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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOOKLET | 2025-26

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SHOW  
YOUR  
FAITH

# WELCOME TO SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP • LEARNING • FELLOWSHIP • SERVICE

- Beginning Sunday, September 7, 2025: 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](http://www.spres.org), call us at 540-343-3659, or email [info@spres.org](mailto: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](http://www.sprespreschool.com) or call 540-342-6405.

View the online calendar: [www.spres.org/connect/calendar/](http://www.spres.org/connect/calendar/)



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Second Presbyterian Church Roanoke



# SHOW YOUR FAITH

## **RALLY DAY PICNIC & FALL KICKOFF** **BRAELOCH PAVILION, VINTON, VA | SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025**

*<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.*

*<sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. — Matthew 4:14-16*

Our little niece Ruthie’s favorite song is “This Little Light of Mine.” She holds up her precious, chubby finger with delight as she pretends to blow out her flame and then shouts, “No!” with pure glee. One can’t help but join right along with her, hand motions and all. No one is hiding Ruthie’s light under a bushel! And when you sing along with her, it’s hard not to let your own light shine bright, too.

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid... Let your light shine before others, so that they may see...” (Matthew 4:14-16). While faith can be deeply personal, it is never meant to be private. We are called into community to show our faith in our everyday choices, our words, and our actions.

As your Christian Education Committee, it is our joy and mission to help equip and encourage you on that journey. This year, we invite you to take our theme “Show Your Faith” to heart. Let your light shine in bold, faithful living. Show your faith and show up, just as you are: whether you are seeking to grow, have a heart full of questions and doubts, or you just need a little fuel for your flame.

Consider the ways you are called to learn more and grow this church school year. This booklet is full of opportunities for you. May these opportunities for spiritual formation and growth inspire you to live your faith boldly and brightly for Christ. Show up this year and let your faith shine!

Join us as we begin the church school year with our annual **Rally Day Picnic on August 24**. We will worship, share a meal, explore opportunities for learning and fellowship, and celebrate the gift of community. After lunch, stay for the fun—visit with friends new and old, sign up for classes and Second’s Clubs, and enjoy activities for all ages: fishing (bring a pole and worms!), a bounce house, face painting, and balloon art. We hope you’ll linger into the afternoon, find your place, and get excited for a fall season full of growth and grace.

— Rev. Elizabeth Link and the Christian Education Committee

### **AUGUST 24 RALLY DAY PICNIC SCHEDULE @ BRAELOCH PAVILION:**

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

***Sunday school for all ages begins on September 7.***

# CHRISTIAN ED CALENDAR 2025-26

## AUGUST

- Rally Day Picnic: Sun. Aug 24

## SEPTEMBER

- Labor Day (office closed): Mon. Sept 1
- Sunday School, Third Grade Bible Presentation, Youth Group Kickoff Cookout & Parent Meeting, CWWV, & Kids' Fellowship Begin: Sun. Sept 7
- All-Youth Retreat: Sat–Sun. Sept 20–21
- College of Elders' Dinner: Th. Sept 25

## OCTOBER

- World Communion: Sun. Oct 5
- Commitment Sunday: Sun. Oct 12
- Preschool Sunday: Sun. Oct 19
- Trunk or Treat: Sun. Oct 26

## NOVEMBER

- All Saints Sunday: Sun. Nov 2
- Men's Retreat: Fri–Sat. Nov 7–8
- Edmunds Lectures: Mon–Tues. Nov 10–11
- Gals' Gathering Day Retreat: Sat. Nov 15
- Advent Workshop: Sun. Nov 23
- Grief Seminar: TBD
- Thanksgiving (office closed): Th–Fri. Nov 27–28

## DECEMBER

- Advent Begins: Sun. Nov 30
- Annual Christmas Dinner & Children's Pageant: Sun. Dec 7
- Youth Christmas Party: Sun. Dec 14
- Handel's MESSIAH Performance: Sun. Dec 14
- Longest Night Service: Sun. Dec 21 (Tentative)
- Christmas Eve: Wed. Dec 24
- Christmas Day (Church Office Closed): Th. Dec 25

## JANUARY

- January Pancake Breakfast: Sun. Jan 4
- Confirmation Sunday: Sun. Jan 11
- MLK Day (office closed): Mon. Jan 19

## FEBRUARY

- Youth Sunday: Sun. Feb 8
- Ash Wednesday: Wed. Feb 18

## MARCH

- Palm Sunday: Sun. Mar 29
- Mission Fair Sunday: TBA

## APRIL

- Easter Sunday (No SS): Sun. Apr 5
- Easter Monday (office closed): Mon. Apr 6
- Trent Symposium for New Ministers: Fri–Wed. Apr 17–22 (Trent Dinner: Apr 21)
- Churchwide Great Day of Service: Sat. Apr 25

## MAY

- Legacy Sunday: Sun. May 3
- Youth End of Year Party: Sat. May 9
- Senior Recognition: Sun. May 10
- Youth Council Retreat 2026–27: Sun. May 17
- Last day of SS & CWWV: Sun. May 17
- Pentecost Sunday: Sun. May 24
- Memorial Day (office closed): Mon. May 25

## JUNE

- Evening Vacation Bible School (all ages): Sun–Wed. June 7–10
- Youth At-Home Mini Missions: Mon–Wed. June 15–17
- Juneteenth (office closed): Fri. June 19
- Bibles & Bricks DR Youth Mission Trip: Sat–Sat. June 27–July 4

## JULY

- Morning Vacation Bible School (Pre-K–5<sup>th</sup> grade): Mon–Th. July 20–23
- Montreat High School Youth Conference: Sun–Sat. July 26–Aug 1



# 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 the children 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 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

**(Children's Worship Center, Third Floor)**

*Volunteer Coordinator: Rhesa Bailey*

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 info or to serve as a storyteller or greeter, contact Rhesa Bailey ([rhesa@cox.net](mailto:rhesa@cox.net)).



## **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.

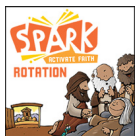
### **THE RIVER (K-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE)**

**(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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

- The Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:5-15)
- David (1 Sam. 16:1-13; 1 Sam 17:4-11, 32-50)
- The Lord Is My Shepherd (Ps. 23)
- Advent & Christmas
- Jesus & John the Baptist (Luke 3:1-18; Matt. 3:13-17)
- The Disciples (Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3; Matt. 4:18-22, 9:9-13, 10:1-4)



- Holy Week & Easter
- Doubting Thomas (John 20:19-31)
- Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-26)

## 4<sup>TH</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAITH IN ACTION (Third Floor)

Each week during Sunday school, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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 uses a curriculum that journeys through key Old Testament and New Testament Bible stories.

## FOR YOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPASS CLASS (The Intersection)

*Facilitators: Jim Baynton, Amanda Copeland, April Lewis*

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)

*Facilitators: Lauren Ellerman, Ken Lyons*

Confirmation is the bookend of our baptism, when our young people take personal responsibility for their faith. Confirmation class follows the *Confirm Not Conform* curriculum, which

helps youth claim their place in the priesthood of all believers. By engaging youth in scripture, discussion, testimony, and debate, *Confirm Not Conform* 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 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade) is open to all youth who are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or older who seek to be confirmed as full, active members of the church.

## HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL (The Intersection)

*Facilitators: Sarah Bishop, Aaron Copeland, Chasity Fitzpatrick*

The High School Sunday School will be a conversation-based class focused on scripture and how it relates to our everyday lives. Using the *Feasting on the Word Youth Curriculum*, this class encourages youth to vocalize their questions about faith, seek understanding from one another, from scripture, and from tradition, and explore aspects of faith through fun and fellowship. In the spring, the class will learn about the traditions and worship of Presbyterians and will explore the traditions and worship of different denominations, even visit a few nearby worshipping communities. If students cannot attend each week, we still strongly encourage them to come whenever they are able. Volunteers often provide breakfast, so come hungry!

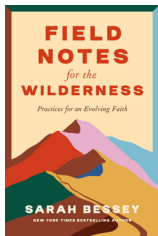
## FOR ADULTS

### REFORMED AND ALWAYS REFORMING

#### (Trent Room, Hybrid)

*Facilitators: Dr. George Anderson, Suzanne Fischer, Dan Hodges, Al McLean*

Tackling Reformed theological topics, Reformed and Always Reforming is a class that welcomes your questions and loves a good discussion. Join



the group this fall as they journey through *Field Notes for the Wilderness* by Sarah Bessey—a timely, honest, and hope-filled companion for those navigating seasons of spiritual uncertainty and change.

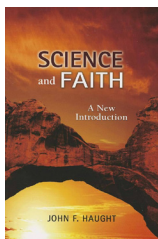
With warmth, wisdom and creativity, Bessey invites us to reimagine faith not as a destination, but as a living, evolving relationship with God and one another. This study will speak especially to those who love the church but carry questions, doubts, or longings for a more expansive discipleship. All are welcome.

### THE OPEN DOOR CLASS

#### (Session Room, Hybrid)

*Facilitators: Nancy Gray, David Howell, Bruce Stockburger. Host: Kay Saleebey*

Join the Open Door class as they begin the fall with the book, *Science and Faith* by John Haught.



This book is structured around three ways of relating science and religion: conflict, contrast and convergence. The book looks at these three views on twelve different topics. The presentation of each view on each topic is

written as if by a proponent of that view on that topic, presenting the view and defending it against the other two views. The Open Door

class is known for their lively discussions, and this book will lend itself to many interesting classes.

### COVENANT CONVERSATION

#### (Reading Room, Hybrid)

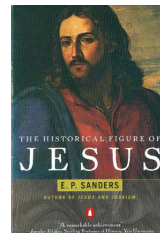
*Facilitators: Louise and Andrew Gerhards, Robin and Jeff Hobbs, Shevaun O'Connell*

This program year, the Covenant Conversation class has two exciting topics.

*The Historical Figure of Jesus* by E. P. Sanders. Join the class this fall as they explore the historical world of Jesus of Nazareth: the man, his time, and his message. This engaging series invites us to encounter Jesus as He would have been seen in his own day—within the culture, politics, and faith of the first-century Judaism.

They will examine:

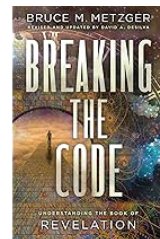
- What history can tell us about the life of Jesus.
- How the Gospels came to be written.
- What scholars agree on (and where they differ).
- Why understanding the human Jesus deepens our faith in the divine one.



And in the spring . . .

*Breaking the Code: Understanding the book of Revelation* by Bruce M. Metzger.

REVELATION!!! OH NO! For most of us, Revelation is a closed book. We avoid it, thinking it too mysterious for us to understand. This book contains passages of great beauty and comfort. It is the last book of the Bible and as is true of all scripture, profitable for us to study and understand.



In this study you will:

- Learn how to read and understand the language and symbols of apocalyptic writing.
- Move from confused to confident, anxious to assured, and intimidated to inspired as you study the end times.
- Understand Revelation as the culmination of God's great story.
- Understand the message for 1st Century Christians.

Your leadership team is very excited to bring these to you.

## WORDS ON THE WORD

### (Fellowship Hall, In Person)

*Facilitators: Bill Blaylock, Rich Raymond, Dave Speno*

Adults see the world through the filter of life, their experiences and transitions. Those attending the Words on the Word class bring diverse perspectives rooted in a variety of backgrounds, including different religious experiences. This Sunday school class is designed to offer a deeper exploration and understanding of biblical texts using the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum. The class follows the lectionary readings for each Sunday, which are structured to guide participants through the Bible over a three-year cycle. This fall, the class will continue in Year "C" of that cycle, focusing each week on scriptures from both the Old and New Testaments. The class offers a meaningful way to engage with God's Word, enriching faith by exploring and expanding on the scriptures shared in worship. So, dust off your nightstand or bookshelf Bible and explore it with others in this weekly adult Sunday school class.



## CONFIRM NOT CONFORM FOR ADULTS

### (Café, Fall Series)

*Facilitators: Chris Lewis and Rev. Ben Brannan*

Geared toward the parents of confirmands, this companion class will parallel parts of what our youth will be learning in confirmation this year, encouraging conversations at home. Meeting 6–8 times in the fall, 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.

## ADULT COFFEE & CONVERSATION

### (Café)

This class is geared toward young adults and parents who seek to build community, engage in conversation, and continue learning. Although there is no strict curriculum or book to study, the focus will be on modern challenges facing parents, children, and youth. There is no carry-over from one week to the next, so if you miss a Sunday, you can easily jump right back in without missing a beat. Meeting on the days Adult Confirmation does not meet, a class schedule will be available on Rally Day at Picnic Sunday.

## 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 September 21 & 28. Spring dates: TBD.**

## SUNDAY EVENINGS

### KIDS' FELLOWSHIP: AGES 4 THROUGH 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

#### (Sundays 5-6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall)

Returning September 7, Kids' Fellowship begins with dinner provided by families for children ages 4 years old (by Sept 1) through 5<sup>th</sup> 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 voices, instruments, and movement while pre-

paring a Christmas Pageant to be presented in December and special music for a Sunday worship service in the spring.

## YOUTH GROUP

**When:** Sunday nights, 5:00–6:30 p.m.

**Who:** 6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> graders and Youth Advisors

**Where:** The Intersection

**What:** Middle and high school youth, and all the friends you bring, 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 *Nurture Your Nature!* Through conversation, study, games, and personal reflection, our youth will flow between the inward, the outward, and the upward, as they explore the bridge between the inner world of identity and spiritual growth and the outer world of community and creation. Creating a culture of compassion and care begins with understanding our nature, who we are and who we are created to become, moving us to foster that empathy toward others, which then collectively takes us upward to join in the divine work of nurture, creation-care, and justice for all.

*We send out a weekly youth email to all parents/youth who would like to receive it. To be added to the email list, please reach out to Rev. Ben Brannan.*

## 2PC CLUBS

### (Beginning in October)

We look forward to offering clubs for the Second Presbyterian Church family in 2025-26! Please check out the clubs available and sign up by Sunday, September 14 at [www.spres.org](http://www.spres.org),

by scanning the QR code, or by calling the church office. You may sign up for more than one club. Club coordinators will contact members by phone or email; the first meetings will be in October. If you have questions please contact Susan Carter, Congregational Life Chair ([susca49@yahoo.com](mailto:susca49@yahoo.com)). *Clubs include: Lunch, Restaurant, Movie, Coffee, Morning Walking, Book, Roots and Wings, Parenting, and Pickleball.*



## MIDWEEK

### MIDWEEK MANNA

**When:** One Wednesday a month, 6:30–8:00 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 Rebekah Gunn and Julie Mugford. Contact Rev. Ben Brannan for more information.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL MINI MANNA

**When:** One Wednesday a month, 6:30–8:00 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 or to be added to the email list, please contact Rev. Ben Brannan.

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**(Beginning September 4, Thursdays @ 7:15 a.m., Reading Room, Hybrid)**

*Facilitator: Bill Blaylock, Aaron Copeland, Jeff Hobbs, Dave Speno*



The Men's Bible Study at Second meets weekly to read, pray, and be guided by the Holy Spirit as they faithfully interpret Scripture together for our day and time—right here in Roanoke. This fall, the class will be continuing their study of the Gospel of Luke.

The Men's Bible Study is committed to a careful, faithful reading of the text. Their approach is exegetical, letting the text speak to us rather than our manipulating the Word to our satisfaction. This practice has deepened our faith, strengthened our community, and most importantly, grounded us more firmly in the Word.

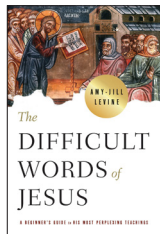
Come participate and enjoy what Christ is saying to us through Scripture today. If interested, please reach out to Dave Speno (davidspeno@gmail.com) for information and to be added to the group email list.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**(Beginning October 9, Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m., Session Room)**

*Facilitator: Rev. Elizabeth Link*

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).



Exploring *The Difficult Words of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine, we'll learn how these teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

Contact Meredith Koliba (meredith@spres.org) to register.

## THE BIBLE IN BLACK & WHITE

**(Seasonal | FALL: Wednesdays in October @ Noon, Fellowship Hall | SPRING: Wednesdays, April 8, 15, 22, & 29 @ Noon, Fellowship Hall)**

*Facilitators: Dr. George Anderson and Dr. Bill Lee*



The Bible in Black & White is a successful, collaborative Bible study that brings together people of diverse backgrounds and various congregations for a month-

long Bible study, conversation and community building. Those who attend The Bible in Black & White are a unique community of people of different races and religious traditions. They gather to learn, but also to form relationships that promote healing within our community. The study takes place every fall and spring in the Fellowship Hall of Second Presbyterian Church.

### Conversations That Change Us *Wednesdays in October at Noon*

What happens to faith when it becomes more about *talking about Jesus* than *talking to Jesus*? Do we risk reducing a living relationship to abstract ideas—Jesus becoming a topic rather than a presence? Does prayer drift into ritual, and ministry into duty, when it's no longer rooted in communion with Christ?

The Gospel of John resists such drift. It is a Gospel built on conversations—long, rich, and transformative ones. From Nicodemus under the cover of night to the Samaritan woman at the well, from a man born blind to Mary, Martha, and Pontius Pilate—Jesus doesn't just talk at people, he speaks *with* them. And they are never the same.

This October, the Bible in Black & White com-

munity will listen in on these conversations—and join them. Our hope is to encounter Jesus as we encounter each other, with open minds, honest hearts, and a willingness to be changed.

**“Like I Was Saying...” – Conversations Today**  
*Wednesdays in April at Noon (Beginning April 8)*

This spring, the Bible in Black & White will pick up where our fall study left off. After exploring the long, layered conversations Jesus has in the Gospel of John, we will now turn to our own conversations—especially the ones we hesitate to have.

What does it look like to speak truthfully and listen deeply in a divided world? Can Jesus teach us not only *what* to say but *how* to say it—with humility, courage, and love?

Using Scripture as our foundation, we’ll also draw on other resources that help us navigate difficult conversations with grace—knowing when to speak, when to stay silent, and how to stay connected even when we disagree.

Come ready to reflect, engage, and grow in the sacred art of conversation.

***\*Hybrid Classes\****

*For more information or to receive the Zoom link for any of our adult Sunday or midweek hybrid classes, please contact Pastors’ Assistant Meredith Koliba at [meredith@spres.org](mailto:meredith@spres.org).*



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## EDMUNDS LECTURE SERIES | NOV. 10 & 11, 2025

Monday, November 10 and Tuesday, November 11, 2025 | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Featuring Andrew Root, PhD

### The Church in a Secular Age

If you've been part of a church for any length of time, you've likely noticed the changes: fewer people in the pews, tighter budgets, and a growing sense that something has shifted. But these are only symptoms of a bigger issue. This thought-provoking presentation will seek to peer beneath the symptoms and discover the reasons why so many congregations and pastors are experiencing a crisis of identity. Together, we'll explore how life in a secular age is reshaping what it means to be a church—and how congregations can find renewed purpose and direction in the midst of it all.

**Andrew Root** is the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary, USA. He writes and researches in areas of theology, ministry, culture and younger generations. His most recent books are *Evangelism in an Age of Despair* (Baker, 2025), *The Church in an Age of Secular Mysticisms* (Baker, 2023), *Churches and the Crisis of Decline* (Baker, 2022), *The Congregation in a Secular Age* (Baker, 2021), and *The Pastor in a Secular Age: Ministry to People Who No Longer Need God* (Baker, 2019). In addition, he serves as theologian in residence for Youthfront.



### The Edmunds Lecture Series

*Dr. Spencer Edmunds served Second Presbyterian as its Senior Minister from 1923-1941.*

*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.*

*The lectures continue to attract outstanding preachers and theologians to educate and inspire the Roanoke Valley.*



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## **HANDEL'S MESSIAH | DEC. 14, 2025**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 | 5:00 p.m. | Sanctuary | Free Admission**

George Frideric Handel

## MESSIAH

Chancel Choir of Second Presbyterian Church

Jeffrey Sandborg, Director

Patricia Clevenger, Soprano

Cecilia McKinley, Alto

Jason Gonzalez, Tenor

David Neuman, Bass

Chamber Ensemble

Jeffrey Sandborg, Conductor

Second Presbyterian Church, Roanoke



*Photo from the Chancel Choir's MESSIAH concert in 2018.*

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