

Second Life

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

SERMON SERIES

IN THE VERY BEGINNING: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

A talking serpent, a desired piece of fruit, a rib, fig leaves, a living being created out of dirt. Stories from the Garden of Eden are dramatic, fantastic, and peculiar. They also point us to a deeper understanding of who we were created to be and who we are called to be. Why does our origin matter? That is our focus for these weeks.

Feb. 2: "You Will Be Like God": Beyond Envy (*Genesis 3:1-5; 20-24*)

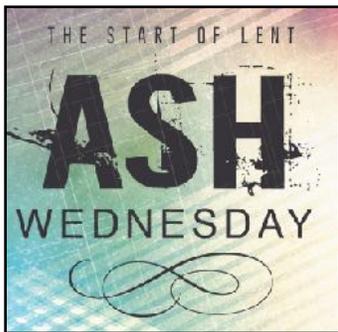
Feb. 9: A Forbidden Apple, a Talking Serpent, and a Fall (*Genesis 3:1-19*)

Feb. 16: Retrieving the Paradise We Lost (*Genesis 3:22-24*)

Feb. 23: When Sin Lurks at the Door: Cain and Murder (*Genesis 4:1-15*)



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



Ash Wednesday reminds us as we number our days that there will be an end to them. We are called to ask ourselves the most important questions of life. As we begin the season of Lent, join us on **Wednesday, February 26**, as we come together for a light meal from 5:45-6:30 p.m., and then gather in the sanctuary from 6:30-7:10 p.m. as we remember to rest our soul in God's promises. The question that we ask ourselves during the 40 days of Lent is . . . How can we repent and be sincere as we think about our own smallness in the presence of a great God?

BRING THE HEAT: CHILI COOK OFF

SPC's Seventh Chili Cook Off will be a celebration worth remembering. Immediately after worship on **February 16**, come to the Fellowship Hall and sample some chili, have fun, and vote on your favorite. There will be two categories for winner: Best Chili and Most Creative Chili. As always, the greatest winners are all of us who get to taste the entries.

Each person who wishes to enter the contest should bring in a crockpot full of their favorite homemade chili. We'll all be able to sample everyone's recipe and vote on a winner. If you have questions, just contact Katie White or Helen Pribesh.



FROM THE PASTOR: ELEVATING SMALL TALK TO LARGE TALK

A few years ago at Virginia Wesleyan, when I was presenting the religious studies departmental award to a graduating senior named Summer Moore, I was at a loss of how to introduce such a very substantive recipient. I then recognized that what stood out about her was the questions she asked. My introduction finished by saying, "She listens carefully, she is thoughtful, and she asks the right questions. As a result, she rapidly elevates small talk to medium talk to large talk, by focusing on deep issues that matter in life."

The questions we ask matter. A study by the psychologist Arthur Aron showed that intimacy between two strangers can be accelerated by having them ask each other a specific series of 36 personal questions. In case you are curious, here are the first five questions:

- Given the choice of anyone in the world, whom would you want as a dinner guest?
- Would you like to be famous? In what way?
- Before making a telephone call, do you ever rehearse what you are going to say? Why?
- What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?
- When did you last sing to yourself? To someone else?

The questions we ask matter. And, of course, how we answer questions matters.

As I look back at the books I read in 2019, one of my absolute favorites was a simple book by Paul Smith: *The 10 Stories Great Leaders Tell*. In short, the book says that every organization (or person, family, or business) needs to tell stories about themselves that help remind them and others of their calling and purpose. Smith talks, for instance, about a founding story, a case-for-change story, a vision story, and a strategy story. Those four stories answer the questions: Where did we come from? Why can't we stay here? Where are we going? And how are we going to get there? I found the book particularly helpful as we have thought about staffing changes and how we understand where we want to be in twenty years.

DO I MATTER?
DOES MY LIFE
HAVE PURPOSE?
DOES GOD KNOW WHO I AM?
WHY AM I HERE?

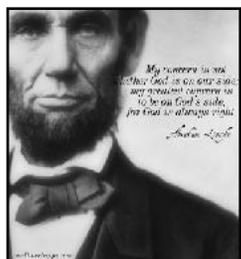
The questions we ask matter. And the questions that Jesus asked, of course, also matter. He asks lots of questions. This last week I started thinking only about the 35 questions that he asks within the Gospel of Matthew. Here are five of them:

- "If you greet your brethren only, what is unusual about that? Do not the unbelievers do the same?" (Matt 5:47)
- "Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your lifespan?" (Matt 6:27)
- "But who do you say that I am?" (Matt 16:15)
- "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life and what can one give in exchange for his life?" (Matt 16:26)
- "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?" (Matt 27:46)

During the upcoming Lenten season, I look forward to our reflecting more on these questions from Jesus. In our responses to his questions we will find our deepest calling and most meaningful stories. Please join us on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent as we see how the questions of Jesus elevate "small talk" to "large talk."

Have a blessed February,
Pastor Craig

AT VIRGINIA WESLEYAN



Thursday, February 13, 11:00-11:50 a.m. Blocker Hall Auditorium
"Lincoln's 'Mystic Chords': Recovering Our 'Better Angels'"
Dr. Timothy O'Rourke

Abraham Lincoln's two inaugural addresses, along with the Gettysburg Address, do much to capture his principles and politics and the challenge of adapting principles to circumstances. In all three addresses, Lincoln seeks to establish the common ground (or, indeed, the hallowed ground) that can bring Americans together.

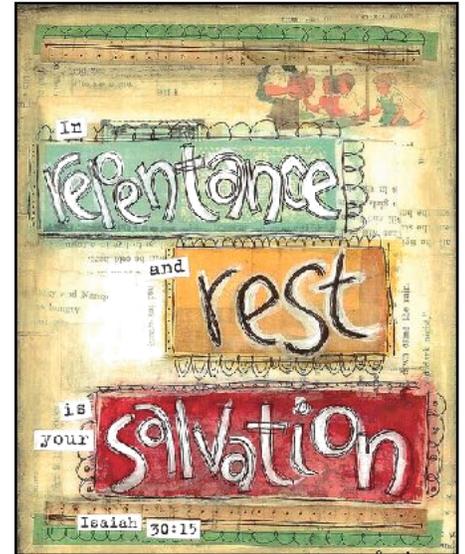
WEDNESDAY NIGHT R&RS

"In repentance and rest you will be saved . . ." (Isaiah 30:15)

Dinner : 5:45-6:30 PM \$5 per person, kids 6 & under FREE Program: 6:30-7:15 PM

JAN. 29: ISRAEL, PALESTINE, AND THE ART OF WAGING PEACE

For two weeks in January, Craig took 15 VWU students to Israel and Palestine, so as to visit key sites and—in addition to typical tourist stops—to experience a dual narrative tour (both Israeli and Palestinian perspectives), and to stay at kibbutzim, experience homestays with Palestinians, work with Lutheran farmers, and meet Bedouins and Druze who negotiate what life in Israel means. In addition, the students met with a variety of organizations that work—with people very different from themselves—toward peace. Come hear more from Craig about how reconciliation in Israel can shape our own growth in Christ.



FEB. 12: INSPIRE: BREATHING. RECEIVING. ACTING. FEELING.

A program for everyone, young and old!

Join our new Director of Music, Robert Shoup, for discussion and activity related to maximizing our experience with music in the life of the church: from the purpose for and experience of our own participation to a better understanding of how we receive (or don't!) all that music has to offer our hearts and souls. Come to laugh, to learn, and to better position yourself to *inspire*.

ESSENTRICS CLASS

Essentrics stretch exercise class will continue **Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00PM** throughout February, and most of March.

There will be **no class on Tuesday, March 17**.

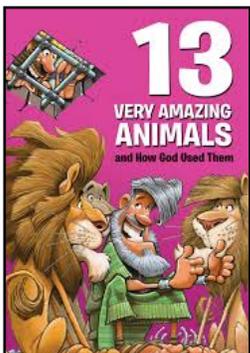
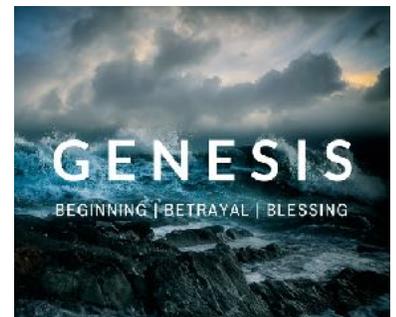
Feel free to join our happy band of increasingly mobile, stronger, and well-balanced ladies! Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat.

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

GENESIS: BEGINNING, BETRAYAL, BLESSING AN ADULT BIBLE STUDY

(Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30 a.m., in the fellowship hall)

Genesis focuses on new beginnings. That is appropriate in a new year. But not all new beginnings go smoothly. That is the focus of this Bible study. In anticipation of 11:00 worship, join Marie Finch and Catherine Hart Monroe, as they lead a study of those scripture passages in the book of Genesis that continue to shape us even today.



13 VERY AMAZING ANIMALS AND HOW GOD USED THEM

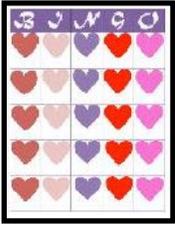
(5 YEAR OLDS THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL)

(Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30 a.m., upstairs Sunday School room)

It will be fun. In anticipation of an outdoor, animal-based worship service, we will focus on Bible animal stories that jump out, fun and meaningful discussions, giggle-worthy games, and oh-wow activities. Each Sunday join Pastor Craig and Suzy White for a fun and meaningful time together.

YOUTH FAITH TALK: *THE GREATEST SHOWMAN* - FEBRUARY 9 AFTER WORSHIP

The youth are invited to join Catherine Hart Monroe and Katie White in the faith talk this month which is based on the movie *The Greatest Showman*. We will discuss themes of community, recognition of gifts of self and others, and kindness. If a youth needs to borrow the movie before the talk, Katie has a copy they can borrow.

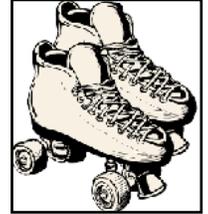


YOUTH MISSION: FIN VALENTINE'S BINGO NIGHT - FEBRUARY 14 AT 5PM

Second Presbyterian and Faith Inclusion Network will be hosting a "Valentine's Bingo Night" and the youth are invited to help with this night for their mission project. On this night we will be welcoming and celebrating those with disABILITIES by playing a fun game with them and their families. The youth will need to be at the church at 5:00PM to help decorate and prepare the room, and then the bingo will start at 6:30PM!

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: ROLLER SKATING - FEBRUARY 23 AFTER WORSHIP

On **Sunday, February 23 after worship** the youth are invited to go roller skating at the Greenbrier Family Skating Center. The cost is \$8 per person to skate. Please see Katie with any questions.



ASSIST WITH WORSHIP: FEBRUARY 16

Every **third Sunday** of the month PWSJC will need **4 volunteers** to usher, and **1 volunteer** to serve as liturgist for worship! Please see Katie White if your child or youth would like to participate in worship in these meaningful ways.

SPC PARENTING GROUP: FEBRUARY 16 AT 6:00PM, STAMPFLI'S HOUSE

We will continue discussing *The Five Love Languages of Children* by Dr. Gary Chapman. This is a time of fellowship and sharing experiences as parents, and all parents are welcome to join the group at any time!



CHILDREN'S MISSION: CARE PACKAGES FOR FIRE FIGHTERS - FEBRUARY 15 AT 1:00PM

Come join us as we make cookies, cards, and survival baggies for our wonderful neighborhood fire department on **February 15th at 1pm** at Second Presbyterian Church. After the cookies have cooled down and are packaged, we will deliver them. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amanda Besso at (757) 701-4668 or besso.amanda@spcnorfolk.org.

CHILDREN'S FELLOWSHIP: SANCTUARY MOVIE NIGHT - FEBRUARY 21 AT 6:00PM

Please come join us for the movie *Wall-e* on **February 21st at 6PM**. Blankets and pajamas are welcome. There will be pizza and drinks. During the movie we will make edible dirt cups for dessert. **Please RSVP by Feb 17th**. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Amanda Besso at (757) 701-4668 or besso.amanda@spcnorfolk.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SURVEY



As the new Director of Children's Ministry, it is my goal to create a satisfying monthly mission event, as well as a meaningful monthly fellowship event. In order to do so, I would like to get ideas from you. Are there any specific types of activities that you would like for us to offer, or any particular places your children would enjoy visiting? What other ideas and suggestions do you have for mission and fellowship events for the children of SPC?

Please contact me at besso.amanda@spcnorfolk.org or call/text (757)701-4668.

MISSION AT SECOND



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:

Temple Israel will be hosting the next blood drive on **Sunday, February 9th from 9 am to 3 pm**. As in the past, they will be offering the blood drive jointly with Second Presbyterian Church and Trinity Lutheran Church. To sign up in advance, you can go to redcrossblood.org. You may also contact Alice Allen-Grimes (535-0934) and she will complete the on-line sign up for you.

NORFOLK EMERGENCY SHELTER TEAM (NEST):

It's that time of the year where NEST is around the corner. (NEST) The Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team has been serving the homeless in the local area for many years. Last year a total of 13,219 guests were served, and Second was part of making that possible. This year we will be teaming up with Royster Presbyterian in serving on **Wednesday March 18, Thursday the 19, and Friday the 20th**.

The main thing we will need is your time to volunteer. Breakfast servers, bus stop help, sign in help, dinner servers, and for our night owls the most loved overnight watch. It takes a team to run this mission and Second is always able to step up to the plate when help is needed. Lastly, we will be collecting items for care packages for our guests. While shopping these next few weeks, if you can pick up long socks, washcloths, toiletry items, travel sized soaps and shampoos, and, if you travel, please save those items and bring them in. There will be a bin in the hallway to collect the care package items. The sign up sheet for volunteering will also be in the hallway. If you have any questions please feel free to ask Philip Ndahi. Thank you all in advance for your help and participation.



PARK PLACE CHILD LIFE CENTER ANNUAL UPDATE:

Please note the year end report for our mission partner Park Place Child Life Center (PPCLC) is on the mission board, located in the hallway by the kitchen entrance. You can also read the report in an email that was sent out. Please see PPCLC liaison Bill Armstrong with any questions.

SANCTUARY MOVIE NIGHT

**ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR
A SANCTUARY MOVIE NIGHT ON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 @ 6:00PM
FEATURING THE MOVIE WALL-E**

**PIZZA, DRINKS, AND
A SPECIAL SNACK WILL BE PROVIDED!**

**PLEASE RSVP BY FEBRUARY 17
TO AMANDA BESSO AT
BESSO.AMANDA@SPCNORFOLK.ORG
OR CALL/TEXT (757) 701-4668**



There is definitely a place for YOU at Second Presbyterian!

FEBRUARY 2020

<p><u>Saturday, February 1</u> PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC]</p> <p><u>Sunday, February 2</u> Discipleship Classes - 9:45AM [Fellowship Hall, Upstairs Classroom] Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary] SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Monday, February 3</u> Marty Terry's Birthday Romans Bible Study - 6:30PM [TBD] Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Tuesday, February 4</u> SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall] Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Wednesday, February 5</u> Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall] SAA- 7:30PM [Library] Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Choir Room]</p> <p><u>Thursday, February 6</u> Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Friday, February 7</u> Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM Sandwich Making - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Saturday, February 8</u> Second Saturday - 9:00AM [PPCLC, SPC, & St. Mary's] PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC]</p> <p><u>Sunday, February 9</u> Sam Stearns & Peggy McPhillip's Birthday Faithful Neighbors Blood Drive - 9:00AM to 3:00PM [Temple Israel] Discipleship Classes - 9:45AM [Fellowship Hall, Upstairs Classroom] Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary] Youth Faith Talk - 12:15PM [Youth Room] SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Monday, February 10</u> Sean Franklin & Alice Allen-Grimes' Birthday Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]</p>	<p><u>Tuesday, February 11</u> Mildred Berryman & Linda West's Birthday Triple S Circle - 10:30AM [Fellowship Hall] SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall] Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Wednesday, February 12</u> Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall] Wednesday Night R&R - 5:45PM [Fellowship Hall] Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Choir Room] SAA- 7:30PM [Library]</p> <p><u>Thursday, February 13</u> VWU Lecture - 11:00AM [Blocker Hall] Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Friday, February 14</u> Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM Youth Mission Project - 5:00PM [Fellowship Hall] FIN Valentine's BINGO Night - 6:30PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Saturday, February 15</u> Anne Baylor & Michael Finch's Birthday PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC] Young Disciple's Mission Project - 1:00PM [SPC Kitchen]</p> <p><u>Sunday, February 16</u> Ben Foster's Birthday Discipleship Classes - 9:45AM [Fellowship Hall, Upstairs Classroom] Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary] Chili Cook Off - 12:15PM [Fellowship Hall] SPC Parenting Group - 6:00PM [Stampfli's House] SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Monday, February 17</u> Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Tuesday, February 18</u> SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall] Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Fellowship Hall] Session Meeting - 6:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, February 19</u> Catherine Hart Monroe & Phil Lingamfelter's Birthday Choir Rehearsal - 7:30PM [Choir Room] SAA- 7:30PM [Library]</p> <p><u>Thursday, February 20</u> Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Friday, February 21</u> Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM Sanctuary Movie Night - 6:00PM [Sanctuary]</p> <p><u>Saturday, February 22</u> PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC]</p> <p><u>Sunday, February 23</u> Discipleship Classes - 9:45AM [Fellowship Hall, Upstairs Classroom] Worship - 11:00AM [Sanctuary] Youth Fellowship - 12:15PM [Greenbrier Skating Center] SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Monday, February 24</u> Bill Wooldridge's Birthday Women Fellowship Dinner - 6:00PM [TBD] Al-Anon - 7:30PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Tuesday, February 25</u> SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall] Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Wednesday, February 26</u> Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall] Ash Wednesday Dinner & Service - 5:45PM [Fellowship hall, Sanctuary] SAA- 7:30PM [Library]</p> <p><u>Thursday, February 27</u> Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Fellowship Hall]</p> <p><u>Friday, February 28</u> John Cabeen's Birthday Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM</p> <p><u>Saturday, February 29</u> PPCLC - 10:00AM [SPC]</p>
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SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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