



From the Pastor's Desk

The word **opportunity** has been on my mind, particularly as it relates to what the Apostle Paul writes in Galatians 6:10, "So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." As you all can attest, we have many opportunities throughout our days – opportunities to be nice, do what we've said we'd do, follow the rules; visa versa, we have opportunities to not do those things. We also have opportunities to say yes to fun outings with family and friends or to attend worship or church-related activities. All of this is to say, that at the heart of every opportunity is a choice.



And, as you all know, our choices matter. It matters how we treat one another; it matters how we live our lives; it matters what we say to invitations because our choices affect others. These two realities – that we are given the opportunity to make choices and that our choices matter – is the great conundrum of our Christian faith because we don't make choices in a vacuum.

To that end, I wonder if you'd consider something this summer that I believe God through the Apostle Paul is inviting us to do: Would you consider seeing every opportunity as a chance to showcase the grace, love, and hope of God?

That's a big ask and I ask because I think you are up for it and because I know the Lord who asks is such a gracious and loving God that you won't be alone in your endeavor.

Entering into the summer months marks an opportunity (see what I did there!??!) to – hopefully – slow down a bit and take vacation or head out of work a little early and go to the pool or golf course or take a long lunch. With schools out and schedules easing a bit, we have many opportunities. And my invitation is for you all to see those opportunities as chances to share your faith in Christ with others. Tell people how God is working in your life; remind people that God loves them; do something nice for someone that showcases God is active in their life; send a hand-written note; or say a prayer for someone each morning.

In a world that is full of opportunities, I invite you to consider one that God is inviting us to consider – will we share the grace, love, and hope of the Lord with everyone we encounter?

In Christ,
Rev. Ben

Summer Preaching Series

Psalms for the Road

June Psalms and Sermon Titles

Summertime is often marked by travel. Our calendars are dotted with vacations, weekend trips, sports tournaments, camps, Montreat, Mission trips, and annual pilgrimages to familiar destinations. Second Pres wishes to join you on these excursions so we've developed a *Psalm for the Road: Grab and Go Forth* preaching series. Each Sunday this summer, our worship will focus on a Psalm, and we'll explore what the Psalmist is telling us about God, our lives, the world, the emotions of humanity, and how we might find comfort, joy, or a space to lament. In addition to the Psalm being a focal point of worship, there will be a "grab-and-go-forth" sheet each week with a particular piece of the Psalm for you to take with you as a reminder of what God is doing in your life. But there's more! There will be a summer playlist on Spotify for you to enjoy. Join us this summer for as many Sundays as you can and may you always know that no matter where we are or where we go, God's with you.

June 2	Ben Kane	Psalm 1	<i>The Choice</i>
June 9	Ben Kane	Psalm 100	<i>Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!</i>
June 16	Ben Kane	Psalm 84	<i>Joy of Worship</i>
June 23	Ben Kane	Psalm 5	<i>Lament is Part of Faith</i>
June 30	Alisa Secret	Psalm 103	



Notable News

Presbyterian Women May 2024

Our May meeting included a special presentation to our longtime PW member, Jean Kohler, as Honorary Life Member. This presentation was made by Sharon Hankins, a previous honoree. Jean's son Karl and wife were present to share in this special occasion. Jean grew up in the Presbyterian Church and was focused on Christian Education throughout her life and influenced countless others in the Presbyterian faith.



She has served in Mission work in the community. As a loyal member of PW here at Second Presbyterian Church she helped in nurturing the faith through prayer and Bible Study; supporting the missions of the church; working for justice and peace; and helping to build an inclusive, caring community of women. Congratulations again to Jean for all her support to PW over the years.

Our meeting also included Installation of new officers, who are: Emily Hall, Moderator, Sandra Rogers, Vice-Moderator, Debbie Bass, Treasurer, Diane Skinner, Secretary/Historian, Jo Paulus, Community Missions, Mary Ann Foerste, Church Women United, Nancy Coleman, World Missions, Sandra Rogers and Pam Babb, Martha Circle Leaders, Emily Hall and Janie Hopkins, Phoebe Circle Leaders, Jeanne Lloyd, Huldah Circle Leader and Lindsay Taylor, Anna Circle Leader. Many thanks to these ladies who will be inspiring us with their leadership this coming 2024-25 year.

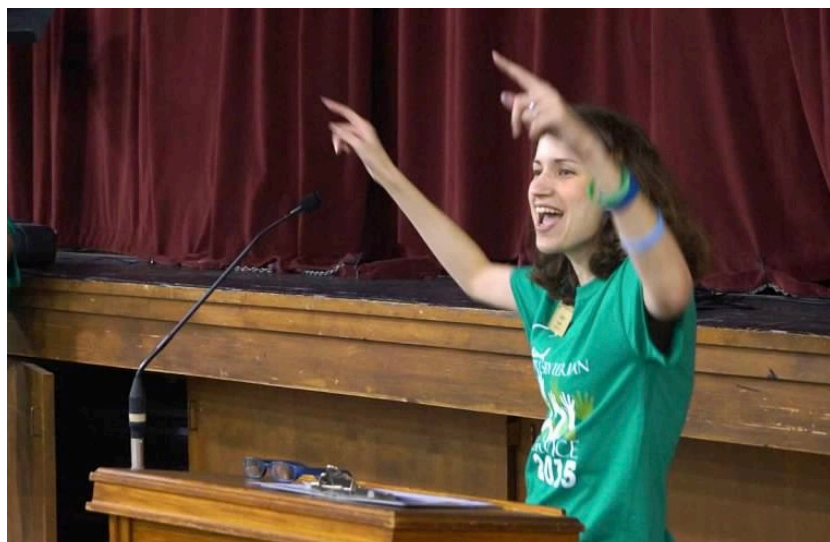
Lindy is going on sabbatical!

In February 2018, the Presbytery of Arkansas approved a sabbatical policy requiring churches to offer a sabbatical to their pastors after six years of service. The personnel committee of Second Pres expanded this policy to also include program staff in 2023. While sabbaticals have been a widespread practice for many years in our denomination, it is a relatively new concept for our congregation so we wanted to share a bit more about the process.

Sabbaticals are an opportunity for our program staff to disengage from the extensive tasks of daily ministry and from the stress of being continually on call. It's rooted in the biblical concept of Sabbath, and is a time for rest, reflection, and spiritual growth and connecting with God. Sabbatical is not "vacation" or simply "time off" because there is an intention behind the time away that seeks to rejuvenate an individual to do the work of ministry over a lifetime

Earlier this year, the personnel committee approved a sabbatical for Lindy Vogado, Associate Pastor for Belonging and Outreach, who has served our congregation for eleven years. Lindy qualified for a sabbatical several years ago, but between the pandemic and our extensive staffing transitions, she didn't feel the time was right to be away from her congregational work until now. Lindy will be on sabbatical from June 3 until August 26. During this time, she will be visiting other congregations to learn more about their hospitality and visitor welcome practices. She will also be doing reading and interviews to learn more about best practices for hybrid worship and education programming so that we can expand our ministry among members and friends who join us virtually. Lindy will also be taking some time to rest here in Little Rock and travel with her family.

During the time that Lindy is on sabbatical, she will not be checking her church email or responding to church related calls and texts. Our wonderful pastoral, program, and administrative staff will be covering her responsibilities while she is away, and we ask that you contact Ben Kane or Alisa Secrest for pastoral needs and Tracy May in the church office to help with issues related to Lindy's ministries of Outreach, Belonging, Environmental Stewardship, and Adult Education. Lindy is very grateful and humbled by this opportunity for rest and renewal, and she will share more about her sabbatical experiences when she returns in the fall.



A Sabbatical Note

One great gift a congregation can provide its pastors is a sabbatical – but the gift isn't just for the pastor and their family. Congregations can be renewed by a pastoral sabbatical. When I returned from my sabbatical a few years back, I realized how important it was for me and the congregation. I got time to relax and nurture my sense of call to ministry through prayer, rest, travel, and time to daydream; my congregation got the chance to do good ministry and realize how important ministers and staff are. They were able to see that they, too, could do ministry and when I returned we realized some of what I was doing could be handled by them.

I say all this to say how excited I am for Lindy receive a sabbatical this summer. It'll be a time of rest and rejuvenation for her and – I pray – for her sense of call to ministry. It'll also be a time of opportunity for Second and the staff as we'll step in and care for Lindy's responsibilities and learn how important she is and also where we can step in once she returns.

Friends in Christ, God is a good God and wishes for us to find rest and time to renew our connection to God and one another. A sabbatical is one of the many ways that happens. Let us give thanks for Lindy and her ministry and send her off on her sabbatical with joy and excitement for what will be (and look forward to her return in late August!).

In Christ,
Rev. Ben

Special Events

Spring Gatherings for Fun and Fellowship!

Almost 250 people enjoyed reconnecting and socializing in our beautiful Arkansas spring weather during five gatherings in April and May. Parties were enjoyed at the homes of Laura and Ken Cook, Becky and Jackson Farrow, Kathryn and Brian McMillian, Dora Jane and Greg Flesher and the church Prayer Garden. Rev. Ben Kane thanked everyone for their generosity to our church's ministries during our stewardship campaign last fall. A big thank you to all of our hosts for opening their homes for fun and fellowship.



Connect & Learn

Cheeses With Jesus

We are a dynamic community, bridging the gap between 'young adulthood' and retirement with grace and zeal. We are an inclusive group of both newcomers and long-time members, married, single, divorced and widowed, We will continue to meet twice per month from June through August (second and fourth Wednesday evenings). Most weeks we will meet at a local 'watering hole' for food and fellowship.

Next meeting: **June 12**, 7:00 p.m. at 8301 Evergreen Drive. Please bring refreshments to share (beverage or food). Contact Justin Villines or Catherine Allsbury for more information. In September, we will switch to 2nd & 3rd Thursday.

6/12/24 - 7:00 p.m.

home of Justin Villines
8301 Evergreen Drive 72227

7/24/24 - 7:00 p.m.

Mojitos & Margaritas
2629 Lakewood Village Pl, NLR 72116-8008

6/26/24 - 7:00 p.m.

The Fold
3501 Old Cantrell RD, 72202

8/14/24 - 7:00 p.m.

Camp Taco
822 E 6th ST 72202

7/10/24 - 7:00 p.m.

Mockingbird & Tacos
1220 S. Main 72202

8/28/24 - 7:00 p.m.

Bleu Monkey Grill
10700 N. Rodney Parham RD 72212

New Members



John and Grace Steuri joined by Reaffirmation of Faith. They were both former members of the church.

Cheeses With Jesus



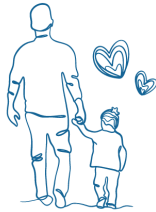
A SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
FELLOWSHIP GROUP

If you or someone you know would like more information about our church community or is interested in membership at Second Presbyterian Church, please contact one of the pastors in the church office at (501) 227-0000 or online at secondpreslr.org.

Connect & Learn Continued

Father's Day Summer Social

Father's Day
SUMMER SOCIAL



Don't miss special treats and fellowship in celebration of fathers on June 16. Summer Socials occur in the Narthex from 9:15 to 10am, ending as worship begins.

SEE YOU THERE!

June 16

Don't miss special treats and fellowship in celebration of fathers on June 16. Summer Socials occur in the Narthex from 9:15 to 10am, ending as worship begins.

Psalms for the Road



Scan the QR Code to listen to a curated Spotify playlist for the Psalms for the Road Sermon Series.

Afghan Project Update

For the past two and a half years, Second Presbyterian has assisted two refugee families from Afghanistan in starting new lives in the United States. A team of up to thirty church volunteers have helped these families with housing, jobs, learning English, getting driver's licenses and cars, taking them to numerous medical and dental appointments and have navigated the public school system for six children. They have provided scholarships to Second Pres Preschool, and have enrolled older children at UALR for intensive English classes. Many people have helped in many ways!

Both families have obtained asylum status and are on their way to someday becoming US citizens. Two babies have been born in Little Rock to these happy parents. One young man will soon welcome his bride from Afghanistan and they will begin their own new life. Four adults in these two families are working full-time and providing for their households. It's amazing to look back at their accomplishments since they arrived in a city they had never heard of, to a place that was incredibly strange to them and were greeted by people they could not understand. The volunteers' work has been hard but fulfilling. Relationships have been formed that will last a lifetime. It's not too late for you to get involved; there are short term needs for the summer and some needs that will be ongoing.

This summer we need some folks willing to tutor one or more children in basic math skills, people with teaching experience and knowledge of elementary math would be ideal. Are you trained in giving swimming instruction? The children love to go to swimming pools, but don't know how to swim. They need to learn! Here are two long term needs. We need someone to facilitate the education plans for the three youngest in the family with 8 children. Currently, they are 2, 4 and 6. A need that has become apparent, is for our families to spend time with other young families, to see how Americans raise their children, to see homes with toys and books and to see how parents play with their children.

Afghan Project Update Cont...

Our families need to see how American families with children live. The children in our families don't know what American kids do at home. The parents and the children would love to see what happens in an American home with children. People with children, can you help? If you have helped with our families, many thanks! If you have not yet volunteered, please consider our request. Feel free to call or email Mim Hundley with questions and for more information.

Children & Youth



Start the Party VBS is right around the corner, June 10 - 14. BUT the party does not stop on the 14th.

Each week after VBS we will have some social get togethers. Times are TBA and will be updated ASAP, but have a look at what's coming and join us for *Tuesdays Together!*

- Tuesday, June 18 : ALL families day @ LR Zoo 1:00-3:00pm
- Tuesday, June 25 : SPY Kids @ Urban Air Trampoline Park (PYOW)
- Week of July 9 (TBA): ALL families Swim (Location and Time TBA) (Free)
- Tuesday, July 16 : SPY Kids @ Professor Bowling (10am - 12pm) (PYOW)
- Week of July 23: All families @ Cape Cod Court Celebration (Evening TBA) (Free)
- Tuesday, July 30: SPY Kids @ Skatium Roller Skating (PYOW)

YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER 2024

CONFERENCES & MISSION TRIPS

Middle School Weekend Getaway June 14-16 | Conway, AR

Appalachian Service Project June 23-29 | Dickenson County, VA

Montreat Youth Conference July 21-28 | Montreat, NC

Middle School Mission Week August 14 | Little Rock, AR

SUMMER NIGHTS for locations email Elizabeth Cahoon

Middle School Mondays | 6:00-7:00PM

High School Wednesdays | 6:00-7:00PM

Pray & Care



Facing grief? Come to the monthly Faith and Grief community support group for encouragement and listening. It is a safe place to sit and listen and a safe place to name your loved one, if you like. We meet the third Tuesday of the month (next meeting is **June 18**) in Second Hall at Noon. Lunch is available. Please let us know of your plans to attend by registering through the office or at faithandgrief.org.

Stephen Ministry

*CELEBRATING 31 YEARS OF STEPHEN MINISTRY AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN!
commissioned May, 1992*

If you or someone you know is hurting and you would like more information about receiving Stephen Ministry care, please contact any of our Stephen Leaders.

Kay Combs 501-517-5007

Jana Villemez 501-517-1474

Cathy Crass 501-951-5890

JoAnn McQuade, Grief Care

Laurie Stueart 501-658-7966

Rev. Alisa Secrest 501-227-0000

Those Serving Our Country

Taylor Douglas, son of Susan & Kevin Douglas – San Diego, CA

Jackson Hudkins, son of Jay Hudkins and Becky Latch, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, England

Greer Johnson, daughter of Cory and Stephanie Johnson, granddaughter of Kelly & Judy Johnson - Air Force Academy, CO

Jonathan Johnson, grandson of Helen Scott, nephew of Clarke & Cindy Scott Huisman – stationed in CO

Daniel Jones, Marjorie Watkins' nephew, Sarah Ceja's cousin – stationed in Offut AFB, NE

Kyle Rought, Mary Ibis' cousin – stationed in Fort Hood, TX

Cogan Wade – Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

Bulletin Board

Hospitalized (*Discharged) Leah Shell, Betty Tucker, Don Hollingsworth, *Becky Farrow, *Cindy Downs, *Shanna Smiley, *Mark Norwine, *Phillip Boggs, *Carolyn Scruggs, *Amelia Walters, *Janie Lowe

We celebrate with Kim and Steve Dunnagan in the wedding of their daughter Laura Dunnagan and Houston Downes who were married May 11; Ann and Bob Burnside in the wedding of their son Ellis Burnside and Camryn Crain; Marcela Johnston in the birth of a granddaughter Ryland Blair Johnston on May 2. Parents are Randall Johnston and Tommy Bennett; the graduations of our seminarians Maggie Johnson Phillips who graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. Parents are Mike and Carrie Johnson. Also, Alex Pickell who graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Parents are Slocum and Allison Pickell;

Bulletin Board Continued

Tracy and Leland Sykes on the birth of a new grandson Walker Sykes Hesterly born April 30. Parents are Courtney and Miles Hesterly; Joe Holmes on the wedding of his daughter Anna Mabrey and Robert Vorhees recently; Susan Henry on the wedding of her daughter Rachel Henry and William Moses on May 25.

Our sympathy goes Bill and Bonnie Melchior in the death of Bill's sister Ann Macchiaverma; Jim & Patty-Bates Abraham, Dana Abraham, Bob Abraham, Alexis Best and family on the death of Lucy Abraham; Stephen Schueth and family on the death of Stephen's mother; Sharyn and John Davies and family on the death of Sharyn's father Bill Hilles; Adele Lloyd in the death of her husband Bill Lloyd; Ann Bridgers and family in the death of her husband Tom Bridgers.

We would appreciate your help in keeping the church office informed when there is a sickness in your family, when someone is in the hospital, or a death has occurred. Please also keep us updated on the sickness or concern so that the information we have on our Care and Concern Line is accurate. Members and friends can call the Care and Concern Line, (501) 227-6117, on weekdays to receive information about prayer concerns in our church family. We will honor all requests for confidentiality, but in order for us to offer pastoral care we need to be aware of your situation. We also want to know about the joys, accomplishments and achievements of members of the church. Please call Alisa Secrest or Tracy May in the church office with information, (501) 227-0000, or e-mail alisasecrest@secondpreslr.org or tracymay@secondpreslr.org. Thanks for your help!

Sunday Online Worship Service
Available beginning at 10: 00 a.m. at secondpreslr.org

Second Pres Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane

Associate Pastors

Rev. Alisa Secrest

Rev. Lindy Vogado

Parish Associate

Dr. Robert Williamson

Director of Youth and

Young Adult Ministries

Elizabeth Cahoon

Director of Music and the Arts

Dr. Bevan Keating

Director of Children and

Families Ministry

Doug Barr

Assistant Director for

Children and Families Ministry

Maggie Kirchner

Organist

Adam Savacool

Business Administrator

Aileen Moore

Director of Planned Giving

Malinda Kirchner

Facilities Manager

David Beach

Administrative Associates

Karin Howze

Tracy May

Carrie Johnson

Food Service Manager

Brenda Majors

Child Care Coordinator

Karin Howze

Sextons

Guy Howze

Logan Humphrey



Second
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

600 Pleasant Valley Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72227

Office: (501) 227-0000
Fax: (501) 227-6513
Care/Concern: (501) 227-6117
www.secondpreslr.org

**NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LITTLE ROCK AR
PERMIT #1744**



Second
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 5, 2024

Second Press

A publication of Second Presbyterian Church
in Little Rock, Arkansas