

SECOND THOUGHTS

A monthly reflection on the ministries of Second Presbyterian Church of Louisville



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SECOND Presbyterian CHURCH

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

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“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said” (John 1:23)

Dear Friends,

When the religious authorities confront John the Baptist and grill him regarding his identity, his role, he answers with the text listed above. John isn't the Messiah, or the return of the great prophet Elijah. John is a messenger, a witness. His role in the big picture is to prepare others for the arrival of the Messiah and to point them toward that Messiah.

It is liberating to have clarity about our identity, our purpose in life. But many aren't clear about their identity, some spend a lifetime searching for their purpose, and others never bother to give the question much attention. When we realize that more of our life is in the rearview mirror than ahead of us, to quote a favorite song, the question becomes more acute. Our kids growing up and perhaps moving away or the end of a career can bring on similar soul searching.

I believe our most basic identity is the one given in our baptism. We are beloved children of God, creatures in whom God is “well pleased.” Nothing can ever change that. That's who we are by God's grace. But most of us want more specific answers. Have I made a difference in the lives of others? Will I be remembered? Have I left something behind that will enrich the lives of others or improve this world in some small, or even large, way? Have I lived with integrity, been the person God created me to be?

The question of identity and purpose is a big one for me as I move toward the end of my tenure at Second and retirement. Who am I when I'm no longer “the pastor” or “the preacher”? How will I make a difference when my days aren't filled with doing my best to shepherd this wonderful congregation? Will I leave behind something significant?

Most of us are inclined to define what we might call our “legacy” in splashy and impressive ways. Sometimes that's the case. But perhaps we all can learn from John and realize that our most important legacy is to be able to say that we have lived our day-to-day lives as a witness to Jesus and his way, that we have pointed others to the life he brings by the quality and depth of our character. To point to Jesus is to live lives of mercy, forgiveness, compassion, justice, and hope. We may never be certain exactly what we are supposed to “do” in this life, but we can be certain who we are called to “be” as Jesus's people. We may not be remembered by many. We may never see the difference we make in the lives of others or be able to point to grand projects and monuments as evidence of our influence.

As John shows us, that's not what makes for the good life. To be a fulfilled human being is to be a voice in the wilderness, a light in the darkness, pointing this weary world toward the hope and life that is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grace and peace, Steve

Worship & Music



NOULOU
Chamber Players

January 28, 2024 @ 7 p.m

An Evening of American Chamber Music with Mezzo Soprano Laura Atkinson, Baritone Jason Steigerwalt & NouLou Chamber Players

We are thrilled to present Laura Atkinson, mezzo soprano & Jason Steigerwalt, baritone with the NouLou Chamber Players in a vibrant evening of chamber vocal music. Compositions include a song cycle for baritone by local composer **Daniel Gilliam** on a text of Wendell Berry; a cycle for mezzo by **Lori Laitmann**, and others. Laura is one of Louisville Public Media's on-air hosts for 90.5-WUOL Classical FM, and a member of Second's Octet. Jason is an On-Premise Sales Consultant with Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, and also a member of Second's Octet.



ARTEFACT ENSEMBLE

FEBRUARY 25, 2024 * 3 PM

CREATE.

HYMNS OF EMBODIMENT. RUIN & REBIRTH



Hailed as "seamless" and "technically flawless" (Musical America) Artefact Ensemble brings together leading vocal artists from around the country to craft immersive experiences of human connection through the transforming power of song. Artistic Director, Benedict Sheehan, is a two-time GRAMMY® nominee and American Prize-winner and has been called "a choral conductor and composer to watch in the 21st century" (ConcertoNet). They will present a brilliant program, including Copland's IN THE BEGINNING.



| January 2024 | | |
|--|--|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
| | 1 Building/Office closed in observance of New Years | 2 10:00am SPOT Book Notes Hybrid Meeting - Parlor 10:00am SPOT Walkers - offsite |
| 7 8:30am Worship Service - Chapel 8:30 Pancake Breakfast 9:30am Faith & Formation 10:00am Breakfast and Bibles 11:00am Worship Service - Sanctuary 12:00pm Ski Trip Parent Meeting - Library | 8 1:00pm Monday Afternoon Club - Room 252 4:00pm Caregiver's Group - Zoom 5:30pm SPOT Group: Pilates - Narthex | 9 10:00am Presbyterian Women - Room 252 Hybrid 7:00pm Open Gym |
| 14 8:30am Worship Service - Chapel 9:30am Faith & Formation 10:00am Breakfast and Bibles 11:00am Worship Service - Sanctuary 12:00pm SPOT: Busy Needles - Parlor | 15 5:30pm SPOT Group: Pilates - Narthex | 16 10:00am SPOT Walkers - offsite 7:00pm Austin Handbell Rehearsal - Handbell Room 7:00pm Open Gym |
| 21 8:30am Worship Service - Chapel 9:30am Faith & Formation 10:00am Breakfast and Bibles 11:00am Worship Service - Sanctuary | 22 1:00pm Monday Afternoon Club - Room 252 5:30pm SPOT: Pilates - Narthex | 23 7:00pm Austin Handbell Rehearsal - Handbell Room 7:00pm Open Gym |
| 28 8:30am Worship Service - Chapel 9:30am Annual Congregational Meeting - FH 9:30am Faith & Formation 10:00am Breakfast and Bibles 11:00am Worship Service - Sanctuary 7:00pm An Evening of American Chamber Music - Chapel | 29 1:00pm Monday Afternoon Club - Room 252 5:30pm SPOT: Pilates - Narthex | 30 7:00pm Austin Handbell Rehearsal - Handbell Room 7:00pm Open Gym |

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>3 10:00am SPOT Prayer Group - Room 251</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5 7:00am Men's Weekday Bible Study - Room 251/ Zoom</p> | <p>6</p> |
| <p>10 10:30am SPOT: 2nd Act (Offsite) Christian Care Community 11:30am Hope & Healing - Parlor 5:00pm Wednesdays Together Dinner - FH / 5:30pm Children's Choirs/Worship Arts/Adult Study - Various 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room & Sanctuary</p> | <p>11 9:30am Morning Joy - FHA 11:00am Reflections - Room 251</p> | <p>12 7:00am Men's Weekday Bible Study - Room 251/ Zoom</p> | <p>13</p> |
| <p>17 10:30am SPOT: 2nd Act (Offsite) United Crescent Hill Ministries 11:30am Hope & Healing - Parlor 5:00pm Wednesdays Together Dinner - FH / 5:30pm Children's Choirs/Worship Arts/Adult Study - Various 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room & Sanctuary</p> | <p>18 9:30am Morning Joy - FHA 11:00am Reflections - Room 251</p> | <p>19 7:00am Men's Weekday Bible Study - Room 251/ Zoom 5:00pm Trivia Night - FHA</p> | <p>20 5:00pm Club456 Monthly meetup - YS 5:00pm Parent's Night Out - WDS rooms</p> |
| <p>24 10:30am SPOT: 2nd Act (Offsite) Vitality at Stony Brook 11:30am Hope & Healing - Parlor 5:00pm Wednesdays Together Dinner - FH / 5:30pm Children's Choirs/Worship Arts/Adult Study - Various 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room & Sanctuary</p> | <p>25 9:30am Morning Joy - FHA 11:00am Reflections - Room 251 12:00pm SPOT: Busy Needles - Parlor</p> | <p>26 7:00am Men's Weekday Bible Study - Room 251/ Zoom</p> | <p>27</p> |
| <p>31 10:30am SPOT: 2nd Act (Offsite) Westport Place 5:00pm Wednesdays Together Dinner - FH / 5:30pm Children's Choirs/Worship Arts/Adult Study - Various 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room & Sanctuary</p> | | | |

Mission



JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

We are collecting the following items for the Healing Place
(both Men's and Women's Campuses)

- personal hygiene items (travel size)
- towels & wash cloths
- twin size sheets & blankets
- men's & women's clothing

Refugee Update

The Mteme family continues to acclimate to their new home and take the needed steps toward self-sufficiency. Recently, they reached a major milestone, as Mteme finally received his official ID card, which enables him to apply for a job. In addition, he opened a bank account and learned to use an ATM. He is ecstatic and sends the following words of thanks:

Hello all of you, this is MTEME lusakanya, today I am very very glad I got my important documents with me thank you very much I am feeling better today I am in much joy I can say in a Nutshell God bless you and have a wonderful day and Merry Christmas to you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Without forgetting Joseph, Stanley and Susanne and other church members who are not in group contacts Merry Christmas!!!!!!!

In our language we say "" HERI SIKU KUU YA KRISTMASI KWENU."" Swahili one...

As the recent plans for the family to visit Second Presbyterian have fallen through, we hope to reschedule early next year. Please keep them in your prayers.



TRIVIA

Night

JANUARY
19TH, 2024

Trivia night is back on January 19th, 2024.

Get your table mates (table of 8) before the smart ones are taken! Competition for team dress and table decorations. All ages are encouraged to attend. Appropriate mixed category questions will span many decades. A huge fight is expected for the rubber duck to the team who finishes last.

John Hubbard, MD
Cell: 502-939-5741

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 ♦ 9:30-10:50 ♦ FELLOWSHIP HALL

Pathways is sponsoring a church-wide pancake breakfast!



100% of the proceeds will be used to benefit the youth and their mission work.

There is no charge for the breakfast but a free will offering will be collected.



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Postmaster, send address changes to:

Second Thoughts, c/o Second Presbyterian Church

3701 Old Brownsboro Rd

Louisville, KY 40207

passages

We remember in prayer...

Stuart and Jennifer Ferguson and their family upon the death of their sister-in-law, Barbara Ferguson, 12/24/23.

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.

Kyle Wiggins and his family on the death of his father, Mac, 10/14/23.

Eric Jaegers and his family on the death of his mother, Pat, 10/9/23.

The family and friends of Ellie Salisbury on her death, 10/7/23.

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