

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SYMPATHY

Our sympathies extend to Russell and Rhesa Bailey on the death of Russell's mother, **Barbara "Bobbie" Jean Reid Bailey**, on Thursday, November 28, 2024. Our prayers are also with their children, Ann Foust and McLure Bailey.

### NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to Olivia and Brian Harris on the birth of their daughter, **Annabelle Lane Harris**, on Monday, December 2, 2024. Proud big brother is Ford.

Congratulations to Tabby and Ben Blaylock on the birth of their son, **Shepherd Graham Blaylock**, on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Proud grandparents are Susan and Tom Blaylock.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER & PAGEANT TODAY | FELLOWSHIP HALL:** We look forward to our traditional Christmas Dinner & Pageant today! Those who did not register for dinner are still welcome to join us at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary for the 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.

**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:** Just before Thanksgiving, the last of the Bankers Boxes filled with Christmas cards and envelopes, as well as several rolls of stamps, were delivered to the chaplains of the Roanoke Area correctional institutions. Thanks to your generosity with your leftover unused Christmas cards and envelopes left in the Jail Ministry Box after Christmas last year, together with the addition of new boxes of cards provided by the Service and Outreach Committee's Jail Ministry funds, each chaplain received approximately 400 cards and envelopes as well as two rolls of stamps that will be distributed to the inmates of each institution. 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 8

8:45 am: Worship Service, Sanctuary  
9:45 am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room  
9:45 am: Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
9:45 am: POP-UP, Fellowship Hall  
9:45 am: Sunday School  
11:00 am: Worship Service, Sanctuary/Live Stream  
5:00 pm: Christmas Dinner and Pageant

#### Monday, December 9

5:30 pm: Service and Outreach Committee Meeting, Zoom and Session Room  
6:30 pm: Al Anon & Alateen, Trent Classroom, Reading Room, Library  
6:30 pm: Cub Scouts, Cafe  
6:45 pm: Scouts

#### Tuesday, December 10

9:30 am: Staff Meeting  
5:00 pm: Congregational Life Meeting, Zoom  
5:15 pm: Trent Fund Subcommittee, Zoom

#### Wednesday, December 11

12:00 pm: Bulletin Article Deadline  
12:00 pm: Christmas Eve Bulletin Deadline  
12:00 pm: Second Sheet Article Deadline  
5:00 pm: Green Team, Zoom/Trent Classroom

#### Thursday, December 12

7:15 am: Men's Bible Study, Reading Room/Zoom  
10:30 am: Women's Bible Study, Session Room

#### Friday, December 13

#### Saturday, December 14

11:00 am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal with Instruments

**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/>).



### 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/](http://www.spres.org/about/leadership/)

For upcoming events, a library of sermons (audio & text), and more, visit our website:

[www.spres.org](http://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 8, 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 8, 2024

WORSHIP AT 8:45 A.M. AND ON SITE & ONLINE AT 11:00 A.M.  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT<sup>1,2</sup>

Gathering Music *Now the Green Blade Riseth* Michael McCabe

Welcome and Announcements  
Minute for Mission *Bradley Free Clinic* Janine Underwood,  
Executive Director

Prelude *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* Thomas Chesterton

\*Call to Worship and Lighting the Candle of Peace<sup>3</sup>

In the midst of suffering and despair,  
**God's prophet cries, "Comfort!"**  
Amid all that causes us pain, that brings us to tears,  
**God's care falls over us like a gentle rain.**  
In this season of short days and long nights  
**We are called to tend to each other.**  
On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace  
and give thanks for God's compassion for us.  
**Let us sing and worship God.**

\*Hymn No. 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vv. 1-4)

(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  
**Good and Gracious God, we must confess that we have not lived as your children. We neglect the poor and vulnerable. We waste and lay to ruin the gifts of your creation. We feast on our own bitterness while our neighbors go hungry. Forgive us, God, and help us be as willing to draw near to others as you are to us. Teach us to see with your love, make us brave to reach out with your arms of grace. May we help heal the brokenness around us, accompany the lonely, and comfort the hurting, as you did when you came to us so long ago.**

*You came to us so long ago, Lord Jesus Christ, and you come to us still.  
Be near to us in the silence that we might hear your voice and follow.*

Assurance of Pardon

\*Response of Praise No. 581 *Gloria Patri*

\*Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed  
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge *(continued on next panel.)*

the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Concerns

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

(11:00 A.M.) Anthem *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Mack Wilberg  
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him born the King of angels:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.  
  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.  
  
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Luke 1:39-45 New Testament p. 827  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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

Hymn No. 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come* (v. 1)  
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Call to Discipleship  
Offering<sup>4\*\*</sup>  
Offertory *Setting on Veni Emmanuel* Gregg Sewell  
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. 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

\*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *O Come, all Ye Faithful* Lani Smith

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*



**BULLETIN NOTES**

<sup>1</sup> **NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP:** Today is the second Sunday of the season of Advent. Advent is a season in the Christian year that lasts for about four weeks. It begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. During this season, Christians prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus by remembering the longing of the Jews for a Messiah. In Advent, we are reminded of how much we ourselves also need a Savior. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "visit".

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

<sup>3</sup> **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 PEACE:**  
(8:45) Paul, Dana, Anna, and Lydia Bryan  
(11:00) Confirmands, Elmer Hartman and Foster Lyons

<sup>4</sup> **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. The demand for dental services continues to increase as they provide care to patients, to children enrolled in the TAP Head Start program, and to immigrant families enrolled in CHIP. Critical services like lab testing are essential for managing chronic illnesses and combating infectious diseases. The on-site pharmacy depends on donor generosity in stocking the medications they urgently need—a need that has risen sharply alongside the expansion of their behavioral health program. 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 Wednesday, Dec. 4, \$436.38 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).

*O Come, All Ye Faithful.* Text: Public domain. Music Arr: Mack Wilberg. © 1992 Oxford University Press, Inc.  
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**THIS SUNDAY**

**Flowers:** The flowers are given to the glory of God by Marc and CJ Swanson in honor of their children, **Tessa and Jamie**.  
*Arranged by Kathryn Barrows.*

**Ushers:** (8:45) Darin Pearson (Head Usher) Christal Pearson, Lila Pearson, Brownie Polly. (11:00) B.T. Fitzpatrick(Head Usher), Jeff Sharpe, Carolyn Sharpe, Bev Fitzpatrick.

**Greeters:** (8:45 & 11:00) Elizabeth Vacher and Carole Mayberry.

**AV Technicians:** Darin Pearson, Doug Settles.

**Children, Worship, & Wonder:** "Mary and Joseph Show the Way to Bethlehem."  
Greeter, Susan Carter. Storyteller, Lori Privott. Program Coordinator, Rhesa 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

Sunday school will not meet on December 29, though Children, Worship, & Wonder (for children in Pre-K through first grade) will meet on December 29 during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Sunday school will resume for all ages on January 12.

Learn more at [www.spres.org](http://www.spres.org).

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

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!

