



From the Pastor's Desk

Who are your influences?

That was the prompt for a three-week Sunday school class in late August. I had the joy of leading two weeks of the class and absolutely loved thinking about this wildly broad question. For those who weren't there, I shared many of my influences in an ancient form of "Powerpoint" – actual pictures and books! If you've ever been to my office, you know how important pictures are. They adorn my walls and the bookcases and tell my story. There are plenty of pictures of my family, but also the friends and mentors who've taught me, coached me, counseled me, nudged me, and led me over the years; in addition, there are countless pictures and paintings of places that have been influential – churches, institutions, and physical places (beaches, mountains, conference centers).

In the second week of the class, I shared about books that were – and continue to be – influential in my faith development. Countless novels, short-stories, scriptures, and sermons all taught me how to read with a keener idea, find stories that'll resonate with others, and inspire me to live more faithfully. At the end of the second week, Bevan Keating shared his story of influences and in the last week of the series, Lindy Vogado shared her influences and a bit about her sabbatical.

Throughout the series, I couldn't help but think about the people, places, books, moments, and stories that we couldn't share because of time. Those little stories that offer us hope on a day when all seems bleak, the books that showered us with grace when we needed a dose, and the people who reminded us that we are loved no matter what is happening in life. All of these stories – the big and little ones – give our lives meaning and purpose and remind us of the God who is at the center of it all.

Friends in Christ, we're entering a new season together – we've been together for a year now!! And what a year it has been. We are entering a new season of life together that'll be marked by worship, fellowship, education, care, and mission. And I'm inviting you to pay attention to the influences that have gotten you to this point. The people, the places, the stories, the books, and everything in between. They've been leading you to something or to somewhere and I'm praying that God will reveal what that is in this season ahead.

I can't convey how excited I am to be here as one of your pastors and to begin year two together! God is so good and has so much in store for us – here's to what's ahead!

In Christ,
Rev. Ben



Preaching Series

Jesus Embraces Kitchen Table Issues

We can't avoid the reality that we are approaching an election that has great consequences. At the heart of every election are kitchen-table-issues that drive us to vote the way we vote and think the way we think. Reading through the gospel of Luke we find that Christ engages in kitchen-table-issues that give us glimpses of how we might think about how our civic and religious lives intertwine. Join us for a preaching series on how Christ engages kitchen-table issues.

- Sept. 8: Luke 5:1-11** *Seeing With Grace-Filled Glasses*
- Sept. 15: Luke 5:12-16** *This Will Require You to Get Dirty*
- Sept. 22: Luke 5:17-26** *Good Ministry Breaks Things*
- Sept. 29: Luke 6:20-26** *Jesus Flattens the World*

Notable News

Melanie Hanna

Interim Assistant Music Director



Hello! I'd like to introduce myself.

I am your new Interim Assistant Music Director. My name is Melanie Hanna Ezell and I couldn't be more excited to be working with each and every one of you. I've been a soprano Section Leader in Second's Adult Choir for the last 16 years. I've also been the Children's Music Teacher for our church's preschool for over a decade. It is my hope to create an engaging and supportive environment where children can explore their musical abilities and develop a lifelong love for music and tradition within our wonderful place of worship. My goal is to make sure each child feels special, inspired, and excited about their musical journey through Mid week JAM (Junior Artists Ministry). Feel free to reach out to me for anything! See you soon!

Connect & Learn

Second Sunday Lunch

Sunday, September 8 12:15pm

Second Sunday Lunch

Join us the second Sunday of each month for lunch in the Great Hall.



Second
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This fall our church family will have the opportunity to gather for lunch each Second Sunday after the 11:00am worship service. Our first lunch of the fall will be Sunday, September 8, and the menu will be pork tenderloin, green beans, mashed potatoes, roll, and dessert. Cost is \$12 for adults; \$5 for kids. There is no agenda besides food and fellowship! Please use the QR code to register or call Karin in the church office. We hope to see everyone there!



Plan it Forward

A Beginner's Guide to Your Estate, Probate and Other Related Legal Issues

Do you have a will? Do you have guardianship plans for your children? Do you have a power of attorney? Join us for one hour of helpful information presented by Jeff Priebe, attorney at law, about the core estate planning documents that everyone should consider. It's never too late, or too early, to get started. To register and make a childcare reservation, scan the QR code or email KarinHowze@secondpreslr.org or call the church office at 501-227-0000.

SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP



All Hands Say Hello: Usher and Greeter Sign Up



We all have hands. Hands can wave. Hands can shake other hands. Hands can hand out bulletins...or pass offering plates, making for a hospitable worship experience for all. All Hands Say Hello! Use the QR code for the Usher and Greeter Sign Up!



Annual All-Church Picnic Sunday October 6

Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Don't miss our annual all-church, all-ages picnic at Ferncliff on Sunday, October 6, beginning 12:15 p.m. Enjoy friends and family in Ferncliff's beautiful setting.

We'll make use of indoor and outdoor spaces for fellowship, dining and recreation. Enjoy cafeteria-style lunch, lawn games, a fishing tournament, rocking chairs, canoeing, volleyball, tours of the grounds and more. Please sign up (website, QR code, church office or Sunday mornings in the narthex), so we can prepare plenty of food. The cost is \$12 per person up to \$48 per household.



Second Hall Sunday School

September 8-22 9:45am



Election 2024: Thinking Thoughtfully about Local Initiatives and National Issues

Much is at stake in our upcoming local, state, and national elections in November. For these three Sundays, we will be bringing in local leaders to talk about the complex issues that voters will be weighing in on this fall. The objective of this class is not to tell participants how to think or vote but instead to equip all of us to make thoughtful and faithful decisions as we head to the ballot box.

Presbyterian Women

Second Tuesday, September – May

All women are invited to join this special group united in worship, study, fellowship and service. Our "official purpose" is:

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

The first monthly gathering will take place on **Tuesday, September 10** at 10:30 a.m. Study books will be available for purchase (\$10). For more information, contact Alisa Secrest at alisasecrest@secondpreslr.org.

CONFIRMATION

September

- 9|8 9:45AM Class - Introduction to Confirmation
- 9|15 No Class (Youth @ YouthQuake)
- 9|22 9:45AM Class - The Gospel According to Who?
- 1:00PM Group Bonding Event
- 9|29 9:45AM Class - Mentors & Confirmands (part 1)



Adult Leadership:
Marie Holder - Teacher
Ann Burnside - Teacher
Alex Honeycutt - Field Trip Coordinator
Elizabeth Cahoon - Youth Pastor

Connect & Learn Continued

The Merry Widows

A new group is forming for widows in our church family. This is NOT another grief support group; the one already meeting each month does not need to be duplicated. This is a social group for women who have all been through a particular kind of grief.

Fun Fact: widows do not receive many social invitations - so we are inviting one another! Our current plan is to meet once each month for lunch. And conversation, and maybe some sharing of our stories. There are quite a few of us (over 25 names).

We are offering two “franchises” of the Merry Widows – on the second and third Saturday of September. Widows are invited to join for lunch on one of these dates, depending on their schedules.

Next meetings will be on
September 7, 2024; 11:30 a.m.
September 14, 2024; 11:30 a.m.

U.S. Pizza Co. At 9300 N Rodney Parham Rd, Little Rock, AR 72227-6204.

Please contact Anne Crow (501-554-1603) or Catherine Allsbury (501-256-3452) so we know how many to expect. **If the name sounds familiar, there is an operetta by a similar name (The Merry Widow, by Franz Lehár)



Cheeses With Jesus

Back by Popular Demand – CWJ will continue meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening each month. New this year will be a 2nd and 4th Thursday group! These two opportunities to gather will cover the same content so there is no need to attend both. Just pick the group that works best for you. Inspired by Rev. Ben’s preaching series on Luke, we will be studying selected passages from the same Gospel.

Meetings in September will be
9/11/24 7:00 p.m. @ 8301 Evergreen Drive
9/12/24 7:00 p.m. @ 1 Cape Cod Ct
9/25/24 7:00 p.m. @ 623 North Spruce
9/26/24 7:00 p.m. @ 1 Cape Cod Ct



THE
Second
PRESBYTERIAN
Birthday Fund

Is it your birthday month?

Celebrate by giving a dollar for each year of your age to our church's endowment fund, supporting all our ministries, or donate in honor of a loved one's birthday.

Scan here to give!

LifeQuest
of Arkansas
An endless passion for living and learning

Fall Term


Fall Term begins September 16
Registration OPENS August 20

Over 55 classes available for retired-aged adults, all for ONE fee of \$85 for eight weeks!

Class brochures will be available to view or download on the LifeQuest website on August 8

600 Pleasant Valley Dr.
Little Rock, AR 72227
501-225-6073
lifequestofarkansas.org

Connect & Learn Continued



Sunday School
Sundays
MS Class
HS Class
9:45-10:45AM
Youth Building



Confirmation
Sundays
8th Graders
9:45-10:45AM
Youth Building



Youth Group
Sundays
4:30-6:30 MS
6:00-6:30 Dinner
6:00-8:00 HS
Youth Building

YOUTH MINISTRY

Regular Programming


Contact Elizabeth Cahoon for more information
elizabethcahoon@secondpreslr.org



MS GIRLS
MS Girls Bible Study
Wednesdays
5:30-6:30PM
Library



MS BOYS
MS Boys Small Group
Coming soon!



HS
HS Small Group
Wednesdays
7:00-8:00PM
The Hankins



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE JAM SESSIONS:

SEPTEMBER 11
SEPTEMBER 18
SEPTEMBER 25
OCTOBER 4

WEDNESDAYS
5:15-6:30 P.M.



CHILDREN WILL PERFORM AND PRESENT ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN JUNIOR ARTIST MINISTRY

Day Ringers:
Mondays 11:30am-12:30pm
Beginning September 16

Conductor: Dr. Bevan Keating
For more information, email bevan@wildwoodpark.org or call 501-831-8929



Life Together in August



August was a fun month filled with new beginnings! We kicked off our program year with an informational Ministry Fair. Our Youth and children have started back to their regular fall programming.

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 in Second Hall at Noon. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 17**. Lunch is available. Please let us know of your plans to attend by registering through the office or at faithandgrief.org.

Stephen Ministry

*CELEBRATING 32 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

Cathy Crass 501-951-5890

Laurie Stueart 501-658-7966

Jana Villemez 501-517-1474

JoAnn McQuade, Grief Care

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 Hospitalized (*Discharged) *Robert Herring, *Leo Hawkins, *Fred VanHook, *Catherine Caldwell, *William Elledge, *Hallie Simmins, *Collins Andrews, *Ann Jones,

We celebrate with Stephen and Christina Eifling on the baptism of their daughters Adelaide Elise and Clara Emmeline Eifling. Grandparents and uncles are David Eifling and Amy Wisdom and Eli and Even Eifling; Phil and Janis Baldwin in the birth of their first grandchild, Rosanna Grace Baldwin who was born on May 5. Parents are Matthew and Alise Baldwin.

Our sympathy goes to Margaret Cornett and family in the death of Margaret's son Michael Cornett on August 2; Marie Holder and Susanna Moldoveanu and family in the death of their aunt Lyla McAlexander; the family of Hyatt Lee who died on August 22; the family and friends of Mary Russell who passed away 8/29.

Bulletin Board Continued

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 11:00am at secondpreslr.org



Save the Dates for Fall Gatherings

The Stewardship Team is excited about Fall Gatherings happening in October in members' homes and at the church.

Watch your email and mail for the dates and sign-up to join us.

Second Pres Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane

Associate Pastors

Rev. Alisa Secrest

Rev. Lindy Vogado

Rev. Elizabeth Cahoon

Parish Associate

Dr. Robert Williamson

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

Interim Assistant Music Director

Melanie Hanna Ezell

Organist

Adam Savacool

Business Administrator

Aileen Moore

Director of Planned Giving

Malinda Kirchner

Facilities Manager

Guy Howze

Facilities Consultant

David Beach

Administrative Associates

Karin Howze

Tracy May

Carrie Johnson

Food Service Manager

Brenda Majors

Child Care Coordinator

Karin Howze

Sextons

Logan Humphrey

Janie Rash



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