

SECOND EDITION

May 2019



On Second Thought...

Just a few days ago we had a glorious Easter worship service full of wonderful music, beautiful flowers, an inspirational sermon, and a moving baptism, all of which glorified God and proclaimed the hope of the resurrection. Then we arrived home afterwards to the news that several Sri Lankan churches had been bombed during Easter worship services, resulting in the deaths of over 300 people. The news reports are that the attacks were carried out by Muslims in retaliation for the mosque attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand, just over a month ago, and that Christians specifically were targeted.

According to a recent, well-respected report from the Pew Research Center, Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world. Not long ago I received an email from someone wondering where the prayer vigils are for Christians who are murdered. It's a good question. Six months ago, following a shooting that killed 11 Jews in a synagogue in Pittsburgh, the community of Knoxville came together at the Arnstein Jewish Community Center for a prayer vigil. Last month, following the shootings in Christchurch in which 50 Muslims were killed, the community gathered at the local mosque in Ft. Sanders for a prayer vigil and show of solidarity. Meanwhile, between February and March around 250 Christians were killed in Nigeria, yet there was no prayer vigil. Over the last 50 years Christianity has been all but driven out of the Middle East, usually with violent attacks and persecution. Yet there have been no prayer vigils. While not all of the 350 people killed on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka were Christian, most of them were. And the fact that 3 Christian churches were targeted specifically during Easter worship services makes this an attack on Christianity. Yet, I doubt there will be a community prayer vigil for this attack as there were for the others.

Some will say it's because secular progressives feel Christianity has it coming. They associate Christianity with crusades and inquisitions and imperialism and antisemitism and homophobia and islamophobia and Trump supporters and abortion protesters and institutional pedophilia. To them the persecution of Christians is simply cosmic karma at work. Others will say that Christians, especially in America, hav-

en't made it very easy for others to feel empathy for Christianity because they have not been humble or tolerant or loving and have often made a big deal out of relatively minor inconveniences, claiming "persecution" for their beliefs. The fact that most of the people making these claims don't look or seem very "persecuted" makes it easier to ignore real persecution when it arises.



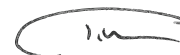
While there may be some truth in both claims, I don't think either of these fully explain the lack of prayer vigils for the persecution and killing of Christians. I happen to think it's because persecution is just part of what it means to be Christian. Christians have been the most persecuted religious group in every Pew Research Center report ever. Going all the way back to the lions in the Roman coliseum, persecution of Christians has been commonplace. Christians shouldn't be surprised at this; we are told this right up front. Our Lord and Savior *himself* regularly told us that we would be persecuted for following him. In his very first sermon Jesus said, "*Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*" (Matt. 5:11-12) In his last talk with them before his arrest, he reminded them, "*If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.*" (John 15:18,20)

Paul persecuted Christians before he was Paul, then suffered terrible persecution time and time again after he began following Jesus. Paul, Peter, James, and John all write about Christian persecution in their epistles. Christians have always been persecuted and will always be persecuted. If we had prayer vigils every time Christians were killed for being Christian, we would only ever have prayer vigils. This is such a reality that the church recognizes this by baking into our liturgies prayers for persecuted

Christians. In our Book of Common Worship, the Prayers of the People contain intercessions for those who are persecuted for their faith. They also show up in the Litanies for Epiphany, Good Friday, Morning Prayers, and Prayers for the Church.

It saddens me that American Christians think that inconveniences count as persecution when real persecution of Christians happens every day around the world. It saddens me that the persecution of Christians is so commonplace that the world doesn't care as much about the murder of Christians as they do

about the burning of a famous cathedral. It saddens me that Christians all over the world are subject to real and sustained violence due to their faith. Which is why we must remember the faith they – and we – proclaim. That Jesus has conquered death. That love will ultimately triumph over hate. That darkness and death and destruction and murder and terrorism will not have the last word. That the people who were killed in worship on Easter Sunday had gone there to hear and proclaim this message: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!



Pastor Tim



inside this edition

MAY

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Upcoming Sermons/Topics

Our May sermons will focus on The Five Solas of the Protestant Reformation
– the foundational principles that guided the Protestant Reformation.

April 28th	<i>The Five Solas:</i> Scripture Alone	1 Peter 1:19-21/ 2 Timothy 3
May 5th	<i>The Five Solas:</i> By Grace Alone	Romans 3:21-24
May 12th	<i>The Five Solas:</i> Through Faith Alone	Ephesians 2:1-8 / James 2:14-26
May 19th	<i>The Five Solas:</i> In Christ Alone	Acts 4:1-4 / Colossians 1:15-20
May 26th	<i>The Five Solas:</i> For the Glory of God Alone	1 Corinthians 10:23-33

Glory to God - The New Presbyterian Hymnal

After receiving almost all positive feedback regarding the new Presbyterian Hymnal, the Worship Team recommended, and the Session approved, the purchase of the hymnals for use in worship. To help offset the cost, members will be allowed to contribute towards the hymnbooks by purchasing bookplates for \$20. Each book plate will allow people the opportunity to dedicate a hymnal in memory or in honor of someone. Members may purchase as many bookplates as they like. Once 50% of the hymnals have been funded through the purchase of bookplates, we will order the hymnals. Watch the bulletin for more information on how to purchase a book plate.

Second Sundays at Six

This month our Second Sunday worship service will feature the music of The Beatles & Bob Dylan. We will meet in the *Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. on May 12th* to sing some familiar and beloved songs, and to hear readings centered around peace and love. Invite a friend and join us for this unique worship service!

Choir Rehearsal

The choir will not rehearse during the months of June and July. Enjoy the summer break!

PSALMS



Youth Fundraiser

Come join the youth for a Wednesday Night Supper fundraiser on May 1. The youth will be preparing dinner for everyone and will lead a program to give you a little taste of what they experience both on Wednesday nights at church and at youth conferences in the summer. All donations made will help fund these summer trips. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wed. Night Activities

Wednesday, May 15th, will be our final Wednesday night dinner and program of the semester. We will resume our Wednesday night activities in the fall.



Wed. Bible Study - *Praying the Psalms*

On Wednesday, April 24th, May 8th and May 15th, Pastor Tim will lead a 3-part class on *Praying the Psalms*. The Psalms were the prayer book and hymn book of the Israelites and they were central to Presbyterian prayer life before devotional books became popular in the 20th century. Join us as we learn how the poetry of the Psalms can deepen our spiritual journey by exploring the ways this powerful resource can continue to be a relevant part of our prayer lives today.

care & compassion

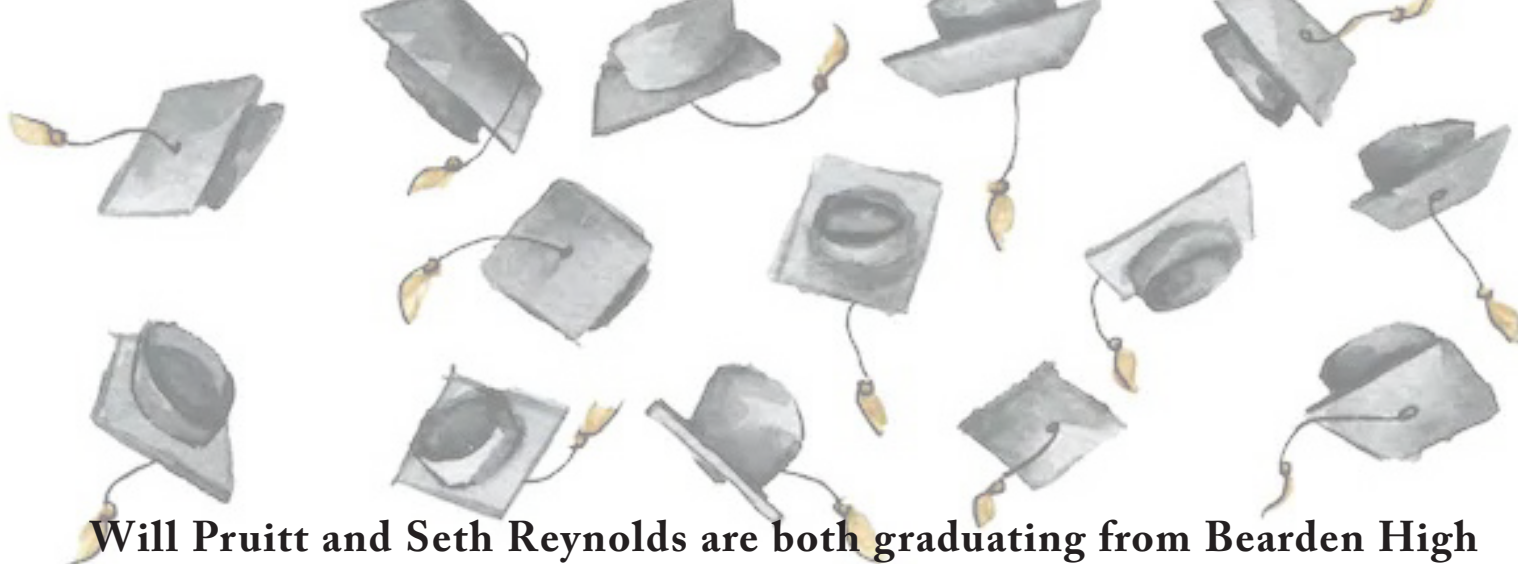


Graduations



&

Goodbyes



Will Pruitt and Seth Reynolds are both graduating from Bearden High School this month and attending UTK in the Fall! Congratulations boys!



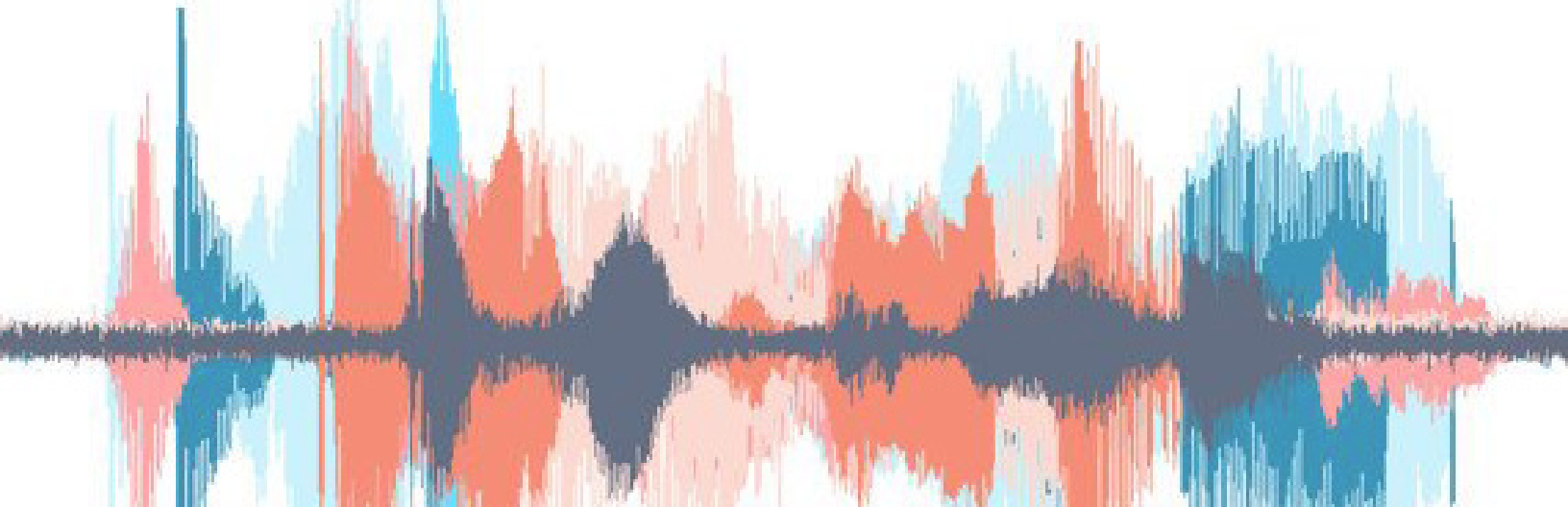
Will Pruitt

Will is graduating on May 17 from Bearden High School. He has played cello in the orchestra all four years and loves playing the guitar. While at Bearden he has also run cross-country and track. Will has been at Second Pres since he was born, went to the pre-school here, and been active in the youth group. He enjoys going to camp at Montreat and is an Eagle Scout. He will be attending the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in the fall.

Seth Reynolds



Seth Reynolds is a Senior at Bearden High School. He was raised in 4 different Presbyterian Churches: First Presbyterian of Hendersonville, TN (where he was baptized); Church of the Palms in Sarasota, FL; Sinking Spring Presbyterian in Abingdon, VA (where he was confirmed); and Second Presbyterian of Knoxville. During his three years at Bearden, Seth has been involved in the Marching Band and the theater program. He was low brass section leader of the band his senior year and he has had roles in *Oklahoma*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Anything Goes*, and *The Odyssey*, where he played the lead role of Odysseus. He has also been in the Jazz Band, on the Improv Team, and in the Bearden Singers. Seth has run the video and sound for worship at 2nd the last 3 years and worked at Uncle Maddio's Pizza this past year. When not at work, band, theater, or church, Seth enjoys playing Dungeons & Dragons with his friends. Seth will be attending The University of Tennessee this fall where he will be marching with The Pride of the Southland Marching Band on game days!



For the last two years, Beth Stovall and Anna Young have shared their voices and beautiful personalities with us in worship as part of our scholarship singer program. Now they are graduating. Their last Sunday with us will be May 12th. Please let them know how much we have appreciated them sharing their gifts with us these last two years.

Anna Young



Anna is graduating with a Masters degree in Voice Performance. Anna writes: "I have performed in operas, taught voice, and continued my vocal training with Marjorie Bennett-Stephens. After I graduate I will be getting married on June 1st in Columbia, SC, and will live there with my new husband, Patrick Flynn. Patrick and I have talked about eventually moving to Charlotte or another Southeastern city, as he will most likely be working in a stadium or arena in the operations department. I plan to continue taking voice lessons and auditioning for opera companies, competitions, and other musical endeavors. I will always keep music and singing in my life!"

Beth Stovall



Beth is graduating with a Masters degree in Voice Performance. Beth writes: "Although I love the mountains, I am a beach girl at heart, so I am moving home to Wilmington, NC. Eventually I plan on pursuing a doctorate so that I can teach voice at the collegiate level, in addition to performing professionally whenever and wherever I can. During my time here in Knoxville, I've studied with Marjorie Stephens, made incredible friends, and fallen in love with my church family. It is so vitally important for students to be a part of a church that supports and loves them. Second Presbyterian has not let me down. I will miss this church and its people so very much. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being so amazing."

New Member Spotlight *Drew & Haley Wall*



Drew and Haley Wall both grew up in Knoxville, TN but did not meet until college where Haley studied Sport Management and Drew studied Business. After college we both took traveling jobs and neither really expected to continue to be Knoxvilleans. In 2017, we got married, and after exploring many parts of our country we decided to continue to call Knoxville home. We currently live in the Rocky Hill area with our pet pig, Benton. Drew is a concrete block salesman for Sequatchie Concrete and Haley is the Trade Show Manager for TeamHealth. Drew can often be found on one of our town's golf courses while Haley prefers to spend her Saturdays on a bike or running trail. Together we love to travel, spend time with family and friends, go to concerts, and both have a big passion for SEC sports. We have attended Second Presbyterian since the fall of 2017 and love being part of the Second Presbyterian family. Speaking of family – ours will be expanding in July as we will be welcoming our first child!

May Lunch Bunch

Lunch bunch will gather Tuesday, May 7th at 11:30 a.m. This is a catered meal for \$10/person. Our guests are **Angela Jones** to talk about spring cleaning hints and **Jim Ford** who will bring his dancing preschoolers to entertain us. So hold onto your seats or come up and dance, all are invited! Please call Mariann Thuesen for a reservation: (865)253-7653.

Seeking Volunteers to Plan Fellowship Activities

The Congregational Care Committee is looking to form a subcommittee to foster relationship building through social means - intergenerational, educational, leisure, etc. Is God calling you to use your gifts and abilities to chair, co-chair, or be a member of this group? Ideas might include potluck dinners, special-themed activities/meals, programs presented by people within or without our membership, etc.

Please contact Committee Chair Marty McLean or Pastor Sarah Morgan if you're interested or know of someone who might be interested. Thank you!

Care Giving Workshops

Our Visitation Minister, Jan Barber, is facilitating a series of workshops on care giving, care receiving and related issues. We hope to see you there!

May 1: A fundraiser for the Youth summer trips.

May 8: We will have a guest speaker from Always Best Care to discuss facility care and home care.

May 15: We will have a speaker from Alzheimer's TN to discuss dementia related issues.

The Second Edition & YOU

Please don't forget – this is the last month *The Second Edition* will automatically be mailed to everyone. If you wish to continue receiving yours in the mail, please contact Sarah Doyle in the Church Office and let her know and we will be glad to continue mailing it to you. Otherwise, you may pick up a printed copy in the atrium or narthex, or download the digital edition from the website beginning the 1st of each month. Thanks for helping us be good stewards of our resources!

Presbyterian Women May Activities

Presbyterian Women of Second Presbyterian Church has a special event planned for June 11, 2019, and we invite all to PW's last meeting for the summer to be held at Shannondale Retirement Community, Knoxville. You will be getting more details later, but for now, put us on your June calendar for a good meal (\$10.00) and a very special musical program from the "Somerset Trio" (piano, violin, and cello).

***House and Garden Circle**, led by Iileen Cheek (865)247-5258, meets the fourth Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., first gathering in the atrium before the day's activity.

Remember to thank this circle for the arrangement and care of the Easter flowers given by members of the congregation at this special time in our Christian heritage. (Those flowers don't just magically land in the sanctuary at the right moment.) Did you notice the 200th anniversary banners reinstalled, doing their part to brighten up the chancel? The flower-decorated cross was a work of art, bringing Easter joy to all! Special kudos to Bennie Myers, Bobbie Denton, Ileen and Jimmy Cheek.

This circle is preparing to fill the flower pots with their summer's plantings at the entrance to the sanctuary. The circle welcomes at any time those aspiring green thumbs within our congregation who would like to help.

***Mission Circle**, led by Charlotte Klieman (865)922-8453, is making plans for a mission field trip to a very different kind of family mission here in Knoxville on Wednesday, May 22nd. At 3:00 p.m., the circle will meet at the church to carpool for a short trip to the West View School area to learn more about the mission, **Family Promise**. This organization coordinates the efforts of several area churches who seek to assist local homeless families in desperate need of shelter. This program was one of Second Church's Batten Fund recipients last year.

In March this circle, led by John Reynolds, met at Montgomery Village and learned more about their efforts in ministering in a lower income community.

***Bible Study Circle**, led by Helen Grant (865)693-1980, meets the second Tuesday each month from 10:00-11:00 a.m., in the Mary Chambers Room. All visitors are welcome to attend one or all study classes as they choose.

On Tuesday, May 14, the Bible study lesson will come from John 14: 1-31 which continues the year's study on God's promise to be with us. After centuries of sustaining this promise, God shifted the promise with Christ's birth for Him to be with us and now we study the second shift with Jesus and His promise for the presence of the Holy Spirit *in us!*

***Arts and Crafts Circle**, led by Cheryl Ragsdale (865)684-8999, meets the third Thursday each month at 10:00 a.m. in Room 56, across from the Library. Brand new knitter want-to-be folks are welcome as you too can learn to "knit and pearl!" The circle is gearing up to begin knitting caps for the homeless and West View School for the fall. The plan is to use lots of different colors and patterns of yarns. Join us!

Maybe you know where there are skeins of leftover yarn just lying and waiting for someone to create something with them. The circle is hoping that you will pull out of storage those skeins and donate them to PW. When you and friends are spring house cleaning, gather that yarn to help keep someone warm this winter. Call Cheryl if you wish to donate.





april visitors

Mary Anne Sheffield
Joanne Mounger
Daniel Mounger
Patrick Flynn
Carter DePoy
Zachery Borcht
Virginia Williams
Amy, Noelle, Langley &
Brooke Wilbanks
Taisa Duncan
Blayr Corattini
Rebecca Moore
Taylor Duncan
Maney & Brooke Hayes
Henry Naff
Karen Vance
Zach Burch
Greg & Sara Pressel
Nick Williams
Mike & Donna Jones
Meg Wilson

Trell Stroud

may birthdays

Bruce Foster 5/1
Max Jones 5/1
Paul Sexauer 5/1
Marty McLean 5/5
Bill Miller 5/6
Cleston Jones 5/11
Redmond Sweitzer 5/13
Frank McClelland 5/14
Bart Smythe 5/14
Joe Beals 5/15
Tuesday Reynolds 5/15
Ellen Rochelle 5/15
Brice Gilmer 5/19
Rachel Carlson 5/20
Matt Mimbs 5/22
Sarah Doyle 5/23
Holly Grim 5/23
Neal Henley 5/24
Duane Grieve 5/25
Margaret Sullivan 5/28
William Pruitt 5/30
Leslie Matthews 5/31
Jennica Ullrich 5/31

Kyla Duncan

Matthew, Stephanie &
Logan Cummings
Melanie Farrell
Karen Vance
Darrel & Kate Hagaman
Kerres White
Marsha Greed
Don Maloney
Ryan Henderson
Christine & Alex Birdwell
Sara Douglas
Emma Hines
Megan Hines
Paula Hines
Steve Hines
Paul & Brenda Lutz
Tom & Elisa Dietz
Rita Dietz
Dennis Bailey
Andy Morgan
Mary Bell Boltwood
Mike & Cody Wilson
Bo & Susan Campbell

Lauren & George Andrejko
Lisa & Grayson Houston
Lindsay Kriechelt
Maggie Foster
Nick Elster
Steward Graham
Mike & Carol Wall
Preston & Barbara Fields
Patricia Jobe
Philip & Ruth Jacobs
Will Shaffer
Mark & Patty Ann Reynolds
Jim & Joyce White
Robin Walker
Mike Walker
Tammie & Brian Burroughs
Caleb Pittenger
Brooke Frohlich
Stewart Graham
Maggie Foster-Tobin
Betty Reynolds

service & outreach

Morgan Scott Project

for Cooperating Christian Concerns

Helping the needy, elderly and handicapped



May Missions - Morgan Scott Project

May's collection is for Morgan Scott Project. Because food stamps can't be used to purchase personal hygiene products, we are collecting: deodorant, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, lotion, and shampoo. Collection boxes are in the Atrium.



youth



The 2019 Second Presbyterian Church egg hunt. Despite Robert's dismay, we all had a great time.



Will Pruitt racing for Bearden High School.



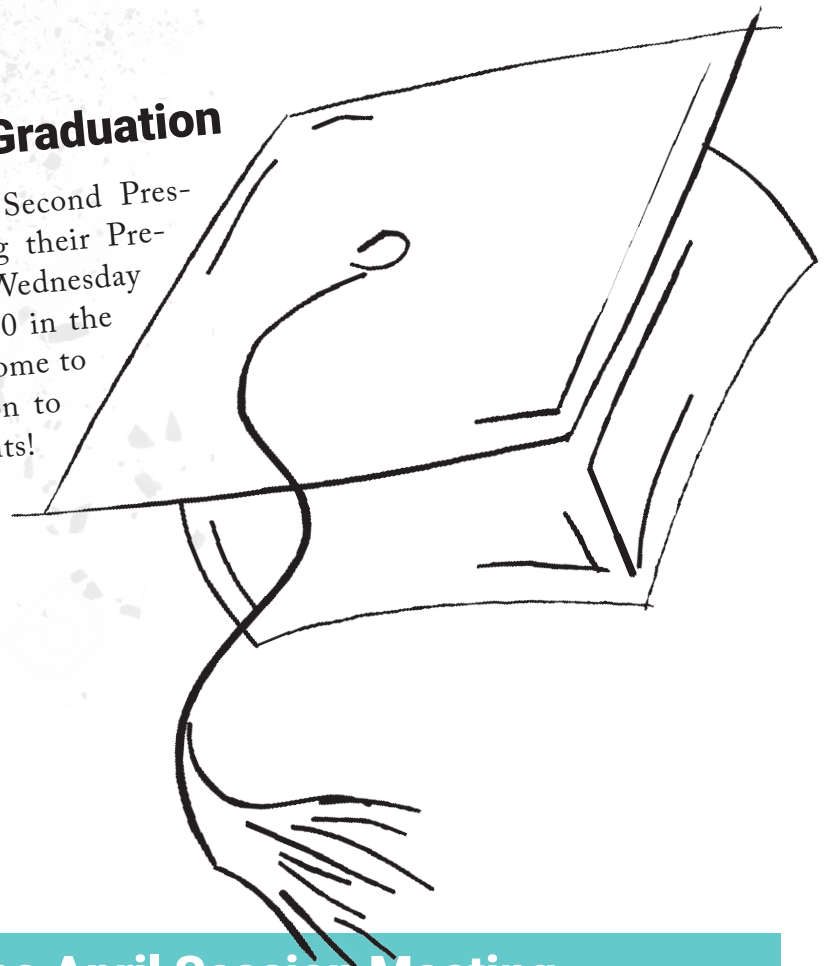
Max Jones playing tennis for South Doyle High School.



Sydney Jones cleaning up after heavy rains on Church Work Day.

Preschool Graduation

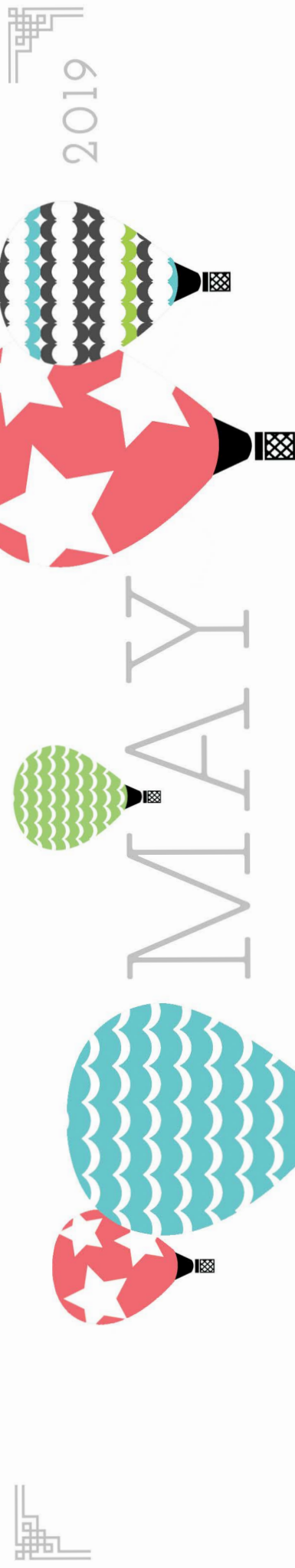
Our Preschool here at Second Presbyterian will be holding their Preschool Graduation on Wednesday night, May 22nd, at 5:30 in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to come celebrate our soon to be Kindergarten Students!



stewardship

Highlights from the April Session Meeting

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- New Elders were examined by the Session.
- Charles White was elected to the Preschool Board.
- Received the report from the Facilities Committee on the Bonaventure Schools facilities request and requested the committee and Stewardship Ministry come back with a recommendation to proceed or not proceed.
- Approved the Budget and Finance team request to designate (above operating Budget) giving to any project or activity approved by the Session upon the recommendation of a Ministry Unit.
- Approved the Budget and Finance Team request for a new designated Fund be created named the Entrance Sign Memorial Garden Fund and \$7,588 be transferred into this new fund from the Building and Grounds designated funds.
- Approved the Worship and Celebration Ministry Team recommendation to purchase 'the Glory to God', the new Presbyterian hymnal published in 2013 by the Presbyterian Publishing Company. The committee estimated that 500-600 copies would suffice.



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
5 Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00 Communion Ordination of Elders Food & Friends 12:15	6 Exercise Class 9:00 BSF 5:15	7 Facilities Ministry 5:00 Stewardship Ministry 6:00 Care & Compassion Ministry 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Men's Basketball 8:30	1 Exercise Class 9:00 PET Lunch 12:00 Line Dancing 4:00 Handbells 4:30 Wed. Night Dinner 5:30 Bible Study 6:05 Chancel Choir 7:00 Email Blast Submissions Due	2	3 Church office closed TIPS 3:00	4 TOT Shine Time - Fellowship Hall 9:00
12 Mother's Day Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00 Food & Friends 12:15 Second Sunday (Fellowship Hall) 6:00	13 Exercise Class 9:00	14 PW Bible Study 10:00 Worship Ministry 6:00 Discipleship Ministry 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Men's Basketball 8:30	8 Exercise Class 9:00 Line Dancing 4:00 Handbells 4:30 Service & Out. mtg 4:30 Wed. Night Dinner 5:30 Bible Study 6:05 Chancel Choir 7:00 Email Blast Submissions Due	9	10 Church office closed	11
19 Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00	20 Exercise Class 9:00 Preschool Board Meeting 12:00 The Cross Ministry Meeting 4:30 Newsletter Submissions Due!	21 Session Meeting 6:00 Men's Basketball 8:30	15 Exercise Class 9:00 2nd Readers 3:00 Line Dancing 4:00 Handbells 4:30 Wed. Night Dinner 5:30 Bible Study 6:05 Chancel Choir 7:00 Email Blast Submissions Due	16 PW Arts & Crafts 10:00	17 Church office closed	18
26 Sunday School Fellowship Time 10:30 Worship 11:00	27 Memorial Day Exercise Class 9:00	28 FISH Ministry 9:00 PW House & Garden 10:00 Men's Basketball 8:30	22 Exercise Class 9:00 Line Dancing 4:00 Handbells 4:30 Preschool Grad. 5:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 Email Blast Submissions Due	23	24 Church office closed	25
			29 Exercise Class 9:00 CCR&R Meeting 10:00 Line Dancing 4:00 Handbells 4:30 Chancel Choir 7:00	30	31 Church office closed	



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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
Clestone 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

Clestone Jones