

BUILD IT TOGETHER
2023 - 2024

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WELCOME TO SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP • LEARNING • FELLOWSHIP • SERVICE

- Beginning Sunday, September 10, 2023: Early Worship Service, 8:45 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Late Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
- If you have any questions about the church, please visit www.spres.org, call us at 540-343-3659, or email info@spres.org.
- The church building is accessible to people with disabilities, and the elevator makes it possible to reach all three levels with ease.
- Second Presbyterian Church is honored to offer an excellent preschool program which provides full-day options for those who need it. If you would like more information, visit www.sprespreschool.com or call 540-342-6405.

View the online calendar: www.spres.org/connect/calendar/



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Second Presbyterian Church Roanoke



BUILD IT TOGETHER

**JOIN US FOR OUR RALLY DAY PICNIC & FALL KICKOFF
AT BRAELOCH PAVILION, VINTON, VA | SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023**

We are called to the life of discipleship in community. No one can be a Christian on their own. Worshiping, praying, learning, and serving together, we are the Body of Christ. This year, we want to focus on building up Christ's Body. There are many opportunities to learn and grow, build new relationships, serve our neighbors near and far—and, to literally, BUILD. In the winter of 2024, we will start a new Habitat for Humanity build in partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church. As we consider what it means to build up the Body of Christ and what it means to build a home, we are asking what is your "IT" this year? What is the thing you hope to build in faith? Maybe it's joining a Bible study to learn more about God's Word; maybe it's signing up for a new Second Club to make new friendships or deepen old ones; or maybe it's the challenge of swinging a hammer, or delivering a meal, or inviting a friend to worship. Together, our work is transformational.

We are excited to celebrate Rally Day in a new and special way this August. Join us on Sunday, August 27, at Braeloch Pavilion in Vinton for worship, a picnic lunch, and a Rally Day celebration. The term Rally Day dates back to some of the earliest days of Christian education, as we know it. Generations ago, churches would kick off the start of fall programs with something akin to a parade, inviting children along the way to join in and travel to the church, where children (who often worked during the week and were unable to attend school) were taught to read and write.

Over time, this "Rally Day" came to represent the start to a new church program year. The necessity is no longer to teach our children how to read and write, but rather to train our members to think, imagine, and wonder at the stories from Scripture and consider the ways we are called to discipleship here and now.

There is much for us to celebrate. On August 27, we will worship, enjoy a meal, hear about opportunities for learning and fellowship, and celebrate being together. Following lunch, you are invited to stay and sign up for classes and Second Clubs. There will be fishing (bring a fishing pole and some worms!), a bounce house, face painting, and balloon art. We want people to come and enjoy the day, linger into the afternoon, and get excited for a wonderful fall full of education and opportunity.

When we come together, we are the Body of Christ. And when we learn and work together, there is no limit to what we can do!

AUGUST 27 RALLY DAY PICNIC SCHEDULE @ BRAELOCH PAVILION:

- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Picnic Lunch, Rally Day Presentation & Celebration

CHRISTIAN ED CALENDAR 2023-2024

AUGUST

- Rally Day Picnic: Sun. Aug 27

SEPTEMBER

- Sunday School, Youth Group Kickoff Cookout & Parent Meeting, CWVW, & Kids' Fellowship Begin: Sun. Sept 10
- College of Elders' Dinner: Th. Sept 21
- All-Youth Retreat: Sat-Sun. Sept 23-24

OCTOBER

- World Communion: Sun. Oct 1
- Commitment Sunday: Sun. Oct 15
- Preschool Sunday: Sun. Oct 22
- Trunk or Treat: Sun. Oct 29

NOVEMBER

- All Saints Sunday: Sun. Nov 5
- Edmunds Lectures: Sun-Mon. Nov 12-13
- Men's Retreat: Fri-Sat. Nov 17-18
- Advent Workshop: Sun. Nov 19
- Thanksgiving (office closed): Th-Fri. Nov 23-24

DECEMBER

- Advent Begins, Youth Christmas Party: Sun. Dec 3
- Annual Christmas Dinner & Children's Pageant: Sun. Dec 10
- Christmas Eve: Sun. Dec 24
- Christmas Day (Church Office Closed): Mon. Dec 25

JANUARY

- January Pancake Breakfast, Confirmation Sunday: Sun. Jan 7

- MLK Day (office closed): Mon. Jan 15
- Gals' Gathering Day-Retreat: Sat. Jan 20

FEBRUARY

- Youth Sunday: Sun. Feb 11
- Ash Wednesday: Wed. Feb 14

MARCH

- Palm Sunday: Sun. Mar 24
- Easter Sunday (No SS): Sun. Mar 31

APRIL

- Easter Monday (office closed): Mon. Apr 1
- Trent Symposium for New Ministers: Fri-Sun. Apr 5-10
- Mission Fair: Sun. Apr 7
- Churchwide Great Day of Service: Sat. Apr 20

MAY

- Legacy Sunday, Senior Recognition: Sun. May 5
- Youth End of Year Party: Sat. May 11
- Pentecost, Last day of SS & CWVW: Sun. May 19
- Memorial Day (office closed): Mon. May 27

JUNE

- Evening Vacation Bible School (all ages): TBD
- Juneteenth (office closed): Wed. June 19
- Bibles & Bricks Mission Trip (Dominican Republic): Sat-Sat. June 15-22

JULY

- *Youth At-Home Mission Week: Mon-Th. July 8-11
- *Montreat High School Youth Conference: Sun-Sat. July 14-20
- Morning Vacation Bible School (4k-5th grade): Mon-Th. July 22-25

*These dates are subject to change.

SPECIAL EVENT | PODCASTS

EDMUNDS LECTURE SERIES

November 12 & 13, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. featuring Dr. Peter Enns (Sanctuary)

The Edmunds Lecture Series of Second Presbyterian was established in 1985 by S. Spencer "Buddy" Edmunds as a way of honoring his father's commitment to joining scholarship with congregational life. Dr. Spencer Edmunds served Second Presbyterian as its Senior Minister from 1923-1941. The lectures continue to attract outstanding preachers and theologians to educate and inspire the Roanoke Valley.

Dr. Peter Enns is Abram S. Clemens professor of Biblical Studies at Eastern University. He has taught undergraduate, seminary, and doctoral courses at numerous other schools, including Princeton Theological Seminary, Harvard Divinity School, and Temple University. Peter speaks and writes regularly to diverse audiences about the intersection of the ancient setting of Bible and contemporary Christian faith. He is a frequent contributor to journals and encyclopedias, and has written, edited, and contributed to nearly 20 books. His lectures will center around his latest book, *Curveball: When Your Faith Takes Turns You Never Saw Coming*.

*This special event is sponsored by the Trent Fund of Second Presbyterian Church.



SECOND ON THE MOUNT PODCAST

No matter where you are on the journey of faith, God's Word has something to say to you. *Second on the Mount* is a collection of sermons from Second Presbyterian on Mountain Avenue in Roanoke, VA. Listen to the encouraging words of ministers George Anderson, Elizabeth Link, Ben Brannan, and occasional guests as we journey together, finding direction by following Jesus. Whether you are near or far, have a quiet moment or are on the go, you can easily listen on your podcast app of choice or stream online from our website. New episodes are published weekly; subscribe to be notified when a new sermon is available!



CHILD OF GOD PODCAST

Join Rev. Elizabeth Link for *Child of God*, a podcast for children and families. Each episode shares a story about God's people and the ways we are a part of God's family. The episodes are brief, but meaningful, and you can catch them while traveling in your car, while doing chores, or getting ready for bedtime, naptime, or to start your day! Subscribe and listen to *Child of God* with the Rev. Elizabeth Link on your favorite podcast platform, or by visiting www.spres.org/connect/podcasts/.



SUNDAY MORNINGS

NURSERIES

(Infant, Toddler, and 2's Room, near Fellowship Hall)

Nursery Coordinator: Aubrey Beeson

The nursery is open and available for infants and toddlers during both morning worship services and Sunday school. During the Sunday school hour, volunteer teachers lead toddlers and the 2-year-olds in a special, age-appropriate class. Nursery staff and volunteers are under the nursery coordinator's supervision.



WORSHIP

CHILDREN, WORSHIP, & WONDER (CWW)

Pre-K through 1st Grade (Children's Worship Center, Third Floor)

Volunteer Coordinator: Amanda Copeland

During the Sunday school year, children ages pre-k through first grade enjoy their own special time of worship and wonder at CWW. Following the Children's Time during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, children are excused to the Children's Worship Center on the third floor. They learn the stories of our faith and worship God in a setting and style geared toward their needs and stages of development. Biblical stories are told in the context of a worship experience that includes singing, response time, and "the feast." We hope this will nurture their innate sense of wonder as they develop a sense of awe and reverence for worship.

For more information or to serve as a storyteller or greeter for CWW, contact Amanda Copeland (ahcopeland@gmail.com).



FOR CHILDREN

PRESCHOOL

(3's and 4's Sunday School, near Fellowship Hall)

Our 3- and 4-year-old children will enjoy learning about God's Word through many different learning styles. Teachers work with children using age-appropriate lessons and play through art, music, and storytelling. This class will use curriculum which walks through key Old Testament and New Testament Bible stories each year.

THE RIVER (K-3RD GRADE) (Third Floor)

Volunteer Coordinator: Maria Blackshaw

Younger elementary aged children will enjoy our Workshop Rotation Model Sunday School called *The River*, a name the children chose themselves. Using the *Spark Rotation* curriculum, kindergarten through 3rd graders will spend four weeks on a Bible story, and visit different workshops each week in order to experience the same story from different perspectives. The workshops include "MArts" (Music & Arts), "God's Table" (Cooking), "Holy Word, Holy Motion" (Bible Storytelling through games and drama), and "Holy Explosion" (Science). This year, *The River* will study the following units:

- Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-9)
- Isaac & Rebekah (Genesis 24; 25:19-34; 27:1-40)
- Joseph & His Brothers (Genesis 37:1-28)
- Joseph & Pharaoh (Genesis 39:20-41:57; 45:1-15; 50:14-21)
- The Sower (Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23)
- Walking on Water (Matthew 14:22-23)
- The Last Supper (John 20:24-29)
- Banquet with Simon (Luke 7:36-50)
- The Good Samaritan (Luke 15:11-32)



4TH & 5TH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL (Third Floor)

Each week during Sunday school, 4th & 5th graders will gather together to learn about God's Word for their lives. Each semester they will have the opportunity to put God's Words to action as they work together on a special mission project. This class will use *Holy Moly* curriculum, which walks through key Old Testament and New Testament Bible stories.

FOR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPASS CLASS (The Intersection)

This middle school class will explore faith and build upon the basics they learn as children, connecting scripture with their daily lives. This fall, the class will be using the PC(USA)'s *Faith Questions* curriculum to respond to real faith questions posed by Presbyterian youth from across the denomination. Each unit encourages young people to look to Scripture, as well as our faith traditions, in relevant and responsive ways.

CONFIRMATION CLASS (The Intersection)

Confirmation means study and commitment to the major teachings of the Christian faith. By engaging youth in Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience, the *Confirm not Conform* confirmation curriculum empowers youth for ministry and empowers them to think deeply about their own faith. Teachers and mentors build important and lasting relationships with the young people of this class, and work as a team to support and love these students throughout the year and beyond. This year's confirmation class (which traditionally takes place in 8th or 9th grade) is open to all youth who are in 8th grade or older who seek

to be confirmed as full, active members of the church.

SR. HIGH COFFEE AND CONVERSATION (The Intersection)

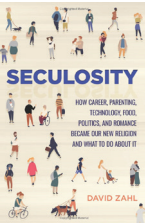
The Senior High Sunday School will be a conversation-based class focused on scripture and how it relates to our everyday lives. This class encourages youth to be vocal about the questions they have about faith, to seek understanding from one another, from scripture, and from tradition, and to explore aspects of faith through fun and fellowship. In the spring, the class will learn about the traditions and worship of Presbyterians, but will also explore different denominations, even visiting worship at a few nearby churches. If students can't be present every week, we still encourage them to come whenever they are able. Volunteers often provide breakfast, so come hungry!

FOR ADULTS

REFORMED AND ALWAYS REFORMING (Trent Classroom, Hybrid)

Facilitators: Dr. George Anderson, Suzanne Fischer, Al McLean, Rich Raymond

This fall, the Reformed and Always Reforming class will tackle David Zahl's popular book, *Seculosity*. Zahl makes the case that being religious is alive and well in modern society. While American organized religion may be declining, the desire to fill the void with everyday life pursuits is another form of worship. At the heart of our society lies a universal yearning not to be happy so much as to be *enough*. To fill the emptiness left by religion, humans look to all sorts of activities—food, family, relationships, social media, elections, social justice movements—for identity, purpose, and meaning once provid-

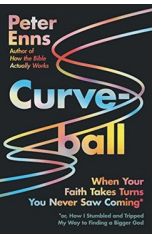


ed by organized religion. Zahl challenges the conventional narrative of religious decline claiming society has become religious about busyness and accomplishments. Eventually, Zahl brings readers to a fresh appreciation for grace—the grace of God in all its countercultural wonder.

THE OPEN DOOR CLASS
(Session Room, Hybrid)

Facilitators: Nancy Gray, David Howell, Nancy Morris, Therry Neilsen-Steinhardt, Bruce Stockburger
In preparation for the visit from our 2023 Edmunds Lecturer, Peter Enns, PhD, the Open Door Class is tackling his acclaimed book *Curveball: When Your Faith Takes Turns You Never Saw Coming (or How I Stumbled and Tripped My Way to Finding a Bigger God)*.

Life throws us “curveballs”—from devastating personal losses to world tragedies. These events often leave us doubting God, the Bible, and our faith. But instead of pushing away our reservations, we should embrace them, Peter Enns argues. A leading biblical scholar and Christian mentor, Enns has never been afraid to question the Bible or Christian beliefs. Such thoughtful inquisitiveness, he argues, is part of God’s plan. Enns encourages us to question, because doing



COVENANT CONVERSATION
(Reading Room, Hybrid)

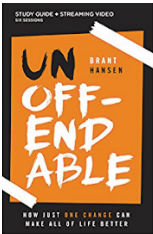
Facilitators: Jeff Hobbs, Robin Hobbs, Cindy Young
This Fall, the Covenant Class will consider ways that we Christians get “caught up” in the world

around us, allowing society to sometimes influence us in behaving and thinking in ways that do not line up with the bedrock of our Christian faith. Using a video series called “Unoffendable” and the book *If God Is Love, Don’t Be a Jerk*, we will focus on where we may fall short in embodying Christ among His people and how we can work towards a kinder type of spirituality. We will follow this study by considering assumptions we have grown up with as Christians by discussing some things Christians truly need to believe and some that they don’t! These conversations will be guided by the book *What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?* Coupled with the prior series, we will attempt to take an inward look on how we can radiate God’s love outward—even when it feels hard to do! These studies will examine how the beliefs we hold shape our relationships with God and our fellow humans—and how we need to ensure that love has the last, loudest word.

This class thrives when its members are ready to discuss their thoughts, feelings, and questions on each week’s topic/lesson. Prior reading is rarely requested but may be suggested of class members.

CHRISTIANITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(FALL SEMESTER CLASS)
(Chapel)

Facilitator: Bob Groth
Join members of the 2PC Green Team for a nine-part film series featuring Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, the internationally renowned Christian climate scientist. In each episode, she responds to climate questions from key church leaders and members from across Scotland. Do you want to



take a closer look at the climate crisis and how one Christian believes we are called to respond? Come and be a part of the conversation. The most important thing we can do about climate change is to talk about it and to talk about how it affects us where we live. The class will be hosted by members of the 2PC Green Team and take place in the chapel. Please join us for this groundbreaking and potentially transformational learning opportunity.

Dr. Hayhoe captures the essence of the class in the following quote, “*For Christians, doing something about climate change is about living out our faith...caring for those who need help and taking responsibility for this planet that God created and entrusted to us. My faith tells me that God does want people to understand climate change and do something about it.*”



CONFIRM NOT CONFORM FOR ADULTS
(Café, Fall Series)

Facilitator: Shelley Lyons
Geared toward the parents of confirmands, this 8-week companion class will parallel parts of what our youth will be learning in confirmation this year, encouraging conversations at home. Participants will be invited to ask questions they have always wanted to ask and explore their faith from an adult perspective. The emphasis will be on building an authentic faith, and lessons will cover basics on the Bible, creeds, sacraments, and topics which may have been ignored or lost in the mists of time.

POP-UP SUNDAY SCHOOL
(Fellowship Hall, first Sundays)

Facilitators: Varied
Gather the first Sunday of the month for POP-UP

Sunday School. Drop in for an interesting topic or guest speaker. Topics will include updates from our mission partners, stories from the history of Second, religion in art, and other important topics facing the modern church.

BELIEVING AND BELONGING
(Hospitality Room, Seasonal)

Facilitators: Dr. George Anderson and Rev. Elizabeth Link

Join our ministers George Anderson and Elizabeth Link for a seasonal two-week class on what it means to be a Presbyterian, and what it means to be a member of Second Presbyterian Church. This is a great class for visitors and new members! **The fall class will meet October 1 & 8.**



SUNDAY EVENINGS

KIDS’ FELLOWSHIP: AGES 4 THROUGH 5TH GRADE

(Sundays 5-6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall)
Returning September 10, Kids’ Fellowship begins with dinner provided by families for children ages 4 years old through 5th grade. After dinner, the children divide by age and progress through an engaging evening of recreation, art, and music. Children will have the opportunity to run and play, experience Bible stories through Story and Stretch, and enjoy the opportunity to make music through a special music experience.

As part of the Sunday Night Kids’ Fellowship, the Music Experience (formally known as Choir) will gather upstairs in the Children’s Choir Suite in two separate groups at two separate times—divided by age. Music will focus on FUN using voice-

es, instruments, and movement while preparing a Christmas Pageant to be presented in December and special music for a Sunday worship service in the spring.

YOUTH CHOIR: MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH (Seasonal)

On scheduled Sundays before and in preparation for a performance date, Youth are invited to join Choir rehearsals in the Youth Music Room. Details and dates to be announced. Performances will include the Christmas Pageant, Youth Sunday, and a Sunday worship service in the spring.

YOUTH GROUP

When: Sunday nights, 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Who: 6th-12th graders and Youth Advisors
Where: The Intersection

What: Middle and High-school Youth gather to build relationships and connect with each other and with God. This time is set apart to enjoy food, fellowship, and fun while exploring various aspects of faith. This year's Youth Group theme is *Fan the Flame!* We will explore how the Holy Spirit is the flame that shines within us and among us, and we will engage in our call to keep that flame bright. We begin each evening with a shared meal, and then share in some faith-filled fun! Friends are welcome to join!

In addition to our weekly email, we will send out text message reminders and alerts. This is for both parents and youth! There are three ways to join the text list. If you are interested in joining, contact Rev. Ben Brannan for details.

**For parents: If you have a child in both middle and high school, you will be added to both text lists, as well as the general Youth Group list.*

2PC CLUBS (Beginning this October)

We are expanding our club options for the Second Presbyterian Church family in 2023! Please check out the clubs available and sign up online via the QR code, church website (www.spres.org), or by calling the church office. Please sign up by Sunday, September 17; you are welcome to sign up for more than one club! In the days following September 17, club coordinators will contact members by phone or email. The first club meetings will be in October. Questions? Contact Maria Hammond (mlphammond@gmail.com). Clubs include: Supper, Lunch, Walking, Movie, Restaurant, Coffee, Book, Roots and Wings, Parenting, and Pickleball.



MIDWEEK

MIDWEEK MANNA

When: 2nd Wednesday each month, 6:30-8 p.m.
Who: High School Girls
Where: Homes of church members or outings
What: This group of high school girls gathers to take a break from their hectic schedules, check in with each other, and enjoy moments of connection and learning. These nights center around a shared meal and an activity—devotional, craft, game—and the bonds created are long-lasting and meaningful. This group is led by Margaret Ashburn, Valerie Brannan, Rebekah Gunn, and Julie Mugford. Contact Rev. Ben Brannan for more information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINI MANNA

When: 2nd Thursday each month, 6:30-8 p.m.
Who: Middle School Girls
Where: Homes of church members or outings

What: This group of middle school girls gathers to learn and grow together, form strong bonds and relationships, and create lasting memories. These nights center around a shared meal and an activity—devotional, craft, game. This group will be led by Youth Advisor and mom April Lewis. Contact Rev. Ben Brannan for more information.

YOUNG ADULTS

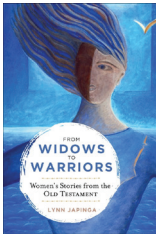
Second Presbyterian's Young Adults group is an active group of men and women in their 20s and 30s. We all are at different stages in our life, and this group provides opportunities to gather, to eat, to have fun, and to explore faith in various ways. The Young Adults try to meet two to three times each month either at someone's home or out for a fun activity. We offer Sunday lunch and weeknight gatherings to fit everyone's schedules. If interested, please email Rev. Ben Brannan. In addition to email reminders, we will utilize the power of text-messaging. To join the text list, contact Rev. Ben Brannan for details.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY (Thursdays, 7:15-8:15 a.m., Session Room, Hybrid)

Facilitator: Rev. Ben Brannan
Taking on a new look, the weekly Men's Thursday Morning Bible Study will take a deep dive into the commandments of Jesus. Convicted by Jesus' words in Matthew 28—"teaching them to obey all that I have commanded"—our time together will focus on just what that means for God's people then and now. We gather in the Session room (and on Zoom) from 7:15 to 8:15 a.m. If interested, please reach out to Rev. Ben Brannan for information and to be added to our email list.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (Beginning October 5, Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m., Session Room)

Facilitator: Rev. Elizabeth Link
For too long the women of the Bible have been depicted in one-dimensional terms. On one side are saints, such as Mary, while on the other are "bad girls," such as Eve and Jezebel. Just as often, the female characters of the Bible are simply ignored. However, the women of the Bible are complex, multidimensional individuals whose lives are inspiring, funny, and tragic in ways too many of us never hear. In *From Widows to Warriors*, author Lynn Japinga acquaints us with the women of the Old Testament. From flawed heroes like Ruth and Rahab to fierce fighters like Deborah and Jael to tragic characters like Jephthah's daughter and the unnamed concubine of the book of Judges, we will encounter a wealth of foremothers in the faith in all their messy, yet redeemable, humanity. This Bible study introduces and retells every female character who contributes to one or more Old Testament stories, diving deeply into what each woman's story means for us today.



THE BIBLE IN BLACK & WHITE (Wednesday Evenings in October)



Facilitators: Dr. George Anderson and Dr. Bill Lee

For more information or to receive the Zoom link for any of our adult Sunday or midweek classes, please contact Pastors' Assistant Meredith Koliba at meredith@spres.org.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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