Announcements

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to Betty Lesko on the death of her husband, Dr. Edmund Michael Lesko, on Monday, October 12. Our prayers are also with their daughter and son-in-law, Catherine and Charles Daniel, and their grandchildren, Ann Ashley, Chase, and Lauren Daniel. A memorial service in celebration of Ed's life and Christian witness will be held on Monday, November 23 at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

New Arrivals

We celebrate with Dan and Kate Hughes who recently welcomed two granddaughters, Ann and Annie. Ann Parker Hughes was born on August 29 to parents Jake and Rebecca Hughes of Richmond, VA. Annie James Lancaster was born on October 6 to parents Allyn Hughes and Matt Lancaster of Richmond, VA.

Preschool Sunday

Second Presbyterian Church's preschool has been an important part of the church's ministry since 1953. The philosophy of the preschool has evolved over the years. Today, the philosophy is articulated in this way: Our preschool is based on the philosophy that each child is a unique individual created by God. Our programs are grounded in a developmental approach to learning. Our classrooms and activities reflect that approach. We incorporate lots of play time to provide children the time and space they need to grow. We place emphasis on the joy of learning. This philosophy provides each child with the opportunity to reach their God-given potential through thoughtful instruction.

Preschool Committee 2026–27: *Margaret Ashburn (Chair), Laura Delgado, Kevin Earl, Rebekah Gunn, Hannah Hopkins, Julie Mugford, Nathan Walker. Ongoing members: George Anderson (Senior Pastor), Alice Light (Preschool Director), Lori Privott (Preschool Asst. Director), Karen Brunk (Teacher Liaison).*

Welcome Preschool Families

We are delighted to have you with us for our 16th annual Preschool Sunday! We love the joy your children bring to our church each weekday, and are grateful for what their presence and music will offer in our time of worship today. Following the Children's Time, children will be dismissed to either the nursery (3s and younger) or to Children, Worship, & Wonder (Pre-K through 1st graders). We hope that each Sunday provides welcoming and engaging worship for all ages. Feel free to ask any ushers or greeters for directions, and worship bags are available for children's use in both the front and back of the sanctuary.

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.

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.

The Week Ahead

Today, October 18
Preschool Sunday
8:45am: Worship Service, Sanctuary
9:45am: Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room
9:45am: Sunday School
11:00am: Worship Service, Sanctuary & Live Stream
5:00pm: Kids' Fellowship
5:00pm: Youth Group, Fellowship Hall
5:30pm: Welcome Families to the Alexa House

Monday, October 19
6:30pm: Al Anon & Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library
6:30pm: Cub Scouts, Cafe
6:45pm: Scouts

Tuesday, October 20
9:30am: Staff Meeting

Wednesday, October 21
8:05am: Preschool Committee Meeting, Hybrid
12:00pm: Bible in Black & White Class, Fellowship Hall
12:00pm: Bulletin Article Deadline
4:30pm: Finance Committee, Zoom and Session Room

Thursday, October 22
7:15am: Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom
9:30am: Knitting Group, Hospitality Room
10:30am: Women's Bible Study, Session Room

Friday, October 23
Men's Retreat

Saturday, October 24
Men's Retreat

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 online via your Realm account (Log in --> Giving --> + Pledge --> 2027 General Fund).

We Are Needed

VIEW THE DIGITAL BULLETIN

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
Pastoral Ministries Coordinator
Meredith Koliba
Secretary
Stacy Moore
Media and Communications Specialist
Andrea Boone
Media Assistant
Erin Mucha
Church Sexton
John Brady Anderson

Trustees
Ron Ayers
Lauren Ellerman
Stephen Lemon

Clerk of Session
Bill Broadhurst
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.spreschool.com

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

For upcoming events, a library of sermons, office hours, 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
Early and Late Services
October 18, 2026



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 2026	Elders - Class of 2027	Elders - Class of 2028
Mary Airheart	Mia Copeland	Amanda Copeland
Margaret Ashburn	Rebekah Gunn	Suzanne Fischer
Chasity Fitzpatrick	Beth Vaught Jenkins	Dan Hodges
Barry Green	John Jessee	Carol Moneymaker
Sally l'Anson	Patty Lemon	C.J. Swanson
Drew Kepley	Jim Pickens	Stephen Waskey
Randy Rhea	Dave Speno	Kevin Young
Ken Sizemore	Maria Ward	

October 18, 2026
Worship at 8:45 & 11 a.m. | 11 a.m. In Person & Online
Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost / Preschool Sunday

Gathering Music *Jesus Loves Me* Raymond Hahn

Welcome and Announcements
(11:00 A.M.) Minute for Education *SPC Preschool* Alice Light, Director

Prelude *All Creatures of Our God and King* Gregg Sewell

*Call to Worship[1]
Jesus said, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them,
for the kingdom of God belongs to people like these children."
We come as children of God, welcomed by grace and held in love.
See what love God has given us,
that we should be called children of God and that is what we are.
Young and old, longtime members and first-time guests,
we belong to the family of God.
Come, children of God. Come and worship.

*Hymn No. 409 *God Is Here!* (vv. 1, 3, 4)

(11:00 A.M.) Preschool Music *Stop! And Let Me Tell You* Traditional
Preschool Children

(11:00 A.M.) A Time for Children
Children, Worship, & Wonder participants (Pre-K–1st grade)
excused following the Children's Time.

Call to Confession
Prayer of Confession[2]
Gracious God, you call us your children and welcome us into your kingdom, not because we have earned a place, but because your love makes room for us. Yet we confess that we do not always make room for one another. We become impatient with those who move at a different pace, ask too many questions, or see the world differently than we do. Forgive us when we forget that every person we meet is someone you love and that, in Christ, we are all children and heirs together.
Give us the humility to learn, the patience to listen, and the tenderness to welcome others as Christ welcomes us, so we might remain a community where children are treasured, families are supported, strangers become neighbors, and all people discover that there is room for them in your love.
Silence our hearts, O God, so we might freely receive a word of grace.
(time for silent confession or personal reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

*Hymn of Response No. 188 *Jesus Loves Me!* (v. 1)
Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

*Affirmation of Faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith)
In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Concerns

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

(11:00 A.M.) Anthem *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* arr. Mack Wilberg
from *Stralsund Gesangbuch,* 1665

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading[3] I Thessalonians 2:1-8 New Testament p. 958
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon *Care So Deeply* Rev. Benjamin S. Brannan

A Moment for Reflection

Call to Discipleship
Offering[4]**
Offertory *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* 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. 643 *Now Thank We All Our God*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Ein' feste Burg* Friedrich Wilhelm Marpurg

**Please rise.*

** SCAN TO GIVE

Bulletin Notes

[1] **The Call to Worship**, typically drawn from sentences of scripture, expresses God's initiative to gather people as Christ's body in this place. We are here because God brought us together.

[2] Having gathered and praised the holiness of God, the church must also face the sinful state of the world and of our lives. We are not worthy to enter into God's presence; but, nevertheless, we approach God with confidence, trusting in the mercy of Jesus Christ. The **Prayer of Confession** can be thought of like a prayer for truth-telling, providing us a moment we can truly be honest with the God whose love for us is deeper than we can ever imagine.

[3] **Paul's nursing-mother imagery** (v.7-8) is key in understanding people's devotion to pagan goddesses associated with childbirth and the protection of children, especially women facing the dangers of childbirth and the high infant mortality of that time. Read against that background, and to circumscribe the highly patriarchal ideas of God the Father and Jesus the Son being central to the gospel, Paul's maternal metaphor gives Christian ministry an embodied, accessible, and life-sustaining character: tender care expressed through sharing one's very life.

[4] **The Outreach Offering** for October will support the *PCC Food Pantry*. This year, we celebrate 59 years of partnership between Presbyterian Community Center (PCC) and Second Presbyterian Church! As PCC approaches its 60th anniversary, their new building is bringing a long-held vision to life. Pathways enrollment has grown by more than 20%, while the food pantry is experiencing unprecedented need from families across our community. Thank you, members of Second Presbyterian, for 59 years of volunteers, financial support, leadership, and prayers. This October, PCC is grateful for our continued partnership and commitment to helping meet the growing needs of our neighbors through this month's Outreach Offering. **As of Thursday, October 15, $4,837 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: 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).

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This Sunday

Flowers: The flowers are given to the glory of God by Pam and Rick Murray in celebration of and thanks for the first birthday of their granddaughter, Kinzy Kehle.

Ushers: (8:45) David Speno (Head), Gary Glontz, Jeff Hobbs, Beth Vaught Jenkins. (11:00) Sally l'Anson (Head), McLendon McGhee, Julie Mugford, Caroline Welchman.

Greeters: (8:45) Kathy and Bruce Stockburger. (11:00) Nancy and Jim Bishop.

AV Technicians: (8:45) Kirk Treubert. (11:00) Miranda Moore, Doug Settles.

Children, Worship & Wonder: "Creation." Greeter, Brandon Ashburn. Storyteller, Lori Privott. Program Coordinator, Lisa Miller.



Trunk or Treat | NEXT SUNDAY, Oct. 25 | 4:00–6:00 p.m. | Mountain Ave Parking Lot: Join our neighbors, preschool families, mission partners, and local schools for a SPOOKtacular evening full of fun, sweet treats, and wonderful fellowship! Our youth will create games for kids of all ages, while church members deck out their trunks and hand out candy. The Second Pres Preschool even sponsors the Bounce House! This church-wide, neighborhood, and community celebration is a fun way to connect with one another while sharing our commitment to mission, outreach, and building meaningful relationships. *Want to join the fun? We'd love your help! Donate candy or use the QR Code to signup & decorate your trunk. Currently we have **15** "trunks" for the event. The youth need our support and would love to see **30** cars fill the parking lot! We will even decorate your trunk for you if you simply want to show up and pass out candy. Candy donations can be made until October 25th.*

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, Nov. 11.***

Senior Outing to the Swinging Bridge on Oct. 30: Join us for a senior outing to the Swinging Bridge Restaurant on Friday, October 30! Enjoy an afternoon surrounded by beautiful views, great company, and a delicious meal in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with friends, share stories, and rejoice in the holiday season together. We will meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. and ride in the church van to Paint Bank, Virginia. We plan to eat lunch and enjoy exploring the area together. If you would like to join, please RSVP by scanning the QR code, emailing meredith@spres.org, or calling the church office. The deadline to RSVP is Monday, Oct. 26.

. . . See Reverse . . .

Pop-Up Sunday School | Nov. 1 | 9:45 a.m. | "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.

Election Eve Prayer Service | Monday, Nov. 2| 5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary: On the eve of Election Day, Second Presbyterian will host an Election Eve Prayer Service inviting people throughout the Roanoke Valley to pause from the noise of the campaign and pray together for their community, their neighbors, and their country. The service will offer prayers for the Roanoke community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation, as well as prayers for wisdom, humility, courage, and the grace to love one's neighbor across differences. The service is intentionally nonpartisan. It will include prayers, Scripture, music, and reflection focused not on candidates or political parties, but on the responsibilities Christians share as neighbors and citizens. The service is open to the public, and people of all political perspectives and Christian traditions are welcome.

Grief Seminar | Thursday, Nov. 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. Together, we will share stories, learn about the impact of grief in this season, and receive practical coping strategies. Our time will include candle-lighting, guided reflection, conversation, and teaching led by Frances Gaeta, LCSW, Clinical Program Manager at the Center for Grief and Healing. ***Scan the QR code to register by Monday, Nov. 8.***

Advent Workshop & Potluck Dinner | Sunday, Nov. 23 | 4:45-7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall: 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 6:00 p.m. for Christmas pageant rehearsal. Bring a dish to share and celebrate the season with your church family! ***Scan the QR code to register by Monday, November 16.***

Jail Ministry Christmas Card Collection: It's almost that time of year when you start wondering what to do with those unused Christmas cards you had left over from the last couple of years. The Service and Outreach Committee has a solution for you! Bring them to the coat closet off Kirk Hall and drop them in the Jail Ministry Christmas Card Collection Box, which will be there through the holidays. Not only will you get rid of those pesky cards that are taking up space, but you will be making it possible for inmates in the Western Virginia Regional Jail to have cards to send to their loved ones this Christmas. In addition, the Service and Outreach Committee will donate stamps to help defray the cost of postage.

Open Flower Date: Sunday, November 22 is available for anyone who would like to sponsor flowers in the sanctuary. Contact Denise Revercomb to see if the date is still open (540-588-5111; revercomb@ cox.net).

Organ Recital: Andrew Phillips, organist, will present a recital at First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Roanoke. Some of you may remember that Andrew was our substitute organist back in May. Featured composers will be Bach, Buxtehude, Manz, and others. Date: Sunday, October 25. Time: 3:00 p.m. Admission: Free. Location: 2101 Jefferson Street, SW; office@fepcroanoke.org.