

# THE SECOND SHEET

Monthly Newsletter of Second Presbyterian Church



## SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TRUNK OR TREAT



OCT  
25

MOUNTAIN AVENUE PARKING LOT  
214 MOUNTAIN AVE, SW

WWW.SPRES.ORG

4-6  
PM

The 2PC Youth 6th Annual Trunk or Treat takes place this month. See more on p. 4.

### SECOND PRESBYTERIAN

*Finding direction by following Jesus.*

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## PASTOR'S NOTES - DR. GEORGE C. ANDERSON

### WE ARE NEEDED

"We Are Needed" is this year's Stewardship theme.

The theme was chosen for very specific reasons. An increase in our church budget would make a difference in many ways. But as we have been preparing the 2027 budget, two areas have emerged that I believe are especially consequential: **Youth Programming** and **International Missions**.

#### 1. Youth Programming

I'll begin with an area which is highly valued in our congregation and doesn't need much explanation.

Last year, in order to balance the budget, some funding for youth programming was temporarily moved from the church budget to the Martin Fund. That was an understandable decision at the time, but it was never intended to be permanent.

We need to restore some—and hopefully all—of that funding to the operating budget so that the Martin Fund can do what it was established to do: *expand and enrich our youth ministry beyond what our regular budget can provide.*

Our young people are worth the investment. And we have a youth ministry worth investing in.



## THE SECOND SHEET

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*The Second Sheet* is published monthly. Submissions are due by noon on the second Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

You may view  
*The Second Sheet* online at:  
[www.spres.org/connect/newsletter/](http://www.spres.org/connect/newsletter/)

To receive a full-color copy by email or to report a change in contact info, please send a request to [andrea@spres.org](mailto:andrea@spres.org).

The church occasionally uses photos of people and groups on the website and in publications. Those objecting to the use of their photos (or photos of their minor children) should so inform the church.

## CONNECT WITH US

Enjoy listening to podcasts? Listen to our sermons on *Second on the Mount*, and our podcast for children and families, *Child of God with The Rev. Elizabeth Link!*  
[www.spres.org/connect/podcasts/](http://www.spres.org/connect/podcasts/)



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## PASTOR'S NOTES - DR. GEORGE C. ANDERSON

*continued from page 1 . . .*

### 2. International Missions

The second area is more complicated, but I think it may be even more urgent.

For generations, the PC(USA) provided an institutional structure through which mission co-workers were called, trained, commissioned, sent, and supported in long-term service alongside international partners.

In 2025, that changed dramatically. The denomination closed its World Mission ministry area and eliminated 54 mission co-worker positions.

This does **not** mean that the PC(USA) has abandoned international relationships or that international mission is no longer important. The denomination is developing a new model of global engagement built around ecumenical partnerships and Global Ecumenical Liaisons. But something important has been lost: the funded support for many of the people who were already doing this work.

And here is what has struck me most: **The work itself has not gone away.**

Some of these former mission co-workers have simply refused to walk away from ministries they believe are too important to abandon. They are finding new ways to continue, and Presbyterians in congregations and presbyteries around the country are finding new ways to support them. A few examples:

- **Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather** continue their work with RECONCILE in South Sudan, a ministry devoted to peacebuilding and reconciliation. South Sudan became independent from Sudan in 2011 after decades of brutal conflict, but it continues to face instability and the threat of renewed violence. The Smith-Mathers' work is not simply about preaching peace. It is about helping people learn the practices of reconciliation in a place where those practices can literally save lives. They are now continuing this work through the Reformed Church in America.
- **Tyler Holm** has taught theology at the University of Livingstonia in Malawi for 13 years. The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian and the university have asked him to remain. So he is working to establish a new relationship with a mission-sending organization that will allow him to continue teaching and serving the church that wants him there.
- **Larry and Inge Sthreshley** have spent years working in health ministries in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Larry previously managed major health programs serving millions of people. Rather than simply leave, he and Inge have found another way to continue their work. Larry helped establish a Congolese NGO, Durable Solutions Congo, focused on health and environmental needs, while Inge continues work connected to health, nutrition, gardens and community development.

These are not people looking for something else to do. They are people who have found another way to keep doing what they were already called to do.

And they are not alone. By the end of 2025, at least 17 former PC(USA) mission co-workers had either secured new arrangements to continue their service or were working to do so. Presbyteries, congregations,

mission networks and independent mission organizations have stepped forward to help fill the gap.

That is where **we** come in. Our Service and Outreach Committee is on a fast-learning curve as we try to understand how Second Presbyterian can step up in this critical moment. We are not yet ready to offer specifics about exactly where increased funding for international missions will go. But we are hoping for a significant increase in budgeted funding so that we can respond to opportunities like these when we discern that God is calling us to do so.

I could list other needs in our 2027 budget involving the three big “Ps”—Personnel, Programming and Property. All of them matter. But Youth Programming and International Missions are the two that, for me, are the most compelling. They represent *opportunities that are in front of us right now*, and they call for an immediate and strong response.

That is why I am asking that, if you are able, you consider increasing your pledge. I would hope for at least a **7.5% overall increase in our church budget**. What can you do to help us meet—and hopefully surpass—that goal?

I am asking because I believe we can do it.

And I am grateful to be part of a church community that can.

Frederick Buechner famously described vocation this way: “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

I have been using the word “gaps” to describe some of the places where our church has an opportunity to make a difference. Those gaps are hungers—for young people to be fed in ways that can shape the rest of their lives, for churches around the world to have the leaders they need, for people in war-torn places to learn the difficult work of reconciliation, for communities without adequate health care to have people willing to serve.

And here is the “glad” thing: *We are a church that can actually do something about it* because we are a church with a deep reservoir of wisdom, passion, relationships, and resources for youth ministry and international missions.

That is not a burden. That is a gift. And it is a reason for gladness, gratitude, and generosity.

*We are needed.*

***Praise be to God.***

*Learn more about how annual giving, church funds, legacy generosity, and other forms of participation work together to support and extend Second Presbyterian’s ministry.*



### — LEGACY CORNER: WHAT YOU LEAVE BEHIND —

When we enter the sanctuary—whether from the narthex or through the door near the chancel—our eyes are drawn to many beautiful features of Second Presbyterian Church. We may be lured to the stark beauty of the cross or the colorful stained glass windows that depict a collection of the most beloved biblical narratives. Perhaps Marianne has begun the prelude and the majestic organ pipes attract our attention. Our church is a celebration of worship through light, sound and color. But how many of us ever cast a glance toward the back pews?

Gifts and blessings come from all places and spaces. The Donald and Elizabeth Parsons

Maintenance Fund was established in 2025. An extremely generous gift from back pew member Bette Parsons is dedicated to the preservation of the church facilities. This fund ensures the maintenance of these very pipes, pews, walls, windows and doors that make Second Presbyterian a welcoming and glorious house of worship.

So, the next time you behold the beauty of the church, please consider giving a nod toward the back pews. Those who often do the most and seek the least can be found there.

*Submitted by MM for the Legacy Committee.*



## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

### YOUTH

The youth began the year fast and with enthusiasm, as we jumped straight into programming with Sunday school and Confirmation (both off to a great start), our Kickoff Cookout, and two nights of games and storytelling. Now, it is time to head out of town for our annual overnight Youth Retreat at Camp Tuk-A-Way. This retreat is full of games, team building, adventure activities, spiritual growth, and plenty of chill time to hang out with friends and build relationships! I encourage you to make this weekend a priority for your youth this fall, as we *RISE & SHINE* together! And friends are welcome to join! Sign-ups are available at the bottom of the Youth Page of our website.



### TRUNK OR TREAT

Mark your calendars! The 6th Annual 2PC Youth Trunk or Treat will be on October 25th in the Mountain Avenue Parking Lot from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. This event brings our neighbors, our preschool, our mission partners, and local schools together for a wonderfully SPOOKtacular night of fun and fellowship! The youth create games for all the kids to play, while members of our church volunteer to decorate their trunks and pass out candy! The Second Pres Preschool even sponsors the Bounce House! The Trunk or Treat is a church-wide, neighborhood, and community event that highlights our focus on mission and outreach and relationships.

Want to help with Trunk or Treat? You can donate candy or sign up to decorate your car. We had 22 Trunks last year ... I bet we can get to 30 this year! Scan the QR code to sign up, and contact Ben Brannan with questions ([benb@spres.org](mailto:benb@spres.org)).

That very night, we will begin collecting canned food donations for our Middle School Hunger Busters Initiative to benefit the Presbyterian Community Center through November 15th!



### YOUNG ADULTS

#### OCT. 17 @ SINKLAND FARMS

This group of young people in their 20s and 30s occasionally gathers for fellowship, fun, and study. We have some exciting plans as we continue our relationship with the Young Adults at Raleigh Court Presbyterian, who joined us for dinner and trivia at the Wasena Tap Room last month. **On October 17, we will head out to Sinkland Farms for a fun day at the Pumpkin Patch!** Please check church communications for times. If you are interested in joining this group and receiving communications about events, reach out to Ben Brannan ([benb@spres.org](mailto:benb@spres.org)) or the church office. We look forward to seeing you and your friends real soon!

## — A SMALL ACT OF STEWARDSHIP — RALLY DAY PICNIC INTRODUCES COMPOSTING<sup>1</sup>

For the first time, the Rally Day Picnic menu included compostable plates cups, knives, forks, spoons, and napkins. These items were composted along with food and beverage waste. In the end, 161.50 pounds of compostable material was collected and diverted from the landfill.

Composting this quantity prevented approximately 40 pounds of pure methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) from being released into the atmosphere. That's the equivalent of 1,130 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> or the amount of electricity needed to power an average U.S. household for about 20–25 days. Methane is a greenhouse gas roughly 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Both gases contribute significantly to warming the planet's atmosphere and oceans.

While composting emits CO<sub>2</sub>, "...the net climate benefit of composting comes entirely from stopping methane production. Even though composting releases CO<sub>2</sub>, it is considered biogenic carbon, meaning it is part of the natural, short-term carbon cycle (absorbed by plants) rather than adding legacy fossil carbon to the atmosphere..." by burning fossil fuels.

It's interesting to note that while recycling deals with inorganic and manufactured goods—materials like plastics, glass, aluminum cans, cardboard, paper, etc., composting deals strictly with organic, carbon-based matter—such as food scraps, fruit peels, coffee grounds, yard trimmings, leaves, compostable place settings, etc. Next year's Rally Day Picnic will incorporate lessons learned from this year's picnic—like recycling the worship bulletins and providing pictorial signage at collection bins to make it easier to understand what items go into what bins.

The Picnic Czars, Congregational Life Committee, Property Committee, 2PC Green Team, Star City Compost and 283 picnic enthusiasts came together to make this possible. This small act of faith is a reminder that small choices add up to meaningful change and care for God's creation. It bears repeating, as *Zero-Waste Chef* author Anne Marie Bonneau put it, "We don't need a handful of people doing zero waste perfectly. We need millions of people doing it imperfectly." Thanks to the 283 people who did their part at the Rally Day Picnic!

Whether you're embracing more sustainable habits or purchasing more environmentally friendly products, every act of stewardship counts. We hope that after reading this, you're feeling inspired to create less waste and adopt a more sustainable lifestyle.

And please note, that beginning with this issue, the **Sustainability Spotlight** will be published quarterly in the hopes of presenting meaningful and relevant content regarding the life of our church and the opportunities afforded us to love one another and care for God's creation.



**GREEN TEAM**

*Grounded by Scripture, Informed by Science.*



<sup>1</sup> Gemini, Google, 14 Sept. 2026, [gemini.google.com](https://www.gemini.google.com)  
was used to generate portions of this content.

## — MEN’S AND WOMEN’S OVERNIGHT RETREATS —

### LAST CALL FOR THE MEN’S RETREAT!

October 23–24 (Fri.–Sat.) | Eagle Eyrie | Lynchburg, VA

Scan the QR code to register by Wed., October 14

What can *The Lord of the Rings* teach us about being more fully human, even in the maxx-ing-obsessed culture of today? Come find out at this year’s Men’s Retreat: *Virtuesmaxxing: Either the Next Big Thing or What We Were Supposed to Be Doing All Along*, with guest speaker Carter Brothers.



We’ll worship, feast, laugh, and fellowship together as we explore Christian virtues highlighted in Tolkien’s unforgettable world. And this year, we’re glad to welcome the men of Salem Pres, too!

Please join us and invite a friend! Registration closes soon.  
**Register by Wed., October 14.**

### GALS’ GATHERING

November 20–21 (Fri.–Sat.) | Alta Mons |

Shawsville, VA

Scan the QR code to register by Wed., November 11



This year’s Gals’ Gathering, “Advent Waiting,” invites us to consider what it means to prepare the way for the Lord—even when life feels a little like wilderness. Together, we’ll look honestly at the obstacles that can get in the way and consider how we might make more room for Christ in our lives and community.

With guest speaker Rev. Donna Hopkins Britt, Pastor of Buchanan Presbyterian Church, we’ll journey through the four Gospels, reflecting on hope through Matthew, peace through Mark, joy through Luke, and love through John. Come for a meaningful time of worship, reflection, fellowship, and Advent preparation at Alta Mons.

**Register by Wed., November 11!** And check out the online brochure for more details. We hope you’ll join us!

## KOSOVO NEWSLETTER

### STAY CONNECTED TO PHILIP SMITH’S MISSION WORK

During worship on Sunday, August 9, we commissioned church member Philip Smith as he set out on a vocational mission internship with the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Prishtina, Kosovo. Philip has created a digital newsletter to chronicle his time in Kosovo. Keep up with him at:

<https://pjsmitty03.github.io/philipsmith.github.io/index.html>

In a letter of thanks Philip shared:

*“I am just so thankful to the church as a whole for laying the foundations of my faith as a child, granting me growth opportunities as a youth, and preparing me for a future in vocational ministry through the Summer Pastoral Internship. . . . I am so thankful for [George, Elizabeth, and Ben] and to the whole congregation.”*



### THEOLOGY ON TAP | 6–7 P.M.

- *October 6 @ A Few Old Goats*
- *November 3 @ Starr Hill*
- *December 1 @ Twisted Track*

Men of the church, you are invited to grab your favorite brew (craft, root, non-alcoholic, or otherwise), pull up a chair, and join us for Theology on Tap—a space where faith meets real life over good conversation and better company. No homework, no pop quizzes, no seminary degree required. Just bring your questions, your stories, and your appetite for deep truth. We'll wrestle with big ideas, laugh at ourselves, and share stories. Because sometimes the holiest thing you can do on a Tuesday night is sip, share, and let theology spill over into the way you live.

### THANKSGIVING DRUMSTICK DASH TO BENEFIT THE RESCUE MISSION

Taking place Thanksgiving morning at 9:00 a.m., run, walk, and virtual run/walk events are available. Head to [drumstickdash.net/](https://drumstickdash.net/) and sign up to join our Second Presbyterian Church team today!



### GRIEF SEMINAR | SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday, November 12 | 5:30–7:00 p.m. | Session Room**

The holiday season can stir up tender memories and emotions, especially after the loss of a loved one. Join us for a supportive workshop that offers space to honor those we remember, while also exploring ways to discover light and joy during the holidays. We will be led by Frances Gaeta, LCSW, Clinical Program Manager at the Center for Grief and Healing. More details and registration to come—stay tuned!

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## — WELCOME NEW MEMBERS —

### WELCOME ANNETTE PARSONS

We're delighted to welcome Annette Parsons to our church family! She joined by reaffirmation of faith on April 26.

Annette grew up in Bluefield, VA, and attended Fincastle Presbyterian Church. She went on to study Journalism and Political Science at West Virginia University. Annette recently retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs, where she provided enterprise-wide operations support for Electronic Medical Records. In retirement, she's enjoying more time for some of the things she loves most: tennis, hiking, and photography.



We hope you'll take the opportunity to introduce yourself, share a conversation, and get to know Annette. We're grateful to have her as part of our church community and look forward to the fellowship, friendship, and experiences ahead!

### THE DURANDS JOIN SECOND

We're happy to welcome Fred and Iris Durand to our church family and invite everyone to get to know this wonderful couple. They joined by reaffirmation of faith on May 17.

Fred was born in Rahway, NJ, and was a longtime member of Second Presbyterian Church. He earned degrees from Rutgers University and Ohio State University and spent 39 years with General Electric, retiring in 1995 after a career in locomotive sales and management. Fred enjoys hiking, swimming, and singing in the choir.

Iris grew up in Hackensack, NJ, and attended Douglas College at Rutgers and the University of Dayton. She enjoys gardening and creating art from gourds, and also served as horticulture chair at Brandon Oaks. Together, Fred and Iris have three children and now enjoy their two great-grandchildren!

Fred and Iris celebrated 70 years of marriage in June 2026. We're delighted to have them with us and look forward to getting to know them better through worship and fellowship!



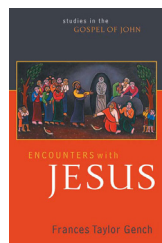
*New member articles submitted by Connie Polly, Engagement Coordinator.*

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

(Thursdays @ 7:15 a.m., Reading Room, Hybrid)

Facilitators: 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 we faithfully interpret Scripture together for our day and time—right here in Roanoke. This fall, we will begin a study of the Gospel of John using a study guide entitled *Encounters with Jesus* by Frances Taylor Gench.



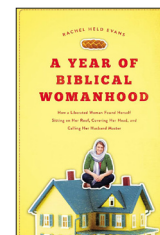
The Men's Bible Study is committed to a careful, faithful reading of the text. Our approach is exegetical, letting the text speak to us rather than our manipulating the Word to our satisfaction. This practice has deepened our faith, strengthened our community, and most importantly, grounded us more firmly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

(Began September 10, Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m., Session Room) Facilitator: Rev. Elizabeth Link

What is “biblical womanhood” . . . really? Join Elizabeth Link this fall for an engaging Bible study and discussion based on Rachel Held Evans’ 2012 book, *A Year of Biblical Womanhood*. In this thoughtful and often humorous memoir, Evans chronicles her yearlong experiment of taking many of the Bible’s instructions for women as literally as possible—from covering her head and making her own clothes to calling her husband “master” and even spending part of each month outside. Along the way, her unusual journey becomes a springboard for deeper questions about Scripture, tradition, culture, and faith.



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.

**WEDNESDAYS IN OCT. | 12 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Second Presbyterian Church | 214 Mountain Ave SW | Roanoke, VA 24016

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL

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.

The Bible in Black & White class brings together people from different races, churches and communities who have committed to study and fellowship for greater understanding. The class takes place every fall and spring in the Fellowship Hall of Second Presbyterian Church.

**Schedule:** October 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2026

**Learn more:** [www.spres.org/the-bible-in-black-and-white](http://www.spres.org/the-bible-in-black-and-white)



**THE  
BIBLE IN  
BLACK  
&  
WHITE**



## — UPCOMING POP-UP ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL —

### “THIS IS OUR STORY” SERIES | 9:45 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

This fall, come and learn what makes Second Presbyterian unique. Explore how our faith takes shape in the life of the church through three conversations. We'll consider how what we believe shapes how we worship, live together as God's people, and the ways we serve and steward the resources we've been given.

#### OCT 4<sup>TH</sup> “This Is Our Story: Reformed Sacraments” with Elizabeth Link

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.

#### NOV 1<sup>ST</sup> “This Is Our Story: Service & Outreach at Second” with Ben Brannan

How does our faith move beyond the walls of the church? We'll hear about the ways Second Pres. serves our neighbors and community, explore the stories behind some of our outreach ministries, and consider where God might be calling us to serve.

#### DEC 6<sup>TH</sup> “This Is Our Story: Stewardship of Finances” with George Anderson

What does our faith have to say about money? We'll explore a Christian understanding of generosity, stewardship, and the resources entrusted to us, while considering how our financial choices help tell the story of our life and mission together as a church.

## — NEWS & NOTES —

**Flowers** | Aug. 16 – Given in loving memory of William Franklin Stanley by John and Lisa Stanley..... Aug. 23 – Given by Marc and CJ Swanson in celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary..... Aug. 30 – Given in loving memory of George and Pat Vaughan by Lee, Laura, Sarah and Tricia..... Sept. 6 – Given in loving memory of Bob Fishburn and Sally Crockett by the family.

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

**Sympathy** | Our sympathy extends to Ruby Linkous on the death of her sister, Betty Garrett, on Friday, August 7.

**Concerns** | Ed Lesko, BJ Millar, Campbell Tims.

**New Arrivals** | Congratulations to Martha and Dan Wheeler on the arrival of their grandson, Ezekiel “Zeke” Lee Wheeler-Knight, born on Thursday, August 13 to parents Kelly Wheeler and Justin Knight. Proud great-grandparents are Mike and Pat Sisk..... Congratulations to Gary Glontz on the birth of his grandson, Elliott Alexander Glontz, born on Friday, July 17 to parents Alexander and Alexandra Glontz of Charlotte, NC..... Congratulations to Catherine and Matt Prescott on the arrival of their granddaughter, Imogen Odell Prescott, born on Wednesday, August 19 to parents Sam Prescott and Summer Jones of Richmond, VA. Proud great-grandmother is Nancy Barbour..... Congratulations to Gloria Burleigh on the arrival of her great-grandson, Arthur Kovarik Purdy, born on Tuesday, August 25 to parents Ella and Chris Purdy..... Congratulations to Shelby and Jason Bingham on the arrival of their grandson, Parker Barry Truman, born to parents Bailey and Jake Truman.

**Baptism** | During the service on Sunday August 16, Kelly and Ryan Early presented their daughter, June Louise Early, for the Sacrament of Baptism. The presiding elder was Dave Speno.

### ADVENT WORKSHOP & POTLUCK DINNER | NOV. 23 Sunday, Nov 23 | 4:45–7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall | Register by Nov. 16

All ages are warmly invited to join us for our annual Advent Workshop and Potluck Dinner! Come enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, and creativity as we prepare our hearts and homes for the Advent season. We'll be making Advent wreaths again this year, and we would love your help in collecting some of our supplies. We'll provide the candles, base, and oasis, but would appreciate volunteers bringing clippers and evergreen branches from your home or neighborhood (with permission!).

Kids' Fellowship children will be dismissed from the workshop around 6pm for Christmas pageant rehearsal.

Bring a dish to share and celebrate the season with your church family!



## WE ARE NEEDED: TAKING OUR PLACE

Over the past several months, we have been reflecting on a simple conviction: **We Are Needed**. Not because Second Presbyterian Church is fragile. Not because the church exists simply to sustain itself. We are needed because the ministry God has cultivated through this congregation matters—to the people who worship and grow here, to our neighbors throughout the Roanoke Valley, to mission partners near and far, and increasingly to the wider church.

Generations before us believed that ministry mattered. They worshiped, served, taught, prayed, welcomed, gave, and built with faithfulness. We are the beneficiaries of what they faithfully built. Now it is our turn to take our place.

One important way we do that is through annual giving. Our pledges and offerings support the ongoing life of this congregation: worship and music, pastoral leadership and care, Christian formation for every age, mission commitments, staff, facilities, and the countless ordinary things that make ministry possible week after week.

And the year ahead brings opportunities that make our shared commitment especially important. Alongside the ministries we already sustain, changes in the wider church are creating an urgent need for congregations like Second to help sustain international mission in places we cannot ourselves go. We have opportunities to use Second's experience and resources to help prepare and support a new generation of pastors for service throughout the wider church. And here at home, we are exploring new ways to reach people who may

be searching for hope, belonging, and a thoughtful, authentic faith. These are among the needs and opportunities before us now—and our giving in the coming year will help determine how faithfully and fully we are able to respond.

A pledge is not a contract. It is simply an estimate of what we hope to give in the coming year, allowing our church leaders to plan responsibly and faithfully for the ministry ahead. More importantly, a pledge can be an expression of participation: *This is one way I choose to take my place in what God is doing through this congregation.*

As **Commitment Sunday, October 11**, approaches, we invite each person and household to prayerfully consider that participation. For some, that may mean beginning to pledge for the first time. For others, it may mean continuing a longstanding commitment or considering whether circumstances allow that commitment to grow. There is no single faithful amount. Our circumstances are different, and stewardship is always a response offered freely and gratefully.

What we share is the opportunity: *God has entrusted something precious to this congregation. We are today's stewards of yesterday's faithfulness and tomorrow's hope.*

May each of us discover anew the joy of taking our place in God's continuing story.

— Your Stewardship Committee

We Are  
NEEDED

## FINANCIAL FOCUS

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | AUGUST 2026

#### Second Fund

In memory of **Tanky Stephenson** by  
Mary Louise and John Burress  
Pat and CW Houghton

In memory of **Ann Miller** by  
Mary Louise and John Burress

In memory of **Frank Boxley** by  
Mary Louise and John Burress

In memory of **Kenneth Tuck** by  
Pat and CW Houghton

#### Mountain Avenue Fund

In memory of **Bill Neal** by  
Pat and CW Houghton

#### General Fund

In honor of **Buster Jones** by  
Carole Mayberry



SCAN  
TO  
GIVE

Other funds are available for your contributions. Please contact Nathan Anderson, Church Administrator, at 540-343-3659 or [admin@spres.org](mailto:admin@spres.org). This list includes donations received between August 1–31, 2026.

*\*We sincerely regret any errors or omissions in this list. Please contact the Church Administrator to help us get it corrected.*

# CALENDAR - OCTOBER 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Tuesday                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Friday                                                          | Saturday                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <p>SCAN TO VIEW THE DIGITAL CALENDAR</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>1<br/>7:15am Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom<br/>9:30am Knitting Group, Hospitality Room<br/>10:30am Women's Bible Study, Session Room<br/>4:00pm Christian Education Committee Meeting, Reading Room/Zoom<br/>5:00pm Property Committee Meeting, Session Room/Zoom</p> | 2                                                               | <p>3<br/>All-Youth Retreat</p>    |
| <p>4<br/>All-Youth Retreat<br/>World Communion Sunday<br/>Youth Retreat<br/>8:45am Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary<br/>9:45am Sunday School<br/>9:45am POP-UP Sunday School, Fellowship Hall<br/>11:00am Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary &amp; Live Stream<br/>5:00pm Kids' Fellowship<br/>5:30pm Welcome Families to the Alexa House</p> | <p>5<br/>6:30pm Al Anon &amp; Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library<br/>6:30pm Cub Scouts, Cafe<br/>6:45pm Scouts</p>                                                                           | <p>6<br/>9:30am Staff Meeting<br/>6:00pm Theology on Tap, A Few Old Goats</p>             | <p>7<br/>12:00pm Bible in Black &amp; White Class, Fellowship Hall<br/>12:00pm Bulletin Article Deadline<br/>5:15pm Personnel Committee, Zoom and Session Room<br/>7:00pm - 8:00pm The Longer Reach of 2PC with George Anderson, Chapel</p>                         | <p>8<br/>7:15am Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom<br/>9:30am Knitting Group, Hospitality Room<br/>10:30am Women's Bible Study, Session Room</p>                                                                                                                              | <p>9<br/>12:00pm Stewardship Meeting, Zoom and Reading Room</p> | 10                                |
| <p>11<br/>Commitment Sunday<br/>8:45am Worship Service, Sanctuary<br/>9:45am Sunday School<br/>11:00am Worship Service with Baptism of Caroline Koes, Sanctuary &amp; Live Stream<br/>5:00pm Kids' Fellowship</p>                                                                                                                                             | <p>12<br/>5:30pm Service and Outreach Committee Meeting, Zoom and Session Room<br/>6:30pm Al Anon &amp; Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library<br/>6:30pm Cub Scouts, Cafe<br/>6:45pm Scouts</p> | <p>13<br/>9:30am Staff Meeting<br/>4:00pm Congregational Life Meeting, Zoom</p>           | <p>14<br/>12:00pm Bible in Black &amp; White Class, Fellowship Hall<br/>12:00pm Bulletin Article Deadline<br/>12:00pm Second Sheet Article Deadline<br/>5:00pm Green Team, Zoom/Trent Classroom<br/>5:15pm Worship &amp; Music Committee, Zoom and Session Room</p> | <p>15<br/>7:15am Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom<br/>9:30am Knitting Group, Hospitality Room<br/>10:30am Women's Bible Study, Session Room</p>                                                                                                                             | 16                                                              | 17                                |
| <p>18<br/>Preschool Sunday<br/>8:45am Worship Service, Sanctuary<br/>9:45am Sunday School<br/>11:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary &amp; Live Stream<br/>5:00pm Kids' Fellowship<br/>5:30pm Welcome Families to the Alexa House</p>                                                                                                                             | <p>19<br/>6:30pm Al Anon &amp; Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library<br/>6:30pm Cub Scouts, Cafe<br/>6:45pm Scouts</p>                                                                          | <p>20<br/>9:30am Staff Meeting</p>                                                        | <p>21<br/>8:05am Preschool Committee Meeting, Hybrid<br/>12:00pm Bible in Black &amp; White Class, Fellowship Hall<br/>12:00pm Bulletin Article Deadline<br/>4:30pm Finance Committee, Zoom and Session Room</p>                                                    | <p>22<br/>7:15am Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom<br/>9:30am Knitting Group, Hospitality Room<br/>10:30am Women's Bible Study, Session Room</p>                                                                                                                             | 23<br>Men's Retreat                                             | 24<br>Men's Retreat               |
| <p>25<br/>Two Cents a Meal<br/>8:45am Worship Service, Sanctuary<br/>9:45am Sunday School<br/>11:00am Worship Service with Baptism of Hayes Kreger, Sanctuary &amp; Live Stream<br/>4:00pm Trunk or Treat, Parking Lots<br/>5:30pm Welcome Families to the Alexa House</p>                                                                                    | <p>26<br/>6:30pm Al Anon &amp; Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library<br/>6:30pm Cub Scouts, Cafe<br/>6:45pm Scouts</p>                                                                          | <p>27<br/>9:30am Staff Meeting<br/>4:00pm Legacy Committee Meeting, Reading Room/Zoom</p> | <p>28<br/>12:00pm Bible in Black &amp; White Class, Fellowship Hall<br/>12:00pm Bulletin Article Deadline<br/>5:15pm Session Meeting, Session Room/Zoom</p>                                                                                                         | <p>29<br/>7:15am Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom<br/>10:00am Knitting Group, Hospitality Room</p>                                                                                                                                                                          | 30                                                              | 31<br>Calendar info as of Sept 9. |

**MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION FOR PCC:** Food items for the month of October are **holiday foods (stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, cranberry sauce)**. Pull top cans preferred. A donation bin is in the coat closet (please check the expiration date before donating).

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
214 MOUNTAIN AVENUE, SW  
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 24016

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### HABITAT HOME DEDICATION

Thank you to everyone who helped us Build It Together this year for our second Habitat for Humanity home partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church.

What a joy to see what God can accomplish when we come together in faith, service, and community! May this new home be a blessing and a place of hope, love, and belonging.



### YOU'RE INVITED TO A FAMILY PROMISE GALA

A Night of Promise will be held on November 7th—an unforgettable evening celebrating hope, community, and brighter futures for families experiencing homelessness. Get ready for an exciting night filled with great food, music, fun and plenty of opportunities to make a difference. Tickets required. Learn more at [www.familypromiseroanoke.org](http://www.familypromiseroanoke.org).

