

# 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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For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven... (Ecclesiastes 3:19)

Dear Friends,

It’s becoming real. I had an online meeting with a trusted mentor the other day and he opened the conversation with, “Seventy-one days!” It took a moment to realize he was referring to June 2nd, my last day as Pastor of this congregation. Yikes! That reality and its implications is beginning to sink in as I have conversations with staff about future plans and with church members about upcoming milestones and events in their lives. Oh, yeah, I won’t be here for those.

That realization brings with it mixed feelings. Diana, who will be retiring at the end of June, and I are excited about what’s next and looking forward to time to simply “be,” to rest, to travel and reconnect with long-time friends. Then, we’ll see. I’m approaching this transition not as leaving ministry but as discerning a different context for ministry, discovering new ways to use the gifts I’ve been given and the passions I have in order to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

But as I envision life after June 2nd there is also anxiety and a sense of loss. Service to the church has been my life for forty years as of next Monday, the 26th, the anniversary of my ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament. Despite naïve protestations to the contrary, my identity as a human being has become bound up with my role as pastor. Who am I, who will I be, when the role is taken away? It’s a question many of you have had to wrestle with when you retired, when the child or

children left the nest, when you’re no longer someone’s spouse, child, sibling or lifelong friend due to death. Who am I now?

Not surprisingly, there have been memories popping up in my consciousness recently of churches I’ve served, people in those churches, and moments we experienced together. I have come to understand more fully what a colleague said to me many years ago, “The only thing that lasts is relationship.” What an incredible grace it is to share life and its profound moments with so many of God’s beloved children over the years, people whose stories, commitments, talents and compassion have touched my life like the overflowing cup of Psalm 23. I’ve said many times over the past fifteen years that what drew me to Second and has kept me here is the depth of spirit, the zest for life, the desire to serve of so many of you. I will miss the day-to-day interactions with you that have been life-giving.

We’ll have opportunities to share stories and say our goodbyes in the coming weeks. But I want to say this now and I will keep saying it. Second Presbyterian Church will be 200 years old in April of 2030. That’s only six years away. Ministers and other staff come and go, but the heart of any church, its people, remains. The relationships we’ve been given do not disappear. They become the essential fabric of this community of faith, contribute to its growth in faithfulness, and strengthen its people – you – to welcome whatever God has in store for you next.

Grace and peace,  
Steve

# Worship & Music

## *Lenten Recital Series*



Thursdays at Noon  
followed by a light lunch  
freewill offering

March 7: Organ Works of  
Florence Price & Ethel Smyth  
performed by Samuel Libra



March 14: Spirituals and  
Piano Music of Harry T. Burleigh  
performed by Christina Bouras  
Recktenwald & Samuel Libra



March 21: Harpsichord Music  
for J.S. Bach's Birthday  
Dr. Jack Ashworth,  
U. of L. Professor of Music

Second Presbyterian Church

3701 Old Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207

March 2024		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p><b>3</b>  <b>8:30am</b> Worship Service - Chapel  <b>9:30am</b> Faith &amp; Formation  <b>10:00am</b> Breakfast and Bibles  <b>11:00am</b> Worship Service - Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>4</b>  <b>1:00pm</b> Monday Afternoon Club - Room 252  <b>5:30pm</b> SPOT Group: Pilates - Narthex</p>	<p><b>5</b>  <b>10:00am</b> SPOT: Book Notes - Parlor  <b>10:00am</b> SPOT Walkers - offsite  <b>7:00pm</b> Austin Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary  <b>7:00pm</b> Open Gym</p>
<p><b>10 Set Clocks Forward</b>  <b>8:30am</b> Worship Service - Sanctuary  <b>9:30am</b> Faith &amp; Formation  <b>10:00am</b> Breakfast and Bibles  <b>11:00am</b> Worship Service - Sanctuary  <b>12:00pm</b> SPOT: Busy Needles - Parlor</p>	<p><b>11</b>  <b>1:00pm</b> Monday Afternoon Club - Room 252  <b>4:00pm</b> Caregiver's Group - Zoom  <b>5:30pm</b> SPOT Group: Pilates - Narthex</p>	<p><b>12</b>  <b>7:00pm</b> Austin Handbell Rehearsal - Handbell Room  <b>7:00pm</b> Open Gym</p>
<p><b>17</b>  <b>8:30am</b> Worship Service - Chapel  <b>9:30am</b> Faith &amp; Formation  <b>10:00am</b> Breakfast and Bibles  <b>11:00am</b> Worship Service - Sanctuary  <b>3:00pm</b> Louisville Masterworks Chorale Concert - Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>1:00pm</b> Monday Afternoon Club - Room 252  <b>5:30pm</b> SPOT: Pilates - Narthex</p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>10:00am</b> Presbyterian Women - Room 252  <b>10:00am</b> SPOT: Walkers - Offsite  <b>6:00pm</b> - Iftar Dinner - Great Hall  <b>7:00pm</b> Austin Handbell Rehearsal - Handbell Room</p>
<p><b>24 Palm Sunday</b>  <b>8:30am</b> Worship Service - Chapel  <b>9:30am</b> Faith &amp; Formation  <b>10:00am</b> Easter Egg Hunt &amp; Breakfast  <b>10:30am</b> Breakfast and Bibles  <b>11:00am</b> Worship Service - Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>25</b>  <b>1:00pm</b> Monday Afternoon Club - Room 252  <b>5:30pm</b> SPOT: Pilates - Narthex</p>	<p><b>26</b>  <b>7:00pm</b> Austin Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary</p>
<p><b>31 Easter Sunday</b>  <b>8:15am</b> Worship Service Prelude - Narthex  <b>8:30am</b> Worship Service - Sanctuary  <b>9:30am</b> Faith &amp; Formation  <b>10:45am</b> Worship Service Prelude - Narthex  <b>11:00am</b> Worship Service - Sanctuary</p>		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Weekday Bible Study - Room 251/ Zoom	<b>2</b>
<b>6</b> <b>10:00am</b> SPOT: Prayer Group <b>11:30am</b> Hope & Healing - Parlor <b>5:00pm</b> Wednesdays Together Dinner - FH / <b>5:30pm</b> Children's Choirs/Worship Arts/ Adult Study - Various <b>7:00pm</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room & Sanctuary	<b>7</b> <b>9:30am</b> Morning Joy - FHA <b>11:00am</b> Reflections - Room 251 <b>11:00am</b> - WDS/Church Tour - begins in the Fellowship Hall <b>12:00pm</b> Lenten Recital Series - Sanctuary <b>12:30pm</b> Lenten Recital Luncheon - FH Luncheon - FH	<b>8</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Weekday Bible Study - Room 251/ Zoom	<b>9</b> <b>5:00pm</b> PY Lock In - Youth Suite
<b>13</b> <b>5:00pm</b> Wednesdays Together Dinner - FH / <b>5:30pm</b> Children's Choirs/Worship Arts/ Adult Study - Various <b>7:00pm</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room & Sanctuary	<b>14</b> <b>9:30am</b> Morning Joy - FHA <b>11:00am</b> Reflections - Room 251 <b>12:00pm</b> Lenten Recital Series - Sanctuary <b>12:30pm</b> Lenten Recital Luncheon - FH	<b>15</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Weekday Bible Study - Room 251/ Zoom	<b>16</b> <b>5:00pm</b> Club456 - Youth Suite <b>5:00pm</b> Parent's Night Out - WDS rooms
<b>20</b> <b>11:00am</b> SPOT: Prayer Group - Room 251 <b>5:00pm</b> Wednesdays Together Dinner - FH / <b>5:30pm</b> Children's Choirs/Worship Arts/Adult Study - Various <b>7:00pm</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room & Sanctuary	<b>21</b> <b>9:30am</b> Morning Joy - FHA <b>11:00am</b> Reflections - Room 251 <b>12:00pm</b> Lenten Recital Series - Sanctuary <b>12:30pm</b> Lenten Recital Luncheon - FH	<b>22</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Weekday Bible Study - Room 251/ Zoom	<b>23</b>
<b>27</b> <b>11:30am</b> Hope & Healing - Parlor <b>7:00pm</b> Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room & Sanctuary	<b>28 Maundy Thursday</b> <b>9:30am</b> Morning Joy - FHA <b>11:00am</b> Reflections - Room 251 <b>11:00pm</b> SPOT: Busy Needles - Parlor <b>7:00pm</b> Maundy Thursday - Chapel	<b>29 Good Friday</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Weekday Bible Study - Room 251/ Zoom <b>7:00pm</b> Tenebrae - Chapel	<b>30</b>

# Mission

## MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH

FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH WE ARE  
REQUESTING MONETARY DONATIONS FOR  
BUCKHORN CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES.



Donations can be made through  
the Second Presbyterian website  
or by check.



## Easter Flower Donations

### Palm Plants for Palm Sunday and Lilies for Easter Sunday



Palm plants and Easter lilies are available for members who wish to contribute to our floral displays for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. There will be twenty short palm plants and eight tall palm plants available for Palm Sunday. If you are interested in giving one of these in honor of or in memory of someone, please contact Amy Kiefner. The short palm plants are \$20.00, the tall palm plants are \$50.00, and the lilies are \$20.00.



**Palm plant orders and money are due by March 13, and the deadline for lilies is Sunday, March 18.**

To order and pay online (through the Giving Page) please scan the QR code to the right. To pay by check please complete an order form and return it with payment to the church or place it in offering plates. Please make your check out to Second Presbyterian Church (specify "Easter Flowers").



Donor(s) name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Donor(s) email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor(s) phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

–or–

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: Tall Palm: \_\_\_\_ (Qty: \_\_\_\_ ) Short Palm: \_\_\_\_ (Qty: \_\_\_\_ ) Lily: \_\_\_\_ (Qty: \_\_\_\_ )

# Refugee Update

Mteme Lusakanya and his daughters, Pascalina and Seraphina, have now been in the United States for about 4 months. Their journey from the refugee camp in Tanzania to their new home in Kentucky has been a difficult one, filled with many ups and downs, and some devastating losses. Still, they persevere and remain hopeful as they build a new life in our country. On a positive note, Pascalina and Seraphina are enrolled in JCPS and attending Newcomer Academy, which is a school designed for immigrants and refugees. Their father reports that they love school!

Mteme continues to look for full time employment. He was hopeful that he could secure a full time position at GE, but the wheels are turning slowly on that front, and he is understandably disappointed. Mteme said that he desperately misses the structure, routine and rewards that come with working full time, and we know that he is not afraid of hard work! If anyone in the congregation might have a need for some day work, please keep him in mind. Some suggestions include: yard/garage clean up, moving heavy items, simple handiwork. The refugee committee would provide the transportation, and help with the communication as well. If interested, please contact Kathy Oyler at (502) 777-1757 for more details and scheduling.

Also, if anyone in the congregation is available to take Mteme and the girls on a local outing (lunch, zoo, Botanical Gardens, sporting event) they would really enjoy it. They love meeting new people and having the opportunity to practice their English as well.

Recently, Stan DeVoogd took the family to a UL men's basketball game. They loved it!! Big thanks to Stan for that effort!!

Sadly, our refugee family has suffered more loss as well. Mteme's brother-in-law (his sister's husband) recently passed away in Tanzania. Also, they are still desperately missing Mteme's wife and two sons who remain in the refugee camp in Tanzania. They are waiting for the paperwork to come through so that she and the boys can make the long trip to the States. Please continue to keep this lovely family in your thoughts and prayers, as they need our support and good wishes more than ever.

With gratitude,

The Refugee Committee

Beth Blythe, Kathy Oyler, Jill Shiflet, Chris Ellis and Ritu Furlan





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Second Thoughts, c/o Second Presbyterian Church

3701 Old Brownsboro Rd

Louisville, KY 40207

## passages

*We remember in prayer...*

Jim Baker and his family on the death of his wife, Patricia "Patsy" Baker, 2/27/24

DeeDee Davis and her family on the death of her husband, Scott, 2/10/24

Dixie Baird and her family on the death of her brother-in-law, Bobby Jones, 1/23/24.

Heather Nutt and her family on the death of her father, Hal Neilson, 1/7/24.

Vic, Gordon, and Verser Engelhard and their families on the death of their mother, Harriet, 12/29/23.

Amy Parker and her family on the death of her mother, Jane Woods Hobson, 12/26/23.

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

John Hollander and his family on the death of his mother, Frances, 12/23/23.

Camille and Bob Williams-Neal and their family on the death of Bob's brother, Ray Davis, 12/22/23.

Martha Spencer and her family on the death of her sister, Fuchsia Nelson, 12/18/23.

### *Staff*

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