

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE TOMORROW: The Poinsettia order form can be found online at www.spres.org; hard copies are available at the front desk. We encourage you to fill out the form online to ensure spelling accuracy. Orders are due by Monday, December 2.

ANGEL TREE FOR LOA | GIFTS DUE TODAY: As we approach the Christmas holiday, our congregation will be helping the Local Office on Aging (LOA) make a difference in the lives of elderly in our community. Thanks to everyone who has sponsored a senior by taking an Angel Tree tag! **Gifts purchased for seniors are due TODAY, December 1.**

- Local Office on Aging needs volunteers in several ways, including: Drivers are needed to deliver Christmas gifts to seniors between December 16-17. Volunteers are needed to deliver Meals on Wheels—this service is Monday-Friday, takes two hours of your time, and can accommodate all schedules: weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. If you would like to help, contact Pat Houghton at Picuspholcomb@msn.com or call/text 540-529-1269.

CHRISTMAS DINNER & PAGEANT DEC. 8 @ 5:00-6:45 P.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL: We look forward to our traditional Christmas Dinner and Pageant on Sunday, December 8! Those who did not register for dinner are still welcome to join us at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary for the Christmas Pageant with music by the children. You do not have to attend the dinner to see the pageant.

KNITTED HATS FOR HIGHLAND PARK ELEMENTARY STUDENTS | RETURN FINISHED ITEMS ASAP: Thanks to all those who have been knitting this season! Reminder to return your finished hats and scarfs to the Hospitality Room closet by early December. This program was started by our beloved Margaret Foss. Contact Emily Mallory with questions (540-344-1780).

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE | WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18 | 6:00 P.M. | SANCTUARY: For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. A Longest Night service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. Therefore, we hope this offering may provide a space of calm, quiet, and healing for many. Join the Rev. Elizabeth Link at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18 in the Sanctuary for this meaningful time of worship.

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 by completing a form online (<https://www.spres.org/give/make-a-pledge/>).

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES: If you're seeking ways to give back and support the community this holiday season, be sure to check the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall for details. Numerous mission partners are in need of volunteers, and we believe that the gift of your time can truly transform lives. Opportunities are diverse, ranging from tutoring children and youth to assisting with food preparation and pantry stocking, as well as bell ringing for the Red Kettle program, gleaning apples, and more! If you have questions, contact Service & Outreach Chair Alice Holman (aliceholman08@gmail.com).

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today, December 1

8:45 am: Worship Service, Sanctuary
 9:45 am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
 9:45 am: POP-UP, Fellowship Hall
 9:45 am: Sunday School
 11:00 am: Worship Service, Sanctuary/Live Stream
 5:00 pm: Youth Group, Fellowship Hall
 5:30 pm: Welcome Families to the Alexa House

Monday, December 2

Preschool Hallelujah Mountain, Chapel
 6:30 pm: Al Anon & Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library
 6:30 pm: Cub Scouts, Cafe
 6:45 pm: Scouts

Tuesday, December 3

9:30 am: Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 4

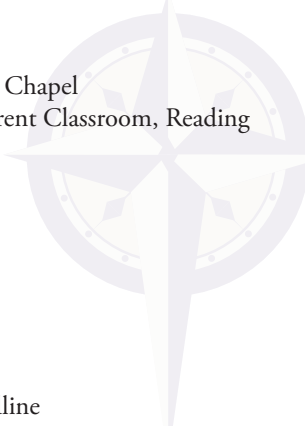
12:00 pm: Bulletin Article Deadline
 5:15 pm: Called Session Meeting for Examination of Confirmation Class of 2025, Sanctuary

Thursday, December 5

7:15 am: Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom
 10:30 am: Women's Bible Study, Session Room
 4:00 pm: Christian Education Committee Meeting, Hybrid

Friday, December 6

Saturday, December 7



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
Pastors' Assistant
 Meredith Koliba
Secretary
 Stacy Moore
Church Accountant
 Libby Smith
Media and Communications Specialist
 Andrea Boone
Media Assistant
 Rachel H. Vogado
Church Sexton
 John Brady Anderson

Trustees

Ron Ayers
 Mary Ann Johnson
 George A. McLean, Jr.

Clerk of Session

Bill Durham
 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.sprespreschool.com

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

For upcoming events, a library of sermons (audio & text), 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
 December 1, 2024



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 2024

Maria Blackshaw
 Pattie Clevenger
 Nancy Gray
 Robin Hobbs
 Alice Holman
 Kenneth Laughon
 Betsy Prillaman
 Chrissy Underwood

Elders - Class of 2025

Ginger Avis
 Susan Carter
 John Caudill
 Kandy Elliott
 Lucinda Hancock
 Mark Lawrence
 Megan Moore
 Darin Pearson

Elders - Class of 2026

Mary Airheart
 Margaret Ashburn
 Chasity Fitzpatrick
 Barry Green
 Sally I'Anson
 Drew Kepley
 Randy Rhea
 Ken Sizemore

DECEMBER 1, 2024

WORSHIP AT 8:45 A.M. AND ON SITE & ONLINE AT 11:00 A.M.
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT^{1,2}

Gathering Music *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* John Spong

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* Ben Logan

*Call to Worship and Lighting the Candle of Hope³

The story begins with hope for a child –

A child, born of woman, like us;

A child who will lead us, a child who will inspire us;

A child who will be our living hope.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope and give thanks for the coming child, Jesus.

Let us sing and worship God.

*Hymn No. 133⁴ *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

(11:00 A.M.) A Time for Children

*Children, Worship, & Wonder participants (Pre-K–1st grade)
excused after Children's Time.*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, you call us to repent, but we too often do not recognize our need to do so. The roar of our own self-righteousness deafens us. Our distaste for self-examination blinds us. Our tongues are too busy with justifications to confess our failings. Remove the barriers to truth, Lord. Quiet us long enough to hear your call to repent and ask forgiveness. Humble our hearts so we will be empowered to respond.

We will be silent now, and we will listen...

Assurance of Pardon

*Response of Praise No. 581 *Gloria Patri*

*Affirmation of Faith (adapted from the Confession of Belhar)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Concerns

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

(11:00 A.M.) Hymn/Anthem *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers!* arr. Benjamin Harlan

CHOIR: Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear

The evening is advancing and darker night is near.

The Bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near.

Go forth as He approaches with alleluias clear.

The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand.

Arise, O heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand.

The saints who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore,

Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.

Around the throne of glory the Lamb you shall behold,

in triumph lay before him your shining crowns of gold.

CONGREGATION AND CHOIR: Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;

Arise, O Sun, so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere!

With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see

The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

CHOIR: Rejoice, rejoice! We rejoice!

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Luke 1:67-79 New Testament p. 827

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon *Sing in Exultation: Zechariah* Dr. George C. Anderson

A Moment for Reflection

Call to Discipleship

Offering^{5**}

Offertory *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming* James Mansfield

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. 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

*Charge and Benediction

(11:00 A.M.) *Choral Response

Postlude *Allegro* (Sonata No. 4) Antonio Vivaldi

**Please stand in body or spirit.*



BULLETIN NOTES

¹ **NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP:** The season of Advent lasts four weeks and four Sundays leading to Christmas. Advent is a Latin word meaning “Coming.” Advent prepares us to hear afresh the good news of God’s coming to us in the person of Jesus. We are encouraged to begin the season by examining why God’s saving love is needed in our lives and in the world, and then anticipate God’s saving work among us.

² **COVER IMAGE:** The *Sing in Exultation* Advent sermon series image was generated by Adobe Firefly Image 3, Nov. 2024.

³ **THE CALL TO WORSHIP** today is adapted from liturgies by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’. Used with permission.

LIGHTING THE PURPLE CANDLE OF HOPE:

(8:45) Brianna and Jackson Gunter

(11:00) Darin, Christal, and Lila Pearson

⁴ **O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL:** John Francis Wade was among a hoard of Roman Catholics who fled to France from England after the Jacobite rebellion. Needing a way to support himself as a refugee, he taught music and became a copyist of musical scores. His work was exquisite. One hymn he copied was *Adeste Fidelis Triumphantes*. The assumption was someone else had composed it. However, research has determined with near certainty that he was the author. Wade died in France. When refugees were allowed to return to England, they brought Wade’s manuscripts with them. Rev. Frederick Oakeley was impressed by *Adeste Fidelis* and translated it into English. “Ye Faithful, Approach Ye,” did not catch on. He tried another translation, and “O Come, All Ye Faithful” became an Advent classic.

⁵ **THE OUTREACH OFFERING** for December will support *Bradley Free Clinic*. For the past 50 years, Bradley Free Clinic has been a lifeline for the underserved members of the Roanoke Valley, offering no-cost medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy services. Over the last 12 months alone, the clinic provided care to more than 3,800 patients—a testament to the increasing need for their services. By supporting Bradley Free Clinic, you help sustain vital services that transform lives and strengthen our community.

The Outreach Offering for November supported the LOA’s meal programs, *Meals on Wheels* and *Diner’s Club*. As of Tuesday, Nov. 26, \$3,975 was collected.

The total amount collected for Hurricane Helene Relief was \$17,986.

Monthly Food Collection for PCC: The food items for the month of December are **Christmas season foods** and **baking mixes**. A donation bin is in the coat closet (please check the expiration date before donating).

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers! Text: Laurentius Laurenti. Trans., Sarah B. Findlater. Music: arr. Benjamin Harlan. © 1992 Jubilate Music Group LLC (Admin. by Jubilate Music Group, LLC). CCLI Song #7173617. Used by permission, CCLI #2642604. | ONE LICENSE #A-742472.

THIS SUNDAY

Flowers: The flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of **Judge Beverly T. and Helen Fitzpatrick** by Beverly and Shirley Fitzpatrick, Eric Fitzpatrick, and Broaddus and Luann Fitzpatrick.
Arranged by Alice Loftin.

Ushers: (8:45) Darin Pearson (Head Usher). (11:00) Chasity Fitzpatrick (Head Usher), B.T. Fitzpatrick, Bev Fitzpatrick, Broaddus Fitzpatrick, Luann Fitzpatrick.

Greeters: (8:45) Bill Blaylock. (11:00) Patsy Chaney, Martha Mikkelson.

AV Technicians: Miranda Moore, Darin Pearson.

Children, Worship, & Wonder: “The Prophets Show the Way to Bethlehem.” Greeter, Jacqueline Lockett. Storyteller, Carolyn Krisha. Program Coordinator, Rhessa Bailey.



**“SING IN EXULTATION”
ADVENT SERMON SERIES
SUNDAY MORNINGS
DECEMBER 1-29, 2024**

Jesus was born into a weary world, bringing good news of great joy for all people. In a season of lament, his birth sparked joy and song from angels and elders, a new mother and an old priest. At Second Presbyterian, our Advent sermon series, “Sing in Exultation,” celebrates the good news of Jesus when and where we least expect it.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

Regular Sunday Morning Worship:

- 8:45 a.m. Early Service, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 a.m. Late Service, Sanctuary/Live Stream

Christmas Eve Dec. 24:

- 12:00 p.m. Noon Service, Sanctuary/Live Stream
- 5:00 p.m. Family Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service, Sanctuary

Learn more at www.spres.org.

**ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES: CHARLES DICKENS’ A CHRISTMAS CAROL
December 1, 8, 15 & 22 | 9:45 a.m. | Fellowship Hall or Chapel**

Join Carter Brothers and the 2PC Victorian Repertory Theatre Troupe (with George Anderson cast as Scrooge!) each Sunday during Advent where they will be raising “the Ghost of an Idea” that Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost Story of Christmas* can help you experience deeper and more meaningful Advent and Christmas seasons. Each Sunday, Carter will lead us through the Advent themes presented in that week’s Stave (Dickens preferred that archaic music term, being a carol after all, to our more familiar “chapter”) while the Troupe recreates one or two memorable scenes to “set the stage” for our discussion. The church will have some copies of the Dickens’ classic available on a first-come, first-to-enjoy status, but you may wish to procure your own copy for the study. Until then, God bless us, everyone!

Dates and Locations:

- Dec 1, Fellowship Hall; Dec 8, Chapel; Dec 15, Chapel; Dec 22, Fellowship Hall

Image source: Wallpapers.com

