

SECOND EDITION

JUNE 2023

THE FATHERHOOD OF
God



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - WWW.2NDPRES.ORG

ON SECOND

Thought...



Our son, Seth, was born in the middle of my senior year in seminary. I was pastoring a small congregation in Carrollton, GA, so I was preaching and leading a Bible study every week, in addition to my classes and studies. It was a rich time in my life, one in which I was thinking deeply theological thoughts and trying to connect them to my life and the world around me.

When Seth was in his 3rd month of life, which was about 2 months before graduation, I had a “light bulb” moment one morning while feeding him his bottle. This “light bulb” moment completely reoriented my thinking about the relationship we have with God. You see, prior to that point I had only ever thought about my relationship with God from *my* perspective, which was the perspective of being a child of God. Suddenly, in that moment, it occurred to me that God also has a perspective on our relationship, which is the perspective of a parent.

As I continued to think about my relationship with God and what it might be like from God’s perspective, I discovered that I had new insight into some important theological concepts. Some of these concepts were ones that had proven to be quite difficult for me to understand during my studies, but which now became much easier for me to comprehend thinking about them from God’s perspective.

Over the next few years, as our son grew into a toddler and I was serving as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, TN, I had more of these “light bulb” moments that gave me further insight into various theological concepts. When we adopted Lily Grace shortly after her birth in the fall of 2004, I gained even more clarity about some important Biblical teachings. I began

to jot down my reflections on these experiences. They found their way into my teaching and preaching as illustrations. People said they were helpful.

Sometime in 2006 – I don’t remember exactly when – I was praying one day and the thought came to me: *You should write a book about this*. I don’t know that it was the voice of God, but I don’t know that it *wasn’t* the voice of God. Regardless, I couldn’t stop thinking about it. I was sure that I was being called to write these things down in book form.

That was 17 years ago. I never sat down to write that book. It was probably some combination of family responsibilities, doctoral studies, my father’s illness, moving several times, wanting to be present for everything my children did, getting involved in community theater, and just the daunting idea of writing a book that kept me from doing so. It wasn’t until this congregation gave me the beautiful gift of my first sabbatical last summer that I felt I had time to actually begin work on the book I had been wanting to write for 17 years.

This summer you will hear the first draft of that book. I will be preaching a sermon series called *The Fatherhood of God: Seeing God Through a Father’s Eyes*, which is also the working title of the book. Each Sunday will basically be a different chapter of the book. I’m hoping that the process of refining and editing what I’ve already written into a sermon each week will allow me to have something close to a finished product by the end of the summer that I can send to some publishers. I welcome your feedback and comments this summer as I work to make a 17-year dream a reality.

Grace and peace...

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UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS & TOPICS

There will be two different sermon series this summer, depending on who's preaching. Pastor Sarah will be looking at different passages from the Psalms on the Sundays she preaches. On the Sundays Pastor Tim preaches, his sermon series will be *The Fatherhood of God: Seeing God Through a Father's Eyes*. Using stories and experiences from being a father, Tim will draw parallels to what our relationship with God is like from God's perspective.

June 4th Ephesians 2:1-10 ***The Fatherhood of God: Grace***

June 11th Psalm 50:7-15 ***A Sacrifice of Thanksgiving***

June 18th Galatians 4:1-7 ***The Fatherhood of God: The Fullness of Time***

June 25th Romans 8:12-17 ***The Fatherhood of God: Adopted by God***



New Ministry Team Leadership

With the Class of 2026 taking their place on the Session and the Class of 2023 rolling off, we have new Ministry Leadership for the next year. Below are the elders who are co-leading each Ministry Team of the congregation. If you have questions or want to find out how to get involved in a ministry of the congregation, please reach out to one of the elders listed below:

Worship Team	Ileen Cheek ileencheek@hotmail.com	Elizabeth Seastrunk elizabeth.seastrunk@gmail.com
Connect Team	Joe Clarke jclarke859@gmail.com	Terry Weaver drweave1948@gmail.com
Grow Team	Zachary Burch zachburch1@gmail.com	Monica Casey monicacasey@bellsouth.net
Go Team	Leonard Bailey lbailey@chartertn.net	Clara Hardin cghardin59@gmail.com
Support Team	Angela Jones ptaylormjones@gmail.com	Mary Kay Sullivan marykay.sullivan@maryvillecollege.edu
Preschool	Lisa Henley lmrhenley@gmail.com	

SUNDAY WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP TIME



At its May meeting, the Session reviewed the experiment of moving the worship time to 10:30 a.m. to allow time for fellowship following worship.

The Session feels that the time of fellowship has been a huge success and voted to make the new Sunday morning schedule permanent, to continue what has quickly become a beloved part of our time together on Sunday mornings. Weather permitting, our fellowship time will be outside in the sanctuary courtyard during the summer months.

(Note: "Weather permitting" includes extreme heat!)

USHERS NEEDED

Are you interested in serving 2nd Presbyterian in a position that allows you to meet and welcome both members and guests to Sunday Worship? Kim Hudgens and Janis Smith, who coordinate the usher schedule, are recruiting new members of the ushering team. This is a low-stress way to make a personal contribution to church worship. Though the responsibilities are not daunting, newcomers will work with experienced ushers.

Please contact Kim (kimhudgens05@comcast.net or 865-567-6477) or Janis (smithjb1@gmail.com or 615.260-7784) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

06.01 John Lasater

06.07 Tim Reynolds

06.07 John Henley

06.08 Jim Thuesen

06.10 Aria Robertson

06.14 Jay Lasater

06.14 Mary Alice Callaway

06.16 Ruth Campbell

06.17 Mike Turner

06.18 Bonnie Beals

06.23 Mary Farmer

06.24 Genevieve Hendrix

06.24 Janis Smith

06.26 Helen Ferguson

06.26 Margie Gill

06.26 Josh Lewis

06.28 Owen Wall

06.30 Sherri Lee



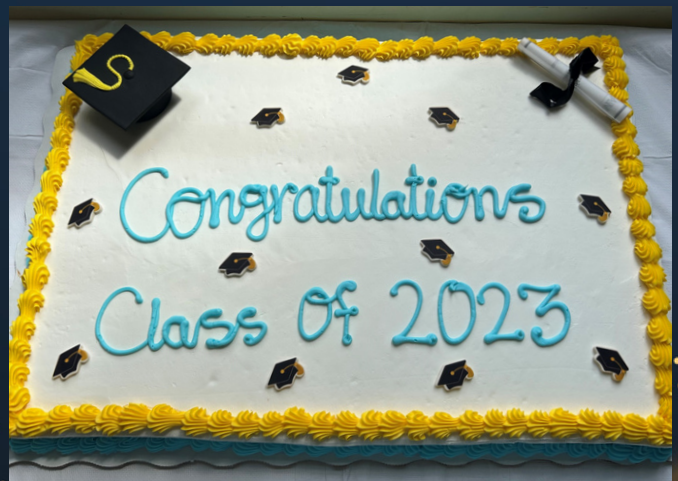
IF WE INADVERTENTLY MISSED SOMEONE...HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR RECORDS SO WE'LL HAVE YOUR SPECIAL DAY ON FILE.!

Easter Brunch



GRADUATES 2023

CELEBRATION LUNCH



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF SECOND CHURCH WELCOMES ALL TO ITS JUNE MEETING WITH A PICNIC

The PW of Second Church will celebrate the completion of its first full program year since Covid hit with a picnic rather than in its usual meeting place in the Fellowship Hall. The picnic will be held at the **First United Methodist Church at their pavilion behind the church at 3316 Kingston Pike**, just a short distance west of Second Church on **Tuesday, June 13, 2023, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Please note that—coming from Second Church headed west—you will pass Calvary Church, an excavation site, and **TURN LEFT** immediately at the First Church **ENTRANCE** driveway. Follow the driveway which leads behind the church buildings down toward the river. Parking is very close to the covered pavilion and the space is fully handicapped accessible with a beautiful view of the river. **Restrooms, tables, and chairs are available. A light lunch will be provided.**

PW will do a summary review of the year's study on gentiles of the first century but the program will concentrate on two guest speakers on two very different mission experiences in China. Our own Charlene Cotton will talk about her grandparents who served as Methodist missionaries in the early 20th century in China and Courtney Tilford will describe her experiences as a student missionary in modern-day China. All church members and visitors are welcome. The rainy day option will be to meet at the Second Church Fellowship Hall.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ATTEND SPRING GATHERING

Six representatives from Second Church's Presbyterian Women's organization attended the Annual Meeting and Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of East Tennessee on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at Farragut Presbyterian Church with Farragut PW being the host. Second Church attendees were Lily Wu, Helen Grant, Clara Hardin, Leslie Matthews, Mariann Thuesen, and Donna Matlock.

The participants, following a theme of "Connect", spent the day in a business meeting, in fellowship, study, and worship. Rev. Rachel Penmore—Pastor at UKirk, UT Knoxville, and a member of Second Presbyterian Church—led the afternoon worship service and communion.



SECOND READERS

We will not be meeting in June as several people were unable to attend.

Our book for **July 12, is The Island by Elin Hilderbrand**. There were several copies of this available at the May meeting as well as at the public library having this book. Leslie Matthews has graciously agreed to lead our discussion and we are welcome to come to the Buckingham Clubhouse at 11:30 a.m. and join Second Readers for a discussion of this book.

Bring your lunch and thoughts. For questions, call Margaret Sullivan at 865-588-3103.

We hope to see you there.



MEN OF VALOR
RECONCILING MEN TO GOD, THEIR FAMILIES, AND SOCIETY
A MINISTRY OF HOPE

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

Former prisoner Carl Carlson founded Men of Valor (MOV) in Nashville in 1997. MOV is committed to winning men in prison to Jesus Christ and discipling them. The purpose is to equip men to re-enter society as men of integrity – becoming givers to the community rather than takers. Following release, prisoners may be accepted into MOV aftercare and re-entry programs for up to one year at MOV campuses in Nashville known as Valor Ridge or the new campus in Knoxville known as Valor Way. The recidivism rate for men completing the full aftercare and re-entry program is a remarkable 15% as compared to the Tennessee rate of 50% after three years.

Many factors have contributed to the MOV's success, including volunteers. Volunteers are needed at Valor Way as well as in the prisons and jails. In some cases, training is required and provided by MOV. Those interested in volunteering should consider the following (* indicates men volunteers only):

***Mentoring:** Befriend a man in the discipleship program and walk alongside him for the duration of his time at Valor Way. Or, befriend a man in prison or jail and walk alongside him by visiting once a week. Training required

***Lead a small group:** Lead a small group Bible study or life skills class at the Valor Way campus. Training required

***Lead a discipleship group:** Lead a small group of men as they walk through the Bible reading and journaling plan at the Valor Way campus or in the prisons or jails. Training required

***Encourager:** This is mainly comprised of listening – just come to campus and help men as they process their new life outside of prison. Or, attend an MOV service inside a prison to encourage men by your presence.

***Transportation:** Provide transportation for Valor Way residents going to work and/or appointments.

Administrative Team: Assemble class materials, backpacks, and hygiene bags for a man or for a specific duplex of men in the program.

Hospitality Team: Help welcome men to their new homes! There are several functions on this team including organizing welcome packs for new men, writing letters, and celebrating men on their birthdays or as they achieve milestone moments within the program.

Prayer partner: Pray for the gospel to be proclaimed and Christ's kingdom advanced inside prison walls. Pray by name for the Men of Valor ministers who serve inside the prison and for the inmates. MOV website and news blasts keep our prayer partners informed.

Family Ministry: Help with events and celebrations for families of incarcerated men. Consider that 7 out of 10 children of an incarcerated parent will wind up in prison. Support these forgotten and innocent victims.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact MOV by calling Brian Belser's Cell # at 615-414-9624 or emailing at bbelser@movministry.com

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Church office will be closed on
Fridays during the summer months.

STAFF SUMMER VACATIONS

Summer means vacation time and family trips. Staff members will be out of the office for vacation or continuing education the following weeks:

Tim Reynolds **June 19-24, July 31-August 6, August 23-26**
Sarah Morgan **June 21-26**
Bonnie Smith **July 10-21**

Highlights from the May 2023 Stated Session Meeting and the April Congregational Meeting

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- The Congregation elected Elders Clara Hardin, Monica Casey, and Leonard Bailey to the Elder Class of 2026.
- Approved to spend up to \$2,000 to renovate the courtyard garden.
- Approved to make the new Sunday morning worship time of 10:30 am to 11:30 am permanent
- Approved the request for Baptism for James Morgan on May 28th and Garrett Kite on July 2nd
- Approved the request to have communion for the Brooke Frohlich/Spencer Morrell wedding on May 27th.
- Approved that Second Presbyterian create an unrestricted endowment fund in the name of Mary Curtis and place the distribution from the Estate of Mary Curtis in the amount of \$138,550 in that fund.
- Approved the placement of the \$15,000 Estate of Charlsey Dunn donation in the General Endowment Fund.

APRIL BUDGET REPORT

	APRIL	YTD	BUDGET
TOTAL GIVING	\$69,476.68	\$363,513.41	\$784,417
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$69,337.32	\$251,775.53	\$819,176
EXCESS (SHORTAGE)	\$139.36	\$111,775	(-\$34,759)

JUNE 2023

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

28

29

30

31

1

2

3

4

9:30 a.m. Faith, Science
& The Future (Barbour)
10:30 a.m. Worship

5

10:00 a.m. Staff
Meeting (Barbour)

6

4:30 p.m. CONNECT
Team (Barbour)

7

2:00 p.m. Compassionate
Cuisine (Atrium)
7:00 p.m. Pragmatic
Presbyterians (Barbour
Room)

8

11

9:30 a.m. Faith, Science
& The Future (Barbour)
10:30 a.m. Worship

12

10 a.m. Presbyterian
Women (First UMC or
FH)
5:00 p.m. Facilities
SUPPORT Team (Zoom)

13

14

10:00 a.m. Arts & Crafts
(Room 227)

15

16

18

9:30 a.m. Faith, Science
& The Future (Barbour)
10:30 a.m. Worship

19

12:00 p.m. Pre-School Board
Mtg. (Zoom)
3:00 p.m. Budget Finance
Support Team (Zoom)

20

4:00 p.m. Deadline for
2nd Edition Newsletter
6:00 p.m. Session
Meeting (Barbour)

21

2:00 p.m. Compassionate
Cuisine (Atrium)
7:00 p.m. Pragmatic
Presbyterians (Barbour)

22

23

24

25

9:30 a.m. Faith, Science
& The Future (Barbour)
10:30 a.m. Worship

26

9:00 a.m. FISH pantry
(Fellowship Hall)

27

28

29

30

1

- The events included in this calendar will take place as listed if we are in COVID Phase Green or Yellow, BUT NOT if Red.
- Please see the home page & calendar on our website, 2ndpres.org with up-to-date information on COVID Phase changes and new criteria, as well as real-time calendar updates.



THE SECOND EDITION
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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CLERGY STAFF

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*Transitional Associate Pastor for
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*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 2024

Ileen Cheek
Joe Clarke
Angela Jones
Mary Kay Sullivan

CLASS OF 2025

Zachary Burch
Lisa Henley
Elizabeth Seastrunk
Terry Weaver

CLASS OF 2026

Leonard Bailey
Monica Casey
Clara Hardin

MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

WORSHIP

Ileen Cheek
Elizabeth Seastrunk

CONNECT

Joe Clark
Terry Weaver

GROW

Zach Burch
Monica Casey

GO

Leonard Bailey
Clara Hardin

SUPPORT

Mary Kay Sullivan
Angela Jones

PRESCHOOL

Lisa Henley