

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to the family and loved ones of **Ruth Harris**, who died on Sunday, December 22, 2024.

MEMORIAL

A memorial service in celebration of the life and Christian witness of **Sara Louthan McGhee** will be held on Monday, December 30 at 12 noon in the sanctuary and via live stream. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Bill and Susan Durham on the birth of their grandchild, **Charlotte Frances Durham**, on Tuesday, December 24, 2024 to parents Joseph and Kristin Durham.

OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The church offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 for the New Year holiday. We will reopen on Thursday, January 2.

SUNDAY MORNING DETAILS: Sunday school will not meet today, though Children, Worship, & Wonder (for children in Pre-K through first grade) will meet today during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Sunday school will resume for all ages on January 12, 2025.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST | JANUARY 5, 2025 | 9:45 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL: On Sunday, January 5, members and visitors of all ages are invited to attend a pancake breakfast during the Sunday school hour in Fellowship Hall. This breakfast is sponsored in partnership by the Christian Education Committee and the Congregational Life Committee. Let us take time to share a meal together, get to know recent members and confirmands from the 2024 year, and give thanks to those Sunday school teachers who work tirelessly all year long. Regularly scheduled Sunday school classes for all ages will resume on January 12.

NOTICES ON YEAR-END GIVING: *Important Notice:* To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2024 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. You may lose a deduction for some contributions if you file your tax return before receiving this written acknowledgment. *Timing of Contributions:* In order for your contributions to the church to be deductible in 2024, they must be brought to the church by Tuesday, December 31 or postmarked by December 31, 2024. If the office is closed, please put your contributions in the administrator's mailbox.

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! Questions? Contact Service & Outreach Chair Alice Holman (aliceholman08@gmail.com).

CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION: As Rev. Dan Netting, pastor of the First Christian Church in Salem and Roanoke County Jail and the Western Virginia Regional Jail chaplain, said: "...these cards mean a lot to the men and women who are isolated from their families. Not just having a card to send to someone, but also the images on the cards help them to remember better days and to imagine the hope that God is still with them now." We will begin collecting cards for next year's Jail Ministry donation beginning the week of December 9th. If you have leftover unused cards sitting around from this year's Christmas mailing, look out for the Jail Ministry box in the coat closet. Thank you again for helping to make this gift possible. Service and Outreach Committee

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today, December 29

TWO CENTS A MEAL

8:45 am: Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:00 am: Worship Service, Sanctuary/Live Stream

Monday, December 30

Preschool Closed: Christmas Holiday

12:00 pm: Bulletin Deadline for Jan 05

12:00 pm: Memorial for Sara McGhee with reception in Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm: Al Anon & Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library

Tuesday, December 31

Preschool Closed: Christmas Holiday 9:30am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 1

Preschool and Church Offices Closed: Christmas Holiday

Thursday, January 2

Preschool Closed: Christmas Holiday

Friday, January 3

Preschool Closed: Christmas Holiday

11:00 am: PCC, Reading Room

Saturday, January 4

OPEN FLOWER DATES: The following dates are available for anyone who would like to sponsor flowers in the sanctuary: Feb. 9; April 6, 27; May 4, 18; June 1. Please contact Denise Revercomb to see if the dates are still open (588-5111; revercomb@cox.net).

OPEN DOOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINS NEW BOOK STUDY | JANUARY 12: On Sunday, January 12, the Open Door Sunday School Class will begin a new book called *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans. All are welcome to join! *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.



Staff

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Nathan Anderson

Choir Director

Dr. Jeffrey Sandborg

Organist

Marianne Sandborg

Engagement Coordinator

Connie Polly

Children's Ministry Coordinator

Maria Blackshaw

Parish Associate for Visitation

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Meredith Koliba

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Media and Communications

Specialist

Andrea Boone

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Rachel H. Vogado

Church Sexton

John Brady Anderson

Trustees

Ron Ayers

Lauren Ellerman

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 29, 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 Kopley
Randy Rhea
Ken Sizemore

DECEMBER 29, 2024

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

Gathering Music *Angels We Have Heard On High* Humphrey Turner

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Lani Smith

*Call to Worship³

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

**He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him.**

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.**

The true light, which enlightens everyone,
was coming into the world.

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.**

*Hymn No. 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*
Two Cents-a-Meal
(8:45 A.M.)
(11:00 A.M.) Campbell, Tucker, and Barrett Tims (parents: Stuart and
Jessica)

(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 Confession⁴

**Holy Incarnate God, by the light of your goodness and mercy, our
failing to see your true light is clear: we have not loved you, we have
not loved our neighbors, we have not loved ourselves. Our feet have
not brought good news to the poor nor have our voices defended
Earth and its creatures and plants. Forgive us, blind us with your
honesty, so that we may more clearly see your will, and walk with
your sure steps into the way of wholeness and peace.**

In the silence, we open our hearts to you.

Assurance of Pardon

*Response of Praise No. 134 *Joy to the World* (v. 3)

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

*Affirmation of Faith⁵ Christmas Affirmation

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby,
embodying both love and the need for love,
and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ.
Hunted at birth and humiliated at death,
Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter
his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection. Amen.

Concerns

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

(11:00 A.M.) Hymn No. 124 *Still, Still, Still*
(Please remain seated.)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Luke 2:22-40 New Testament p. 828
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon *Sing in Exultation: Anna and Simeon* Rev. Elizabeth N.H. Link

Call to Discipleship

Offering^{6**}

Offertory *In the Bleak Midwinter* Sarah Douglas

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. 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *O Come, All Ye Faithful* John Innes

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

BULLETIN NOTES

¹ **COVER IMAGE:** The *Sing in Exultation* Advent sermon series image was generated by Adobe Firefly Image 3, Nov. 2024.

² **NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP:** Today marks the first Sunday in the season of Christmas, which begins on Christmas Eve. The colors of our paraments are white, to symbolize purity, joy, and light associated with the birth of Jesus Christ.

³ **THE CALL TO WORSHIP** today is from John 1:1-5, 9, 14 NRSV.

⁴ **THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** today is from *Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, Vol 1*.

⁵ **THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** is adapted from “A Christmas Creed” by Nathan Nettleton.

⁶ **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. By supporting Bradley Free Clinic, you help sustain vital services that transform lives and strengthen our community. Together, we can continue providing hope, healing, and health to those whom most need it. **As of Thursday, Dec. 19, \$2,433.63 has been collected.**

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).

Joy to the World. TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt. MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836. Public domain. CCLI #2642604. ONE LICENSE #A-742472.

THIS SUNDAY

Flowers: The flowers are from the wedding of Sarah Jesse and Hans Musil, which took place in the sanctuary on Saturday, December 28.
Arranged by Denise Revercomb.

Ushers: (8:45) Darin Pearson (Head Usher) Ann Green, Christal Pearson, Lila Pearson. (11:00) Chasity Fitzpatrick (Head Usher), Austin Dickson, Kaitlyn Dickson, B.T. Fitzpatrick.

Greeters: (11:00) Cindy Smith.

AV Technicians: Miranda Moore, Doug Settles.

Children, Worship, & Wonder: "Christmas – Meeting the Christ Child." Greeter, Ann Foust Bailey. Storyteller, Sarah Wilson. Program Coordinator, Rhesa Bailey.

