

Second Edition

MAY 2021 ISSUE



On Second Thought...



It's good to have people back in the sanctuary of Second Presbyterian Church. I'll admit, I was a bit nervous that first Sunday back, for a variety of reasons. Would everyone follow the guidelines? Would anyone get sick as a result of being there? Would the technology work like it was supposed to? Would those joining from home still have a worshipful experience? Would those joining in person be okay with the new technology in the sanctuary? Plus, I was just nervous about speaking in front of *actual* people again.

Everything seemed to go well, however. The only thing that didn't go well was that we forgot to turn on all the lights! Nevertheless, it was a joyful day. It was good to see familiar faces - well, eyes - and hear familiar voices. We had some in attendance who have only ever joined us virtually before, so it was good to meet them in person.

The most difficult part of the day, at least for Pastor Sarah and me, was not seeing all the people who have joined the Church Triumphant in the previous year and who weren't in their "regular" seats that morning. We felt their absence keenly, and I appreciated Dean Farmer's prayer recognizing the sense of loss I believe we all felt, and will feel for some time to come.

As we move forward in the weeks and months to come, the Worship Ministry Team and the Session will continue to monitor the situation with Covid-19 in Knox County. They will continue to follow the active cases, hospitalizations, and vaccinations and heed the recommendations of those experts who know more than we do about about transmission of the disease. As the summer goes on, some of the guidelines may be relaxed. Until that time, we ask that everyone continue to wear face coverings and maintain a safe distance from those not in their household, even if you have been vaccinated. This way we can make sure that our focus is where it belongs - on God.

At its April meeting, the Session examined the four incoming elders elected by the congregation to serve on the Class of 2024. Ileen Cheek, Joe Clarke, Angela Jones, and Mary Kay Sullivan will begin their terms on the Session on May 1st. The Session seated them and granted them voice and vote, pending a Service of Ordination and Installation. The four elders on the Class of 2023 - Tracy Horton, Neal Peebles, Charles White, and Tim Wright - were similarly seated in 2020 and still have not been formally installed, either. Our plan is that this service will occur later in the summer, when it is safer to do this sort of thing.

Meanwhile, six of our young people have been going through confirmation class this year. You can read about the process on page 7 of this publication. I would like to personally thank the mentors that have guided them through this hybrid of virtual and in person classes and shown them, through teaching and through personal witness, what a life of discipleship looks like.

Those young people that choose to make a first-time profession of faith in Jesus Christ, either by being baptized or by embracing the baptismal vows made on their behalf when they were infants, will be publicly introduced in worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. This will be a joyous day in the life of our congregation and I strongly encourage each of you to attend, either in person or virtually.

As we head into the summer, I am praying that things return to some semblance of "normal" by the end of August. We are beginning to make plans for the fall and, as of right now, returning to in person Wednesday night activities. We aren't 100% sure what that will look like yet - a lot will depend upon what happens with the virus and vaccinations in the next few months - but we do have the capability now to stream anything from anywhere in the church. So the Wednesday night Bible study will be streamed each week (and will be available afterwards on our YouTube channel) for those that cannot join us, or do not feel comfortable joining us, in person.

One thing we do know, Covid isn't going anywhere; it's going to be something we will have to learn to live with, like the flu. We will constantly monitor conditions in Knox County, much like we have the flu in recent years, and if we need to make adjustments at any time, we will. We are committed to being together, to carrying out God's mission, to fulfilling our Vision Statement, and to doing all of this as safely as possible.

Oh, one other thing we know. The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Grace and peace...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. W.', is located at the bottom right of the page.

IN THIS ISSUE

WORSHIP & CELEBRATION 4

DISCIPLESHIP 7

CARE & COMPASSION 9

SERVICE & OUTREACH 11

STEWARDSHIP 13

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS & TOPICS

WE WILL CONTINUE OUR YEAR-LONG SERMON SERIES ON
THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES IN THE MONTH OF MAY.
HERE ARE THE SERMON TEXTS AND TOPICS:

MAY 2	ACTS 10:1-48	CONVERSION OF CORNELIUS
MAY 9	ACTS 11:1-18	PETER'S DEFENSE
MAY 16	ACTS 11:19-30	ANTIOCH & JERUSALEM
MAY 23	ACTS 12:1-19	PERSECUTION OF THE APOSTLES
MAY 30	ACTS 12:20-25	DEATH OF HEROD AGRIPPA



**THE MAY-JUNE UPPER
ROOM IS NOW AVAILABLE!**

**THERE ARE COPIES
AVAILABLE IN THE
VESTIBULE AND NARTHEX.**

Audio Table

Many thanks to Paul Sexauer for building a new table in the balcony for all the camera and streaming equipment.

If you want to see the table – or the equipment – feel free to stop by the balcony before or after the service and Emily or Paul will show you around!



May Birthdays

Bruce Foster 05/01

Tuesday Reynolds 05/15

Max Jones 05/01

Ellen Rochelle 05/15

Paul Sexauer 05/01

Brice Gilmer 05/19

Ruth Ewald 05/02

Matt Mimbs 05/22

Kathy Duggan 05/05

Holly Grimm 05/23

Marty McLean 05/05

Neal Henley 05/24

Gregg Pruitt 05/07

Duane Grieve 05/25

Cleston Jones 05/11

Margaret Sullivan 05/28

Redmond Sweitzer 05/13

William Pruitt 05/30

Frank McClelland 05/14

Leslie Matthews 05/31

Joe Beals 05/15

Jennica Ullrich 05/31

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.

Confirmation

At the beginning of January, six of our youth began a confirmation journey alongside their adult mentors from the congregation. Over the next twelve weeks, these pairs met together to get to know one another, to study Scripture, and to explore their faith. The topics covered included: The Trinity, The Bible, Worship, Sacraments, Saints, Death and Resurrection, and Spiritual Life. In addition to these topics, the pairs also studied the Gospel of Luke together throughout their time.

To cap off their confirmation journey, the youth will meet with Pastors Sarah and Tim to learn what it means to be a part of the Church of Jesus Christ as well as what it means to be a member of Second Presbyterian Church. They will then be charged with discerning whether they wish to publicly profess faith in Jesus Christ and join in membership with the saints of Second Presbyterian. Those that choose this path will join the church on Sunday, May 23rd. Please join us in celebrating their completion of confirmation and in welcoming them into membership into this congregation.

We offer a special word of thanks to our mentors who answered the call to walk alongside these youth during this important moment in their journey of faith. They are: Kathryn Freeman, Dana Hendrix, Cleston Jones, Mancil Milligan, Haley Wall, and Tim Wright.

THE YOUTH WERE EXCITED TO BE BACK ON SUNDAY
MORNING AND SO HAPPY TO
WELCOME PATTON, JACK, AND NOAH!



EASTER EGG HUNT FOR THE PRESCHOOLERS

THE PRESCHOOL ENJOYED A CHILLY HUNT FOR EGGS THIS EASTER. AT THE PRESCHOOL WE ENJOY THE SECULAR EGG HUNTS BUT WE ALSO GIVE A GLIMPSE INTO WHY WE CELEBRATE EASTER. CHECK OUT THIS EMAIL FROM A PARENT IN REGARDS TO THEIR APPRECIATION FOR OUR EFFORTS IN SHARING JESUS WITH KIDDOS.

"JUST A QUICK NOTE TO SAY HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR THE CHRISTIAN LESSONS AND LEARNING THAT TAKES PLACE IN THE PRESCHOOL. LAST NIGHT I WAS DELIGHTED TO HAVE WHIT EXPLAIN TO ME ABOUT PALM SUNDAY AND "THE BAD GUYS BEING MEAN TO JESUS BEFORE HE DIED ON THE CROSS." THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WORK YOU GUYS DO TO TEACH THESE THINGS – I KNOW IT SEEMS LIKE THEY MAY NOT HEAR YOU SOMETIMES, BUT THEY DO!"

EASTER BLESSINGS.
LIZ SHERROD



NEW MEMBERS:

PAM MAPLES AND PAT WININGER

Pam Maples

Pam is a widow with twins: a son Grey who works in Atlanta as a Financial Solutions Advisor for Merrill Lynch married to Shannon with 4 children; and a daughter Kristy, a nurse with life partner Will, who are moving to Knoxville soon and who have two children. Retired from clinical laboratory software consulting, Pam spends her time volunteering for the Lions Club, where she is the President of the Knoxville Diversified Lions Club. Her hobbies include quilting, sewing, crochet, and knitting. She is a member of the 2nd Presbyterian Arts and Crafts circle and enjoys cooking and entertaining guests in her home.



Pat Wininger

I was born in Knoxville and have spent most of my life here. Following undergraduate work (BA, English) at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, TN, I began a 36 year career as a high school English teacher at various Knox County schools. I became state certified to teach high school mathematics courses in 1985, following the completion of an MS degree, and spent the remainder of my career teaching Algebra to struggling high school students at Rule and Austin-East High Schools. Needless to say, I retired early in 2005. Since then, my life has been filled with various volunteer activities through the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Compassion Coalition, Fountain City Ministry Center (Community Food Bank), Mobile Meals, and Lions Club International. Currently, I am serving as both Secretary and Treasurer of the new Knoxville Diversified Lions Club and am on the Board of Lions District 12N Charities. In my spare time, I enjoy playing Bridge.



Compassionate Cuisine

The Care and Compassion committee is continuing with the Compassionate Cuisine Project and we are looking for more Food Recipients! This program is at no cost to the recipient – it is simply a way for our church to reach out to our members.

Being a shut in is NOT a requirement and our current focus is members over 75. So if you qualify and are interested in a home cooked meal twice a month (that you don't have to fix yourself) then please contact Jan Barber 765-0437, Leslie Matthews 765-0549 or the church office 523-2189 to have your name added to the list.

Each recipient household will be notified several days prior to delivery as a reminder. Sample meals have included Lasagna, White Chicken Chili, and Baked Chicken and all main dishes come with appropriate sides, bread and dessert.

We look forward to serving YOU!



PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Pentecost Offering focuses on children, youth, and young adults.

With a foundation in faith built in the early years, our youth can teach us something about leading movements for change in their own communities and in the world. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

40% stays with this congregation to develop and support programs for young people in our own church and community.

25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV), serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.

25% supports Ministries with Youth included the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

10% is devoted to children at-risk to improve education and provide safe havens.

We will receive this offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. If you are worshipping at home, you may mail a check to the church with "Pentecost Offering" marked on the memo line.

Service & Outreach

They're called *Blessing Boxes*, and in the past few months, they're suddenly everywhere - little charitable dispensaries that people set up in their front yards or another public place. They're like those "Little Free Libraries" that have been popular for a while, but instead of offering books, they contain things like food, soap, diapers, and other necessities. People who have items to donate fill (and refill) the boxes; people who need those items take them.

You can put anything that people might need or want in your Blessing Box: food, personal hygiene products, and so on. These are the items most commonly donated and used to stock the Blessing Box:

- Canned food with ring-pulls
- Socks
- Mittens
- Crackers
- Toilet paper
- Non-perishable foods
- Bottled water
- Small snacks
- Hand soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Baby wipes



The most important part of setting up a Blessing Box is to dedicate it to God. "Take what you need, give what you can . . .above all, be blessed!" reads the slogan on many of the boxes. It really is a blessing for the giver and the taker! Wouldn't this be a great ministry for Second Presbyterian Church to launch?



The Volunteer Ministry Center Presents Carry the Torch Knoxville



Featuring New York Times Best
Selling Author and Founder of
Homeboy Industries

Father Gregory J. Boyle



Honorary Chair
Neill Townsend
Former Board Member and
Long Time Supporter of VMC

Wednesday, September 15, 2021
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Knoxville Convention Center
Mission Fair 10:00 am-11:30 am
Lunch and Program 11:45 am-1:00 pm
Book Signing 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

*For additional information contact Mary Beth Ramey at 524-3926 x 229 or visit
carrythetorchknoxville.com*

NEW WATER FOUNTAINS

The Facilities Committee has purchased two new water fountains for the church property. These Elkay Filtered Water Fountains are also bottle filling stations. In addition to being more sanitary, these filling stations reduce lead and other harmful contaminants, putting cleaner, healthier water within everyone's reach. Providing a rapid refill of drinking water to quench thirst, these fountains will also help minimize the use of plastic water bottles, reducing waste in the environment.

You can find one in the hallway across from the library and the other outside the restrooms by the kitchen.

A special thanks to Mancil Milligan and Mike Nichols for installing them!



Updates from the Session

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE APRIL 2021 STATED SESSION MEETING

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Seated Ileen Cheek, Joe Clarke, Angela Jones and Mary Kay Sullivan on the Session as the Class of 2024.
- Moved John and Beverly White from Inactive to Active status.
- Elected Elder Dean Farmer to represent Second Presbyterian at the May 11, 2021 Presbytery of East Tennessee Meeting.
- Approved for Amy Headrick and Hank Miller to use the sanctuary for their wedding on November 6, 2021.
- Elected Mary Nell Pruitt, Elizabeth Seastrunk, Kay Weaver, and Haley McManigal to the Pre-School Board and Charles White as Chairman of the Board.
- Received Pam Maples and Pat Wininger into the membership of the congregation by reaffirmation of faith.

MARCH BUDGET REPORT

	MARCH	YTD	BUDGET
TOTAL GIVING	\$67,651.06	\$316,796.62	\$788,556.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$54,261.34	\$153,575.24	\$788,556.00
EXCESS/(SHORTAGE)	\$13,389.72	\$162,221.38	---



						1 Habitat Build
2 Communion Sunday 9 ³⁰ a FSF Sunday School Class (MCR) 11a Worship 12p Youth Gathering	3	4 9a Staff Meeting 5p Facilities (Zoom) 6p Care & Compassion (Zoom) 7p Service & Outreach (MCR) 7p Boy Scouts Mtg	5 2p Compassionate Cuisine	6	7 Church Office Closed	8 Habitat Build
9 Mother's Day 9 ³⁰ a FSF Sunday School Class (MCR) 11a Worship	10 6p Discipleship (Zoom)	11 6p Worship Ministry (Zoom) 7p Boy Scouts Mtg	12 7p 2 nd Wednesday Bible Study (Zoom) 7p Stewardship (Zoom)	13	14 Church Office Closed	15 Habitat Build
16 9 ³⁰ a FSF Sunday School Class (MCR) 11a Worship	17 12p Preschool Board	18 9a Staff Meeting 6p Session Meeting (FH) 7p Boy Scouts Mtg	19 2p Compassionate Cuisine	20	21 Church Office Closed	22 Habitat Build
23 Confirmation Sunday 9 ³⁰ a FSF Sunday School Class (MCR) 11a Worship	24 <i>Audrey Out of Office</i>	25 <i>Audrey Out of Office</i> 9a FISH Pantry 7p Boy Scouts Mtg	26 <i>Audrey Out of Office</i>	27 <i>Audrey Out of Office</i>	28 Church Office Closed	29
30 9 ³⁰ a FSF Sunday School Class (MCR) 11a Worship	31 Memorial Day Church Office Closed Preschool Closed					



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THE SECOND EDITION
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2829 KINGSTON PIKE
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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 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

Service & Outreach

Tim Wright
Tracy Horton

Care & Compassion

Marty McLean

Stewardship

Dean Farmer
Neal Peebles

Preschool Board

Charles White