

What's First

at
Second Presbyterian Church
February 2021

Our Vision

*As members of Second Presbyterian Church,
We gather in worship;
We grow in God's Word;
We serve in Jesus' name.*

Celebrating 170 years of ministry for Christ

Session:

Moderator

Rev. Arch Wallace

Clerk of Session

Bettie Guthrie

Class of 2021

Karen Graham

Lindsay Gray

Diana Hollars

Dorothy Riggan

Class of 2022

Patricia Bonham

Joseph Chamberlain

Dennis Harrison

Alice Martin

Class of 2023

Carl Guthrie

Gloria Rose

Mark Stevens

Wendy Stevens

Committees

Congregational Care

Dorothy Riggan

Building & Grounds

Carl Guthrie

Education

Gloria Rose

Finance

Karen Graham

Susan Crew

Office & Personnel

Patricia Bonham

Witness & Service

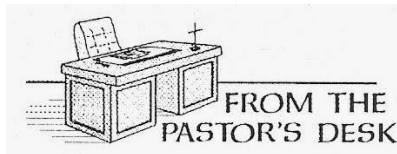
Joseph Chamberlain

Worship

Alice Martin

Stewardship

Mark Stevens



Recently we chose to close a second time for two weeks because of an outbreak of the Covid-19 Virus among two of our members.

The decision to close was difficult

but prudent. God's word was once again effectively blocked or so it seemed. Then came January 17, 2021 and the appearance and usage of Scripture chosen months before as the word for the day. Isaiah 55 has a line that spoke to my frustration; it was a word of encouragement, a word of reassurance, a word asking me to reexamine my own inadequate understanding of God and the Good News.

Isaiah delivered God's word saying that God's word would go forth in the realm through folks like me and you and would not return to God empty. As God assures through Isaiah, God's work will accomplish all that God desires. In seeing the truth of that passage, I realized again that my call is not to work for results but to deliver and let God be God, even in the midst of a shut down and separation barriers to sharing the word.

In considering this truth, I remembered a note that came 15 years after teaching a young woman in a Sunday School class, a woman troubled in her department as she tried to deal with the loss of her mother, but not doing so in an acceptable way. That year was a trying year for all because she was a discipline problem and constantly disruptive. In the note that came so many years later, she thanked me for not giving up on her, for letting her stay in the class, and for keeping on teaching the word in the face of her weekly challenges. She wrote to say she had become an Elder in her church and from others I learned she was a very pillar of the church. God's word had not returned empty, even though I was sure it had in her case.

I also remember a note received from a daughter who declared she had stopped going to church, returning only for her mother's funeral. She wrote that words spoken to her in the quiet of compassion for her loss, repeated in the remembrance portion of the funeral, rang true for her. She wanted us to know that led to her return to Christ's church.

FROM THE PASTOR'S CORNER - CONTINUED

Recently, others have come from neighboring churches, expressing gratitude for being able to hear the word at a time when their home churches were closed for the duration of the pandemic, saying they had yet to hear the word with such great clarity for their lives.

The frustration I have experienced because of our separation is great. Yet God is sending word that God's word is not returning empty because God is still speaking through you and me. The word to us is: Don't give up! Don't stop! It is those notes, the words, the calls, the cards we share with each other that has kept God's word moving and alive. May we always be open to hear God's still voice, even in a world dominated by an uncontrolled virus.

SCHEDULE FOR WORSHIP

The schedule for Worship for the month follows. You are encouraged to read the scripture before coming to Worship and to meditate upon their meaning as you consider the title of the sermon. The Reading with the asterisk will be the one emphasized in the sermon. (N.B. The pastor advises there can be changes in the scheduling, as circumstances require.)

February

Feb 7

Scriptures: Zechariah 14:1-8
John 4:1-26 (Sel.)*

Sermon: Give Me This Water

Feb. 14

Scriptures: Matthew 9:35-38
John 4:27-38*

Sermon: The Fields Are Ripe

Feb. 21, Lenten Series

The Last Eight Days - The Thursday Before
Scriptures: Psalm 8:1-12
John 11:45-57*

Sermon: The Plot To Kill Jesus

Feb. 28, Lenten Series

The Last Eight Days - The Friday Before
Scriptures: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
John 12:1-9*

Sermon: The Anointing of Jesus

WHO AM I?

I was born in Judah during the reign of King Josiah (about 640 BC). My family was of the priestly tribe and I grew up in that tradition. In time I became a Prophet of Judah for God. Our country was between two warring mega-powers---Egypt and Assyria and later Egypt and Babylon rose to power. Our country was often the battle ground among these warring states. We often allied with Egypt instead of relying on God to lead us through. I warned our Kings and our people of the doom that was coming if we kept on ignoring God and favoring world alliances. In time these prophecies drove away my friends, so that Baruch—my friend and secretary—was all that remained. Things kept getting worse, but still Judah would not listen. I continued to deliver God's message that if they would not stop their rejection of God, they would face doom and destruction. King Josiah hated my message. I was imprisoned and beaten, put into a vaulted cell in a dungeon. My message of doom was so hated by the military—a morale thing they said—that they convinced the king to throw me into a cistern, empty but muddy, to die a slow death when the rains came. Everything I prophesied came true—God's word came to be. My name came to be associated with negativism and gloom. The judgment prophesied came because Judah would not stop ignoring God. Who am I?

Rev. Arch Wallace



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Alice Martin, Chair.

We all are missing the good fun, fellowship, and Bible lessons in our circle meetings and are eager to get together again. We had hoped to be able to start up in January, but it is still not safe. However, you have been so generous with your support of our mission projects, and I should not be surprised because you are **always** generous! The non-perishable food you have been bringing was delivered to the DCU



Hope Center before Christmas. The staff was beyond pleased at the bags and boxes of food we kept unloading! So, I encourage you to continue picking up a few extra items when you shop for groceries to help those in our community have food to eat this winter. Items can be placed in the baskets in the back hallway.



LENTEN SERIES # 60

Sorry to say, we will not be able to have our Lenten services and luncheons this year. This would have been the 60th year of hosting that annual event, but COVID has spoiled our plans. Please pass the word along to your friends who come each year so they will know of the cancellation.

As always, I am so grateful for the support you give to make our PW Missions projects a success.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION PROJECT: Gloria Summers, Chair.

February 14 – We Love Our First Responders, Cookie Day!

This new PW project was a big hit in December when we took cookies to two of our local fire stations. So, we thought - let's do it again in February for Valentine's Day!



This time we will take them to our Police and to the EMS (Rescue Squad). Please add a few bags of cookies to your shopping list for these deserving workers to help show them we care and appreciate their good work. It will surely brighten their day!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Ava Smith, Kaeley Smith (angels) Joshua & Jessica Smith (Joseph and Mary) Lindsay Gray (Shepherd) Cole Cannon, Cameron Crew (Kings)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE: Dorothy Riggan, Chair.

Please continue to remember our sick and shut-ins in your prayers or with a card or call. They look forward to these things. Let them know we care.

Hunger Corner - The Monthly Food Offering will be received on Sunday, February 7. The recipient for this month is Downtown Churches United Hope Center.

SYMPATHY

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of John Michael Jones upon the death of his father, Ronald Jones.

DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

	December	Year to Date
Donations	\$ 11,359.00	\$ 156,337.57
Expenditures	12,403.63	136,974.29
Gain/Loss	\$ -1,044.63	\$ 19,363.28

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, February 7.

Boy Scout Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, February 7.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Gloria Rose

The Fellowship Class has resumed Sunday School classes in the church parlor where everyone can safely distance; masks and gloves required. Join the class as Venable Johnson leads the discussion on Ephesians. Class begins at 9:45 a.m. Information on the Margaret Severs Class will be determined at a later date.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY - February 7, 2021

The Youth of our Church will once again with youth all across our country collect soup or donations to feed the hungry. This tradition began in a Presbyterian Church in Texas in 1990. Since that time, caring kids have collected more than \$163 million.

All the donations remain local and are distributed to organizations of the youth's choosing.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Fred Baker
- 6 Robert T. Fitts (Robbie)
- 9 Frankie Groux
- 14 Nell Smith



- 16 Ethel Peterson
- John Michael Jones
- 18 Barbara Mangum
- 23 Abby Schoeb Binter

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE: Carl Guthrie

Happy New Year to everyone. The year 2020 was a year of Fear not Cheer and we are looking forward to a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year!

As everyone knows the furnace died and went to heaven and we are in the process of replacing the boiler. In the meantime, we will have to meet in McIlwaine Hall. I have three bids for the boiler replacement, and we have been told there will be approximately four to six weeks procurement time before the replacement work can begin.

We have been blessed and thankful to have Dennis Harrison, Lindsay Gray and Gloria Rose at the back entrance to provide face masks and gloves to those that need them and Gloria is a “fast draw” with her touchless thermometer. Thank you for coming prepared with your own gloves, face masks and understand the precautions we must take to keep everyone safe. Thanks to everyone for practicing social distances and safety measures.

Scout Sunday will be celebrated on February 7 and it will be different from our past years due to COVID. We have asked that only the Troop Committee Chairman and the Scout Master be in attendance. We will have a Minute for Mission for updates and news from the Troop.

THANK YOU

Dear Caring Church Family,

Our heartfelt thanks to you for the prayers, calls, cards, and food sent to us during Donald's hospital stay and following his death. And to the men of the church who helped getting Donald out of the car, into the wheelchair, and into the worship service on Sunday mornings – a Huge Thank You. We could not have come without your help. Donald loved Second Church, he loved each of you, and we pray he will long be remembered for his smiles, handshakes and hugs.

Sincerely,

Peggy Baird and Family

Thank you notes for special Christmas remembrances sent to our home-bound members have come from: Anne Wright, Nell and Cynthia Smith, Gloria and W.F. Dance, Ethel and Dick Peterson, and Anne Godfrey.

Dear Friends at Second,

I would like to thank the Session, Office/Personnel Committee, Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Men and members of the congregation for their cards, delicious goodies, and generous Christmas gifts. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. I hope you and your families have a very healthy and Happy New Year!

Becky Lancaster

Dear Friends at Second,

Thank you for your generous Christmas gifts and delicious Christmas treats.

William Spencer, Sexton



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session

Stated Session Meeting: December 20, 2020

- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Stated Congregational Meeting November 22, 2020 and the Cyber Meeting December 4, 2020.
- ❖ Received the November Treasurer's report.
- ❖ Approved the Building and Grounds request for 2021 committee members: Carl Guthrie, chairman, Joe Chamberlain, Bill Ellis, Bettie Guthrie, Dennis Harrison, Lindsay Gray, Susan Lobaugh, and William McCray.
- ❖ Approved the Education and Nurture request to resume Sunday School, with all standards of Presbytery being observed for these small gatherings.
- ❖ Approved Education and Nurture request to have February 7, 2021 as Souper Bowl Sunday.
- ❖ Approved Nominating Committee's request to have Elder Training on January 3, 2021, examine the Elder Class of 2023 on January 10, 2021 and to install the Elder Class of 2023 on January 17, 2021.
- ❖ Approved Office and Personnel's request to update a new lease for an office copy machine.

Stated Session Meeting: January 20, 2021


- ❖ Approved the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting December 20, 2020 and Cyber Meetings January 7, 2021, January 13, 2021 (1), January 13, 2021 (2).
- ❖ Received the December Treasurer's report.
- ❖ Approved Clerk of Session, Bettie Guthrie, for a term of one year.
- ❖ Approved Church Treasurer, Susan Crew, for a term of one year.
- ❖ Approved 2020 Statistical Report.
- ❖ Approved Commissioner, Alice Martin to attend the virtual POJ meeting on February 20, 2021.
- ❖ Approved Congregational Care Committee members: Peggy Baird, Dianne Hack, Carroll Hathaway, Thelma Kirkland, Alice Kropp, Dorothy Riggan, Chair.
- ❖ Approved Finance Committee members: Karen Graham, Susan Crew – Co-Chair., Bettie Guthrie, Carl Guthrie, Venable Johnson, Mark Stevens, Garland Harrison.
- ❖ Approved Office and Personnel members: Jeanne Johnson, Peggy Baird, Dorothy Riggan, Pattie Bonham, Chair.
- ❖ Approved Worship and Celebration Committee members: Peggy Baird, Pattie Bonham, Eleanor Garrison, Susan Lobaugh, Dorothy Riggan, Gloria Rose, Wayne Tucker, Alice Martin, Chair.
- ❖ Approved Communion dates for 2021: February 7, April 1-Maundy Thursday, April 4-Easter Sunday, June 6, August 1, October 3-Worldwide Communion Sunday, November 21-Christ the King, December 24-Christmas Eve.

WHO AM I?

Answer: Jeremiah, whose message of what happens to those who reject God is a message for all people of all times.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Turn to WTVR Channel 6 to hear if Second Church will be closed.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 11:00 Communion Sunday Monthly Food Offering Rec. Boy Scout Sunday Souper Bowl Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 11:00 Worship 	15	16	17 12 noon Deadline for March "What's First"	18	19	20 9:00 Presbytery of the James
21 11:00 Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 11:00 Worship 12:15 Session	FEBRUARY 2021					

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Address Service Requested

