

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYMPATHY

Our sympathies extend to Jaret and Amy Mutter on the death of Jaret's father, Blake Cecil Mutter, on Saturday, September 5. Our prayers are also with their children, Alex and Kayla Mutter.

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OPEN FLOWER DATES: The following dates are available for anyone who would like to sponsor flowers in the sanctuary: Sept. 27; Oct. 18; Nov. 29; Dec. 27. Please contact Denise Revercomb to see if the dates are still open (540-588-5111; revercomb@cox.net).

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY | BEGAN SEPT. 10 | THURSDAYS @ 10:30 A.M. | SESSION ROOM: Join Elizabeth Link this fall for an engaging Bible study and discussion based on Rachel Held Evans' 2012 book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. Over ten weeks, we'll read the book alongside Scripture as we wrestle with challenging passages and explore what faithful biblical interpretation looks like today. Together, we'll approach the Bible with both reverence and curiosity, honoring its historical and cultural context while seeking the liberating, life-giving heart of the gospel. Whether you're a longtime Rachel Held Evans fan or reading her work for the first time, you're invited to bring your questions, your experiences, and your whole self. *A limited number of copies are available for purchase in Elizabeth's office. We hope most participants will be able to purchase books online. Contact Meredith Koliba (meredith@spres.org) to register.*

Amanda Copeland
Suzanne Fischer
Dan Hodges
Carol Moneymaker
C.J. Swanson
Stephen Waskey
Kevin Young

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026
WORSHIP AT 8:45 & 11 A.M. | 11 A.M. IN PERSON & ONLINE
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gathering Music *A Song on Sunday* Michael Shea

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Holy, Holy, Holy!* David Cherwien

*Call to Worship¹
The world belongs to God,
The earth, and all its people.
How good it is, how wonderful,
To live together in unity.
Love and faith come together,
Justice and peace join hands.
If Christ's disciples keep silent,
These stones would shout aloud.
Open our lips, O God,
And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

*Hymn No. 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

(11:00 A.M.) A Time for Children
Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders
Children, Worship, & Wonder participants (Pre-K–1st grade)
excused after Children's Time.

Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession
Gracious God, you know us more deeply than we know ourselves, and you call us your own. Yet we confess that we often forget who we are in your eyes. We measure our worth by what we accomplish, by how we compare with others, or by whether others notice and approve of us. When we forget our worth in your eyes, we can forget the worth of others in your eyes. We forget that every person of every race and nation is someone wonderfully made and worthy of love. Forgive us, O God. Restore in us the wonder of being known and loved by you, and free us to treat others as your children.

*In the silence, center our hearts in your grace
and remind us who we are.*

Assurance of Pardon

*Hymn of Response No. 581 *Gloria Patri*

*Affirmation of Faith (adapted from Psalm 139 and Ephesians 2:10)
We believe that we are made in the image of God, wonderfully and intentionally created. We believe that every person bears the image of God and possesses a dignity no achievement can earn, no failure can take away, and no sin destroy. We believe that in Christ we are created for

lives of love and good works. We believe that our worth is not something we must prove, but a gift we receive from the God who made us and loves us. And we believe that because our lives matter to God, what we do with our lives matters. God has given us gifts, experiences, wisdom and opportunities through which we may make a difference. So we offer ourselves to God, trusting that even our ordinary lives can become part of God's extraordinary work in the world.

Concerns

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

(11:00 A.M.) Anthem *Christ's Flock* (Francis Kimmewershe) Martin Shaw
In Christ's own flock let love be surely placed,
From Christ's own flock let concord hate expel:
Of Christ's own flock let love be so embraced,
As we in Christ, and Christ in us may dwell.

Christ is the author of all unity, From whence proceedeth all felicity.

O sing unto this glittering glorious King, O praises bring from every living thing;
Let heart and voice like bells of silver ring. Alleluia.
© 1953, Martin Shaw New York: G. Schirmer

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading² Psalm 139:13-18 Old Testament p. 504
Ephesians 2:10 New Testament p. 948

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon *To Matter* Dr. George C. Anderson

A Moment for Reflection, Hymn No. 188 *Jesus Loves Me!* (v. 1)
(Remain seated, singing quietly)

Call to Discipleship
Offering^{3**}
Offertory *Meditation on "Brother James' Air"* Lani Smith
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. 833 *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

*Charge and Benediction

(11:00 A.M.) *Choral Response

Postlude *Grand Choeur in C* Charles-Alexis Chauvet

**Please rise.*



BULLETIN NOTES

¹ TODAY'S CALL TO WORSHIP is adapted from a prayer found in *Iona Abby: Worship Book*.

² OUR PASSAGES TODAY speak to the Christian affirmation that we are created in the image of God and possess an inherent worth that does not have to be earned or proven. This is more than positive thinking. Christian faith does not ask us to ignore our failures and limitations in order to feel good about ourselves. Rather, God's grace allows us to face our sin honestly without being defined by it. We are God's children, wonderfully made and imperfectly living into the lives God has given us. Our worth is not achieved through success, the approval of others, or our efforts to prove that we matter. It is received as a gift of grace. And from that humble confidence, we can live more freely—honoring our own dignity, recognizing the dignity of others, and offering our particular gifts in ways that honor God's will.

³ THE OUTREACH OFFERING for September will support *Feeding Southwest Virginia*. September is Hunger Action Month, a time for each of us to work together and serve our neighbors in Roanoke. Food insecurity is a situation that anyone can experience, and is often the result of a lost job, an unexpected medical expense, or the rising cost of everyday expenses like food and housing. More than 16,000 neighbors experience food insecurity in Roanoke City, leaving many families feeling stretched and uncertain as they work to ensure the people they care about have enough food to thrive and be healthy. FSWVA is grateful for our long-time support of their programs including the Community Solutions Center Neighborhood Pantry on Melrose Avenue, work with Agency Partner food pantries across Roanoke, work with Carilion Hospital on the Food Farmacy program, and children's programs such as the Kid's Farmer's Market and Backpack programs for local schools. Almost one-quarter of children in Roanoke City experience food insecurity, but with our support during the past year, FSWVA distributed more than 42,600 meals to our neighbors in Roanoke. When neighbors care for neighbors by giving, volunteering, and speaking up on behalf of their community, we can move caring into action. **As of Tuesday, September 15, \$2,116 has been collected.**

Undesignated cash gifts are given to the Outreaching Offering. If you would like your gift to benefit the church, please designate "Second Presbyterian."

Monthly Food Collection for PCC: The food items for the month of September are canned chili and beef stew. Pull top cans preferred. A donation bin is in the coat closet (please check the expiration date before donating).

CCLI #2642604. | ONE LICENSE, License #A-742472.

THIS SUNDAY

Flowers: The flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Frank and Martha Clay Martin and Julia Martin Holland by Bob and Cheryl Martin. *Arranged by Cindy Smith.*

Ushers: (8:45) Rebekah Gunn (Head), Daniel Gunn, Brandon Ashburn, Margaret Ashburn. (11:00) Ken Sizemore (Head), Manly Aylor, Wayne Lewis, Kipper Nottingham.

Greeters: Angie and Jim Pittendrigh.

AV Technicians: Andrea Boone, Doug Settles.

Children, Worship & Wonder: "Orientation to the Worship Center: Listening to God." Greeter, Amanda Copeland. Storyteller, Lori Privott. Program Coordinator, Lisa Miller.

THE LONGER REACH OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | SABBATICAL REPORT | SEPT. 23, 30, OCT. 7: Having returned from sabbatical, Dr. George Anderson will share insights from his three months of study and reflection on emerging needs in our world and the church—and how Second Presbyterian Church is uniquely equipped to respond. Three guided conversations will be held this fall, featuring brief presentations and discussion. Each session will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel and conclude by 8:00 p.m. No nursery will be provided. The conversations will focus on several areas of particular importance identified during the sabbatical, where Second Presbyterian Church can make a meaningful difference. **Schedule: September 23—*The Changing Landscape*, September 30—*The Changing PC(USA)*, October 7—*The Changing Ways to Witness*.**

POP-UP SUNDAY SCHOOL | “THIS IS OUR STORY: REFORMED SACRAMENTS” | OCT 4 | 9:45 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL: Join Elizabeth Link on October 4 to learn what makes Second Presbyterian unique. What makes our understanding of Baptism and Communion distinctly Reformed? We’ll explore the meaning of the sacraments in our tradition and consider how these practices tell the story of who we are as God’s people.



THE BIBLE IN BLACK & WHITE | WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER | 12:00 P.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL: This October, the Bible in Black & White community will consider Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” dated April 16, 1963. We will look at the historical context of the letter, its content, its biblical basis, and the impact it made on the nation during the tumultuous Civil Rights era. Together, we will ask what we modern readers need to gain from its reading to continue the pursuit of justice and understanding today. Dates: October 7, 14, 21 & 28.

MEN’S RETREAT 2026 | OCT. 23–24 | EAGLE EYRIE CONFERENCE CENTER: Today’s culture seems to be all about maxxng. Social influencers tell us to be all about “looksmaxxing.” Our politicians seem to be more and more interested in “vicemaxxing.” All the while, the rest of us just experience more and more “sadmaxxing” as loneliness increases and happiness decreases. This fall, the men of 2PC will gather to confront these challenges by “virtuesmaxxing” at Eagle Eyrie on October 23 and 24. Carter Brothers will lead the charge while looking at the Christian virtues highlighted in Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings* and how his story about wizards, hobbits, and elves (oh my!) can teach us how to be more fully human in the 21st Century. We will worship together, feast together, laugh together and, of course, fellowship together! **Register by Wednesday, October 14.**



GAL’S GATHERING 2026 | NOV. 20–21 | ALTA MONS CAMP & RETREAT CENTER: Women of the church are invited to join us for this special overnight event to grow closer to one another and closer to God through study, conversation, crafts, and shared meals. The theme this year is “Advent Waiting,” and our guest speaker is the Rev. Donna Hopkins Britt, Pastor of Buchanan Presbyterian Church. Many of us feel like we are wandering through a kind of wilderness. Yet even in these challenging places, we can prepare the way for the Lord to come to us. Together, we can identify the obstacles that stand in our way and discern how to address them so that the themes of Advent may be more fully seen, experienced, and lived out in our community. Along the way, we will journey through each Gospel, exploring hope through Matthew’s perspective, peace through Mark’s, joy through Luke’s, and love through John’s. **Register by Wednesday, November 11.**



 **PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND HIRING:** The preschool has a few spots open in the Threes class for the 2026–27 school year. Additionally, the preschool is looking to hire after care staff for a couple of afternoons each week, 12:30–5:30 p.m. Please email Preschool Director Alice Light (alight@spres.org) to learn more or enroll.