and that Second will finish in a good financial position. Receipt of outstanding pledges is the only way to avoid a deficit at year end.
- The fulfillment of pledges and gifts to the Covid-19 Fund demonstrates the amazing generosity of our congregation. The Covid-19 Fund has recently received additional gifts totaling \$105,000.
- Cabbage Patch giving for the year was \$28,000, exceeding the goal of \$20,000.
- The 2021 MAP was approved by the Session. The MAP for 2021 projects a small increase in expenses coupled with uncertain income levels leading to a potential deficit for 2021.
- The Mission Committee gave Session an introduction to PCUSA's Matthew 25 mission initiative. Session plans to research the tenants behind the initiative more before voting on adopting the initiative in January. The details of the initiative can be found at presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/
- The Youth Committee reported on their efforts to consistently engage with the youth of the church during the pandemic.
- The Worship Committee proposed and Session accepted dates for Communion in 2021.
- The Reopening Task Group will meet in January to assess the possibility of in-person worship; and
- The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was scheduled for January 31, 2021.

A copy of the approved Minutes of Session is available in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Ferguson,
Clerk of Session



Periodicals
Postage Paid at
Louisville, KY

Second Thoughts (UPS 488-060). Published Monthly.
Postmaster, send address changes to:
Second Thoughts, c/o Second Presbyterian Church
3701 Old Brownsboro Rd
Louisville, KY 40207

Staff

Rev. Steven P. Jester Pastor/Head of Staff
sjester@2ndpreslou.org

Rev. Nathan Sautter Associate Pastor for Community Life
nsautter@2ndpreslou.org

Rev. Jordan Akin Associate Pastor for Youth
jakin@2ndpreslou.org

Jim Rittenhouse Director of Worship and Music Ministries
jrittenhouse@2ndpreslou.org

Lorie Williamson Director of Children's Ministries
lwilliamson@2ndpreslou.org

Hayley Abell Director of Second Presbyterian Weekday
School, habell@2ndpreslou.org

Lisa Bickett Pastoral Assistant
lbickett@2ndpreslou.org

Chelsea Beasley Formation Assistant
cbeasley@2ndpreslou.org

Beth Haendiges Community Life Assistant
bethh@2ndpreslou.org

Keith DeCosta Sexton
kdecosta@2ndpreslou.org

Samuel Libra Organist
slibra@2ndpreslou.org

Virginia Fortner Worship & Music Assistant
vfortner@2ndpreslou.org

Jackie Grimley Bookkeeper
jgrimley@2ndpreslou.org

Elizabeth Clay Parish Associate
eclay@2ndpreslou.org

Paula Roberts Organist Emerita

passages

We remember in prayer...

Robert Webb and his family on the death of Mary Webb, 12/28.

Tim Clark and his family on the death of his mother, Ruth Clark, 12/28/20.

Patrice Paton and her family on the death of Patrice's nephew, Zeke Snow, 12/5/20.

Carol and Robert Kemp, Sister Stites and their families and friends on the death of Ashton Harcourt Kemp, 12/2/20.

Macie Nichols, daughter Martha, and all the family of Robert Nichols on his death, 11/30/20.

Matt Linville and his family on the death of his mother, Jan Linville, 11/25/20.