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REMINDER!

Don't forget to "fall back" 1 hour on Saturday, November 2nd, before going to bed!

Thanksgiving

There will be no Wednesday night dinner or activities on Wednesday, November 27th. Happy Thanksgiving!

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On Second Thought...

Have you noticed the phrase "thoughts and prayers" has become fodder in the cultural wars, particularly in the debate over gun control?

At least since the time of the Columbine school shooting 20 years ago, "thoughts and prayers" has been standard vocabulary in official statements of condolences from politicians and other public figures after major tragedies and natural disasters. "Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by this [pick one] cowardly attack, horrific shooting, senseless tragedy, unprecedented calamity."

This phrase seems a good combination. "Prayers" is a shorthand way of saying those of us who are religious sympathize with you and are speaking to God on your behalf. "Thoughts" indicates that those of us who aren't religious are feeling for you as well.

Recently, however, this phrase has been denounced as an empty platitude used in place of meaningful action. After the slaughter of 49 souls in two mosques last March, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez upset some people when she tweeted, "What good are your thoughts & prayers when they don't even keep the pews safe?" She followed that tweet with another that said, "'Thoughts and prayers' is reference to the NRA's phrase used to deflect conversation away from policy change during tragedies."

Some critics of the phrase have cited the Bible to reinforce the idea that "thoughts & prayers" alone are meaningless. They quote James 2:14-16: What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to him, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?" Likewise, Pope Francis, in one of his addresses, stated, "Prayer that doesn't lead to concrete action toward our brothers is a fruitless and incomplete prayer. Prayer and action must always be profoundly united."

Certainly, James and Pope Francis are right. Words without action are not enough, no matter how good the words.

But not everyone agrees the phrase "thoughts and prayers" is simply verbal junk food.

Andrew Klavan, a widely published writer of crime and suspense novels, commented around the same time as Rep. Ocasio-Cortez' tweet, "When tragedy or atrocity strikes, thoughts and prayers are not just an expression of compassion. They are an expression of humility and helplessness. They are a way of saying, 'There is nothing we can do in the face of this wickedness, but we stand in solidarity with the victims and ask God to comfort the families in their sorrow."

And in contrast to James, we have Paul in 2
Thessalonians 1:3-4, 11: We always give thanks to God
for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith
is growing abundantly, and the love you have for one
another is increasing. Therefore, we boast of you among
the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith
during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you
are enduring... We always pray for you, asking that our
God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his
power every good resolve and work of faith."

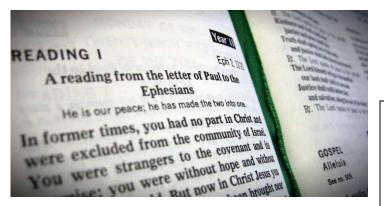
Yes, it's clear that the Thessalonians have experienced difficulty and are in the Apostle Paul's "thoughts and prayers". Sincere thoughts and prayers are not nothing. Thoughts are work, because they push us to review what's happened – not from our view, but the view of those affected. Thoughts lead us to consider if there's any action we may take that will help.

Prayer is also work. If we actually follow through on our words by praying for someone, we are putting ourselves in a place to see beyond our own horizons and walk in the shoes of another. Prayer deepens our empathy and puts us in a place where God can change our hearts and call us to action. Plus, we are speaking to God, seeking God's grace for someone at a time when they may be so wounded they cannot even pray for themselves.

In times of tragedy, thoughts and prayers will never be the whole answer. Often, however, they are all we have.

Grace and peace...





The Revised Common Lectionary

Since Pastor Tim came to Second just over three years ago, most of the sermons have either been part of a Sermon Series, unified by a common theme, or *Lectio Continua*, working through a book of the Bible from start to finish. For the rest of this year and all of next, however, Pastors Tim and Sarah have decided to choose their preaching passages from the Revised Common Lectionary.

The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is a shared calendar of Bible readings used across many different Christian denominations from multiple nations around the globe. On any given Sunday you will find Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Baptists, and other Christian denominations using these texts in their public worship services. While often associated with mainline Protestant churches, this practice is non-denominational and is only a suggestion of which Bible verses to read.

Each Sunday the RCL provides an Old Testament, Pslam, Gospel, and Epistle reading. Our Call to Worship is usually an adaptaion of the lectionary Psalm of the day. The RCL emphasizes the liturgical calendar, paying special attention to festivals and seasons such as Advent, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. It is designed on a three-year cycle, denoted by the letters A, B, and C. The first Sunday of Advent, December 1st this year, will be the start of Year A.

Pastors Tim and Sarah believe this will be a great way to emphasize the unity of the Church, as well as a wonderful way of engaging texts that we might not otherwise hear in worship.

worship & celebration

Sermon Texts & Topics in November

Nov. 3rd We Believe... Resurrection & Life

Everlasting (1 Cor. 15:1-26)

Nov. 10th God's Faithfulness (Haggai 1:15b-2:9)

Nov. 17th The Kingdom of God (Isaiah 65:17-25)

Nov. 24th Preparing the Way for the Lord

(Luke 1:68-79)

2nd Sunday Worship - Agape Meal

For Centuries, Christians have gathered around the table to share food and fellowship with one another. These times of fellowship and feasting have taken on various forms; but for the early Christians, they often took the form of an agape meal, or "love feast". In the early Church, these agape meals were combined with the celebration of the Eucharist, but over the centuries the two have become separate celebrations. Apart from the Eucharist, the agape meal serves the purpose of gathering believers together to share a common table. Around the table, believers find grace, forgiveness, and unity in the Spirit.

During our Second Sunday Worship service in November, we will take part in this ancient tradition, coming around the table to share in an agape meal in the context of worship. We hope to see you around the table at 6:00 on Sunday, November 10.



GLORY TO GOD HYMNALS

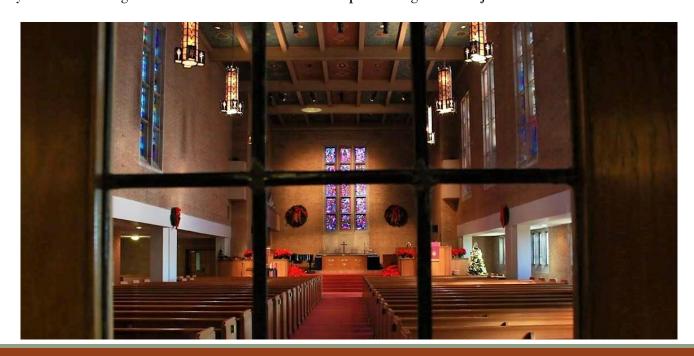
Beginning November 3rd and continuing until Sunday, November 17th, the new *Glory to God* hymnals will be in the Mary Chambers Room. If you purchased a book plate in memory or in honor of someone, we invite you stop by anytime and place your bookplate(s) inside the cover of one of the new hymnals. The bookplates will be with the hymnals and alphabetized by donor last name.

We will formally dedicate and begin using the new Glory to God hymnals in worship on Sunday, November 24th. Then, in January, we will have an evening hymn-sing service to get to know the new hymnal better.



Come help us decorate the Sanctuary for Advent/Christmas!

The sanctuary of Second Presbyterian Church is never more beautiful than it is during the Advent and Christmas seasons. However, it doesn't just happen by accident! We will gather at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 26th to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas seasons. Ileen Cheek will be directing us. Many hands make light work – and we need all the help we can get! Come join us!



Meet Audrey Johnson



Audrey is our new Church Office Administrator. She will be responsible for management of the church office, all internal/external communications, and the financial administration/reporting for the congregation. Audrey has worked as a paralegal the last few years and holds an Associate of Applied Science degree from Pellissippi State. She will begin work towards her Bachelor's Degree in Business at Tusculum University's Knoxville Campus next year. She has been actively involved in theatre at Oak Ridge Playhouse for the last four years, working on the stage management teams as well as on stage. She also enjoys spending time in the mountains and camping. Audrey currently lives in Lenoir City, and she is proud to call Tennessee home.



It is a tradition here at Second Presbyterian on the Sunday closest to All Saints Day (November 1st) to read the names of those members who have joined the Great Cloud of Witnesses in the previous year. If you would like to remember someone who wasn't a member, please send Pastor Tim an email (treynolds@2ndpres.org) and let him know. We will be reading the names on Sunday, November 3rd during worship.

October

Guests & Visitors

1st Time Visitors

Linda Boyd

Eugene & Jane Burke

Kira Evans

Derry L. Kasler

Bob Meyer

Neal & Jane Stultz

Steve & Linda Wise

Regular Visitors

Eric Batts

Katie Bell

Fred & Susan Brackney

Lindsey Cope & Elizabeth Seastrunk

Sam Fox & Kayln Wolfe

Alex Cooper & Ruthann Froberg

Jim Hauley

Suzie Hill

Jennifer Levy-Tatum

Raleigh Lister

Pam Maples

Rick Millard

Terry & D'Ann Mimbs

Joanne Mounger

Henry Naff

Mary Stewart Neely

Tommy & Susan Schmid

Chad, Patricia & Evan Seaver

Will Shaffer

Howard Taylor

Karen Vance

Pat Wininger

November birthdays

11/2

Angela Jones

11/3

Bob Cross

11/4

Imogene Posey

11/5

Joe Clark

Bennie Myers

11/6

Steven Wallace

11/7

Bob Campbell

Rachel Rogers

11/9

Miller Callaway

Ed May

11/11

Marsha Grieve

11/12

Hannah Gard

Matt Gard

11/14

David Eldridge

11/18

Parker Dodson

Bill Owen

11/20

Tom Sullivan

11/21

Mancil Milligan

11/22

Mary Nell Pruitt

11/27

Genna Bartlett

11/29

Jim Gray

Dorothy Thomas





Our First Sunday Youth Fellowship for the month of November will be a pizza and ice cream outing at Cruze Farm. The group will leave following worship to go to Cruze Farm's Asbury Road location to enjoy a pizza lunch followed by some delicious ice cream. Put it on your calendars and bring your friends...and \$5!

Check out these great pics from October's First Sunday Fellowship trip to Dead Man's Farm!



care & compassion



You Are Cordially Invited to a Hospice Discussion

In Honor of National Hospice Month,
Second Presbyterian Church, Knoxville presents:
A Frank Discussion of Hospice Care
with
Dr. Cindy Pearman
Medical Director of UT Hospice and Palliative Care/LHC

Date/Time: Nov. 9th
Time: 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Place: Fellowship Hall
Cost: Free!

We are in need of folks to bring/donate coffee hour foods, such as mini-muffins, bagels, breads, and fruit, and to be present to welcome and assist with hosting this event. Other churches in the Presbytery are invited and we want to show our best hospitality.

If you are willing to help host/bring foods, please let Margaret Walther or Jan Barber know of your availability.

Aging with Dignity

Pastor Tim will once again present this class, which is designed to help people of *all ages* think about the practical issues of aging, especially end of life issues. Topics will include: living wills, durable powers of attorney, who we want to make healthcare decisions for us when we can't, how to communicate our wishes to our loved ones, and funeral planning.

Date: Nov. 16th – *PLEASE NOTE:* This is a different date than was in the October 2nd Edition.

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Place: Mary Chambers Room

Cost: Free

Who May Attend: Anyone! (Invite your friends!)

News from the Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women of Second Presbyterian Church offers activities for all women in the church and visitors who wish to attend. There are four operating circles within the organization which meet monthly from August through June each year.

The Mission Circle: Read about their recent trip to Sunset Gap and their plans for November on the following page.

The Arts and Crafts Circle and the Church Decorating Circle continue to meet together in November to make Chrismon decorations for the church's Christmas tree. The two circles will be meeting upstairs in room 227. Contact Cheryl Ragsdale at 865-684-8999 or Ileen Cheek at 865-247-5258 for more information. The circles will meet at 10:00 the third Thursday of the month.

The Bible Study Circle: The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study Circle will be studying the Ten Commandments for the rest of the 2019-2020 study year and has completed two introductory lessons. One was on the first 80 years of Moses' life. The second was on the Mt. Sinai scene where God revealed in the Ten Commandments his requirements for his chosen people—the foundation of a concept that demanded the belief in the one true God and in the loving treatment of humans toward other humans. The enormity of Moses' teaching these concepts to a people with only the faintest understanding (at best) of their ancestor Abraham's covenant with God is a daunting one!!

Join the PW Bible Study Circle on the **second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 in the Mary Chambers Room.** All visitors are welcome!! See you on **November 12** to consider the first two commandments and their impact in the ancient world and in a still troubled world of 2019.



A Note from the Arts & Crafts Circle: Thanks to the generous donations of yarn from the congregation, the PW Arts and Crafts circle has been busy this fall, creating hats for Westview Elementary. In past years, matching hats and gloves have been purchased and displayed on a tree in the Atrium during Advent, and then given to the clothes closet at West View Elementary. We will need some gloves to match our hats, so we are providing a photo of what we have done so far so that you can be on the lookout for the matching gloves!

We have learned that Westview's school colors are purple and gold, so we will be adding a few in those colors as well.

Sunset Gap





PW MISSION INTEREST GROUP

On Thursday, October 17, five mission minded ladies from Presbyterian Women attended Presbyterian Women's day at Sunset Gap. Sunset Gap mission was started in 1899 by the Presbyterian Women of the United Presbyterian Church.

The weather was clear, the drive was beautiful, and the lunch we were served was very tasty. We were entertained with several very short videos of different volunteer groups and their activities. We were all impressed to learn about the many volunteer groups that come in March every year on spring break. Some of us made a quick trip to the thrift store and most of us had a to-go box for the fantastic home-made desserts.

The director, Audrey Jones, had a very informative PowerPoint presentation about the expanding food ministry. Families can receive a monthly food box and they serve about 200 families with these boxes. They also provide boxes of food to shut-ins and provide hot meals, which are also delivered.

Sunset Gap has truly been a Christ-like mission through the years. As their mission grows, so do their needs – anyone have a forklift they can spare? They are also in need of a walk-in freezer so they can accept donations of frozen meats, and a walk-in cooler to keep produce fresh.

In November the PW Mission Group plans to learn more about the Love Kitchen. We will have a quick meeting following the Bible study on November 12th. If anyone is interested in learning about local mission opportunities, please see Charlotte Klieman (865.922.8453). You do not have to be a member of Presbyterian Women, or even a woman, for that matter, in order to participate.



YOU are invited to a special Advent Luncheon and Program Sponsored by Presbyterian Women at Second Presbyterian Church.

Tuesday December 10th at 11:30

Lunch is \$10.

Presenting

The WordPlayers Advent Touring Production

WEST OF BETHLEHEM, a one act-play with music by Ethan Norman, offers your fellowship, in the midst of a busy season, a reminder to remember the beauty, majesty, and perfection of the story God gave us. A story where God's majestic birth announcement, came to what the world would call "the lowest of the low."

WEST OF BETHLEHEM focuses on the powerful contrast in the imagery of the Shepherds. In the Kingdom of God, the Shepherd is an honored title and a picture of leadership. In the kingdom of men, Shepherds are the dregs of society and shepherding is a task of drudgery with little personal gain. We delve into this example for us in Christ as it plays out in the Christmas story, with laughter and with heaviness at moments.

To make a reservation call Mariann Thuesen at 253-7653 by December 5th.

For more information about this or the March PW luncheon featuring a special presentation about The Elephant Sanctuary contact Donna Matlock-- dmatlock@utk.edu or 898-7517.



LUNCH BUNCH will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 5th, in the Fellowship Hall.

This month Mary Kay Sullivan, Professor Emerita of Business and Chair of the Maryville College Board of Directors, will be speaking on, "The small church-related liberal arts college: is it an endangered species?"

Lunch is \$10. Please call John Reynolds at 865.588.0085 or Mariann Thuesen at 865.253.7653 to make a reservation.



THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU

THANKS TO ALL WHO PURCHASED COUPON BOOKS to benefit West View Elementary! Sales and contributions from the congregation totaled \$800. West View was able to keep \$722 of this! Pat yourselves on the back!

service & outreach



Hello-

VMC is asking for your help in stocking the 2019 holiday store!!!

This year marks the 23rd year for VMC to provide this wonderful and valuable service to those who are in need. It is a remarkable effort to enable those without Christmas shopping money to "earn" gifts for their loved ones by using their time and muscle to complete community service work which pays in points, redeemable at the Holiday Store. These community service opportunities are completed at various sites.

By donating needed items for the Holiday Store, you are enabling VMC to help more families and individuals than ever before. A collections box is in the Atrium for the collection of the following items (items should not be wrapped and should be in the original packaging):

Children

- Clothing
- Barbie dolls/dolls
- Books
- Cars/Trucks
- Board games
- Legos
- Tea sets
- Sleeping bags
- Infant items
- Sports balls

Teenagers

- Clothing
- Sports jerseys
- Small electronics
- Makeup/jewelry

Men & Women

- Clothing
- Fleece wear
- Sweaters
- Gloves, hats, scarves
- Active wear
- Sleep wear
- Shoes
- Perfume/cologne
- Bath sets

Housewares

- Small tool sets
- Throws/afghans
- Kitchen items
- Cooking utensils
- Artwork
- Area carpets/rugs

Small Electronics

- Radios
- CD players
- CD's / DVD's
- DVD players
- MP3 players
- Music for all ages

Miscellaneous

- Curling irons
- Hair dryers
- Wrist watches
- Sports equipment
- Batteries (all sizes)
- Purses/tote bags
- Backpacks
- Books for all ages

stewardship

october session highlights

- Received and reviewed the Ministry Unit Reports, Preschool Report, and Treasurer's Report
- Studied the 4th Ordination
 Vow regarding role of the
 Church Officer
- Elected elders Jimmy
 Cheek and Betsy Foster to
 represent the congregation
 on November 12th, 2019, at
 the Stated meeting of the
 Presbytery of East
 Tennessee, to be held at
 Maryville College

SEPTEMBER BUDGET REPORT

	September YTD		Budget	
Total Giving	\$47,799.37	\$527,867.61	\$713,087	
Total Expenses	\$52,888.78	\$538,427.61	\$782,706	
Excess/(Shortage)	(\$5,089.41)	(\$10,560.00)	(\$69,619)	



To the congregation of Second Pres. Church,

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and love to the members of this great congregation. I have enjoyed knowing, serving, and being blessed by the many friendships I have experienced over the last 10 years. I will certainly miss everyone and hope to see you from time to time.

Blessings, Sarah Doyle

November

		Novemb	er		Harris wedding reh.	
3 All Saints Sunday 930a Sunday School Discovery Class 1030a Fellowship 11a Worship 1215p Food & Friends	4. 5p BSF	5 9a Staff Meeting 11 ³⁰ a Lunch Bunch 6p Care & Compassion 7p Service & Outreach 7p Boy Scouts 8 ³⁰ p Basketball	6 12p PET Pastors lunch 4p Line Dancing 4 ³⁰ p Handbells 5 ³⁰ p Wed Nt Dinner 6p Fam Round Table 7p Chancel Choir	7	8 Church Office Closed	9 8 ³⁰ a Hospice discussion 9a TOTS Basketball
9 ³⁰ a Sunday School Discovery Class 10 ³⁰ a Fellowship 11a Worship 12 ¹⁵ p Food & Friends 6p Second Sunday	11 5p BSF 6p Discipleship	12 10a PW Bible Study 5p Facilities 530p Cooking Teams 6p Worship 7p Boy Scouts 830p Basketball	4p Line Dancing 4 ³⁰ p Handbells 5 ³ p Wed Nt Dinner 6p Bible Study 7p Chancel Choir	14 9a CCR&R	15 Church Office Closed	16 930a Aging with Dignity
New Member Sunday 9 ³⁰ a Sunday School 10 ³⁰ a Fellowship 11a Worship 12 ¹⁵ p Food & Friends	18 12p Preschool Board 5p BSF	9a Staff meeting 6p Session meeting 7p Boy Scouts 830p Basketball	20 3p 2nd Readers 4p Line Dancing 430p Handbells 530p Wed Nt Dinner 6p Bible Study 7p Chancel Choir	21 10a PW Arts & Crafts	22 Church Office Closed	23
24 New Hymnal Dedication 930a Sunday School 1030a Fellowship 11a Worship 1215p Food & Friends	25 5p BSF	26 9a FISH Pantry 10a PW House & Garden 7p Boy Scouts 830p Basketball	27	28 THANKSGIVING Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30

Church Office Closed

Harris Wedding

3p TIPS



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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 2020

Jimmy Cheek Clara Hardin Doug Matthews Margaret Walther

CLASS OF 2021

Monica Casey Betsy Foster John Henley Cleston Jones

CLASS OF 2022

Dean Farmer Margie Gill Patricia Kennedy Marty McLean

MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

Worship & Celebration

Doug Mattews Betsy Foster

Discipleship

Monica Casey Patricia Kennedy

Service & Outreach

Clara Hardin

Care & Compassion

Margaret Walther Marty McLean

Stewardship

Jimmy Cheek John Henley Dean Farmer

Preschool Board

Cleston Jones