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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOOKLET | 2024-25

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DEEP & WIDE

WELCOME TO SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORSHIP • LEARNING • FELLOWSHIP • SERVICE

- Beginning Sunday, September 8, 2024: Early Worship Service, 8:45 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; Late Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
- If you have any questions about the church, please visit www.spres.org, call us at 540-343-3659, or email info@spres.org.
- The church building is accessible to people with disabilities, and the elevator makes it possible to reach all three levels with ease.
- Second Presbyterian Church is honored to offer an excellent preschool program which provides full-day options for those who need it. If you would like more information, visit www.sprespreschool.com or call 540-342-6405.

View the online calendar: www.spres.org/connect/calendar/





DEEP & WIDE

RALLY DAY PICNIC & FALL KICKOFF AT BRAELOCH PAVILION, VINTON, VA | SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

“Dig deep wells, and the cattle never wander.” This old proverb speaks to the wisdom of providing water, nourishment for lean times. On the surface, it offers a wise word to farmers and herdsman, but perhaps another meaning is about the spiritual life. A faith that has depth will nourish in times of trouble and drought. A deep spiritual life will sustain a person through a lifetime.

At Second Presbyterian Church, we take our call to nurture faith very seriously. For this reason, we provide opportunities for education at every stage of development. To assume that Christian education is only for children is to make faith sound like a childish endeavor. We crave deep, living water our whole lives long.

What may look like play in a children’s classroom is the introduction of a God who finds joy in each and every child in our care. What sounds like feet about to break through the ceiling is the expression of love in young people’s music and voices at children’s choir. What looks like a tasty meal for teens is a holy reminder of meals shared by Jesus and his friends in the Gospels. What seems like adults in discussion is actually friendship being forged and spiritual nourishment given for the week ahead.

With Christian education, we are digging deep wells, we are inviting you to dive into this wide, expansive living water. Jump in. Join us. Drink from this well.

Consider the ways you are called to learn more about God’s Word and direction for your life this church school year. Join us for Rally Day on August 25, visit an adult Sunday school class, sign up for one of our 2PC Clubs, and bring the young folks in your life along. Dive deep and wide this September into these spiritual waters, and invite others in.

On August 25, we will worship, enjoy a meal, hear about opportunities for learning and fellowship, and celebrate being together. Following lunch, you are invited to stay and visit with friends old and new and sign up for classes and 2PC Clubs. There will be fishing (bring a fishing pole and some worms!), a bounce house, face painting, and balloon art. We want people to come and enjoy the day, linger into the afternoon, and get excited for a wonderful fall full of education and opportunity.

AUGUST 25 RALLY DAY PICNIC SCHEDULE @ BRAELOCH PAVILION:

- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Picnic Lunch / Rally Day Presentation & Celebration

Sunday school for all ages begins on September 8.



CHRISTIAN ED CALENDAR 2024-2025

AUGUST

- Rally Day Picnic: Sun. Aug 25

SEPTEMBER

- Sunday School, Youth Group Kickoff Cookout & Parent Meeting, CWW, & Kids' Fellowship Begin: Sun. Sept 8
- All-Youth Retreat: Sat-Sun. Sept 21-22
- College of Elders' Dinner: Th. Sept 26

OCTOBER

- World Communion: Sun. Oct 6
- Commitment Sunday: Sun. Oct 13
- Preschool Sunday: Sun. Oct 20
- Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia: Sun. Oct 20
- Trunk or Treat: Sun. Oct 27

NOVEMBER

- All Saints Sunday: Sun. Nov 3
- Seminar on Grief and Healing: Th. Nov 7
- Men's Retreat: Fri-Sat. Nov 8-9
- Gals' Gathering Retreat: Fri-Sat. Nov 15-16
- Advent Workshop: Sun. Nov 24
- Thanksgiving (office closed): Th-Fri. Nov 28-29

DECEMBER

- Advent Begins, Youth Christmas Party: Sun. Dec 1
- Annual Christmas Dinner & Children's Pageant: Sun. Dec 8
- Longest Night Service: Wed. Dec 18
- Christmas Eve: Tues. Dec 24
- Christmas Day (Church Office Closed): Wed. Dec 25

JANUARY

- January Pancake Breakfast: Sun. Jan 5

- Confirmation Sunday: Sun. Jan 12
- MLK Day (office closed): Mon. Jan 20

FEBRUARY

- Youth Sunday: Sun. Feb 9

MARCH

- Ash Wednesday: Wed. Mar 5
- Mission Fair: Sun. Mar 30

APRIL

- Palm Sunday: Sun. Apr 13
- Easter Sunday (No SS): Sun. Apr 20
- Easter Monday (office closed): Mon. Apr 21
- Trent Symposium for New Ministers: Fri-Wed. Apr 25-30
- Churchwide Great Day of Service: Sat. Apr 26

MAY

- Legacy Sunday: Sun. May 4
- Youth End of Year Party: Sat. May 10
- Senior Recognition: Sun. May 11
- Last day of SS & CWW: Sun. May 18
- Memorial Day (office closed): Mon. May 26

JUNE

- Pentecost Sunday: Sun. June 8
- Evening Vacation Bible School (all ages): Sun-Wed. June 8-11
- Juneteenth (office closed): Th. June 19
- High School Appalachian Service Project Mission Trip: Sun-Sat. June 22-28

JULY

- Montreat High School Youth Conference: Sun-Sat. July 27-Aug 2
- Morning Vacation Bible School (4k-5th grade): Mon-Th. July 21-24

AUGUST

- Youth At-Home Mini Missions: Mon-Wed. Aug 4-6

PODCASTS

SECOND ON THE MOUNT PODCAST

No matter where you are on the journey of faith, God's Word has something to say to you. *Second on the Mount* is a collection of sermons from Second Presbyterian on Mountain Avenue in Roanoke, VA. Listen to the encouraging words of ministers George Anderson, Elizabeth Link, Ben Brannan, and occasional guests as we journey together, finding direction by following Jesus. Whether you are near or far, have a quiet moment or are on the go, you can easily listen on your podcast app of choice or stream online from our website. New episodes are published weekly; subscribe to be notified when a new sermon is available!



CHILD OF GOD PODCAST

Join Rev. Elizabeth Link for *Child of God*, a podcast for children and families. Each episode shares a story about God's people and the ways we are a part of God's family. The episodes are brief, but meaningful, and you can catch them while traveling in your car, while doing chores, or getting ready for bedtime, naptime, or to start your day! Subscribe and listen to *Child of God* with the Rev. Elizabeth Link on your favorite podcast platform, or by visiting www.spres.org/connect/podcasts/.



SUNDAY MORNINGS

NURSERIES

(Infant, Toddler, and 2's Room, near Fellowship Hall)

Nursery Coordinator: Aubrey Beeson



The nursery is open and available for infants and toddlers during both morning worship services and Sunday school. During the Sunday school hour, volunteer teachers lead the children in a special, age-appropriate class. Nursery staff and volunteers are under the nursery coordinator's supervision.

WORSHIP

CHILDREN, WORSHIP, & WONDER (CWW)

**Pre-K through 1st Grade
(Children's Worship Center, Third Floor)**

Volunteer Coordinator: Rhesa Bailey

During the Sunday school year, children ages pre-k through first grade enjoy their own special time of worship and wonder at CWW. Following the Children's Time during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, children are excused to the Children's Worship Center on the third floor. They learn the stories of our faith and worship God in a setting and style geared toward their needs and stages of development. Biblical stories are told in the context of a worship experience that includes singing, response time, and "the feast." We hope this will nurture their innate sense of wonder as they develop a sense of awe and reverence for worship.



For more info or to serve as a storyteller or greeter, contact Rhesa Bailey (rhesa@cox.net).

FOR CHILDREN

PRESCHOOL

(3's and 4's Sunday School, near Fellowship Hall)

Our 3- and 4-year-old children will enjoy learning about God's Word through many different learning styles. Teachers work with children using age-appropriate lessons and play through art, music, and storytelling. This class will use curriculum which walks through key Old Testament and New Testament Bible stories each year.

THE RIVER (K-3RD GRADE) (Third Floor)

Volunteer Coordinator: Maria Blackshaw

Younger elementary aged children will enjoy our Workshop Rotation Model Sunday School called *The River*, a name the children chose themselves. Using the *Spark Rotation* curriculum, kindergarten through 3rd graders will spend four weeks on a Bible story, and visit different workshops each week in order to experience the same story from different perspectives. The workshops include "MArts" (Music & Arts), "God's Table" (Cooking), "Holy Word, Holy Motion" (Bible Storytelling through games and drama), and "Holy Explosion" (Science). This year, *The River* will study the following units:

- Wandering in the Wilderness (Exodus 16:1-18, 17:1-7, 20:1-17)
- The Battle of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-20)
- Ruth (Ruth 1:1-22, 2:1-17)
- Advent & Christmas
- A Storm (Matthew 8:23-27)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
- Ten Men Healed (Luke 17:11-19)



- Woman at the Well (John 4:5-42)
- Love is . . . (1 Corinthians 13)

4TH & 5TH GRADE FAITH IN ACTION (Third Floor)

Each week during Sunday school, 4th & 5th graders will gather together to learn about God's Word for their lives. Each semester they will have the opportunity to put God's Words to action as they work together on a special mission project. This uses a curriculum that journeys through key Old Testament and New Testament Bible stories.

FOR YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPASS CLASS (The Intersection)

This middle school class will explore faith and build upon the basics they learn as children, connecting scripture with their daily lives. This fall, the class will be using the PC(USA)'s *Faith Questions* curriculum to respond to real faith questions posed by Presbyterian youth from across the denomination. Each unit encourages young people to look to scripture, as well as our faith traditions, in relevant and responsive ways.

CONFIRMATION CLASS (The Intersection)

Confirmation means study and commitment to the major teachings of the Christian faith. This year, the class will follow the *Confirm Not Conform* confirmation curriculum, which helps youth claim their place in the priesthood of all believers. By engaging youth in scripture, tradition, reason, and experience, *Confirm not Conform* empowers youth for ministry and em-

powers them to think deeply about their own faith. Teachers and mentors build important and lasting relationships with the young people of this class, and work as a team to support and love these students throughout the year and beyond. This year confirmation class (which traditionally takes place in 8th or 9th grade) is open to all youth who are in 8th grade or older who seek to be confirmed as full active members of the church.

SR. HIGH COFFEE AND CONVERSATION (The Intersection)

The Senior High Sunday School will be a conversation-based class focused on scripture and how it relates to our everyday lives. Using the *Feasting on the Word Youth Curriculum*, this class encourages youth to be vocal about the questions they have about faith, seek understanding from one another, from scripture, and from tradition, and explore aspects of faith through fun and fellowship. In the spring, the class will learn about the traditions and worship of Presbyterians and will explore the traditions and worship of different denominations, even a few nearby worshipping communities. Even if students cannot attend each week, we still strongly encourage them to come whenever they are able. Volunteers often provide breakfast, so come hungry!

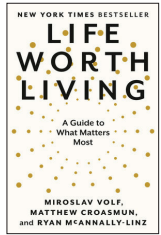
FOR ADULTS REFORMED AND ALWAYS REFORMING (Trent Classroom, Hybrid)

Facilitators: Dr. George Anderson, Suzanne Fischer, Al McLean, Dan Hodges

Tackling Reformed theological topics, Reformed and Always Reforming is a class that welcomes

your questions and loves a good discussion. This fall, the group will focus on the book *Life Worth Living: A Guide to What Matters Most* by Miroslav Volf, Matthew Croasmun and Ryan McAnnally-Linz.

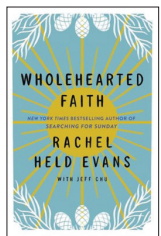
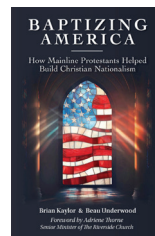
What makes a good life? The question is inherent to the human condition, asked by people across generations, professions, and social classes, and addressed by all schools of philosophy and religions. This search for meaning, as Yale faculty Miroslav Volf, Matthew Croasmun, and Ryan McAnnally-Linz argue, is at the crux of a crisis that is facing Western culture, a crisis that, they propose, can be ameliorated by searching, in one's own life, for the underlying truth. Drawing from the major world religions and from impressively truthful and courageous secular figures, *Life Worth Living* is a guide to life's most pressing question, the one asked of all of us: How are we to live?



THE OPEN DOOR CLASS (Session Room, Hybrid)

Facilitators: Nancy Gray, David Howell, Nancy Morris, Therry Neilsen-Steinhardt, Bruce Stockburger

Join the Open Door as they tackle two books this fall, *Baptizing America*, by Brian Kaylor and Beau Underwood, and *Wholehearted Faith*, by Rachel Held Evans.



Christian Nationalism presents an existential threat to both Christ's church and American

democracy. In the face of such a threat, *Baptizing America* provides an urgent examination and an enlightening critique, exposing dangerous undercurrents of Christian Nationalism. How can Mainline Protestants spot such practices in their own activities? This book and the class' discussion will be a crucial call to reckon with such influences today.

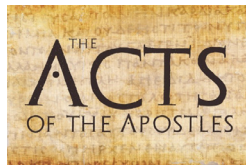
Wholehearted Faith is a posthumously published book written by Rachel Held Evans with the help of her close friend Jeff Chu. At the time of Rachel Held Evans' tragic death in 2019, she was working on a new book about wholeheartedness. That work-in-progress has been woven together with some of her other unpublished writings into a rich collection of essays that ask candid questions about the stories we've been told—and the stories we tell—about our faith, our selves, and our world.

This book is for the doubter and the dreamer, the seeker and the sojourner, those who long for a sense of spiritual wholeness as well as those who have been hurt by the Church but can't seem to let go of the story of Jesus.

COVENANT CONVERSATION **(Reading Room, Hybrid)**

Facilitators: Jeff Hobbs, Robin Hobbs, Cindy Young

This fall, the Covenant Class kick off the fall with stories from the New Testament book of Acts. Luke is the guide as the class relives the events of the early church. Catch the wind of the same spirit



that brings renewed life to today's Christians. Participants will visit the key personalities, re-

view their activities, reflect on their meaning, and discover their message to the Church today.

Following the study on Acts, Covenant Conversation will ask the question, "Why Presbyterians are Like That?" This published series includes Bible Studies intended to help participants think about why Presbyterians are the way we are. Like most Christians throughout history, Presbyterians affirm the faith articulated in the Nicene Creed and Apostles Creed. Presbyterians are distinguished by the particular ways we live out our faith in Jesus. We don't claim to be the only Christians who emphasize the elements of Christian faith discussed in this bible study, but we do believe that these common emphases and themes mark us as distinctive in the Christian family.

WORDS ON THE WORD **(Fellowship Hall, In Person)**



Facilitators: Bill Blaylock, Rich Raymond, Dave Speno,

Scripture ought to be the plumbline for everything we do as Christians, yet how often do we truly examine God's Word? Dust off your nightstand or bookshelf Bible and explore it with others in this new weekly adult Sunday School class. Words on the Word seeks to provide a weekly opportunity for you to dive into scripture using a lectionary based adult curriculum called *Feasting on the Word*. Guided by the class facilitators, group discussions will center around Old or New Testament texts and their origin and meaning for our lives today. Come and discover why we are called to study and examine God's Living Word in community.

CONFIRM NOT CONFORM FOR ADULTS (Café, Fall Series)

Facilitators: Shelley Lyons, Chris Lewis

Geared toward the parents of confirmands, this short-term companion class will parallel parts of what our youth will be learning in confirmation this year, encouraging conversations at home. Participants will be invited to ask questions they have always wanted to ask and explore their faith from an adult perspective. The emphasis will be on building an authentic faith, and lessons will cover basics on the Bible, creeds, sacraments, and topics which may have been ignored or lost in the mists of time.

POP-UP SUNDAY SCHOOL (Fellowship Hall, first Sundays)

Facilitators: Varied

Gather the first Sunday of the month for POP-UP Sunday School. Drop in for an interesting topic or guest speaker. Topics will include updates from our mission partners, stories from the history of Second, religion in art, and other important topics facing the modern church.

BELIEVING AND BELONGING (Hospitality Room, Seasonal)

Facilitators: Dr. George Anderson and Rev. Elizabeth Link

Join our ministers George Anderson and Elizabeth Link for a seasonal two-week class on what it means to be a Presbyterian, and what it means to be a member of Second Presbyterian Church. This is a great class for visitors and new members! **The fall class will meet September 15 & 22.**



SUNDAY EVENINGS

KIDS' FELLOWSHIP: AGES 4 THROUGH 5TH GRADE

(Sundays 5-6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall)

Returning September 8, Kids' Fellowship begins with dinner provided by families for children ages 4 years old (by Sept 1) through 5th grade. After dinner, the children divide by age and progress through an engaging evening of recreation, art, and music. Children will have the opportunity to run and play, experience Bible stories through Story and Stretch, and enjoy the opportunity to make music through a special music experience.

As part of the Sunday Night Kids' Fellowship, the Music Experience (formally known as Choir) will gather upstairs in the Children's Choir Suite in two separate groups at two separate times—divided by age. Music will focus on FUN using voices, instruments, and movement while preparing a Christmas Pageant to be presented in December and special music for a Sunday worship service in the spring.

YOUTH GROUP

When: Sunday nights, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Who: 6th-12th graders and Youth Advisors

Where: The Intersection

What: Middle and high school youth gather to build relationships and connect with each other and with God. This time is set apart to enjoy food, fellowship, and fun while exploring various aspects of faith. This year's Youth Group theme is *Deep Dive!* We will be intentional in the ways we "dive deep" into scripture, into relationships, into ourselves, and into service for the good of

the world. Friends are always welcome to join!

We send out a weekly youth email to all parents/youth who would like to receive it. In addition to emails, we hope to continue text message reminders and alerts. This is for both parents and youth! To be added to either email or text alerts, please reach out to Rev. Ben Brannan.

**For parents: If you have a child in both middle and high school, you will be added to both text lists, as well as the general Youth Group list.*

2PC CLUBS **(Beginning in October)**

After a successful 2023-24 season we are excited about our clubs for the Second Presbyterian Church family in 2024-25! Please check out the clubs available and sign up by Sunday, September 15 at www.spres.org, by scanning the QR code below, or by calling the church office. You may sign up for more than one club. Club coordinators will contact members by phone or email; the first meetings will be in October. If you have questions please contact Susan Carter, Congregational Life Chair (susca49@yahoo.com). *Clubs include: Lunch, Restaurant, Supper, Movie, Coffee, Walking, Book, Roots and Wings, Parenting, and Pickleball.*



MIDWEEK MANNA

When: One Wednesday a month, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Who: High School Girls

Where: Homes of church members or outings

What: This group of high school girls gathers

to take a break from their hectic schedules, check in with each other, and enjoy moments of connection and learning. These nights center around a shared meal and an activity—devotional, craft, game—and the bonds created are long-lasting and meaningful. This group is led by Rebekah Gunn and Julie Mugford. Contact Rev. Ben Brannan for more information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MANNA

When: One Wednesday a month, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Who: Middle School Girls

Where: Homes of church members or outings

What: This group of middle school girls gathers to learn and grow together, form strong bonds and relationships, and create lasting memories. These nights center around a shared meal and an activity—devotional, craft, game. This group will be led by Youth Advisor and mom April Lewis. Contact Rev. Ben Brannan for more information.

YOUNG ADULTS

Second Presbyterian's Young Adults group is an active group of men and women in their 20s and 30s. We all are at different stages in our life, and this group provides opportunities to gather to eat, to have fun, and to explore faith in various ways. The Young Adults try to meet two to three times each month either at someone's home or out for a fun activity. We offer Sunday lunch and weeknight gatherings to fit everyone's schedules. If interested, please email Rev. Ben Brannan. In addition to email reminders, we will begin to utilize the power of text-messaging. To join the text list, contact Rev. Ben Brannan for details.

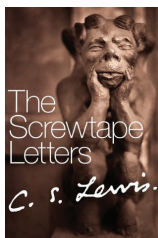
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

(Beginning September 12, Thursdays @ 7:15 a.m., Session Room, Hybrid)

***Date/Time subject to change based on attendees' preferences.**

Facilitator: Carter Brothers

While England was experiencing its great test of character during the German Blitz in the summer of 1940, C.S. Lewis began crafting 31 letters from a senior tempter in Hell named Screwtape to his underling nephew Wormwood, with the hope that these letters could provide “reverse” encouragement and hope during those uncertain and scary times. These letters were initially released weekly in a local paper, but we know them today as *The Screwtape Letters*. During our fall Men’s Bible Study, Carter Brothers will lead our discussion of the timeliness of Lewis’ great satirical work during our own uncertain and scary time (*cough* *looking at you, November Election!*) and the key to unpacking its messages of hope and encouragement to us in 2024. If interested, please reach out to Dave Speno (davidspeno@gmail.com) for information and to be added to our email list.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

(Beginning October 3, Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m., Session Room)

Facilitator: Rev. Elizabeth Link

In *Reading Genesis*, Marilynne Robinson insists that modern readers have largely misunderstood the literary and theological significance of the Bible.

Among the most salient causes of this misunder-

READING
GENESIS

standing, she argues, is our tendency to read ancient texts through modern categories—history, myth, fiction, nonfiction—that do not map neatly onto ancient literature. The result is a never-ending and mostly unnecessary debate between those who approach Genesis as a catalog of events and those who read it as mythic pastiche, pieced together from various ancient sources.

The goal of Genesis, in her estimation, is not to offer a play-by-play of primeval events but to give a theological account of who God is, who we are, and how we should live together in light of that theology. Join Elizabeth Link this fall as we uncover this ancient text anew.

THE BIBLE IN BLACK & WHITE

(Wednesdays, October 2, 9, 16 & 23 @ Noon, Fellowship Hall)

Facilitators: Dr. George Anderson and Dr. Bill Lee



The Bible in Black and White is a successful, collaborative Bible study that brings together blacks and whites of various congregations for a month-long Bible study, conversation and community building. The study takes place every fall and spring in the Fellowship Hall of Second Presbyterian Church. The class will be guided by Walter Brueggemann’s book, *Delivered into Covenant*, and will focus on the last half of the book.

****For more information or to receive the Zoom link for any of our adult Sunday or midweek classes, please contact Pastors’ Assistant Meredith Koliba at meredith@spres.org.****

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