

Second Edition

DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE

making room



On Second Thought...



Okay - so I know this is the December newsletter, but I'm writing this the Sunday before Thanksgiving so I'm thinking about things I'm grateful for.

Last week I was driving to work and noticed how beautiful the fall colors were. Anyone else notice the peak week for fall colors has changed? When I was growing up it was always the 3rd week in October. For the last several years, however, it has been the 2nd week of November. I guess climate change has something to do with it. I told my wife we should call and make reservations in Gatlinburg next year for the 2nd week in November because most people still go the 3rd week in October. If you just thought, "That's a great idea!", you're welcome. Anyway, back to the fall colors.

As I was admiring the deep red and golden yellow leaves, the thing I was most grateful for is that I could see them at all! Most of you know that I had a 2nd detached retina at the beginning of the month and a 2nd retina repair surgery on November 3rd. As you might guess, the whole ordeal has been quite frustrating. It took about 3 months for me to regain the sight in my left eye after the retina repair surgery last February. Because of the damage to the retina, however, my sight was even worse than it was before. As things settled, I got a new prescription, which meant new glasses and new contact lenses. But wait, there's more!

One of the side effects of the surgery is the development of a cataract. So over the summer and fall the cataract was growing, and growing fast. Those of you who have had cataracts know how frustrating they are. By December the cataract was "mature" and I had cataract surgery, which means I got an implanted lens. My sight improved to about 20/35, the best my poor damaged retina could do. This, however, created another problem.

For most of my adult life I have worn both contact lenses and glasses. As my "over-40" vision came into play, I needed readers with the contacts. I had become very dependent on the readers by the time I was 50, so I favor using glasses with progressive lenses whenever I am reading, studying, or working on the computer, which is a lot of the time. The problem was that my left eye had now been corrected to 20/35 but the vision in my right eye was still horrible. The difference between the two was so great

that I could no longer wear glasses. My brain couldn't process the disparity. Contacts still worked, but I had to have my readers on all the time.

So after a lot of discussion with my ophthalmologist, I decided to have Lasik surgery in the right eye, which took place in June. Since then, I have not needed contacts and have been able to wear my glasses any time I needed to read anything, like my Sunday sermon! But now I've had another retina repair, which means another cataract, and eventually another implanted lens. So the money I spent on the Lasik surgery was pretty much wasted. Such is life.

The reason I tell you all this is that I want to tell you that, in spite of all these eye troubles, I am SO thankful to be living in this time! Had I lived when my grandfather lived, or even when my father lived, I would be blind right now. Retina repair surgery has been around since the 1930's but with limited success. The retina repair surgery I had was not invented until the 1960's and really not perfected until the 1980's. The surgeon who did mine studied under the man who invented it. Today it is done with great success. What a blessing!

Thanks to God's gifts of curiosity, ingenuity, and intellect, human beings have found a way to consistently repair detached retinas, perform Lasik surgery, remove cataracts, and implant lenses to correct vision. And because of this I can see the beauty of the fall colors this year! (Albeit with only one eye right now.) In a few months, God willing, I will regain my sight in the right eye, then have another cataract surgery a few months later, and receive a new implanted lens. How incredible is that?!?! Then I will be able to see with both eyes, at least as well as my poor damaged retinas will allow. For that, I am truly thankful.

The Apostle Paul says to give thanks in every situation. (1 Thess 5:18) It isn't always easy, but it is always possible. Gratitude is a choice we make. And the more we make the choice to find things to be grateful for, the easier it becomes.

Grace and peace...

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The Officer Nominating committee is requesting your help!

The Officer Nominating Committee is interested in your suggestions for ruling elders to serve on the *Session Class of 2025*.

Ruling elders in the PC(USA) are defined as "*persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills of leadership and being compassionate in spirit.*" They are chosen by the congregation "*to discern and guide its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life.*"

A link to submit your suggestions can be found on the weekly email.

The deadline for submissions is January 1st.



This year's Advent theme is "Making Room." As we prepare for the holidays, many of our homes and lives will transition to accommodate decorations, guests, celebrations, and meals. It is a time of year when our calendars, hearts, and bellies can become quite full. In the midst of these preparations and busyness, the season of Advent acts as a loving reminder for us to make room for Jesus. This does not mean we are to set up a guest room for Christ, but it also doesn't mean that we are to relegate his presence to a tiny nativity set on the mantle either.

We are called to make room for Jesus in our daily lives: in our homes, in our relationships with others, in the ways we spend our time, in our care for creation, and in the ways we see the world around us. May this season of Advent be a call to you and your family to make room in your time and space for the presence of Christ.

November 28th - Making Room for What is to Come

Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary & Joseph

Matt. 1:18-21

December 5th - Making Room to Welcome Others

Luke 1:39-45, 56

Mary Visits Elizabeth

December 12th - Making Room for Worship

Luke 1:46-80

The Songs of Mary & Zechariah

December 19th - Making Room for Wonder

Luke 2:8-15, 20

The Shepherds Share the Wonder of God

December 24th - Making Room for the Word, Jesus Christ

Luke 2:1-21

Christmas Eve

John 1:1-18

December 26th - Making Room for Wholeness

Luke 2:22-38

Simeon & Anna

January 2nd - Making Room for the World (Epiphany)

Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Magi

Christmas Eve Worship Service

We will gather in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. for our Carol & Candle Lighting Service.

This service is a tradition at Second going back many decades and has come to be a cherished opportunity for our church family to celebrate the birth of Christ together. It will be extra special this year, as we weren't able to gather in person last year.

David Stultz will be joining us at the organ and pre-service music will begin at 5:10 p.m.

All who come will be blessed by being part of this holy evening.

December Birthdays

Kylie Beets 12/01

Lynda May 12/22

Janet Bower 12/01

Betty Copeland 12/23

Geoffrey Kennedy 12/01

Ileen Cheek 12/24

Eric Wallace 12/10

Jessica Lewis 12/28

John Matlock 12/21

Abraham Ullrich 12/29

Kay Weaver 12/21

Emily Jones 12/31

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER AND BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY IS AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE MARY CHAMBERS ROOM. WE GATHER AT 6:00 P.M. FOR A "BROWN BAG" MEAL TOGETHER PRIOR TO THE STUDY. THIS MONTH WE CONCLUDE OUR STUDY OF *THE KINGDOM PARABLES OF JESUS.*

DECEMBER 1ST THE TWO DEBTORS LUKE 7:36-50

DECEMBER 8TH THE GOOD SAMARITAN LUKE 10:25-37

DECEMBER 15TH THE LOST SONS LUKE 15:11-32

DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, KATHY DUGGAN WILL LEAD AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK.

SANDWICHES, DRINKS, AND SNACKS WILL BE SERVED BEGINNING AT 6:00, FOLLOWED BY A GROUP DISCUSSION AT 6:30. TEXT OR CALL KATHY DUGGAN AT 865-441-8683 IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND SO WE CAN HAVE ENOUGH FOOD. IF YOU ARE NOT A PLANNER, COME ANYWAY AND WE WON'T LET YOU STARVE! WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU, RESERVATION OR NOT. WE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE CHILDCARE IF YOU LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE. OTHERWISE, CHILDREN WILL BE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LOOK AHEAD!

Second Presbyterian Church's women's organization announces plans for 2022! All interested women of Second Church, mark your 2022 calendars for *Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall.*

PW members and all women associated with Second Church are invited to attend a fellowship gathering for fun, refreshments, and learning about the organization's plans for 2022.

In the meantime, two of Presbyterian Women's committees are currently at work: *The Arts and Crafts Committee* is gearing up for a new project to make clothes for dolls for Isaiah House, a temporary home for children waiting for a foster family. Call Cheryl Ragsdale (865-684-8999) to volunteer or for more information.

The Church Decorating Committee, along with the Session's *Worship Committee* have been decorating the church for the Christmas season.

Early in December they will place poinsettias in the sanctuary. Call Ileen Cheek (352-281-2811) to volunteer to help work with the poinsettias.

Drive Thru Christmas Caroling

Once again the church will be having
Drive Thru Christmas Caroling!

Date: Dec 19th from 3-5 p.m. in the Courtyard.

Needed: Volunteers to sing and volunteers to transport some of our shut ins.

No need to get out of your car, just drive by and listen and sing along.

There may even be hot chocolate and candy canes along with lots of fun!

Mark your calendars now and let Jan Barber know if you are willing to help out in any way!

Dolls, Dolls, Dolls!

Arts and Crafts circle of Presbyterian Women is beginning a new project.

We are dressing dolls to donate to Isaiah 1:17 House. This is a 501-c3 organization which provides a safe place for children who have been removed from abusive situations until a foster placement can be found for them. They are removed with only the clothes they are wearing, and without any of their toys.

Since they have never had a new toy, the organization has asked that anything we donate should be new, not used.

They have plenty of stuffed animals, but were thrilled when we offered to make clothes for dolls we would purchase and donate!

We have the dolls, but realized we need something for the boys! So, after conferring with the organization, we are asking the congregation to help us by purchasing and donating superhero action figures. These can be any superhero, such as Spiderman, Batman, etc. Please place the action figures on or near the Christmas tree located in the atrium.

Because this is an on-going project, the items do not have to be given in time for Christmas. Children are served throughout the year, and will be allowed to select a new toy to take with them to their foster home.

I will be happy to talk with anyone who has questions.

Cheryl Ragsdale

865-684-8999



Report from October West View Partner Coalition Meeting

Update:

- The school is excited to have their dental screening program up and running again. During 2020, it was on an emergency-only basis. This year, they will be able to get back to screening all students.
- West View partnered with UT Extension to provide a cooking class series at one of the apartment complexes where multiple West View families live. The class just concluded, and the kids involved reported loving it! The school hopes to offer more opportunities like this for these families.
- Susan Martin (West View's Community Schools Coordinator) reported that during the 1st quarter, the school received over \$8,000 of in-kind donations including school supplies and similar items, \$2,000 in gift cards to assist their families in need, and 720 volunteer hours.
- Partner organizations at the meeting brainstormed ways to work together with one another and the school to better serve the students and their families.

How You Might Get Involved:

- Volunteers are welcome for the after-school program, lunch buddies, homework helpers, and mentoring in various ways.
- Offer encouragement to the staff with cards, treats, etc.

If you want to know more about any of these updates or getting involved, contact Pastor Sarah!

Christmas Joy Special Offerings

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on **Sunday, December 19th and Christmas Eve.**

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church - past, present, and future.

50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

On checks please note "Christmas Joy Offering" on the memo line. Checks can also be mailed to the church office if you are not worshipping in person.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Merry Christmas

Holiday Church Office Hours & Pastoral Vacations

The church office will be closed *Christmas Eve (Friday)* and the *Monday after Christmas (December 27th)* in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Pastor Tim will be on Christmas vacation *Dec. 20th thru 23rd.*

Pastor Sarah will be on Christmas vacation *Dec. 28th thru 31st.*



Reception for Jan Barber

There will be a *reception following worship on December 19th* to honor Jan Barber and her years of service to 2nd Presbyterian Church. Come join us in saying thank you to Jan and celebrating her retirement.

As a thank you, we are taking up a love offering for Jan. If you would like to make a donation to this love offering, please send your donation to the church and designate it for "Jan's love offering".

Congratulations to Audrey

Since January of 2020, Audrey has been a full-time student in addition to her position as our Church Administrator.

This December Audrey Johnson will graduate with honors from Tusculum University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Way to go, Audrey! We're proud of you!



UPDATES FROM THE SESSION

Highlights from the November 2021 Stated Session Meeting

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Approved the motion to call a Congregational Meeting for the purpose to elect two congregational members to the nominating committee on December 12, 2021.
- Elected Elder Charles White to represent the Elders on the Nominating Committee along with Elder Margie Gill.
- Approved the motion from the Service and Outreach Ministry Unit to submit an application to Second Harvest Food Bank for the purpose of purchasing food for the Second Presbyterian Church FISH Pantry.

OCTOBER BUDGET REPORT

	OCTOBER	YTD	BUDGET
TOTAL GIVING	\$38,922.83	\$635,491.56	\$788,556.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$63,046.89	\$592,338.24	\$788,556.00
EXCESS/(SHORTAGE)	(\$24,124.06)	\$43,153.32	---

December

1

10a CCR&R Event (FH)
2p Compassionate Cuisine (FH)
6p Wednesday Night Dinner/Bible Study

2

1p Service & Outreach (Mary Chambers Room)

3

Church Office Closed

4

5

Communion Sunday
9⁴⁵a FSF Sunday School Class (Barbour Room)
11a Worship
5p FSF Potluck Dinner (Home of Caroline Buckner)

6

4³p Cross Ministry (Barbour Room)
6³p BSF (All Facilities)

7

9a Staff Meeting
10a Organ Search Comm. (Barbour Room)
5³p Preschool Musical (Sanctuary)
7p Care & Compassion
7p Boy Scouts

8

2p 2nd Readers Book Club (Caroline Buckner's)
6p Wednesday Night Dinner/Bible Study

9

10

Church Office Closed

11

8³a Church Work Day

12

9⁴⁵a FSF Sunday School Class (Barbour Room)
11a Worship

13

Audrey Out of Office

14

12p Staff Christmas Luncheon
5p Facilities Committee
7p Boy Scouts

15

2p Compassionate Cuisine (FH)
6p Wednesday Night Dinner/Bible Study

16

17

Church Office Closed

18

19

9⁴⁵a FSF Sunday School Class (Barbour Room)
11a Worship
12p Reception for Jan Barber
3p Drive Thru Caroling (Courtyard)

20

Preschool Closed

21

Preschool Closed
10a Organ Search Comm. (Barbour Room)

22

Preschool Closed

23

Preschool Closed

24

Church Office Closed
Preschool Closed
5³p Christmas Eve Service



25



26

9⁴⁵a FSF Sunday School Class (Barbour Room)
11a Worship

27

Church Office Closed
Preschool Closed

28

Preschool Closed
9a FISH (FH)

29

Preschool Closed

30

Preschool Closed

31

Preschool Closed
Church Office Closed

The events on this calendar will take place if we are in Covid Phase Orange, Yellow, or Green. Alternate plans (outdoor, virtual, etc.) will be communicated by the church office or the coordinator of that event if we return to Phase Red. Please see the home page of our website (2ndpres.org) to determine what Covid Phase we are in.



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THE SECOND EDITION
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2829 KINGSTON PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

*Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace,
we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community,
following Jesus and serving him in the world.*

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2022

Dean Farmer
Margie Gill
Patricia Kennedy
Marty McLean

CLASS OF 2023

Tracy Horton
Neal Peebles
Charles White
Tim Wright

CLASS OF 2024

Ileen Cheek
Joe Clarke
Angela Jones
Mary Kay Sullivan

MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

Worship & Celebration

Margie Gill
Ileen Cheek

Discipleship

Patricia Kennedy
Angela Jones

Service & Outreach

Tracy Horton
Tim Wright

Care & Compassion

Marty McLean
Joe Clarke

Stewardship

Dean Farmer
Neal Peebles
Mary Kay Sullivan

Preschool Board

Charles White