

Second Edition

DECEMBER 2020 ISSUE

THOSE
WHO
DREAM

The text 'THOSE WHO DREAM' is rendered in a light blue, serif font, arranged in three lines. A dreamcatcher is superimposed over the text. The circular web of the dreamcatcher is composed of a dense pattern of small, dark brown, teardrop-shaped beads. The central ring of the dreamcatcher is a solid blue circle. The vertical support of the dreamcatcher is a light blue, textured band that passes behind the text.

On Second Thought...

For the last few months we have been examining what we Presbyterians call the "doctrines of grace" - doctrines in the Reformed Tradition (our theological family) which help us systematically think about and understand the true meaning of grace. Essentially, it's what we believe and teach about sin and salvation.

You may not have noticed, but we learned these doctrines of grace using the acronym F.A.I.T.H

- **Fallen Humankind:** We are, by nature, dead in sin and therefore completely unable to save ourselves from sin and its consequences.
- **Adopted by God:** In love, God deliberately chooses to adopt us into his family.
- **Intentional Atonement:** Jesus died to save us from our sin, and this was God's plan all along.
- **Transformed by the Spirit:** The Holy Spirit enables us to understand spiritual things and begin to live in harmony with God.
- **Held by God:** We are held safely in God's hands for all eternity and therefore cannot lose our salvation.

For centuries a different acronym has been used to teach these Biblical truths. Perhaps you have heard of it: T.U.L.I.P. I prefer the F.A.I.T.H. acronym because T.U.L.I.P. is often misunderstood due to changes in language. Nevertheless, you may hear someone speak about T.U.L.I.P. when it comes to Presbyterians, so we should discuss it briefly.

"T" is for Total Depravity: This phrase describes the condition of a *Fallen Humankind*. People often hear this phrase, however, and think that it means the Bible teaches human beings are as bad as we can possibly be - "utterly" depraved. This is not correct. It simply means that we are so completely affected by our sinful nature that we are unable to contribute anything to our own salvation.

"U" is for Unconditional Election: The difficulty with this phrase comes from the word *unconditional*. It is not saying that God elects to save people no matter what. It is another way of saying that election is God's choice. We do not have to meet certain conditions before being chosen by God; there is no "if you do this, then God will do this." God chooses us through his will based solely on his love.

"L" is for Limited Atonement: Here, again, the phrase fails to accurately communicate the teaching of Scripture. Some people think it means that the sacrifice of Jesus is "limited" in its power, that it isn't sufficient to cover the sin of the entire world. Nothing could be further from the truth.



The limitation of the atonement is in its application. It is limited to those who are chosen by God. It is *sufficient* to cover the sin of all, but *effective* only for those whom God deigns to choose.

"I" is for Irresistible Grace: Some people hear this phrase and think it means God drags people to heaven against their will. The truth is that God does not work against our will, rather God loves us and draws us to himself. The Holy Spirit works in us in such a way that we desire to love God and do God's will. C.S. Lewis writes about how he kept holding God off, until he could finally resist no longer. God's grace was simply irresistible. Lewis borrowed a phrase from poet T.S. Elliot describing God as the "hound of heaven," in that God pursued him like a hound on the trail of a fox. God kept pursuing Lewis until he was caught; it's the same for us.

"P" is for Perseverance of the Saints: Believers persevere in their faith because God preserves his own people. This phrase is problematic as it puts the focus on us. Perhaps it would be better to speak of the *preservation* of God, but I like *Held by God* as much, if not more.

Ultimately, whether we use T.U.L.I.P. or F.A.I.T.H, God's grace is something we experience and, therefore, cannot be fully explained. Think about the first time you fell in love. There is no way to adequately put into words the thoughts, emotions, and feelings of that experience. Poets and playwrights and songwriters have tried throughout human history and still have not exhausted the topic.

It's the same with grace. We are trying to explain something that we cannot comprehend, so any way of looking at it is going to fall short. I have found, however, that the F.A.I.T.H. acronym has given me a good hook to hang my hat on, so that I can focus on living a life of obedience in gratitude for the amazing grace that God has shown in choosing to adopt me into his family.

Grace and peace...

A handwritten signature or mark, possibly "J.M." or similar, is enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval shape.

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The Church Office
will be closed
December 24th-27th

Sermon Texts & Topics for Advent & Christmas

Our theme for Advent this year is *Those Who Dream...* It is inspired by the Revised Common Lectionary passages for Advent (Year B), with particular inspiration coming from Psalm 126: "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream."

What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the magi – they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dreams for the world. During Advent, we, too, have the chance to be dreamers, stepping into the mystery and awe of God's dreams as we pray for them to shape our reality.

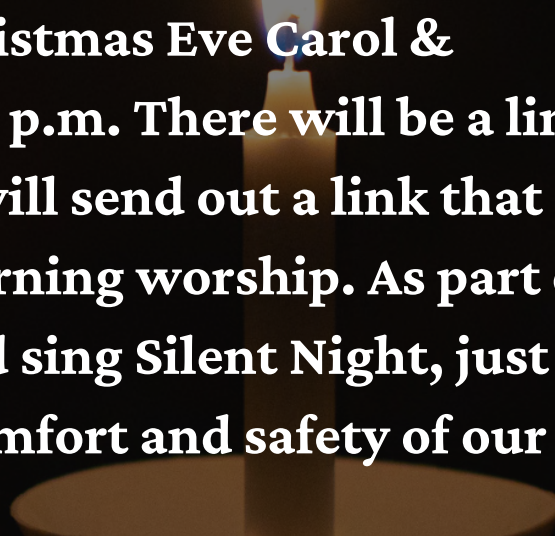
This series is for those who dream of a deeper connection with God, for those who dream of a better world, for those who dream of comfort, and for those who have given up on their dreams. It is for those whose dreams have been crushed, and for those who show us that dreams take time.

Nov 29	Mark 13:24-37	Those who Dream...Keep Awake (Hope)
Dec 6	Mark 1:1-8	Those who Dream...Prepare the Way (Peace)
Dec 13	Luke 1:46b-55	Those who Dream...Sow Joy (Joy)
Dec 20	Luke 1:26-38	Those who Dream...are not Alone (Love)
Dec 24	Luke 2:1-20	This Night, We are...Those who Dream
Dec 27	Luke 2:22-40	Those who Dream...will not Keep Silent
Jan 3	Matthew 2:1-12	Those who Dream...Persevere



Christmas Eve Worship Service

We will gather virtually for our Christmas Eve Carol & Candlelight service this year at 5:30 p.m. There will be a link to the service on our website and we will send out a link that day as we do for our regular Sunday morning worship. As part of the service we will light candles and sing Silent Night, just as we always have, except from the comfort and safety of our own homes.



If you need a candle(s) for the service, they will be available in the vestibule of the church during the week beginning December 14th. If you would prefer not to get out, we have people that have volunteered to bring you however many you need to your front door. If you would like to have candles delivered to you, please contact Audrey in the church office (ajohnson@2ndpres.org or 865.523.2189).

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 21ST

The Longest Night service recognizes that the holiday season can be a difficult and painful time for some. This year, perhaps more than ever, this is true. We are not only grieving our loved ones who have passed during the previous year, we are grieving the loss of gatherings with friends and family over the holidays, the inability to be with those we love in person, the loss of a sense of normalcy, the loss of unity and togetherness in our society, and even the loss of beloved traditions such as gathering together in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve to light a candle and sing Silent Night.

Join us virtually this year on Monday, December 21st at 6:00 p.m. as we pray, read Scripture, sing, and are reminded that even though we may be alone in our homes, we are not alone. God's presence is for those who are grieving, and God's light shines in the darkness.

Advent Wreath Candle Lighters Needed

This year we will be recording the lighting of the Advent wreath in advance for Sunday mornings and have several ways to do so safely. We can even record safely with people who aren't in the same household via Zoom! So if you, your family, your group of friends, Sunday School Class, Fellowship Group, or any other combination of folks are interested in lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath this Advent season, please let Pastor Tim know.

MEET OUR SCHOLARSHIP SINGERS!



LIVI FENECH IS A SOPHOMORE AT UTK MAJORING IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES AND MINORING IN THEATRE. SHE IS FROM CANTON, GEORGIA BUT HAS LIVED IN KNOXVILLE THE LAST FEW YEARS. SHE ENJOYS SINGING WITH HER A CAPPELLA GROUP, reVOLution AND CHAMBER SINGERS AT UT.

CAROLYN GAHAN IS A JUNIOR VOCAL MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR AT UT. WHILE SHE IS NEW TO SINGING AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN, SHE IS NOT NEW TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. SHE GREW UP GOING TO ERIN PRES, AND IS CURRENTLY THE WORSHIP INTERN AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CAMPUS MINISTRY, UKIRK. SHE HAS LOVED SINGING AT SECOND SO FAR, AND IS VERY THANKFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY!



GEOFFREY HELVESTON IS A FRESHMAN AT CARSON-NEWMAN UNIVERSITY STUDYING VOCAL MUSIC EDUCATION. HE HAS BEEN SINGING FOR FIVE YEARS, HIS FIRST SINGING EXPERIENCE BEING IN BARBERSHOP MUSIC. SINCE THEN HE HAS INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE CHORAL PROGRAMS AT POWELL HIGH SCHOOL AND CARSON-NEWMAN. HE IS ALSO AN AVID PIANO PLAYER, AND HAS BEEN PLAYING SINCE HE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD. HE HAS RECEIVED STATE LEVEL RECOGNITION ON THREE OCCASIONS. IN JANUARY OF 2019, HIS BARBERSHOP QUARTET, "MAKESHIFT," PLACED 14TH IN THE JUNIOR VARSITY QUARTET COMPETITION THROUGH THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY.



MEET OUR SCHOLARSHIP SINGERS!



ANNIE LIU IS A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE STUDYING GLOBAL STUDIES AND GEOGRAPHY WITH CONCENTRATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND ECONOMY AND WORLD CITIES AND ECONOMIES, RESPECTIVELY. SHE WORKS AS A STUDENT ASSISTANT AT THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE ON CAMPUS AND ALSO AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. SHE HAS BEEN SINGING SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND IS A BIG FAN OF ACAPELLA (LAST YEAR SHE SOLOED AT ICCA WITH UTK'S VERY OWN reVOLUTION). SHE IS NOT IN CHOIR AT COLLEGE THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID CONCERNS, BUT CONTINUES HER LOVE FOR MUSIC AT 2ND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY. IN HER FREE TIME, SHE ENJOYS PAINTING, COOKING, HIKING, AND CREATING CONTENT FOR HER FRIENDS.

SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW SETH, BUT FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T, SETH REYNOLDS IS A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE. HE HAS BEEN GOING TO SECOND FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS NOW, AND IS THE SON OF PASTOR TIM! SETH IS STUDYING JOURNALISM AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA, WITH A MINOR IN CINEMA STUDIES. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SING FOR YOU ALL!



December Birthdays

Kylie Beets
12/01

Kay Weaver
12/21

Janet Bower
12/01

Lynda May
12/22

Geoffrey Kennedy
12/01

Ileen Cheek
12/24

Allan Bartlett
12/15

Abraham Ullrich
12/29

John Matlock
12/21

Emily Jones
12/31



ADVENT PRAYER PARTNERS

The Discipleship Team is offering a new spiritual growth opportunity this Advent season by inviting you to be an Advent Prayer Partner.

Anyone who wishes to participate may do so. Prayer partners can communicate by notes, phone, email, Zoom, Facetime, or even a well-distanced lunch.

Partners can read and discuss the Advent devotional together, have a casual discussion, or just exchange prayer requests. Since we must stay distanced, we hope that this prayer partnership will draw us closer together as a congregation.

To participate, go to the home page of the website or call/email the church office and leave your name with Audrey (523-2189, ajohnson@2ndpres.org).

Confirmation Update

THE SECOND WEEK IN JANUARY, THE YOUTH OF 2ND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WILL BEGIN THEIR CONFIRMATION JOURNEY. THIS WILL TAKE PLACE OVER TWELVE WEEKS, CULMINATING IN THEIR JOINING THE CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4. DURING THESE WEEKS, THE YOUTH AND THEIR MENTORS WILL MEET WEEKLY TO STUDY AND SHARE CONVERSATIONS ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS, FROM THE TRINITY TO THE SACRAMENTS AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST. THEY WILL SPEND TIME GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER, LEARNING MORE ABOUT THEIR OWN FAITH AND THE FAITH OF THE SAINTS WHO HAVE COME BEFORE THEM AS THEY TAKE THIS IMPORTANT STEP IN THEIR LIFELONG JOURNEY OF FAITH.

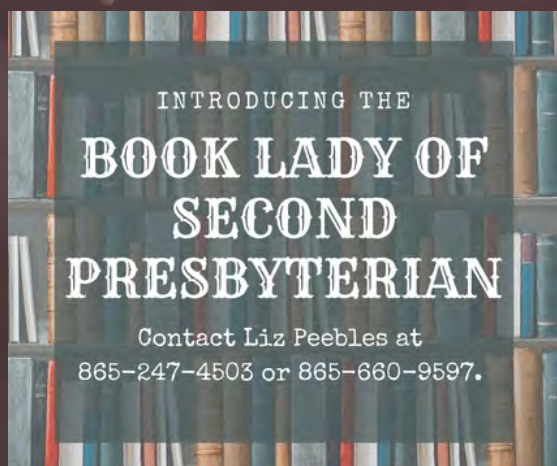
THE BAPTISMAL VOWS THAT WE TAKE WHEN A CHILD IS BAPTIZED INTO THE FAMILY OF CHRIST INCLUDE THE PROMISE TO "GUIDE AND NURTURE...BY WORD AND DEED, WITH LOVE AND PRAYER." THIS CONGREGATION DOES SUCH A WONDERFUL JOB OF SUPPORTING ITS YOUNG PEOPLE AND DOING JUST THAT; AND HERE IS ANOTHER TANGIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO CARRY OUT THESE BAPTISMAL VOWS. YOU, AS MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION, ARE INVITED TO JOIN THESE YOUTH AND THEIR MENTORS ON THIS JOURNEY BY LIFTING THEM UP IN PRAYER AND SUPPORTING THEM THROUGH THIS PROCESS. THESE YOUTH AND THEIR MENTORS ARE:

KYLIE BEETS AND DANA HENDRIX
HENRY CASEY AND CLESTON JONES
DALE HENLEY AND MANCIL MILLIGAN
NEAL HENLEY AND TIM WRIGHT
SYDNEY JONES AND KATHRYN FREEMAN
LILY REYNOLDS AND HALEY WALL

THOSE WHO DREAM

Advent Devotionals are available for all who would like one. A digital version is on our website under the "Publications" tab. Hard copies are also available on the table in the vestibule outside the atrium.

To request a copy be mailed to you, please email or call Audrey.



For Advent, there is a wide array of books. Since we are again closed, I can bring books to help you through the holidays. There are devotionals and light holiday reading. I will be listing suggestions in the weekly Friday emails for weeks to come.

Liz Peebles "The Book Lady"
247-4503 or 660-9597 (text available)

200th Anniversary

Scholarship Fund Update

The 200th Anniversary Scholarship Fund was established in 2017 as a lasting symbol of the long history of Second Presbyterian Church's support of education, as well as of our determination to continue that support for the future. For those unfamiliar with the scholarship fund, it is administered under contract with East Tennessee Foundation, with its purpose to award scholarships annually to undergraduate students at Maryville College and/or UT Knoxville on the basis of annual applications and stated criteria. To date, scholarships have been awarded in the amounts of \$4,000 in 2018 and 2019, and in the amount of \$5,700 in 2020. As of the end of the last reporting period (9/30/20) the balance in the fund totaled \$160,815.07.

Anyone desiring to make a gift to this endowment fund can make it payable to Second Presbyterian Church, specifying "Scholarship Fund" on the check or document of transfer.

If you have any questions about the fund, they can be directed to Pastor Tim, Mancil Milligan, Helen Grant or Bruce Foster.



THE PERFECT GIFT

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those in need - the gift of being together when we are near, and being together when we are apart.

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

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.

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

Please mail your contribution to the church with "Christmas Joy Offering" on the memo line of the check.

Second Readers Stuffed Animal Collection for Judge Irwin's Juvenile Court



The Second Readers Book Club invites the congregation to participate in the collection of new, stuffed animals to be given to the Juvenile Court for distribution to the children going through the court system. These children face much stress during these times, and Judge Irwin and other court personnel have found that the children are comforted by the animals and having something of their own.

We have collected animals for several years and invite the congregation to join us in this endeavor. Animals must be new, about 12" long, and cuddly. Each animal costs approximately ten dollars.

If you would like to participate but cannot shop, we will do this for you. Checks may be sent to the church, but please include in the memo line something along the lines of, "for stuffed animals donations" so the office knows where to direct your donation.

A donation bin will be available in the vestibule for drop offs that occur Monday through Thursday during normal office hours. This opportunity will run through the end of the year and delivery to the court will be in early January.

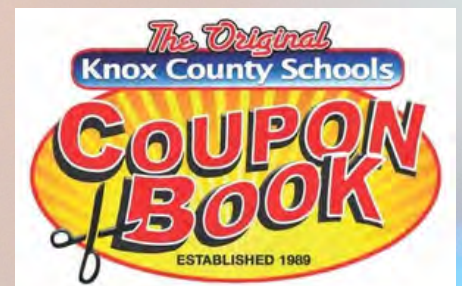
Any questions? Call Margaret Sullivan at 865-588-3103.

Thank you for you participation!

CORRECTION to previous announcement.

WEST VIEW SCHOOL WOULD LIKE TO THANK Second Presbyterian Church for their help in purchasing school coupon books. Your purchases generated programming assistance of \$674.00

(\$9.00 per book sold + contributions) for the 2020-2021 school year. We greatly appreciate YOU!



DRIVE-THRU CAROLING!



DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PILE INTO CARS AND VANS TO GO CAROLING THIS YEAR. SO INSTEAD OF TAKING THE CAROLING TO THE PEOPLE, WE ARE INVITING THE PEOPLE TO COME TO THE CAROLING!

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH WE WILL HAVE A DRIVE-THRU CAROLING EVENT BETWEEN 3 & 5 P.M. AT THE CHURCH FOR ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COME. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CAROLED TO, COME TO THE CHURCH AND TAKE THE DRIVE THAT GOES AROUND IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH BUILDING. THE CAROLERS WILL BE ON THE STEPS BETWEEN THE SANCTUARY AND CHAPEL, READY TO CAROL TO YOU IN YOUR CAR.

ALSO, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ONE OF THE CAROLERS, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN THE CHOIR. JUST SHOW UP AT 2:30 P.M. AND COME TO THE COURTYARD AREA BETWEEN THE SANCTUARY AND CHAPEL. WE WILL WEAR OUR MASKS AND BE PROPERLY DISTANCED. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Updates from the Session

Highlights from the November 2020 Stated Session Meeting

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Appointed Margie Gill and Geoff Duggan to the Selection Committee for the 200th Anniversary Scholarship Fund at the East Tennessee Foundation.
- Approved to cease in-person worship in favor of streaming service starting this Sunday and re-vist the issue at the next stated meeting in January.
- Approved to close the Church building to all except for the Staff, Preschool, and the two specified food ministries with 10 or less participants.
- Affirmed the Preschool of Second Presbyterian Church as a mission of the congregation.

OCTOBER BUDGET REPORT

	October	YTD	Budget
Total Giving	\$44,632.34	\$640,621.38	\$771,833
Total Expenses	\$62,122.97	\$561,387.62	\$777,908.00
Excess/(Shortage)	(\$17,490.63)	\$79,233.76	(\$6,075)

<div>December</div>		1 9a Staff Meeting (Zoom) 5p Facilities (Zoom) 7p Service & Outreach (Zoom)	2	3	4 Church Office Closed	5 8 ³ a Church Work Day
6 Communion Sunday 11a Worship (Live Stream)	7	8	9 7p Stewardship (Zoom)	10	11 Church Office Closed	12
13 11a Worship (Live Stream) 3p Drive-Thru Caroling	14	15 No Session Meeting 9a Staff Meeting (Zoom)	16	17	18 Church Office Closed	19
20 11a Worship (Live Stream) January 2 nd Edition Deadline!	21 Preschool Closed 6p Longest Night Service (Virtual)	22 Preschool Closed	23 Preschool Closed	24 Christmas Eve 5 ³ p <u>Live Stream</u> Service Church Office Closed Preschool Closed 	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed Preschool Closed 	26
27 11a Worship (Live Stream)	28 Preschool Closed	29 Preschool Closed	30 Preschool Closed	31 New Year's Eve Preschool Closed 	<div>MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR</div>	



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Congregational Life & Youth*
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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 2021

Monica Casey
Betsy Foster
John Henley
Cleston Jones

CLASS OF 2022

Dean Farmer
Margie Gill
Patricia Kennedy
Marty McLean

CLASS OF 2023

Tracy Horton
Neal Peebles
Charles White
Tim Wright

MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

Worship & Celebration

Betsy Foster
Margie Gill

Discipleship

Monica Casey
Patricia Kennedy

Service & Outreach

Tim Wright
Tracy Horton

Care & Compassion

Marty McLean
Charles White

Stewardship

John Henley
Dean Farmer
Neal Peebles

Preschool Board

Cleston Jones