

Second Edition

MARCH 2021 ISSUE



On Second Thought...

This is what I wrote in the April 2020 *Second Edition*:

"Listening to the health experts on the news, reading the latest predictions from the various health agencies, and following the most in-depth thinking on the spread of COVID-19, all of them say that if we continue to practice good social distancing and keep large groups from gathering, then the peak of this crisis will come in about 3 weeks."

We were SO naive back then, weren't we? It isn't that we or the experts didn't know what we were talking about, as I've heard many people say. It's that we were learning. And so were the experts. We still are, as are they. That's the way it goes with new viruses. The longer they are around, the more we are able to learn. And the more we learn, the more we are able to successfully adapt our behavior.

I mean, remember when I was saying, "Our first Sunday back we will celebrate Easter," as if it was just going to be a few weeks after Easter when we returned to in-person worship? And, of course, it was October when we went back. By then we had learned how to do virtual worship better, we had learned that a significantly higher number of people were interacting with us digitally than they had been in person, and we had learned that this thing was going to be with us for a while. So we didn't celebrate Easter on that Sunday because it didn't make sense then. We also learned that way fewer people than we had thought were comfortable worshipping in person at that time, as after that first Sunday we only had around 15-20 in-person worshipers in the sanctuary each week. Then we learned that people in general were not being responsible and that created a huge spike in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, and we went back to virtual-only worship after only 6 weeks.

Here's something else we learned. Some of our older members felt "left out" and "cast aside" when we returned to in-person worship last October. Those are the words they used. They felt as if the younger people in the church were "carrying on without" them because they "didn't matter anymore." Again - actual quotes. Now that was not true, not in the slightest, but it's how they felt. Seeing people back in the sanctuary worshipping while they sat at home made them feel excluded.

Now the numbers are dropping, across the board - cases, hospitalizations, deaths, 7-day averages of new cases.



Additionally, many in our community have received the vaccine, including many in our congregation. People are used to the virus now; we know what to do to stay safe. And many in the congregation are wondering why we haven't returned to in-person worship, especially as other Presbyterian churches have already done so.

The Worship Committee and the Session have been seriously and prayerfully discussing this for two months. We know this virus is never going away and that on some level we are going to have to learn to live with it, much like the flu. Different dates have been floated, different ideas for phased returning considered, and recommendations have been made. However, the Session has said twice now, "Let's wait." I think this is prudent for two reasons.

First, the epidemiologists (who have not been wrong about anything yet) say what we are doing is working. They are begging people not to change their behavior right now so that we might return to "normal" sooner rather than later. Second, while there are many of our older members who have received the vaccine, many of our younger members will not receive it for a while, including all of those leading worship. In fact, it may be summer before they are able to receive it. So if we go back now, the reverse of what happened in the fall could happen - our *younger* members may feel "cast aside" and that they "don't matter". Which won't be true, but may be how they feel. And I don't think Jesus wanted anyone to feel excluded and left out. Plus, we would be asking our entire worship leadership team to put themselves at risk if we went back right now.

Look, I don't want to spend another Holy Week and Easter in an empty sanctuary looking into a camera lens. Believe me. But if that's what we have to do for all to feel included and for all to be safe, then I'm willing to make that sacrifice for others. So I support the Session's decision. I hope you will, too.

Grace and peace...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. M." or similar.

IN THIS ISSUE

Administration	4
Worship & Celebration	6
Discipleship	9
Care & Compassion	10
Service & Outreach	11
Stewardship	12

CHURCH BUILDING REOPENING UPDATE

Please read the information below carefully!

The Session has determined that committees, ministry units, Bible studies, Sunday School classes, youth activities, and any other groups of the church may resume in-person meetings in the church building beginning March 1st. Face coverings should be worn by everyone who comes to the building and proper physical distancing guidelines should be observed. Meetings will be limited to 25 persons or less and held only in rooms where appropriate physical distance can be maintained. Outside groups that are not part of the church will also be allowed to use the church building for meetings and gatherings beginning in March, with the same guidelines.

We will NOT have Wednesday night dinners, and the weekly Bible Study will still take place online only.

The Church Administrator will assist groups in scheduling meeting rooms so that safe physical distancing may be maintained. *Please do not plan a meeting at the church without notifying the Church Administrator.* Some groups may not be able to meet at their normal meeting times and the number of groups able to meet on church property simultaneously may be limited. The Church Administrator will have final determination in scheduling church groups.

It is up to each individual group to weigh the risks and make its own determination regarding whether or not to meet. *The Session would like to remind groups that just because they are allowed to meet in person doesn't mean that they should or that they must meet in person.* Any groups that choose to meet in person should make allowances or opportunities for individuals who do not yet feel comfortable meeting in person to join the meeting virtually.

Finally, please remember the Five Core Principles: practice physical distancing; wear cloth face coverings when in public and physical distancing can't be achieved; wash hands properly and often; clean surfaces regularly; stay home when sick.

CHURCH OFFICE REOPENING

**The church office will open for its regular office hours,
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., beginning March 1st.**

In order to maintain physical distancing guidelines and avoid any unnecessary risks, we encouraging you to complete church business via phone and email unless it is absolutely necessary to come to the church office.

If you do find it necessary, however, we ask the following:

- 1) **Make an appointment.** If at all possible, we would prefer that you please call and make an appointment to see whomever you need to see or do whatever business needs to be done. This allows us to keep density at a minimum and to avoid having too many people on the property at the same time.
- 2) **Wear a face covering.** We are asking anyone coming to the church office to please wear a face covering while on the church property. This is for the protection of everyone, including office staff. We will have disposable masks available, should you forget yours.
- 3) **Do not come if you are sick.** If you are sick or have symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, fever, or shortness of breath, please do not come to the church office. *Additionally, if you have had direct contact with someone who has recently had symptoms, please refrain from coming to the church office.*
- 4) **Avoid congregating in groups.** Please conduct whatever business you have at the church office quickly and efficiently. We ask that you not “hang out” or congregate in staff offices, *especially the church administrator’s office.* Once you have conducted your business, we ask that you leave the church premises to make room for others who need to conduct their own business.
- 5) **Maintain physical distancing.** For your safety and the safety of the church staff, we ask that everyone maintain a 6 foot distance from one another whenever possible while on the church premises. Remember what Jesus said, “Love one another from a distance.”

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS & TOPICS

We will continue our year-long sermon series on
The Acts of the Apostles in the month of March.

Here are the sermon texts and topics:

March 7	Acts 4:32-5:11	The Sharing of Possessions
March 14	Acts 5:12-42	Signs, Wonders, & Opposition
March 21	Acts 6:1-7	Choosing Deacons
March 28	Acts 6:8-7:53	Stephen's Martyrdom

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND BUILDING CLOSURE UPDATE

At the February Session meeting, the Session decided to wait another month before determining the schedule for returning to in-person worship. We will continue virtual-only worship through the end of March.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN CONCERTS

Every Wednesday at 12:00 noon during Lent, a Lenten concert for reflection will be posted to our YouTube channel and to the home page of our website. Our Director of Music & Arts, Matt Mimbs, is coordinating the concerts for the congregation featuring musicians from our congregation and from the community. Each concert is 20-30 minutes in length. We hope that this helps you in your Lenten journey.

Holy Week at 2nd

Palm Sunday Worship - March 28th @ 11:00 a.m. (streaming)

We will celebrate virtually, much like we did last year. Palms will be under the portico beginning March 22nd for you to pick up. We hope you'll pick them up early and then record a video of you or your family waving your palms for about 10 seconds for us to put on the Sunday morning broadcast. Email your videos to Pastor Tim by Saturday, March 27th at noon (treynolds@2ndpres.org).

Whether you record a video or not, we hope that you will pick up your palms and wave them as we sing the first hymn on that Sunday morning. If you are unable to come to the church to pick up your palms, please let us know and we will deliver them to you.

Holy Week Reflections - March 29th-April 1st @ 8:00 a.m. (YouTube & Website)

Each morning at 8:00 a.m. during Holy Week, Pastors Tim and Sarah will be posting 5 minute reflections on Stephen's speech prior to his stoning, as recorded in Acts 7. Stephen's speech recalls the history of the Israelite people. These reflections will be posted on our YouTube channel and on our website. The reflections are as follows:

Monday	Acts 7:1-6	Abraham to Joseph - Pastor Sarah
Tuesday	Acts 7:17-34	Moses - Pastor Tim
Wednesday	Acts 7:35-53	The Promised Land - Pastor Sarah
Thursday	Acts 7:54-8:3	Stoning & Death - Pastor Tim

Maundy Thursday Worship - April 1st @ 6:15 p.m. (streaming)

We will celebrate Holy Thursday together via live stream. This will be a service of Word & Sacrament. In addition to music, Scripture, and a lesson, we will celebrate communion. You will need bread/crackers/wafers and juice/wine. If you would like one of the self-contained communion cups, they will be available in the narthex the week prior. If you cannot come to the church to get them, please let us know and we will bring some to you.

Good Friday Prayer Service - April 2nd @ 12:00 noon (streaming)

Join us via livestream for a service of worship and prayer at noon on Good Friday. There will be Scripture readings, prayers, and silence. We encourage you to find a quiet, meditative place for this service.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Charles Wu	03/01	Marian Broome	03/16
Doug Matthews	03/06	John Gill	03/17
Ally McLean	03/08	Nancy Montgomery	03/22
Lucy Brittian	03/10	Sydney Jones	03/23
Jan Barber	03/11	Charlotte Klieman	03/25
Beth Robertson	03/12	Ann Payne	03/29
Jack Lewis	03/13	Mariann Thuesen	03/30
Terry Weaver	03/14		

Please note: We take special care in insuring that all *active* members' birthdays are included on this list, if you notice a discrepancy, kindly advise the church office.

Thank you.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

A NEW LESSON IS POSTED ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND WEBSITE EACH THURSDAY. WE WILL CONCLUDE OUR VIRTUAL STUDY OF THE MAJOR MESSAGES OF THE MINOR PROPHETS ON MARCH 11. THERE WILL BE NO LESSON ON MARCH 18 DUE TO SPRING BREAK. ON MARCH 25 WE WILL BEGIN STUDYING THE CONFESSIONS OF THE PCUSA.

THIS MONTH WE WILL GATHER ON MARCH 10TH AT 7:00 P.M. ON ZOOM TO DISCUSS THE LESSONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTH. THE ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT OUT TO EVERYONE ON OUR EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST.

IF YOU ARE NOT ON OUR EMAIL LIST
AND WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US,
CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO RECEIVE THE LINK.

Vaccine Opportunities!

Please read below for information about vaccine opportunities!

1. Volunteer Pharmacy in Hardin Valley

- a. 2559 Willow Point Way, Knoxville 37931
- b. Phone: (865)560-0135
- c. Type this link into your web browser:
<https://hipaa.jotform.com/210345408988160>

2. Walmart Pharmacies

- a. Type this link into your web browser: <https://www.walmart.com/account/login?returnUrl=/pharmacy/clinical-services/immunization/scheduled?imzType=covid>
(you will need to create an account)

3. Vaccinate Tennessee

<https://vaccinate.tn.gov/> *
866-442-5301

*This website includes how to “get in line” for the vaccinations and to find out when you are eligible based on questions relative to demographic info (mainly age) and medical history. And when eligible, how to search for an open slot (which does not have to be in your county of residence). If you don’t mind travelling to a surrounding county, there is the potential to get vaccinated quicker in less populated areas.

The March-April
Upper Room is available!

If you would like one, Sandra Butler
has copies that she would like to hand
deliver to you!

Please contact Sandra
directly by phone
(659-4416 or 584-4397) or email
sandyb446@comcast.net!

There are also copies available in the
vestibule.



PRESBYTERY HABITAT BUILD

Continuing a tradition of community involvement that goes back many years, 2PC will be participating with 11 other churches in our Presbytery, UKirk at UTK and Edward Jones Investments in the building of a Habitat house beginning Saturday, March 20th and continuing through Saturday, May 22nd.

The work dates and tasks that will be accomplished each workday can be accessed via our weekly Friday email. The building site is located in North Knoxville on Mint Road (just north of where I-640 crosses N. Broadway).

At this time we want to sign up volunteers to help with the build. Signup must be done online and you can go to:

<http://secondpres.knoxvillehabitat.volunteerhub.com/>

to sign up! The link is also on the home page of our website. Obviously, with 13 partners on this build the number of volunteer slots allocated to each project partner is limited and will go fast.

If you want to help with this important project of the church don't delay in signing up. (Additional volunteer slots may open up a week or so before the March 20 start date, so you may want to recheck the signup link then if you have difficulty signing up now.)

If you have questions you can contact Joe Clarke at either jclarke859@gmail.com or (865) 335-0421.



Welcome, Emily!

Emily McTyre works as Second Presbyterian Church's media coordinator, overseeing and organizing the church's online presence. She recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Video and Film Production at Middle Tennessee State University and will be pursuing a Masters in Education at the University of Cambridge this fall.

Emily uses digital media to educate and inspire audiences, to teach empathy and instill joy across a wide and diverse audience. After completing her Masters, she will embark on a career in children's educational programming. At Second Presbyterian, her work contributes to the church's innovative ministry amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

An East Tennessee native herself, Emily has grown up in the Presbyterian church as a member of Lake Hills Presbyterian and is excited to continue ministry through media platforms. She is always looking for new ways to create and get involved in the community and is grateful to be working alongside the staff at Second Pres this year.

Technological Upgrades @ 2nd

As you are probably aware, thanks to your generosity in remembering the financial needs of 2nd Presbyterian Church, we ended 2020 with a surplus. The Session decided to take some of this surplus and complete some needed technological upgrades to the facility. After a good deal of discussion, research and receiving quotes from several technology companies, the Technology Workgroup has partnered with Prince Technologies of Knoxville and Allevia Technology of Maryville to undertake the following projects:

WiFi Upgrade: New cable is being run and new access points installed so that a single WiFi mesh will blanket the entire facility with WiFi access, including the sanctuary courtyard and the rear parking lot. To access WiFi when you are on the premises, log in to the network Second Presbyterian Church using the password Psalm100.

Camera Upgrades: The three sanctuary cameras will be upgraded to high definition cameras with the ability to control them remotely. This technology – known as Pan, Zoom & Tilt – will allow our media coordinator to use a remote control to zoom in or to pan up, down, left and right, resulting in a better viewing experience for those who are joining us via our live stream.

New screens: We will be adding three new screens. These will be large LCD screens (think TV, not projector) and will enhance the worship experience for those who worship in-person. The first screen will be located above the lectern and will allow worshipers to see the same graphics that are being broadcast on our live stream. The second screen will be a bit smaller and located above the rear door of the sanctuary. It will mirror the screen above the lectern, allowing those leading worship to monitor what the congregation is seeing. The third screen will be located in the library. It will allow groups using the library to watch video studies or other videos together. On Sunday mornings the live stream will be broadcast, enabling anyone who needs to leave worship for whatever reason to still be able to monitor the service in the sanctuary.

Technical Support for Staff: Allevia has taken over as the IT department of 2nd Presbyterian Church, serving as a support and resource for the technological needs of the staff and congregation.


Updates from the Session

Highlights from the February 2021 Stated Session Meeting

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Approved to open the Church building on March 1, 2021 according to the protocols set in place in late September 2020.
- Approved an exception to the 25 person limit set in late September 2020 for the Boys Scouts to use the gym and the UT Chamber Singers to rehearse and record a virtual Choral Evensong concert in March.
- Elected Mancil Milligan as President and Nancy Montgomery as Secretary of the Board of the Second Presbyterian Church Corporation.
- Approved participating in the Four PCUSA Special Offerings in 2021.

JANUARY BUDGET REPORT

	January	YTD	Budget
Total Giving	\$198,152.30	\$198,152.30	\$788,556.00
Total Expenses	\$44,680.71	\$44,680.71	\$788,556.00
Excess/(Shortage)	\$153,471.59	\$153,471.59	---

	1 Church Building Reopens	2 9a Staff Meeting 5p Facilities (Zoom) 6p Care & Compassion (Zoom) 7p Service & Outreach (Zoom) 7p Boy Scouts Mtg	3 12p Lenten Concert (YouTube)	4	5 Church Office Closed	6
7 Communion Sunday 11a Worship (Live Stream)	8 6p Discipleship (Zoom)	9 6p Worship (Zoom) 7p Boy Scouts Mtg	10 12p Lenten Concert (YouTube) 7p 2 nd Wednesday Bible Study (Zoom) 7p Stewardship (Zoom)	11	12 Church Office Closed	13
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins! 11a Worship (Live Stream)	15 12p Preschool Board (Zoom)	16 2 ⁴⁵ p UT Chamber Singers	17 12p Lenten Concert (YouTube)	18 2 ⁴⁵ p UT Chamber Singers	19 Church Office Closed	20 April Second Edition Deadline!
21 11a Worship (Live Stream)	22	23 9a FISH 2 ⁴⁵ p UT Chamber Singers 6p Session Meeting (Zoom) 7p Boy Scouts Mtg	24 12p Lenten Concert (YouTube)	25 2 ⁴⁵ p UT Chamber Singers	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 11a Worship (Live Stream)	29 8a Holy Week Reflections (Online)	30 8a Holy Week Reflections (Online) 7p Boy Scouts Mtg	31 8a Holy Week Reflections (Online) 12p Lenten Concert (YouTube)	 well hello, march		



Second Presbyterian Church
2829 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37919
Ph. 865.523.2189
Fax 865.637.2617
www.2ndpres.org

CLERGY STAFF

Pastor Tim Reynolds
Pastor/Head of Staff
treynolds@2ndpres.org

Pastor Sarah Morgan
*Transitional Associate Pastor for
Congregational Life & Youth*
smorgan@2ndpres.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Matthew Mimbs
Director of Music & Arts
mmimbs@2ndpres.org

David Stultz
Asst. Dir. of Music / Organist
davidstultz12@gmail.com

Holly Grimm
Children's Ministry Coordinator
hgrimm@2ndpres.org

Jan Barber
Visitation Minister
jbarber@2ndpres.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Audrey Johnson
Church Administrator
ajohnson@2ndpres.org

PRESCHOOL STAFF

Linda Sue Byrd
Director
lsbyrd@2ndpres.org

Holly Grimm
Assistant Director
hgrimm@2ndpres.org

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