

# Second Edition

OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE



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# On Second Thought...



I have never been one to focus on worship attendance. I believe we are able to worship the Lord well whether there are 6, 60, or 600 people gathered together for worship. For me, experiencing the presence of God is not tied to how many people happen to be in the room. I believe our focus should be on other things.

But I do notice how many people are in worship. I mean, how can I not, standing in the pulpit looking out at the gathered community of faith? And here is what I have noticed. Prior to the pandemic we were averaging around 125 people in Sunday worship. From the time we returned to in-person worship in April until our recent return to virtual worship due to the uptick in Covid numbers, we have averaged 79. We have not had over 100 in worship attendance a single Sunday since returning. So, I'm wondering – why?

Some of it can certainly be explained by the continued presence of Covid in our community. Even during June and July when the 7-Day Percent Positive Test Average was below 5%, which is the goal for a community, I'm sure some people simply didn't yet feel comfortable worshipping in person. Some of it can also be explained by attrition. In the last year, we have lost a number of wonderful and faithful saints who have moved on to worship in the Church Triumphant.

I think some of it can also be explained by some people just getting out of the habit of coming to worship on Sundays during the pandemic, or maybe getting in the habit of doing something else with their Sunday mornings. After all, our YouTube viewership has ranged anywhere between 100 and 285 during this same time period, and that's in addition to the 79 in the sanctuary. Though YouTube can't account for multiple viewers in one viewing or multiple views by one viewer, we can tell when people watch. There were usually around 75 who worshiped with us through the live-stream from April-July on Sunday mornings. This is likely the group that didn't feel comfortable being here in person. By Sunday evening that number increased to about 125. By Thursday the number was usually around 200, give or take. So it looks like many people have time-shifted their worship experience to later in the week, perhaps to make time for other things on Sunday mornings.

Part of me accepts that this may be the reality moving forward. That worship has become "on-demand" like so many other things in the world. Part of me, however, recoils at this thought because a big part of worshipping God is worshipping God *together*. For most of last year (and again currently as the pandemic continues to rage), the only way we could worship together safely was virtually.

With a vaccine now available and our new phased precautions in place, however, I believe that when we *can* worship together in person, we *should*. This is not about being a preacher and wanting to have a larger group to preach to; it's about something deeper than that.

We can worship God anywhere. In fact, many theologians point out that our entire lives should be worship. People often tell me they can worship God while hiking, or fishing, or sitting on their back porch, or gardening, or wherever they feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. I don't disagree. But when they say to me, "I don't need to go to church to worship God," it is on this point that I *do* disagree.

I often find that when people say this to me, they are thinking of the institution of the church. So I gently remind them of the song we learned as children. *The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people*. We need to worship God with other people. God has baked this into our DNA. Corporate worship is, and always has been, vital to the proper worship of God, as well as to personal spiritual growth.

I need to worship God with people I know, people I don't know, people who know me, people who don't know me, people I share my life with, people who are the same as me, people who are very different from me, people I share common beliefs with, people I disagree with, people who love me no matter what, and people I am called to love no matter what. In fact, I have realized that the more I grow and mature spiritually, the more I need to be with the people of the church, to worship, pray, sing, listen, and study with them – with you. I need you. We need each other. It's not really church when we are worshipping alone.

The together part of church isn't about attendance, it's an essential part of our spiritual health, growth and maturity. So I want to challenge each of you, once we are able to gather safely together again, to make coming to worship on Sunday a priority. We need you. And you need us.

And yes, I know that coming to worship will not guarantee that you will grow spiritually. But I also know this – not coming to worship guarantees that you won't.

Grace and peace...



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The Preschool of 2nd Presbyterian Church is collecting individually wrapped candy for their trick or treating event for the preschool families. Please place any donations of candy in the box outside the church office door.

Candy is needed by Sunday, 10/24.

**Please no nuts or peanut butter.**



# UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS & TOPICS

Paul has completed his missionary journeys and made his way back to Jerusalem, where he is arrested and put on trial, as we saw at the end of September. This begins a series of trial scenes that culminates in Acts 26, with Paul being imprisoned the entire time, just as the prophet Agabus warned in chapter 21. Paul stands trial before the Sanhedrin (the Jewish ruling council), then appears before Felix (the Roman governor), then Festus (the next Roman governor), and finally King Agrippa (Herod Agrippa II, the last of the Herodian dynasty). Because Paul appeals to the emperor's tribunal, he is ultimately sent to Rome, but is shipwrecked on the way.

October 3rd	Acts 23:12-35	A Plot to Kill Paul
October 10th	Acts 24:1-27	Paul and Felix
October 17th	Acts 25:1-12	Paul and Festus
October 24th	Acts 25:13-26:32	Paul and Agrippa
October 31st	Acts 27:1-44	Paul is Shipwrecked



# Supervised Ministry Intern

As part of her Master of Divinity studies at Dubuque Theological Seminary, Jessica Lewis is required to complete a Supervised Ministry Internship in a congregational setting. Jessica will be doing that this fall at Second Presbyterian Church. Her responsibilities during her internship will allow her to experience different facets of congregational ministry and will help prepare her for leadership in congregational ministry. Her duties will be supervised by Pastor Tim and a Feedback Team will meet with her regularly to offer feedback and guidance. This team consists of: Tim Wright (chair), Margie Gill, Jim Hawley, and Liz Peebles. Her responsibilities in the congregation for the fall are:

**Worship Leadership:** prepare and write the communal liturgy each Sunday; serve as liturgist regularly; preach twice during the fall, once in the Acts series and once during Advent; attend Worship Ministry Unit meetings; assist in the digital production of the live stream.

**Congregational Leadership:** assist in writing the discussion question for the study on *The Kingdom Parables*; lead the Bible study on 3 Wednesday nights; attend Session meetings; serve homebound communion with a ruling elder; design and prepare the congregation's Advent focus by: choosing the overall theme to be followed, selecting Scripture texts and weekly worship themes, preparing the communal worship liturgy, incorporating outside elements to be used in worship (music, art, etc.), developing ways for youth and adult spiritual formation classes to participate in the Advent theme, coordinating and designing the Advent Devotional, choosing a mission emphasis as part of the Advent theme, communicating the Advent theme to the congregation.

Additionally, Jessica will pursue personal spiritual formation and self-care as part of her requirements for the class. She has chosen to focus on praying the Psalms each day and will be using Eugene Peterson's *Praying the Psalms*, Walter Brueggemann's *Praying the Psalms*, and Philip Reinders' *Seeking God's Face: Praying with the Bible through the Year* as resources. She will also focus on intentional Sabbath time with her family, using *Sabbath as Resistance* by Walter Brueggemann as a resource.

We are excited to have this opportunity to help Jessica grow in her faith, leadership skills, and spiritual formation as she pursues God's calling on her life!



# Technology Team



With the departure of Emily McTyre as our Media Coordinator, a team of volunteers is now overseeing our live stream production each week. Matt Casey, Dale Henley, and Elizabeth Seastrunk are responsible for running the cameras, the video slides, and the live stream. Paul Sexauer continues to be responsible for the sound, although the sound issues on September 5th were NOT his fault! These volunteers have to adapt whether we are in-person or virtual, as each brings a different set of challenges, and have done so beautifully.

Many thanks to the members of this technology team who keep things going on Sunday morning!

If you are interested in being part of the rotation, please let Pastor Tim know and he will set up a training for you.



# ***Reformation Sunday***

This year Reformation Sunday falls on October 31st, which is also Reformation Day – the day when Martin Luther nailed his *95 Theses* to the door of the church in Wittenburg in 1517, observed as the official beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

Following our three-year cycle of patterning our worship after the worship reforms of each of the three major Reformers to influence the Presbyterian tradition, this year our worship service (be it virtual or in-person) will follow John Knox's outline for worship.

The outline and content of the service will be similar to what you would have experienced in the Church of Scotland ca. 1560 – minus the 1 hour and 20 minute sermon!

# Organist Update

*While we remain virtual, we will continue to use piano for our worship services. Many thanks to Matt Mimbs for providing such lovely music each week!*

*Once we return to in-person worship we will be using a rotation of substitute organists each Sunday until a permanent organist is found.*

*The Organist Search Committee has begun to meet to devise a plan for finding a permanent organist for 2nd Presbyterian Church. They hope to have someone secured by early 2022.*

*The Organist Search Committee consists of: Margie Gill (chair), Sandra Butler, Kathryn Freeman, Marianne Ihuesen, and Pat Winingen.*

*Please keep this team in your prayers.*



# October Birthdays

**Cole Turner 10/01**

**Cheryl Ragsdale 10/08**

**Tammy Akers 10/03**

**Theresa Stone 10/10**

**Geoff Duggan 10/03**

**Lily Reynolds 10/11**

**John Butler 10/04**

**Justin Lattimore 10/16**

**Sandra Butler 10/04**

**Arlys Milligan 10/25**

**Edwin Batts 10/05**

**Ann Wallace 10/25**

**Mark Turner 10/05**

**Sunny Sweitzer 10/28**

**Taylor Dodson 10/06**

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.



# RULES FOR CHILDREN IN WORSHIP SERVICE:

One. If you find that you're sitting in front of a child and they can't see, lean to the side.

Two. If the children seated behind you are rustling papers, hand them a crayon.

Three. If there is a baby that is crying, offer to take the baby from their parent and walk to the back of the church and rock the child for a while. The parent really needs a break.

Four. If the teenagers are whispering give them some Smarties. The rustling and crinkling will replace their whispering.

Five. If an adult complains to an usher about the noisy children near them, offer to trade seats with that adult and then apologize to the parents of the children.

Six. When a child is running around giving everyone high-fives during the time of passing the peace/greeting your neighbor make sure to give them an extra fun high-five, and then high-five the next five adults that you see.

Seven. If a child has worn tap shoes to church and is dancing on the wood portion of the floor, slip the sheet music for "The Entertainer" to the pianist and roll with it.

Eight. When the children can't hear because an adult around them won't take off their puffy jacket and it keeps squeaking and distracting the children, offer to help them off with their jacket and go hang it up for them where it goes.

Nine. When the three-year-old insists on standing on the front pew turned backwards looking at the rest of the people, give the child a pair of very dark glasses. That will prevent the child from catching any adult's eye, which would lead to distracting them. This will protect the adults who as we know have very short attention spans and are easily distracted.

Ten. When a child in front of you is very squirmy, and then they finally turn around and you realize suddenly, "Oh, it's Jesus!" take it in stride and play Got Your Nose till he turns around to the front again.

By CB Beal

Justice and Peace Consulting



# Wednesday Night Dinner and Bible Study

Wednesday Bible study has resumed on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. When we are in Covid Phase Red, there will be no dinner and the class will take place virtually. Once we have returned to Covid Phase Orange, the Bible Study will be in-person with a virtual option for those who wish to join from home. We will also gather for dinner at 6:00 p.m. during Covid Phase Orange, but a prepared meal will not be served. Instead, we invite those who desire to gather for dinner with each person/family providing their own “brown bag” dinner. When we return to Covid Phase Yellow, a prepared meal will be provided at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Bible study at 6:30 p.m.

This fall we are studying The Kingdom Parables of Jesus, those parables in which Jesus says, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like...” The format is lecture/small group discussion. Pastor Tim will review the story for 20 minutes or so then we break into small groups for discussion questions together. The discussion questions are provided.

October 6th	The Unforgiving Servant	Matthew 18:21-35
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October 13th	The Workers in the Vineyard	Matthew 20:1-16
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October 20th	The Two Sons	Matthew 21:28-32
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October 27th	The Tenant Farmers	Matthew 21:33-44
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The Peace & Global Witness Offering offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace.

We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing injustice in our own communities around the world.

25% of this offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25% of this offering will go to the Presbytery of East Tennessee to support peacemaking work in our region.

50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by the Presbyterian Church USA.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering will be received on Sunday, October 3rd. Checks can be mailed to the church office with 'Peace & Global Witness' on the memo line.

# PEACE

at all times in all ways.



# **Presbyterian**

## **Disaster**

### **Assistance**

At its September meeting the  
Ministry for Service and  
Outreach approved a **\$5,000**  
donation to the  
**Presbyterian Disaster  
Assistance**

to support relief aid to those  
who have suffered damage  
from Hurricane Ida and to  
those affected by any future  
hurricane this season.



# UPDATES FROM THE SESSION

## Highlights from the September 2021 Stated Session Meeting

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Approved having In-Person Sunday Worship when in Covid Precaution Phase Red with the same guidelines as Phase Orange. All other precautions of Phase Red regarding meetings and usage of the building remain unchanged.

## AUGUST BUDGET REPORT

	AUGUST	YTD	BUDGET
TOTAL GIVING	\$56,491.38	\$560,848.69	\$788,556.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$62,861.63	\$453,990.97	\$788,556.00
EXCESS/(SHORTAGE)	(\$7,420.25)	\$104,807.72	---



# October

					1 Greek Fest Parking Lot Use Church Office Closed	2 Greek Fest Parking Lot Use
<b>3</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> 9 <sup>45</sup> a FSF Sunday School Class (Barbour Room) 11a Worship Greek Fest Parking Lot Use	<b>4</b> 6 <sup>3</sup> p BSF (All Facilities)	<b>5</b> 9a Staff Meeting 5p Facilities 6p Care & Compassion 7p Service & Outreach 7p Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> 2p Compassionate Cuisine 6p Wednesday Night Dinner 6 <sup>3</sup> p Bible Study	<b>7</b> 12p Budget & Finance Committee (Zoom)	<b>8</b> Church Office Closed	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9 <sup>45</sup> a FSF Sunday School Class (Barbour Room) 11a Worship	<b>11</b> <i>Audrey Out of Office</i> 6p Discipleship Meeting 6 <sup>3</sup> p BSF (All Facilities)	<b>12</b> <i>Audrey Out of Office</i> 6p Worship Meeting 7p Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> <i>Audrey Out of Office</i> 12p 2 <sup>nd</sup> Readers 6p Wednesday Night Dinner 6 <sup>3</sup> p Bible Study	<b>14</b> <i>Audrey Out of Office</i>	<b>15</b> Church Office Closed	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9 <sup>45</sup> a FSF Sunday School Class (Barbour Room) 11a Worship	<b>18</b> 12p Preschool Board (Zoom) 6 <sup>3</sup> p BSF (All Facilities)	<b>19</b> 9a Staff Meeting 6p Session Meeting 7p Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Deadline</b> 2p Compassionate Cuisine 6p Wednesday Night Dinner 6 <sup>3</sup> p Bible Study	<b>21</b> 10a Arts & Crafts (Room 227)	<b>22</b> Church Office Closed	<b>23</b> 8 <sup>3</sup> a Lions Club Event (Parking Lot)
<b>24</b> 9 <sup>45</sup> a FSF Sunday School Class (Barbour Room) 11a Worship	<b>25</b> 6 <sup>3</sup> p BSF (All Facilities)	<b>26</b> 9a FISH Pantry (FH) 7p Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> 6p Wednesday Night Dinner 6 <sup>3</sup> p Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Church Office Closed	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9 <sup>45</sup> a FSF Sunday School Class (Barbour Room) 11a Worship	<p>The events on this calendar will take place if we are in Covid Phase  <b>Orange, Yellow, or Green. Alternate plans (outdoor, virtual, etc.)</b>  will be communicated by the church office or the coordinator of  that event if we return to Phase <b>Red</b>. Please see the home page of  our website (2ndpres.org) to determine what Covid Phase we are in.</p>					





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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 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  
Angela Jones

##### Service & Outreach

Tracy Horton  
Tim Wright

##### Care & Compassion

Marty McLean  
Joe Clarke

##### Stewardship

Dean Farmer  
Neal Peebles  
Mary Kay Sullivan

##### Preschool Board

Charles White