

# Second Life



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

## AUGUST SUNDAY SERMON SERIES, 11:00 A.M. SACRED PATHWAYS: DIFFERENT PATHS TO GOD

Some of us at Second Presbyterian feel closest to God when we are immersed in nature or maybe when we are serving other people. Some of us feel closest to God in our study of the Bible or through engaging music. Some, through silence and meditation. In worship in August, we continue to focus on nine distinct spiritual temperaments and on how each can help us grow in faith. (Note: The structure of this series grew out of observations from Gary Thomas' Sacred Pathways: Discover Your Soul's Path to God. Depending on your own sacred pathway, you may enjoy reading it!).



**August 2** "O God, You Are My God" (Psalm 63:1-8)

Contemplatives: Loving God through Adoration

**August 9** "Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me" (Matthew 16:21-26)

Caregivers: Loving God by Loving Others

**August 16** "The Fear of the Lord Is the Beginning of Knowledge" (Proverbs 1:1-12)

Intellectuals: Loving God with the Mind

**August 23** "Surely the Lord Is in This Place" (Genesis 28:10-17)

Enthusiasts: Loving God with Mystery and Celebration

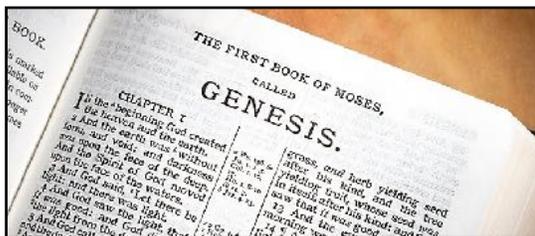
**August 30** "Be Still and Know That I Am God" (Psalm 46:8-11)

Ascetics: Loving God in Solitude and Simplicity

## BEYOND "IN THE BEGINNING": A DEEPER LOOK AT GENESIS 12-50

THURSDAYS, 7:30-8:10 P.M.

Abraham and Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac, Rebecca, Esau, Jacob, Rachel, Leah, Israel, Judah, and Joseph set the framework for the development of our faith (and for so many key stories in the Bible). Each Thursday we are studying the stories of Genesis 12-50. We meet 7:30-8:10 p.m., through Zoom, reflecting on these stories and on a podcast through an organization called BEMA. If you are interested in really digging into scripture, this is a fun way to do so. Please be in touch with Pastor Craig or Claire Ficker. It would be great to have you join us.



## FROM THE PASTOR

This last week Rob Courtois and I saw a webinar on preparing your church for life after the pandemic. One point that the leader made was that people are tending to be increasingly ornery because they are finding themselves inward focused. He acknowledged that it may be a challenge, but our best chance for growing in faith—and, for that matter, in mental health—is when we, as individuals and as a church family, look beyond ourselves.

As we enter Virginia's sixth month of COVID-19, I'm increasingly overwhelmed with gratitude for our church family, and for ways—in the midst of such a disruptive time—that you are looking beyond yourself. You are reaching out to others, offering supportive words, taking people food or to doctors' appointments. You are baking cookies or contributing time, talent, and resources to our feeding ministries this summer. You are making the church look nicer, both inside and outside. You are calling people and sharing joy. You are contributing financially to the church and our shared mission. Thank you.

There are so many people to thank, including the staff, elders, and so many volunteers. We are grateful to the transition committee—Larry Hull, Karen McKinley, Nick Stampfli, Kathy Stark, and Peggy Troyer—whose brainstorming helps us think through the challenges of transitioning and living in this interim time. *(It also has been good to see "Sheriff Peggy"—with purple cowboy hat, badge, and six foot pole—lovingly encouraging people in worship to stay six feet away from each other).*

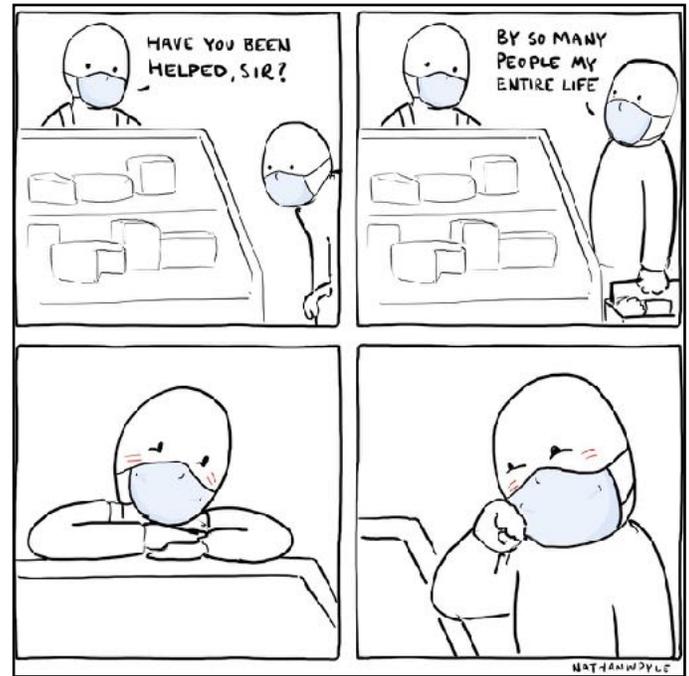
We are grateful to Bob Shoup, whose first six months at the church included only six Sundays of "normal" worship. As a director of three vocal choirs, he has found himself in a very different zone than he had experienced during his first five decades of music. His creativity, concern for everyone's safety, and hard work has made both music and worship more beautiful and creative each week.

And we all are grateful to Jay Layne. The Layne legacy started decades ago with the recording of the worship services, and then the sharing of them online. Throughout the decades, Jay also has used his artistic skills in service to the congregation through his photography. During these last six months—like he has for so many years—Jay has faithfully recorded and streamed each Sunday worship service. But now he also does the same for each Wednesday gathering. And he now does so not just through our website, but also through Facebook. And he now is adapting to our new video and sound systems. What many don't know, however, is that Jay also does all of this, in effect, by doing the work of a number of people. He not only operates the cameras, but also edits the video feed and works on sound. We are deeply grateful for his service and thoughtfulness.

During the last two months, it has been wonderful to see handfuls of people at outdoor and indoor services, at some small groups, at the chalk drawing event in the parking lot in June, and at the drive-by celebration parade of our graduates. When September begins—and temperatures begin to cool down a bit—we will have more outdoor services and want to find more ways to meet outside safely. Because we have such a thoughtful congregation, we would be very grateful if you shared thoughts, possibilities, and ideas as we plan for the next months, so here is the question (mentioned in the title): **What kind of creative and safe fellowship opportunities might we have this fall at Second?** Please take the time to write me at [cwansink@vwu.edu](mailto:cwansink@vwu.edu) or call (757) 412-7467 with any thoughts.

With deep gratitude, Pastor Craig

## WITH GRATITUDE (and a question)



## WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING A SECOND SUMMER

WEDNESDAYS, 6:30-7:10 P.M.

Please join Craig, Catherine, Bob, and others, either through our church website or the church's Facebook page for these special discussions.

### **July 29** *What Does It Mean to Be a "Contemplative"?*

We will discuss the history and attributes of prayer in the contemplative tradition, and explore methods and practices commonly employed in this approach to worship. We will consider together how this way of knowing God fits into our present faith practices, and how it may offer new paths to communing with Christ. Music from the Taizé community will be used as a vehicle for prayer together—so please join us from a quiet place if you can, and perhaps have a candle nearby to light!



### **August 5** *Mysticism and a Look at Medieval Christian Women*

The television show *Game of Thrones* fascinated Americans, in part because it focused on such an unusual time. Christian History magazine says, "The medieval era is surely one of the most difficult for us to understand. People danced around the Maypole and built soaring cathedrals. They walked thousands of miles to view holy relics and lit bonfires to ward off dragons. They illuminated some of the most beautiful books ever made and fought plagues by carrying bouquets of flowers." What also characterized Christians of that age was an emphasis on mysticism and mystical visions, with vibrant faith that ended up changing the world. So many influential thinkers were Christian women. The first autobiography in the English language was written by a Christian woman, Margery Kempe, who lived in the early 1400s. The first English book known to be written by a woman was written by a Christian, the influential writer and visionary Julian of Norwich. Mark Twain, after 12 years of research on Joan of Arc's life, concluded that her life was "the most noble life that was ever born into this world save only One." The first known morality play, an important form of drama in the late medieval period, was written by a woman, Hildegard of Bingen, the 12th-century German abbess. Why should mysticism continue to matter to 21st-century rationalists like us? That is our focus this evening.

### **August 12** *Caregivers: Loving God by Loving Others*

Please join special guests—TBA—as they discuss the challenge of being caregivers, the challenges of reaching out to others, and the ways in which all of us might find energy to reach out to others during this challenging time.

### **August 19** *Intellectuals in Love with God: C. S. Lewis, G. K. Chesterton, and Others*

Pastor Craig and Dr. Terry Lindvall, who holds the C.S. Lewis Endowed Chair in Communication and Christian Thought at VWU, will discuss those figures who found their way to faith by focusing on the life of the mind. "Anyone who is honestly trying to be a Christian will soon find his intelligence being sharpened: one of the reasons why it needs no special education to be a Christian is that Christianity is an education itself." —C.S. Lewis

(You are invited to join us this evening either online or in the sanctuary. Note that parents who come to the sanctuary may bring their children to the fellowship hall for a service project during this same time).

### **August 26** *"Be Still (and Know That I Am God)"*

There will be no webcast this evening. However, you are invited to come to the sanctuary for a (socially distanced) showing of "*Be Still (and Know That I Am God)*," an hour-long film that demonstrates how contemplative or listening prayer can be a vital way to find peace in the midst of this world. This evening focuses in concrete ways about how to start a new way of relating to God. Note that the video includes interviews with Richard Foster, Beth Moore, Max Lucado, Priscilla Shirer, Dallas Willard, and many more.

## MUSIC MINISTRY ZOOM MEETING

*Wednesday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m. (following SPC webcast)*

Our choir members and instrumentalists are invited for an online conversation to touch base about music ministry at SPC during the Covid crisis. Conversation will include thoughtful consideration of measures taken since March and discussion of strategies in the months ahead.

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## A NOTE TO SECOND FROM KATIE WHITE

I wanted to inform the congregation I will be taking a three month leave of absence from my Director of Families and Youth role at the church, taking place from August through October of 2020. The reason for this absence centers around some needed professional direction; and, for several personal reasons, such as moving and homeschooling Bayleigh for the fall semester. This does not mean you will not see me (virtually or in-person) around Second! I will continue with my administrative duties, and I will continue to engage in this community, as that has become so important to my faith. It should be noted, the staff and session will carry on with intergenerational work and providing opportunities for the youth during this time. Specifically, Rev. Catherine will help lead the youth in mission work, and for that I am very excited! The staff, session, and I all agree that now is a good time to take a leave of absence—given this unusual season of COVID-19—and I am grateful for that agreement.

With much love and appreciation for my Second family,  
Katie

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## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY IDEAS

One of the things we, as a staff, have heard repeatedly since March is that many of you miss interacting with members of your church family. Even though the sanctuary is now open for worship, we're still unable to gather after worship for our weekly fellowship hour, and we're unable to offer our usual summer fellowship activities that many of us enjoy. Recently, the Discipleship Committee looked into several opportunities to gather socially during the month of August. At this time, we feel strongly that we need to gather outdoors for health and safety reasons, but we recognize that it is simply too hot to do so during the summer months. So we're planning a church-wide fellowship opportunity for late September when the weather is cooler. But if you have any ideas about how we can safely gather for a time of fellowship in the coming weeks, please pass those thoughts along to Catherine Hart Monroe at (757) 287-9897 or [revcat@spcnorfolk.org](mailto:revcat@spcnorfolk.org). We look forward to a time when we can all gather together again safely!



# PARK PLACE CHILD LIFE CENTER

## SPECIAL REPORT TO THE SPC CONGREGATION

Dear Members of Second Presbyterian Church,

As your liaison to the Park Place Child Life Center (PPCLC), I reported to the congregation last December on specific issues and activities in which PPCLC was involved. Since then, we have continued to provide quality art enrichment within the context of our mission to support the social-emotional and spiritual development of children. However, our activities were significantly modified when COVID-19 became a prominent concern. Jennifer McDuffie, our Program Director, supported by an assistant and several volunteers, has been working hard making masks and art kits that are handed out every Thursday evening in Park Place. That project is an integral part of the fresh meals and food distribution program sponsored by LAUNCH, a loose confederation of non-profits under the aegis of the Christian Broadcasting Network. As you have heard from Pastor Craig, Second Presbyterian also has been an active participant in this effort. Additionally, each Saturday Jennifer has conducted online art instruction for children (and adults) that has been highly acclaimed by the participants.

However, amid this flurry of activity, the PPCLC board of directors moved recently to make a watershed decision that unfortunately will result in a dissolution of the PPCLC organization. As I have reported over the past couple of years, our board has been concerned about the long-term sustainability of PPCLC for reasons such as an inability (1) to find a permanent venue within the Park Place community for after-school programming; (2) to recruit board members from within Park Place that have the time or interest in assuming leadership; and (3) to energize a fundraising effort that could sustain efforts to remain a viable 501(c)(3) organization.

As reported previously, we had hoped that we could find a non-profit organization willing to form a partnership with us in order to achieve economies of scale in financial administration and organizational structure. In that effort we sent proposal letters to 10 organizations. Several expressed sincere interest but could not commit at this time due to constraints and uncertainties imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, one organization was very keen and able to immediately accept our offer—ForKids. Consequently, our board approved the absorption of our remaining assets into ForKids, which as you know is also one of Second's longstanding mission partners. We expect termination won't occur until early 2021 in order to complete our commitments to supporting LAUNCH and to finalize administrative legal requirements.

A bright prospect of this undertaking is that underprivileged children will be better served in the Norfolk area, as well as in surrounding communities, through a new arts enrichment program that ForKids is sponsoring. Thaler McCormick, ForKids CEO, described this initiative to us as follows:

As I shared in our conversation, art is a big part of our children's programming, and we believe strongly in its power to build the confidence and critical skills of our children. However, ForKids does not currently have a trained art educator to implement these activities. ForKids would utilize the proceeds of PPCLC to hire a part-time art educator to coordinate our art activities and incorporate them into our educational curriculum. This would move our existing STEM activities into full STEAM programming, which would provide a much richer intervention for our children who are deeply at-risk. ForKids would implement this programming into our existing after-school programs at our facilities in Norfolk, Chesapeake, and Suffolk, and the new art educator would become a member of our education faculty. We would also add Saturday programming to allow our children to work more deeply on art projects. This would allow us to impact more than 150 children in the next year. Importantly, we hope to further grow our art programming as we move to our new facility in South Norfolk, where we are building "Maker Spaces" to foster project-based learning.

On behalf of the PPCLC board of directors and staff, I profusely thank you for years of strong support. I assure you, it has made a difference in the lives of many children in the Park Place community. I hope you can appreciate the reasons for our decision to disband PPCLC and at the same time feel prayerfully optimistic that this decision will have a greater positive impact on our at-risk youth through the ministry of ForKids.

Thank you and God bless,  
Bill Armstrong

## ST. COLUMBA ONGOING NEEDS FOR ESSENTIAL ITEMS

St. Columba Ecumenical Ministries in Norfolk helps those who are homeless and low-income. St. Columba has an ongoing need for the items listed below. If you are able to donate any of the items, please drop them by the church and place them in the containers by the hall coat rack. Donations can also be dropped off at Saint Columba, 2114 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk, Monday through Thursday, 8:00 AM to Noon, If you have questions, contact Joe Morgan (jnmorgan18@gmail.com) or Larry Hull (lhull49@cox.net).

- Granola bars
- Lysol spray
- Bottled water
- Disposable gloves
- Hand sanitizer
- Pine Sol cleaner
- Nonperishable food items



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR STUDENTS AT OCEANAIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN NORFOLK

St. Columba also is collecting the school supplies listed below, which will go to students attending Oceanair Elementary School in Norfolk's Lenox neighborhood. If you can contribute any of these items, you can drop them off at the church and place them in the same containers by the hall coat rack where we are collecting the St. Columba essential items. **The school items are due to the church by Sunday, August 30.** If you have questions, contact Alice Allen-Grimes (jgrimesiv@cox.net).

- Earphones or headphones
- Dry erase markers
- Dry erase boards
- Glue sticks
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Pencil boxes (not pouches)
- Ziplock bags with zipper seal (quart and gallon)
- Pencil sharpeners with covers
- Highlighters
- Primary writing paper
- Wide-rule notebook paper
- Printer or copy paper



## SPC MONTHLY FAMILY UPDATE: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



In an effort to stay connected as a community, we are creating a monthly Second Family Update until we are able to gather again! Thank you to everyone who submitted an article and picture for the June edition; it was very meaningful to see and hear what you are up to! If you would like to participate, please submit a picture and paragraph to Katie White (kkerr12@spcborfolk.org) by **Friday, August 14.** Your paragraph should focus on the types of things we would share with each other during fellowship hour—a family or work update, inspirational thoughts, challenges, or even recommendations on books or podcasts!



## **SPC CHILDREN’S FELLOWSHIP: OWL PROWL**

*Thursday, August 13, at 7 p.m. at Norfolk Botanical Garden*

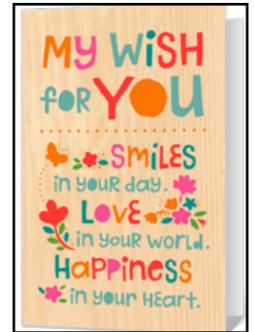
**Cost: \$15 (\$25 for not-yet-members of NBG)**

Let's join Wildlife Rehabber Dana Lusher as the hush falls over the forest and darkness creeps through the trees in search of these night hunters — after meeting them in person! The garden is home to three species: barred owls, great horned owls, and Eastern screech owls. The indoor presentation will be followed by an outdoor walking tour. Please bring a flashlight.

## **SPC CHILDREN’S MISSION: MAKING CARDS**

*Wednesday, August 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall*

The children of SPC will gather at the church in the fellowship hall (or at home) to make greeting cards. We are focusing on "thinking of you" cards for homebound members, nurses/doctors, and nursing home residents and workers. What better way to boost their spirits during a time like this! We encourage families to participate as well. Please contact Amanda if you need to arrange for your cards to be picked up.



## **NURSERY & CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

All nursery and elementary-aged children are welcome to join Amanda and Michelle via a closed Zoom meeting on Sundays at noon for Sunday school! We will gather each week and learn different Bible lessons. Please contact Amanda for more information by email [besso.amanda@spcnorfolk.org](mailto:besso.amanda@spcnorfolk.org) or by phone (757) 701-4668.

## **CONCRETE & CRANES: BUILDING ON JESUS, OUR STRONG FOUNDATION**

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—COMING AUGUST 6, 7, AND 8**

All kids—from 5 years old to 5th grade—it’s time for a fun and meaningful time of events and activities. How can we build ourselves up so we can serve God? Get ready for food, activities, stickers, and fun.



Each child will get a box at home for fun videos, projects, and food on Thursday and Friday (at home), and then we will join together at the church on **Saturday, the 8th, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**, for socially distanced games, a video, and a service project.



If you or your young ones are interested (and if Katrina Wansink hasn’t reached out to you yet), please contact her at [katwansink@gmail.com](mailto:katwansink@gmail.com) or at 757-802-1536.

## **YOUTH MISSION**

*Friday, August 7, at noon in the Fellowship Hall*

The youth will gather in the fellowship hall from noon to 1:30 p.m. to make sandwiches and bag cookies to be distributed the following Saturday at St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen. Social distancing measures will be in place, and everyone will be required to wear a mask. Please contact Catherine Hart Monroe with any questions at (757) 287-9897 or [revcat@spcnorfolk.org](mailto:revcat@spcnorfolk.org). We hope to see many of our youth there!

*There is definitely a place for YOU at Second Presbyterian!*

# SPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, August 1

Sunday, August 2

***Shelley Jung's Birthday***

**Online & In-Person Worship - 11:00AM**  
**[Livestream & SPC]**

Nursery & Children's Sunday School -  
12:00PM [Zoom]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, August 3

Tuesday, August 4

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom  
& Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, August 5

***Craig Wansink's Birthday***

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship  
Hall]

**Wednesday Evening Discussion - 6:30PM**  
**[Livestream]**

SAA- 7:30PM [Library]

Thursday, August 6

**Vacation Bible School [At Home]**

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom  
& Fellowship Hall]

Park Place Food Distribution - 5:00PM  
[Park Place]

**BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]**

Friday, August 7

**Vacation Bible School [At Home]**

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship  
Hall]

Youth Mission - 12:00PM [Fellowship  
Hall]

Saturday, August 8

**Vacation Bible School - 10:00AM [SPC]**

Second Saturday - 9:00AM [St. Mary's]

***Kevin Kittredge & Joesph Courtois'***  
***Birthday***

Sunday, August 9

**Online & In-Person Worship - 11:00AM**  
**[Livestream & SPC]**

Nursery & Children's Sunday School -  
12:00PM [Zoom]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, August 10

Tuesday, August 11

***John Anthony Arroyo & Lynn Franklin's***  
***Birthday***

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom  
& Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, August 12

***Lucas Todd's Birthday***

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship  
Hall]

**Wednesday Evening Discussion - 6:30PM**  
**[Livestream]**

SAA- 7:30PM [Library]

Thursday, August 13

***Teddy Wansink's Birthday***

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom  
& Fellowship Hall]

Park Place Food Distribution - 5:00PM  
[Park Place]

Children's Fellowship - 7:00PM [Botanical  
Gardens]

**BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]**

Friday, August 14

***SPC Family Update Due***

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship  
Hall]

Saturday, August 15

Sunday, August 16

***Charlie Terry's Birthday***

**Online & In-Person Worship - 11:00AM**  
**[Livestream & SPC]**

Nursery & Children's Sunday School -  
12:00PM [Zoom]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, August 17

Tuesday, August 18

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom  
& Fellowship Hall]

**Session Meeting - 6:00PM [Zoom]**

Wednesday, August 19

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship  
Hall]

**Wednesday Evening Discussion - 6:30PM**  
**[Livestream]**

Children's Mission - 6:30PM [Fellowship  
Hall]

SAA- 7:30PM [Library]

Thursday, August 20

***Whitley Monroe's Birthday***

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom  
& Fellowship Hall]

Park Place Food Distribution - 5:00PM  
[Park Place]

**BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]**

Friday, August 21

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship  
Hall]

Saturday, August 22

Sunday, August 23

***Sally Hull & Rich Voter's Birthday***

**Online & In-Person Worship - 11:00AM**  
**[Livestream & SPC]**

Nursery & Children's Sunday School -  
12:00PM [Zoom]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, August 24

Tuesday, August 25

SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom  
& Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, August 26

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship  
Hall]

**Wednesday Evening Movie - 6:30PM**  
**[SPC]**

SAA- 7:30PM [Library]

Thursday, August 27

***Tom Baragona's Birthday***

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom  
& Fellowship Hall]

Park Place Food Distribution - 5:00PM  
[Park Place]

**BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]**

Friday, August 28

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship  
Hall]

Saturday, August 29

Sunday, August 30

***St. Columba School Supplies Due***

**Online & In-Person Worship - 11:00AM**  
**[Livestream & SPC]**

Nursery & Children's Sunday School -  
12:00PM [Zoom]

SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Monday, August 31

## SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Craig Wansink

(757) 412-7467 [cell]

[cwansink@vwu.edu](mailto:cwansink@vwu.edu)

7305 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23505

(757) 423-2822

[www.spcnorfolk.org](http://www.spcnorfolk.org)

Rev. Catherine Hart  
Monroe

(757) 287-9897 [cell]

[revcat@spcnorfolk.org](mailto:revcat@spcnorfolk.org)