

THE SECOND SHEET

Monthly Newsletter of Second Presbyterian Church



2026 Advent Sermon Series.



Finding direction by following Jesus.

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PASTOR'S NOTES - DR. GEORGE C. ANDERSON

2026 ADVENT SERMON SERIES: "JOURNEY TO JESUS"

"Faith is the journey, not the destination." We don't know who first said this, but whoever did was onto something. Faith is not a place we arrive at and then settle into. It keeps moving us—sometimes toward something we long for, sometimes into territory we would rather avoid, and sometimes in directions we never expected to go.

Perhaps that is why the Bible contains so many stories of God sending people on journeys, meeting them along the way, and promising to be with them at journey's end.

The stories of Advent and Christmas are largely stories of journeys. Beginning Sunday, November 29, we're going to follow Joseph and Mary, the shepherds and magi, and even the angels of heaven. In these biblical stories, everyone seems to be on the move: obeying an emperor's decree, responding to God's call, hurrying to see a newborn child, or fleeing to escape danger. Some journeys take people to places they never expected to go. Others require an inner journey of acceptance, trust, or understanding.

We hope you'll join us on these journeys this Advent and Christmas, and for a couple of Sundays beyond. We anticipate that, as we follow their jour-



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You may view
The Second Sheet online at:
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.

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/



@SPRESROANOKE

PASTOR'S NOTES - DR. GEORGE C. ANDERSON

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neys to Jesus, God will meet us along the way, too.

Here is the schedule for our series, "Journey to Jesus."

- **November 29:** Joseph's Journey to Acceptance
Matthew 1:18–25
- **December 6:** Mary's Journey to Bethlehem
Luke 2:1–7
- **December 13:** Shepherds' Journey to the Manger
Luke 2:15–20
- **December 20:** Kings' Journey to see a King
Matthew 2:1–12
- **December 24 (Christmas Eve):** Angel's Journey to Earth
Luke 2:8–14, John 1:14–18
- **December 27:** Family's Journey to Egypt
Matthew 2:13–23
- **January 3:** Jesus' Journey to the Temple
Luke 2:41–52

ELECTION EVE SERVICE

Monday, November 2 | 5:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

On the eve of Election Day, Second Presbyterian Church will host an Election Eve 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.

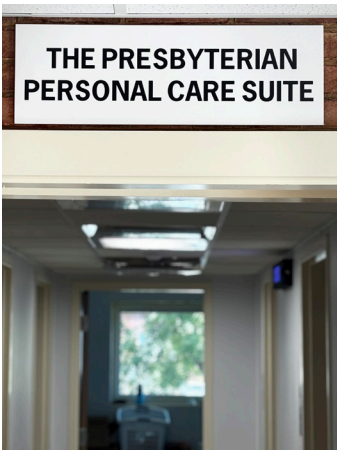
The service is intentionally nonpartisan. It will include prayers, Scripture, music, and reflection focused not on candidates or political parties, but on the responsibilities Christians share as neighbors and citizens.

The service is open to the public, and people of all political perspectives and Christian traditions are welcome.



Above: Elders of the church serve World Communion Extended Table to church members around town. Top: Gathering at Woodland Hills.
Left to right: Barbara Stockstill, Barry Green and Dave Speno, Jo Ann Talbott, and Anne Hurt.

Below: Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM House) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Jain Care Center day shelter in September.



THEOLOGY ON TAP | 6–7 P.M.

- Nov. 4 @ Starr Hill
- Dec. 1 @ Twisted Track

Men of the church, grab your favorite brew (craft, root, non-alcoholic, or otherwise) and join us for Theology on Tap—a space where faith meets real life over good conversation and better company. No homework or seminary degree required—just bring your questions, stories, and appetite for deep truth. We'll wrestle with big ideas, laugh, and explore how theology shapes the way we live.

AUDIO/VISUAL UPGRADES TO FELLOWSHIP HALL

We are excited to share news of Audio/Visual and Assistive Listening upgrades that were completed in Fellowship Hall, made possible through the generosity of the Property Fund Unlimited.

The Fellowship Hall has been equipped with a new ceiling-mounted projector, electric raise/lower projection screen, and audio mixer with wireless microphones—an up-to-date, reliable system that allows for easier setup and a wider range of connection options for teachers, guest speakers, musicians, and outside organizations.

Of greatest interest to the congregation may be the addition of the ListenWIFI system (added to the sanctuary earlier this year) that allows attendees to stream the audio directly to their smartphones using a simple app and a designated WiFi network. For those with Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids, this means you can connect your phone and stream audio straight into your hearing aids for a clearer, more personalized listening experience. You may also use your own headphones if they connect to your phone—just bring them with you.

An instruction sheet is posted at the front of the Fellowship Hall by the stage. If you would like help getting set up, please contact Andrea Boone (andrea@sres.org).

GRIEF SEMINAR

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. Together, we will share stories, learn about the impact of grief in this season, and receive practical coping strategies. Our time will include candlelighting, guided reflection, conversation, and teaching led by Frances Gaeta, LCSW, Clinical Program Manager at the Center for Grief and Healing.

Scan the QR code above to register by Monday, Nov. 8.

THANKSGIVING DRUMSTICK DASH

Sign up for the Drumstick Dash event to benefit the Rescue Mission! Taking place Thanksgiving morning at 9:00 a.m., run, walk, and virtual run/walk events are available. If you have plans to attend, consider joining the Second Pres' Team! When registering online, click to join an existing Team Challenge and select Second Presbyterian under Churches from the list. There will be special recognition given to the largest church group participating. So head to drumstickdash.net/ & sign up for Second Pres' team!



JAIL MINISTRY CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION

Have leftover Christmas cards taking up space? The Service & Outreach Committee has a solution! Drop your unused cards in the Jail Ministry Christmas Card Collection Box in the coat closet off Kirk Hall, available through the holidays. Your cards will help inmates at Western Virginia Regional Jail send Christmas greetings to loved

ones, and the committee will provide stamps to help cover postage. Clear out your stash and share the love of Christ this Christmas!



SECOND WELCOMES DEBBIE THRASHER

We're delighted to welcome Debbie Thrasher to our church family! Debbie joined by reaffirmation of faith on May 31.

A longtime attendee of Second, Debbie has now made her membership official, joining alongside her sister, Karen Berglund, who is already part of our congregation.

Debbie grew up on Bent Mountain, VA, with her parents and sister, enjoying a home that was perfect for horses and bike riding. She studied Biology at Radford University and later took business courses at the University of Alabama. Debbie worked for 27 years at the University of Alabama as a senior buyer in the Purchasing Department before retiring in 2011.

Debbie enjoys traveling, group exercise classes, reading, and playing games with family and friends. She especially enjoys being involved in church activities and spending time with her niece, nephew-in-law, and their children—the Horn family—who also attend Second. Debbie's husband, Joe, joined Second just last month (an article introducing Joe will come later)! We're excited to welcome them and look forward to getting to know both Debbie and Joe even better!

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



Christmas Dinner & PAGEANT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 5:00 P.M. | REGISTER BY NOV. 25



Mark your calendar for our traditional family Christmas Dinner and Pageant on the evening of December 6. Dinner by Lib & Amy Catering begins at 5:00 p.m. After, we will recess to the sanctuary for the children's Christmas Pageant. Come join the festivities!

MENU INCLUDES

Baked Chicken Breast, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Mixed Garden Salad (Balsamic and Ranch Dressings), Buttered Rolls, Assorted Desserts

COST

\$15 - Adults (13 and up)
\$7 - Children ages 5-12
Free - Children ages 0-4



QUESTIONS?

Contact Meredith Koliba (meredith@spres.org). To volunteer, contact Robin Hobbs (hobbslex@yahoo.com) or Mary Airheart (mairheart@gmail.com).

REGISTRATION

Register by Wed., Nov. 25 by scanning the QR code or online at www.spres.org.



— NEWS & NOTES —

Flowers | Sept. 13 – Given by Denise Revercomb in celebration of her grandson, James Venable Revercomb IV, on the occasion of his baptism..... Sept. 20 – Given in loving memory of Frank and Martha Clay Martin and Julia Martin Holland by Bob and Cheryl Martin..... Sept. 27 – Given by David and Judy Brondyk in celebration of their 54th anniversary..... Oct. 4 – Given in loving memory of Ruth Ellen Kuhnel by the family..... Oct. 11 – Given by Rosemary Francis in loving memory and celebration of her life together with her late husband, John R. Francis.

Open Flower Date: Sunday, November 29 is available for anyone who would like to sponsor flowers in the sanctuary. Please contact Denise Revercomb to see if the date is still open (540-588-5111; revercomb@cox.net).

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..... Our sympathies extend to the family and loved ones of Richard Lewis Hodges, who died on Thursday, October 8. We hold in prayer his daughters Carolyn Hodges-Simeon and Elizabeth Larson and their families.

Concerns | BJ Millar, Campbell Tims.

New Arrivals | Congratulations to Jay and Johanna Vaughan on the birth of their son, Walker Owens Vaughan, on Wednesday, May 20. Proud big sister is Scottie, grandparents are Deborah and Scott Vaughan, and great-grandmother is Carolyn V. Young..... Congratulations to Joe Miller and Jackie Archer on the birth of their grandson, Elliott Lewis Miller, born on Monday, October 5 to parents Meg Miller and Kai Schnier.

Baptisms | During the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, September 13, Ainsley and James Revercomb presented their son, James Venable Revercomb IV, for the Sacrament of Baptism. The presiding elder was Denise Revercomb, James' grandmother..... During the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, September 27, McLendon and Dylan McGhee presented their son, Tucker Hill McGhee, for the Sacrament of Baptism. The presiding elders were Frank and Lorah Pruette, Tucker's grandparents..... During the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, October 11, May and Alex Koes presented their daughter, Caroline Gray Koes, for the Sacrament of Baptism. The presiding elder was Joe Miller.



— 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 an 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.

NOV
1ST

“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
6TH

“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.

GALS’ GATHERING



Advent Waiting

LAST CALL FOR THE GALS’ GATHERING!

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

Register by Wed., November 11

Only a couple weeks remain to register for the Gals’ Gathering! This year’s theme, “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. *Many of the women in our church have said this is one of their favorite events during the year. We would love for you to be a part of it with us!*



Check out the brochure online for more details. **Scan the QR code to register by Wed., November 11!**



Advent Workshop & Potluck Dinner

NOV. 22 | 4:45–7:00 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for a cozy evening of fellowship, food, and creativity as we prepare our hearts and homes for Advent! We'll make Advent wreaths together and would love your help gathering supplies. We'll provide the candles, base, and oasis, and welcome you to bring clippers and evergreen branches from your home.

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

SCAN TO REGISTER BY MONDAY, NOV. 16



All ages are warmly invited to join us for our annual Advent Workshop and Potluck Dinner on Sunday, November 22! 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 above to register by Mon., November 16.

Photos from the 2025 Advent Workshop.



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



YOUTH

TRUNK OR TREAT

The youth would like to thank everyone who helped make our 6th annual Trunk or Treat such a success—those who donated candy, helped cook, and all those families who decorated their car! What an amazing night to celebrate community as we welcomed our neighbors, local schools, local partners, and those within our church! What a night!

HUNGER BUSTERS

November is Hunger Busters month!!! Our collection began at Trunk or Treat, and we are well on our way! The middle school youth will be collecting goods through November 15th. All goods collected go to the Presbyterian Community Center's Hunger Buster Initiative as they stock their shelves to share with neighbors in Southeast Roanoke and beyond. Each year this church donates hundreds of pounds of food that goes to support the pantry at the PCC! Their food pantry is an important resource for our city, and it is an honor to participate in the work of the PCC.

You may pick up your donation bag (take as many as you can fill) from the sanctuary on Sundays or from the front desk on weekdays. Return your filled bag to the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for joining us in this wonderful initiative!

Suggested Items: *Stuffing Mixes, Instant Potatoes, Gravy Mixes, Baking Mixes, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Biscuit Mixes, Chicken Broth, Elbow Macaroni, Salt and Pepper, Cheese, Butter, Shelf Stable Milk, Cornbread Mix*



UPCOMING YOUTH DATES

- November 1 – Youth Halloween Party
- November 8 – Sunday Night Youth Group
- November 15 – Middle School Hunger Busters & High School Friendsgiving
- November 22 – Sunday Night Youth Group
- November 29 – No Youth Group
- December 6 – Church Christmas Dinner & Pageant
- December 13 – Youth Christmas Party

YOUNG ADULTS

FRIENDSGIVING | NOV. 13 | 6:30 P.M. | TWISTED TRACK BREWPUB

The Young Adults here at Second are an ever-evolving group in their 20's and 30's. We are teaming up with Raleigh Court PC and St. John's Episcopal for a *FRIENDSGIVING* on November 13th at Twisted Track Brewpub beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please check upcoming communications for additional details and for a fun event in December. If you would like to learn more about this group, please contact Ben Brannan (benb@spres.org).

A GIFT THAT BEGINS WITH YOUR IRA

The life of our church is built through countless acts of generosity: a welcome at the door, a meal shared, a hand offered when someone needs help. Financial gifts are part of that same spirit of care.

If you are at least 70½ and have an IRA, there is a way to give that you may want to consider. A qualified charitable distribution, or QCD, lets you ask your IRA provider to send a gift directly to the church. The gift can count toward your required minimum distribution if you have one, and an eligible QCD is generally excluded from your taxable income.

The key is to arrange the gift directly from your IRA to the church. Taking a withdrawal yourself and then writing a check does not work the same way. Your IRA provider can help with the transfer, and your tax adviser can help you decide whether it makes sense for you.

However you choose to give, thank you for helping our church care for one another and serve our community.

Submitted by Mark Wigginton, Legacy Work Group.

FINANCIAL FOCUS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | SEPTEMBER 2026

General Fund

In memory of **Dick Baynton** by

Penny Baynton

Jim and Peggy Baynton

In memory of **Elaine Baynton** by

Penny Baynton

Jim and Peggy Baynton

Other funds are available for your contributions. Please contact Nathan Anderson, Church Administrator, at 540-343-3659 or admin@spres.org. This list includes donations received between September 1–30, 2026.

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



SCAN
TO
GIVE

We Are
NEEDED

A line drawing of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching out towards the word 'NEEDED' which is integrated into the design.

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).

CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints' Sunday 8:45am Worship Service with Communion, Sanctuary 9:45am Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room 9:45am Sunday School 9:54am POP-UP Sunday School, Fellowship Hall 11:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary & Live Stream 12:00pm All Saints' Remembrance Service, Columbarium 5:00pm Kids' Fellowship 5:00pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall	2 5:30pm Pre-Election Prayer Service, Sanctuary 6:30pm Al Anon & Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library 6:30pm Cub Scouts, Cafe 6:45pm Scouts	3 Election Day 6:00am - 7:00pm Election Day: Voting in Kirk Hall	4 12:00pm Bulletin Article Deadline 5:15pm Personnel Committee, Zoom and Session Room 6:00pm Theology on Tap, Starr Hill	5 7:15am Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom 9:30am Knitting Group, Hospitality Room 10:30am Women's Bible Study, Session Room 4:00pm Christian Education Committee Meeting, Reading Room/Zoom 5:00pm Property Committee Meeting, Session Room/Zoom	6	7
8 8:45am Handbell Choir Performs 8:45am Worship Service with Handbell Choir Performing, 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	9 5:30pm Service and Outreach Committee Meeting, Zoom and Session Room 6:30pm Al Anon & Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library 6:30pm Cub Scouts, Cafe 6:45pm Scouts	10 9:30am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Congregational Life Meeting, Zoom 5:15pm Trent Fund Subcommittee, Trent Room	11 12:00pm Bulletin Article Deadline 12:00pm Second Sheet Article Deadline 5:00pm Green Team, Zoom/Trent Classroom 5:15pm Worship & Music Committee, Zoom and Session Room	12 7:15am Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom 9:30am Knitting Group, Hospitality Room 10:30am Women's Bible Study, Session Room 5:30pm - 7:00pm Grief Seminar, Session Room	13 12:00pm Stewardship Meeting, Zoom and Reading Room	14
15 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	16 6:30pm Al Anon & Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library 6:30pm Cub Scouts, Cafe 6:45pm Scouts	17 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:15pm Executive Meeting, Session Room/Zoom	18 8:05am Preschool Committee Meeting, Hybrid 12:00pm Bulletin Article Deadline 5:15pm Session Meeting, Session Room/Zoom	19 7:15am Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom 9:30am Knitting Group, Hospitality Room 10:30am Women's Bible Study, Session Room	20 GALS Retreat	21 GALS Retreat
22 8:45am Worship Service, Sanctuary 9:45am Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service, Sanctuary & Live Stream 4:45pm Advent Workshop, Fellowship Hall 6:00pm - 7:00pm Children's Pageant Practice	23 11:00am Memorial Service for Ed Lesko, Sanctuary with Reception in Fellowship Hall 12:00pm Bulletin Article Deadline for Nov 29 6:30pm Al Anon & Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library 6:30pm Cub Scouts, Cafe 6:45pm Scouts	24 9:30am Staff Meeting	25 Preschool Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	26 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday Preschool Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	27 Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday Preschool Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	28
29 Two Cents a Meal 8:45am Worship Service, Sanctuary 9:45am Handbell Rehearsal, Handbell Room 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service with baptism of Miles Bennett, Sanctuary & Live Stream 5:00pm Kids' Fellowship 5:00pm Youth Group, Fellowship Hall	30 6:30pm Al Anon & Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library 6:30pm Cub Scouts, Cafe 6:45pm Scouts		Calendar Info as of Oct. 15.			SCAN TO VIEW THE DIGITAL CALENDAR 

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION FOR PCC: November's food collection will support the middle school youth Hunger Busters event! See p. 9 for details.

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 406
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

Address Service Requested

POINSETTIAS 2026 | ORDER ONLINE BY DEC. 4

If you would like to give memorial or celebration poinsettias for the Christmas season services, please complete the **ONLINE ORDER FORM** found at www.spres.org or by scanning the QR code. We encourage you to complete the online form to ensure spelling accuracy.



Alternatively, you may use this order form and return it to the church via mail or email (meredith@spres.org), along with a check for \$12.50 per plant. **The deadline for receiving orders is Friday, December 4.** Poinsettias will be displayed during services on December 13 (pink) and 20 through Christmas Eve (red).



Please **PRINT** legibly.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Donor Name(s) / Phone Number: _____