

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYMPATHY

Our deep sympathies extend to Carol and Bill Broadhurst on the death of their son, Andrew Hart Ramsey, on Thursday, December 21, 2023. We hold the family in prayer along with Karen Hart, Andrew's aunt.

Sympathy is extended to Daniel and Rebekah Gunn on the passing of Daniel's grandfather, Jim Calder, on Sunday, December 24, 2023. We also hold Margot and Calder Gunn, Jim's great-grandchildren, in prayer.

OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE: The church offices will be closed on Monday, January 1 for the New Year holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

SUNDAY MORNING DETAILS: *December 31:* Though early worship and Sunday school will not take place on New Year's Eve, the nursery will still be available for infants through 3 year olds, and Children, Worship, & Wonder will meet (for children 4 years old through first grade) during the 11 a.m. service.

January 7: The nursery will be available during its regular Sunday morning hours (8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.), and Children, Worship, & Wonder will meet during the 11 a.m. service. *January 14:* Sunday school for all ages will resume at 9:45 a.m.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST NEXT SUNDAY @ 9:45 A.M.: On Sunday, January 7, members and visitors of all ages are invited to attend a Pancake Breakfast during the Sunday school hour in Fellowship Hall. This breakfast is sponsored in partnership by the Christian Education Committee and the Congregational Life Committee. Let us take time to share a meal together, get to know recent members and confirmands from the 2023 year, and give thanks to those Sunday school teachers who work tirelessly all year long.

GALS' GATHERING SATURDAY, JAN. 20, 9AM-4PM – REGISTER BY JAN. 15: Join us for a day of connection, reflection, and fellowship at the annual Gals' Gathering! Together we will consider the ways that we can nurture and strengthen our faith in all seasons, and find encouragement in times that feel unfruitful. There will be a hands-on workshop to create a tangible faith practice that can be grounding in one's faith formation led by our speaker, Rev. Rachel Vogado. We will also create a mosaic for the Good Samaritan Hospice House in Roanoke. Cost is \$35. For more information, check out the flyers found in the office information racks and register online at www.spres.org.

A SOLUTION FOR THOSE LEFT-OVER CHRISTMAS CARDS: Are you wondering what to do with your unused, unsigned, and in good condition Christmas cards and their matching envelopes? The Service and Outreach Committee has a solution for you. You can leave them in the box marked “Christmas Card Donation” found in the coat closet at church. These cards will be saved and given along with new cards and stamps to the Roanoke Valley Jail Ministry chaplains for inmates in area jails to send to their loved ones next Christmas. You will not only get rid of those left-over cards and envelopes, but you will help to make someone else's Christmas brighter next year.

OPEN FLOWER DATES: The following dates are available for anyone who would like to sponsor flowers in the sanctuary: Jan. 7 & 28; Feb. 4, 11, & 25. Please contact Denise Revercomb to see if the dates are still open (588-5111; revercomb@cox.net).

REMEMBER YOUR COMMITMENT: Commitment cards have been mailed and are available in the sanctuary and at the front office. You can communicate your financial commitment via mail, by phone or email to Church Administrator Nathan Anderson (540-343-3659; admin@spres.org), or by completing a form online (www.spres.org/give/make-a-pledge/).

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today, December 31

Two Cents a Meal
11:00 am: Worship Service, Sanctuary/Live Stream

Monday, January 1

Church Office Closed
Preschool Closed for Holiday

Tuesday, January 2

Preschool Closed for Holiday
9:30 am: Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 3

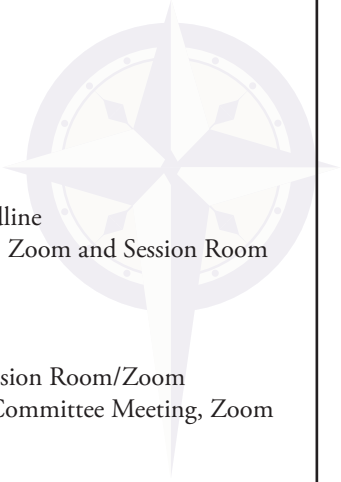
Preschool Closed for Holiday
12:00 pm: Bulletin Article Deadline
5:15 pm: Personnel Committee, Zoom and Session Room

Thursday, January 4

Preschool Reopens
7:15 am: Men's Bible Study, Session Room/Zoom
5:15 pm: Christian Education Committee Meeting, Zoom Only

Friday, January 5

Saturday, January 6



Staff

Administrator
Nathan Anderson
Choir Director
Dr. Jeffrey Sandborg
Organist
Marianne Sandborg
Engagement Coordinator
Connie Polly
Children's Ministry Coordinator
Maria Blackshaw
Parish Associate for Visitation
Nancy O. Gray
Pastors' Assistant
Meredith Koliba
Secretary
Stacy Moore
Media and Communications Specialist
Andrea Boone
Media Assistant
Rachel H. Vogado
Financial Secretary
Nicky Harless
Church Sexton
John Brady Anderson

Trustees

Ron Ayers
Mary Ann Johnson
George A. McLean, Jr.

Clerk of Session

Bill Durham
Ken Lyons (Asst. Clerk)

Treasurers

Joe Miller
Bob Martin (Vice Treasurer)

Missionaries

National:
Beth-El Farmworker
Ministry; Wimauma, FL
Local:
Presbyterian Community
Center, Roanoke, VA

Preschool

Alice Light, *Director*
Lori Privott, *Asst. Director*
540.342.6405
www.sprespreschool.com

For a list of church Committee
Chairs, visit: www.spres.org/about/leadership/

For upcoming events, a library
of sermons (audio & text), and
more, visit our website:

www.spres.org



SECOND
PRESBYTERIAN

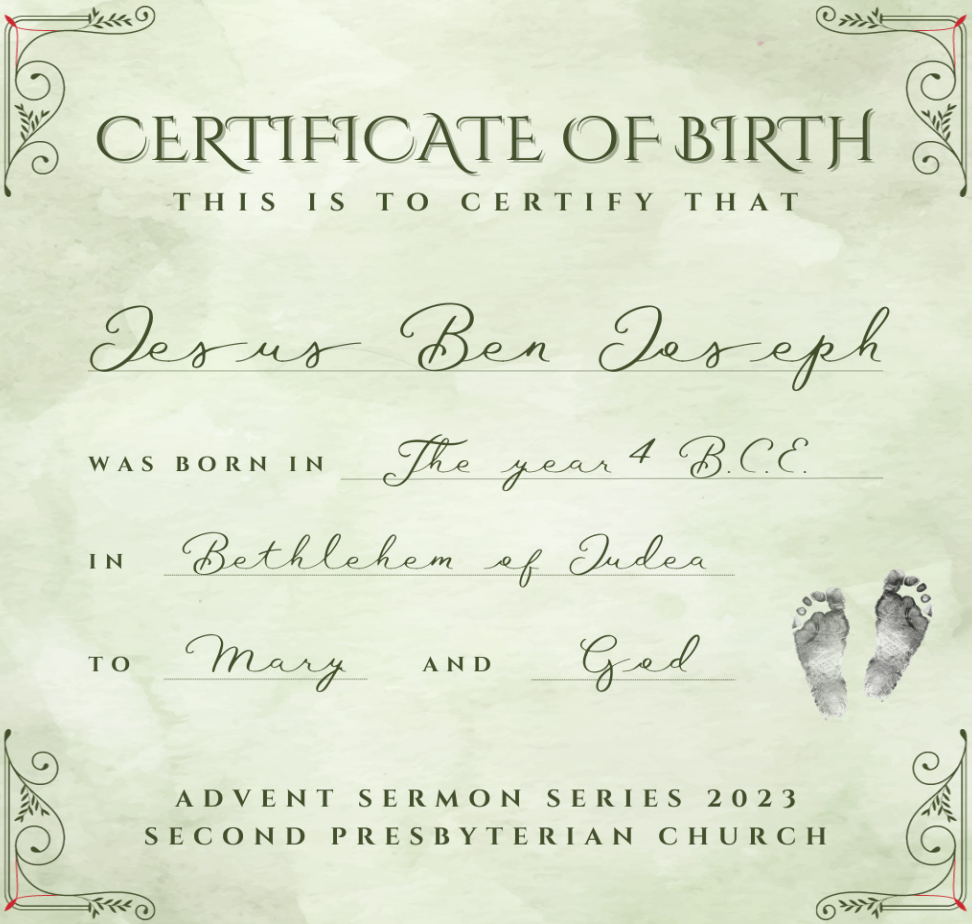
Finding direction by following Jesus.

214 Mountain Avenue, SW
Roanoke, VA 24016
540-343-3659 • info@spres.org
• www.spres.org •

Sunday Morning Worship

11:00 A.M. Service

December 31, 2023



PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. George C. Anderson, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Elizabeth N.H. Link, Executive Pastor

The Rev. Benjamin S. Brannan, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

Large-print copies of services may be requested from an usher.

MEMBERS OF THE SESSION OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Elders - Class of 2023

Aaron Copeland
Helen Dean
Fred Greear
Pat Houghton
Robert Martin
Sally Nichols
Connie Polly
Martha Wheeler

Elders - Class of 2024

Maria Blackshaw
Pattie Clevenger
Nancy Gray
Robin Hobbs
Alice Holman
Kenneth Laughon
Betsy Prillaman
Chrissy Underwood

Elders - Class of 2025

Ginger Avis
Susan Carter
John Caudill
Kandy Elliott
Lucinda Hancock
Mark Lawrence
Megan Moore
Darin Pearson

DECEMBER 31, 2023
WORSHIP ON SITE & ONLINE AT 11:00 A.M.
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Gathering Music *Now the Green Blade Riseth* Michael McCabe

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Christmas Joy* Gilbert M. Martin

*Call to Worship

When does an ordinary life become extraordinary?
When God enters in.

When does a mundane day become revolutionary?
When God enters in.

When does a moment in time change history?
When God enters in.

When does the impossible become possible?
When God enters in.

Let us worship the God of the impossible!

*Hymn No. 146 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*
Two Cents-a-Meal: Cayce Anne Myers (parents, Cayce and Anne Myers)

A Time for Children
Children, Worship, & Wonder participants (4k-1st grade)
excused following the Children's Time.

Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; withholding parts of who we are against your claim on our whole lives, and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us.

Help us to walk in the way of Mary, who found favor in your sight, who was obedient, who put her trust in the Lord, and who sang a song of redemption and liberation for all. With new life in Christ, may we respond as Mary did: I am the Lord's servant.

Hear now the honest confessions of our hearts...

Assurance of Pardon

*Response of Praise No. 581 *Gloria Patri*

Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer *Glory to God*, p. 35 (using debts, debtors)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7 New Testament p. 828
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon *Jesus' Birth Certificate: (Mother's Name)* Rev. Benjamin S. Brannan

*Hymn of Response No. 145 *What Child Is This*

*Affirmation of Faith (from A Declaration of Faith)

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

Call to Discipleship
Offering^{1**}
Offertory *Silent Night, Holy Night* Dale Wood
Ritual of Friendship
*(Please sign the Friendship Pad, pass it along to others
in your pew, then return it to center.)*
*Doxology (Hymn No. 606)
*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn No. 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Angels We Have Heard On High* Humphrey Turner

**Please stand in body or spirit.*



BULLETIN NOTES

¹ **THE OUTREACH OFFERING** for the month of December will support the *Bradley Free Clinic*. Bradley Free Clinic has been providing free healthcare services to the underserved members of the Roanoke community for more than 49 years and will celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2024. Funds will support the Behavioral Health Department, which provides psychiatry, counseling, and peer recovery support services. Through a variety of programs and community collaborations, they provide care for drug and alcohol addiction, Substance Use Disorder, and other vital mental health needs. **As of December 20, \$4,154.76 was collected.**

Monthly Food Collection for PCC: The food items for month of December are seasonal Christmas foods. A donation bin is in the coat closet (please check the expiration date before donating).

CCLI #2642604.

THIS SUNDAY

Flowers: The flowers are given to the glory of God by Therry Neilsen-Steinhardt in loving memory of **Sally Ann Goff** for the seed of music she planted in so many children.
Arranged by Denise Revercomb.

Ushers: Susan Carter (Head Usher), Mia Copeland, Ann and Barry Green.

Greeter: Cindy Smith.

Technicians: Darin Pearson, Doug Settles.

Children, Worship, & Wonder: "Boy Jesus in the Temple." Program Coordinator, Amanda Copeland.