# SECOND EDITON July 2018

A concert for peace...

July 29

# On Second Thought...

On July 1st we will wrap up our journey through the Parable Windows by looking at one of the most beloved parables of all time: The Parable of the Good Samaritan. This parable is told in direct response to a question. A lawyer asks Jesus how to have eternal life and Jesus turns the question back on him. In response, the lawyer says, basically, "Love God and love my neighbor." And the next verse is one of my all-time favorite passages of Scripture: But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)

Now we don't know *exactly* what the lawyer was thinking, but Luke does reveal his motive. He wanted to justify *himself*. It used to be hard to describe the term "justify" as used in Scripture and theology. Familiarity with word processing software, however, has helped a great deal. So think about what happens to your document when you click the "justify" button. All the edges are lined up, right? All the jaggedness and unevenness disappears. Everything becomes even – nice and neat. Everything is made right.

This is what God does when God justifies us. God makes everything even; we no longer owe God anything. But the lawyer wanted to justify himself. He wanted to make sure he was doing everything right, by the book, the way God wanted it done. So if the law said, "Love your neighbor," he wanted to make sure he was doing it correctly. That meant knowing who he needed to love.

Maybe he was hoping to get a "narrow" definition of neighbor so that he would have an excuse not to love certain people. Or maybe he truly wanted to know. All this, of course, is conjecture. And perhaps beside the point. Because the point that Jesus makes is that anyone in need who is placed in our path or who we come across, regardless of how we feel about them, regardless of the prejudices we carry, regardless of our comfort zones, *is* our neighbor. Therefore, they are to be loved.

Jesus significantly broadens the accepted definition of "neighbor" at that time. It occurs to me that Jesus' broad definition of neighbor has recently been widened even further.

With the advent of email, the internet, social media, quick and easy global travel, and endless advances in communication technologies, it is much more likely

today that each of us has at least one regular interaction with "neighbors" who may not live in our particular zip code. As the world gets smaller, Jesus' definition of neighbor as anyone in need placed in our path gets larger. Is my neighbor in Knoxville? Yes. Is my neighbor in New York or California? Yes. Is my neighbor at the border with Mexico? Yes. Is my neighbor in Guatemala? Yes. Rwanda? Yes. Afghanistan? Yes. South Korea? Yes.

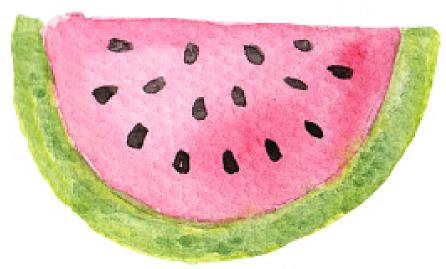
Whether we direct our time, prayers and resources towards fighting to end sex trafficking in Southeast Asia, sponsoring a child in Haiti, repairing homes in Appalachia, ending homelessness through the VMC, volunteering at Westview elementary school, putting together bags of food for FISH, delivering communion to our shut-ins, or participating in any other ministry where we see God at work, we are participating in God's economy of compassion to our neighbor.

C.S. Lewis wrote in *The Weight of Glory*, "You have never met a mere mortal... Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses... for in him (sic) Christ, the glorifier and the glorified, Glory Himself, is truly hidden." May we all reconsider just who our neighbor is. May we, in a globalized world, realign our definition with that of Jesus, realizing that even those who seem the most different are, at their core, just like us; a person who loves, who laughs, who hurts, and who cries. May we each choose to look upon our neighbors – wherever we find them – with love.

Grace and peace...



Pastor Tim



# inside this edition JULY

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# Stained Glass Sermon Series

# **July 2018 Topics**

Our sermon series on the scenes depicted in the stained glass windows of the sanctuary continues in July. We finish the Parable windows on July 1st and will spend the remainder of the month on the Intimate Ministry window. Upcoming topics are:



July 1st The Good Samaritan (Parable Windows)

July 8th The Woman at the Well (Intimate Ministry)

July 15th Blessing the Children (Intimate Ministry)

July 22nd Zaccheus (Intimate Ministry)

July 29th Nicodemus (Intimate Ministry)

Luke 10:25-37 John 4:1-30 Mark 10:13-16 Luke 19:1-10 John 3:1-21



# **Guest Preacher July 8th**

On Sunday, July 8th, we will have a very special guest preacher for our worship service, The Rev. Dr. Lisa Wolfe. Dr. Wolfe is Professor of Hebrew Bible at Oklahoma City University, where she has taught since the fall of 2007. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Dr. Wolfe has served six different churches, as well as being a children's hospital chaplain. Prior to teaching at Oklahoma City University, Dr. Wolfe was Assistant Professor of Old Testament at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH, where she also served as the Director of the Harriet L. Miller Women's Center. She and her husband, Fred Mischler, have two children who keep them busy with camping, tennis, scouting, and traveling to see family. Lisa is the daughter of Second Presbyterian members Jerry and Christina Young.

# WENDEL WERNER

On Sunday evening, July 29th, local musician Wendel Werner will be presenting A Concert for Peace in our sanctuary as part of our 200th Anniversary Celebration. This will be the 10th in a series of church concerts Mr. Werner is offering the community as a way to encourage dialogue on current issues through music. These "Peace Concerts" always involve between 20-30 musicians and present musical perspectives of current political and social concerns. The concerts are designed to ask questions and look at topics from all sides. They are always free and there is often a time for discussion afterward. The concert will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will last about 90 minutes.

# discipleship



# **Interfaith Trip to Israel**

Second Presbyterian Church and Temple Beth-El are planning an Interfaith trip to the Holy Land together on June 11-21, 2019. An itinerary of both Christian and Jewish sites has been put together, along with some preliminary information about cost and accommodations.

Our two congregations would engage in a joint monthly study for 10 months prior to going and then enjoy each other's company as we make the pilgrimage together to the Holy Land. If you are interested, please contact Tim Reynolds for more information.

# Summer Sunday School - Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White

Our Summer Sunday School book discussion of *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White* by Rev. Adam Hamilton continues in July. We have had some great discussions so far on topics such as How to Interpret the Bible, Faith and Science, Evolution, and Salvation. There are plenty of great

discussions to come and we'd love for you to join us in the Mary Chambers Room on Sunday mornings at 9:30 if you haven't already. We do a quick recap of the chapter at the start of class each week, so come even if you haven't read the book!

July 1st Chapter 13: The Logic of Hell

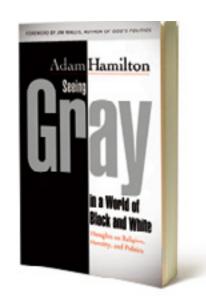
July 8th Chapter 14: Where Is God When Bad Things Happen?

July 15th Chapter 15: In Praise of Honest Doubt

Chapter 16: The Messy Truth About Spirituality

July 22nd Chapter 17: Situation Ethics and WWJD

July 29th Chapter 18: Abortion – Finding Common Ground





# **Massanetta Middle School Conference**

On July 5th, Lily Reynolds, Kylie Beets, and Sydney Jones will travel to Harrisonburg, VA to attend the Massanetta Middle School Conference. This year's theme is "Y'all Are Mine." Throughout the week, the girls, along with 300 or so other youth and adults will study Isaiah 43:1-2

through keynote and workshops and fit in some fun through small groups, a Stop Hunger Now event, and a giant slip n' slide. We hope that you will pray for and with them during this Spirit-filled time; and they will be so excited to share their experience when they return.



# june visitors

Gerald Campbell
Brenda & Paul Lutz
Mike Schmidt
Susan Brackney
Kim & Findlay Hudgens
Henry Naff
Lindsey Kreichelt
Emma Ryan
Andy Stultz
John Quillen
Tom & Brenda Fussell
Mike Marchant

**Betty Reynolds** 

Karen Vance
Shawna Lister
Kathleen McClelland
Daniel Nellis
Brad Nellisw
Joanne Mounger
Andie Cunningham
Alex & Nellie Dunn
Teresa Blevins
Sarah Wilson
Cindy & Gordon Ferguson
Andy & Robbie Ferguson
Travis, Leah, Ellen Franklin

# july birthdays

David Stultz 7/01
Patsy Wright 7/07
Chase Wilson 7/08
Marion Frazer 7/09
Elizabeth Peebles 7/10
Lily Wu 7/10
Ben Bowlen 7/12
Thomas Turner 7/14
David Frazier 7/18
Joan Riedl 7/22
John Campbell 7/24
Alex Cantrell 7/24
Daniel Robertson 7/25
Helen Grant 7/28



Marty participates in this vital ministry, as well, often going with Jim Ford to take communion to fellow veterans. He also makes it a family affair,

taking Fran and Ally along with him to serve other members. When the recent organizational

restructuring occurred, Marty was asked to move

to the Session and serve an extra year organizing

the Care & Compassion Ministry Unit and he

agreed without hesitation. However, Marty gets

a Big High Five this month for volunteering to

go with our high school students to the Montreat Youth Conference. Keeping up with three

teenage boys is never easy, but Marty came back

full of energy. He also served as a small group leader for 20 other young people from around

the country, helping them discuss and process

their faith each evening. High Five, Marty!

Thanks for being willing to pour your life into

the lives of our young people!

# **2nd Readers**

When? Wednesday, July 18th

Where? Chesapeakes on Parkside Blvd.

Time? 12:00 p.m. Title: *Educated* 

Author: Tara Westover

Leader: Rachel

When? Wednesday, August 15th

Where? The Egg & I (Bearden)

Time? 12:00 p.m.

Title: The Day The World Came To Town,

9-11, Gander, Newfoundland

Author: Jim DeFede

Leader: Arlys

# service & outreach







# West View Work Day is Almost Here!

You can help West View get ready for "Back to School." Join us Saturday, August 4th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. for the annual West View Work Day! Some groups may start working earlier.

# How can I help?

**1. Sign up for the Work Day** (Signup sheets are in the Atrium. Indoor and outdoor workers are needed for playground, grounds cleanup, flower beds, bulletin boards, helping teachers, etc.)

2. Purchase several school supply items from the list –available in the Atrium. Some items include: hand sanitizer, Kleenex, Clorox wipes, wide-ruled notebook paper, Ziploc bags, #2 pencils (no mechanical), colored pencils, highlighters, red pens, glue sticks, backpacks and more! See list for more details. There is a container in the coat rack for more donations.

**3.** Bring in the much needed school supplies anytime during July.

# 200 - A - Month

The 200-a-Month collection for July is bottled water and bottled soda for UKirk.





# SECOND PRESBYTERIAN ENTERS THE 21ST CENTURY

# Co-Chairs, Arvilee and Helen Grant

In some ways life at Second Presbyterian Church in the last half of the 20th century was a golden time. After three church buildings in the middle of downtown Knoxville—each progressively larger and growing in congregation and in Christian leadership—Second Church moved farther west to Kingston Pike in 1957. The move was a response to expressed needs for a bigger and a better facility which could provide a more convenient and spacious building and parking for an increasingly mobile and expanding population, rapidly abandoning the central city as Knoxville/Knox County's inhabitants looked for housing and services beyond the downtown area.

With the ambitious expansion of the Kingston Pike church building in 1995, Second Presbyterian Church appeared to be prepared—on the cusp of readiness for the 21st century—to strengthen the congregation in carrying out God's will for His church. During the late 1950s and the 1960s, the church membership steadily grew. Under Dr. Carver's leadership from 1976-1996 the congregation increased to its maximum number of over 1,500 active members. The number of active church members is an ever changing statistic and often not clearly defined. Its use is questionable as a measure of a church's witness in the secular world, but it is one of the few measurements maintained by church offices.

By the end of 1996, the statistics recorded by General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) show an active membership of 1,112 at Second Church and a decreasing membership for the years afterwards to the present time. By 2013 General Assembly records show Second Church having decreased to an active membership of 586. In 2018—the 200th anniversary year of the church's founding—the church's Session reported a membership of about 205.

What might explain such a dramatic drop in membership rolls to Second Presbyterian Church long considered to be a large, vital leader in Knoxville's Christian community? Only the passage of more time will bring the perspective needed to approach an understanding of the many factors that may have impacted this church which had held such high hopes and attainable resources as it neared the beginning of the 21st century!

From the time that the Christian church was founded in the first century A.D., it has been continuously bombarded by the events of its times from natural occurrences and those of humans' actions within the church and in the secular world surrounding it. So it is with the realities of Second Presbyterian Church's situation today; it is difficult to evaluate accurately or even name with certainty the actions which have most impacted the Second Presbyterian Church that we know in 2018. It is helpful, however, for the wise searcher of truth to consider facts that are available to one at a given time. We can list some of the happenings that have taken place from 1996 through 2018 and consider the magnitude of some of these swirling events moving across the globe and into Knoxville, Tennessee, and our own church family.

# **Events From the Secular World Around Us.**

Changes perhaps having their roots in the late 1970s through the 1990s gained rapid momentum in the early years of the 2000s, and we itemize just a few trends to remind the reader of the amazing speed at which disruption and divisiveness have invaded our culture and traditions.

GLOBALIZATION of trade, economics, technology, energy issues, etc. has both pulled the world's countries together and apart.

MASSIVE DEVASTATION from natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding, almost uncontrollable wildfires.

WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC TROUBLES with several countries facing dire financial problems including the United States technology and housing bubbles and the Great Recession.

RISE OF TECHNOLOGY AND AUTO-MATION that has already replaced millions of workers with no end in sight to the loss of more and more jobs.

RISE OF INTERNATIONAL EXTREMISTS with escalating bloody attacks all over the world.

WARS AND THREATS OF WAR, particularly in the Middle East.

POLITICAL AND SOCIETAL POLARIZATION, particularly in the United States where partisanship has deeply eroded efficient, effective governing of its people.

# <u>Current Status of the Christian Community in</u> the United States.

Several recent studies on the Christian Church in the United States have been conducted and their findings are now appearing regularly in the writings of some leading Christian authors today. We briefly examine some findings from one such research center named the Pew Research Center, a non-partisan think tank which provides information on social issues, public opinion, and demographic trends shaping the U.S. and the world.

In May of 2015, the Pew Research Center released its study entitled "America's Changing Religious Landscape" and we list a few of their findings for your consideration.

# The Pew Research studies show the following changes among America's population:

The "nones" (that is, those adults with no religious affiliation) are growing and the number of Christians are declining because—

- \* The younger generations are showing little interest in organized religion.
- \* People of the older generations are increasingly disavowing association with organized religion.
- \* Switching religious affiliation is a common occurrence in the U.S.
- \* Both mainline churches and historically black Protestant traditions have lost more members than they have gained through religious switching.
- \* Evangelicals now constitute a clear majority (55%) of all U. S. Protestants.

In April of 2015 the Pew Research Center published a study on the future of world religions. The Center introduced the report in this way: "The religious profile of the world is rapidly changing, driven primarily by differences in fertility rates and the size of youth populations among the world's major religions, as well as by people switching faiths. Over the next four decades, Christians will remain the largest religious group, but Islam will grow faster than any other major religion."

# Brief Overview of Events Related Specifically to Second Presbyterian Church From 1996-2018.

These years at Second Church brought a number of changes in leadership from the senior pastor position. Note the number of transitions that took place:

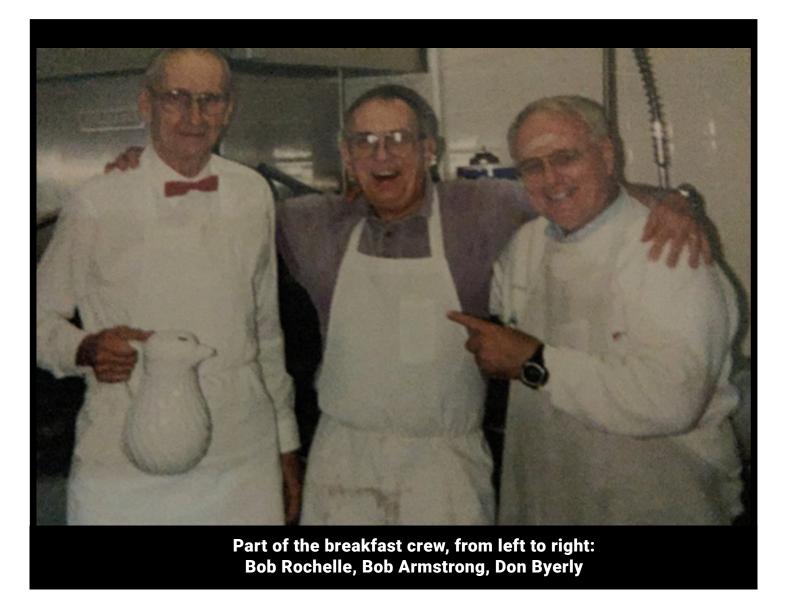
Feb.-Dec., 1996: Interim Minister, David Fillpot 1997-2005: Arnold Lovell, Senior Minister 2006-2008: Interim Minister, Bill Waterstradt 2009-2014: Bryan Wilson, Senior Minister 2015-Aug., 2016: Interim Minister, James Rucker Aug., 2016-2018: Tim Reynolds, Senior Minister These reported secular trends, Protestant findings from recent studies, and Second Church leadership changes present a rather negative picture at the moment for the future of U.S. Christian churches in general and for Second Presbyterian Church specifically when it faced the reality of a major split of the church's congregation in 2014 citing issues related to actions of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

As Second Presbyterian Church moves toward its 200th anniversary date with perhaps its smallest congregation since the end of the Civil War, it can be comforting to consider how God has at times worked in this secular world and the part He has chosen for Christians to play in taking care of His world and His people.

God has relied on people of the remnant from almost the beginning of His story as told in our Holy Bible. Over and over the remnant has played a significant role in God's plan for His people from Noah and his family, for Abraham's and his flock, for Moses and the remnant of slaves from Egypt, for Nehemiah and the exiled captives in Persia, for the tiny Christian remnant after Jesus' ascension. And so it continues to be with Second Presbyterian Church who now moves forward as another of God's remnants with His work to do. With much prayer, hope, and a focused listening ear to God who constantly reminds us to stay centered on loving and obeying Him and loving His children, Second Presbyterian Church could indeed continue to be a vital part of the Knoxville community in God's name.

With the completion of this series of reflections on the times and the peoples of Second Church almost finished, we choose to list just a few projects of recent times that may have fit God's plan for us, and we include two to end this July article.

There is an old mountain song, origin unknown, that has been sung on countless playgrounds and yards in the hollows and ridges of the southern Appalachians for many generations as the children skipped rope and chanted.



Its major phrase goes like this:

The needle's eye that does supply the thread that runs so true.

May the goals, prayers, and efforts of Second Presbyterian Church sew threads that always run so true.

# Don Byerly and the Guys.

Don and Sue Byerly and their children were members of Second Church on Kingston Pike for many years and were busily involved in many creative activities. Don's idea for feeding the congregation grew into special breakfasts at Thanksgiving and Easter prepared by a volunteer crew of men of the church who gathered at the church in the wee hours to cook and serve worship attendees to enjoy fellowship and good food. In the early days they made their own biscuits—and this writer recalls Don calling for the biscuit maker to make

an appearance so the members could show appreciation. Bob Armstrong was dragged reluctantly out of the kitchen, covered from head to toe in flour but he had a tired, happy grin on his face that this writer remembers to this day!

These breakfasts with a free will offering always stayed in the black with money left over for mission projects and to help with the purchase of needed kitchen equipment. Don often managed to have special music entertainment including the Hall's High School Madrigal Singers. These breakfasts were happy events where all ages enjoyed each other's companionship and Don Byerly seemed to enjoy himself greatly in his version of "tending the flock" and the Second Church flock were happy beneficiaries.

# Habitat for Humanity and Second Church.

Habitat for Humanity is an independent, non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that partners with people of all beliefs. For many years the Knoxville community has been plagued with a shortage of functional, affordable housing, and in 1994 Second Church first showed an interest in Habitat for Humanity's effort to help provide safe, affordable houses within the city. Beginning with annual contributions, Second Church later partnered with Habitat to build a house on Louise Avenue in 1999. For several years afterwards, Second Church either alone or sometimes with another organization built eight houses with a financial contribution of approximately \$142, 800.

The basic plan for building a Habitat for Humanity house looks like this: The Knoxville Habitat for Humanity affiliate provides half the upfront money needed to build a house and provides experienced Habitat supervisors/workers to lead and help build a house. Meanwhile, Habitat has a well-developed plan for training registered applicants for a house which requires at least a year to complete along with required monthly payments to accumulate for the specified down payment on the future home. In other words, the future owner is required to deposit with Habitat monthly payments while they are receiving training in money/ budget management, house and yard maintenance, relations with a neighborhood group, basic skills required to build a house, etc.



Second Church members helping build one of the frames for one side of a Habitat house.

Habitat for Humanity seeks partners for each house built. This partner(s) must provide a match of the funds Habitat provides. In the beginning the small, two bedroom houses required a partner to provide about \$25,000 upfront, plus the necessary volunteers to work every Saturday to work on the construction site (along with the future home owner) to do the tasks requiring little construction skills. The partner is expected to develop a relationship with the future owner, providing encouragement, fellowship, and some visitation to the partner's church or business.

Second Church was fortunate to have a number of willing volunteers to work and to provide a meal each week for the working crew and two church members were among those always ready for another build. John Smartt, Jr. had taught himself to be an experienced roofer and could be counted on for that task and any other task needed. Judy Barnette became one of the best cabinet installers for Habitat and she later became a Habitat employee who was instrumental in writing a curriculum for the budget classes that became a model for training Habitat applicants across the country.

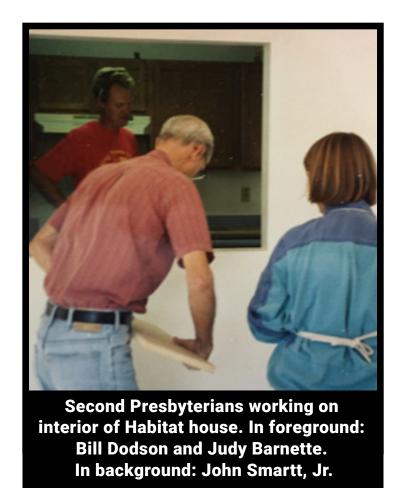
One of this writer's most precious memories is being able to have been on a building site and to help lift that first wall frame as it was nailed into place. A second precious memory is the wondrous



smile on the face of a new Habitat home owner who, at the dedication ceremony, receives a blessing on the family and their home and that house key is firmly in their hands.

With the upfront money being advanced by Habitat and its partners, Habitat for Humanity is able to arrange interest free mortgage loans for the home owners and the Knoxville Habitat program has one of the best records in the country for its low foreclosure rate. Slowly but surely Habitat is helping to provide more decent, affordable housing in the Knoxville community.

SOURCES: "America's Changing Religious Landscape", Pew Research Center, May, 2015. Archives, Second Presbyterian Church Library. "The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050", Pew Research Center, April, 2015. Knoxville Habitat for Humanity Office records. Memories of Second Presbyterian Church members. Minutes, General Assembly, Part II Statistics, published by the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Louisville, KY.





Do You Recognize Anyone in this Photo?

This photo was apparently made in July of 1963 and features members of a children's choir.

Here is one hint: Our Kathy Thomas is one of the singers.

Church Financial Report									
	Jan-May 2018 Actual	Jan-May 2018 Budget	2018 Budget						
Pledged Offerings	\$221,836	\$204,342	\$490,420						
Non-pledged Offerings	\$32,250	\$22,917	\$55,000						
Preschool	\$8,333	\$8,333	\$20,000						
Other	\$71,120	\$ 59,875	\$143,700						
TOTAL GIVING	\$333,539	\$ 295,467	\$709,120						
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$320,486	\$319,040	\$709,120						
NET	\$13,053	(\$23,573)	\$0						



2018	SATURDAY	7	14 Jane Hamilton's Memorial 2:00	21	28	4
つ つ	FRIDAY	<b>6</b> Church office closed	13 Church office closed	20 Church office closed Newsletter Submissions Due!	27 Church office closed	N
	THURSDAY	5	12	6	26	2
	WEDNESDAY	4 Church office closed - Happy 4th of July! Independence Day	Exercise Class 9:00   Chancel Choir 7:00   Email Blast Submissions Due	18 Exercise Class 9:00 2nd Readers 3:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Email Blast Submissions Due	25 Exercise Class 9:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Email Blast Submissions Due	
	TUESDAY	<b>3</b> Service & Outreach Ministry 7:00	10 PW Board Meeting 3:30	17 Preschool Board meeting 12:00	24 Fish Pantry 9:00	31
2	MONDAY	2 Exercise Class 9:00	9 Exercise Class 9:00	16 Exercise Class 9:00	23 CCR&R Training 8:00 Exercise Class 9:00	<b>30</b> Exercise Class 9:00
	SUNDAY	l Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00 Communion	8 Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00	<b>15</b> Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00	<b>22</b> Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00	29 Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00 Wendell Warner Concert 6:00



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# THE SECOND EDITION

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### **ELDERS**

# **2019 CLASS**

Ed Batts
Donna Matlock
Tim Wright
Marty McLean

# **2020 CLASS**

Jimmy Cheek Clara Hardin Doug Matthews Margaret Walther

# **2021 CLASS**

Monica Casey Betsy Foster John Henley Cleston Jones

Rev. Tim Reynolds, Moderator Nancy Montgomery, Clerk

"Ruling elders, together with teaching elders (pastors), exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships."

PC(USA) Book of Order G-2.0301

PC(USA) Book of Order G-2.0201

# MINISTRY TEAMS AND CHAIRPERSONS

# Worship & Celebration

Doug Matthews & Betsy Foster

# Discipleship

Ed Batts & Monica Casey

### Service & Outreach

Donna Matlock & Clara Hardin

### Stewardship

Jimmy Cheek & John Henley

# Care & Compassion

Marty McLean & Margaret Walther

# Preschool Board

Cleston Jones