

Second Life+

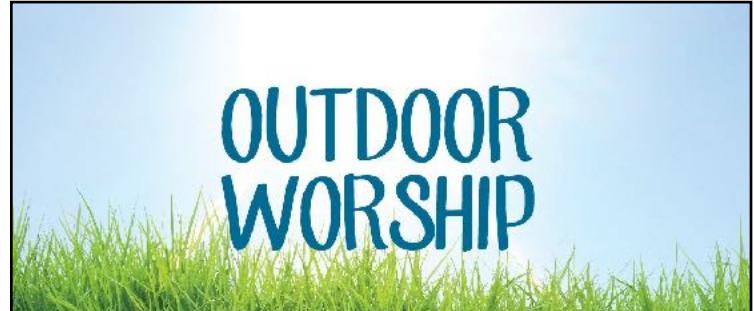
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

OUTDOOR WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER WITH TWO (SOCIAL-DISTANCED) FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We will hold **outdoor worship services September 13 and September 27 at 6:30 p.m.** Each evening will repeat (with musical differences) the Sunday morning worship service.

Each worship service will be preceded with a **fellowship opportunity at 6:00 p.m.** PLEASE NOTE that the 6:00 p.m. event will not be an entire meal. It will consist of snacks and very light food that's appropriate for social distancing. If you wish, you may bring your own bag dinner.



HUMMUS AND LEBANESE TREATS ON SEPTEMBER 13 at 6:00 p.m.: In September 1920, 100 years ago, the State of Great Lebanon—the predecessor of modern Lebanon—was created in part to provide for a future nation for Maronite Christians. On this night we will be joined by our Lebanese friends (who lived in Israel until recently), Mireille and Saed Ghattas. Mireille, an excellent cook, will prepare authentic Lebanese hummus, baba ganoush, and other treats (served in socially distanced ways). Her husband, Saed, will share with us, for 10-15 minutes, about Maronite Christians in Lebanon and modern Lebanon.

A FAREWELL TO THE FRANKLINS ON SEPTEMBER 27 at 6:00 p.m.: Mary and Lynn Franklin have been long-time members of the church and will be soon moving to Georgia to be near their daughter, Tara, son-in-law, Felton, and soon-to-be grandson—please join us for a few treats as we say good-bye!

AUGUST 30 VIRTUAL BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS, BRIEFCASES, COMPUTERS, & TOOLS...



August 30 during worship

Blessing of the
Backpacks and
Workplace Items

Many churches across the nation do a "Blessing of the Backpacks" ceremony during a worship service. But here at Second, we turn this event into an intergenerational activity, where we can bless not only our children who are returning to school, but also the adults in our midst who serve our community through a variety of vocations. On **Sunday, August 30**, the children are invited to either send a photo or to bring their backpacks to worship, where they will receive a special blessing at the start of the new school year. But we encourage **everyone** to participate. So please either come to worship or send in your photos, PROMINENTLY FEATURING your tools, your wrenches, your briefcases, your stethoscopes, your diaper bags—anything that symbolizes the ways in which you spend your days working and serving others —so that you may receive a special blessing, too!

FROM THE PASTOR

A Prayer as I put on my mask:

Creator,

As I prepare to go into the world,
Help me to see the sacrament
In the wearing of this cloth –
Let it be “an outward sign
Of an inward grace” –

A tangible and visible way of living

Love for my neighbors,

As I love myself.

Christ,

Since my lips will be covered,
Uncover my heart,

That people would see my smile
In the crinkles around my eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled,
Help me to speak clearly,
Not only with my words,
But with my actions.

Holy Spirit,

As the elastic touches my ears,
Remind me to listen carefully –

And full of care –

To all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be
Shield and banner,

And each breath that it holds,
Be filled with your love.
In your name and in
In the name of love

I pray.

May it be so, May it be so.

WHEN YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER

On Friday I had outpatient stomach hernia surgery. I was expecting three or four incisions, but ended up with 12, one for each disciple, perhaps. So as I write this Sunday afternoon, I am resting at home. The previous hour was meaningful for me as I joined my Second family online for worship. A great sermon from Catherine on Psalm 150, a wonderful time to pause and reflect with Roger, and toe-tapping, high-octane, and beautiful music from Peggy, Rob, Nick, Sam, and a bunch of people with tambourines.

Maybe because I am feeling a little tired and weak today, two other aspects of worship particularly stood out to me because they felt orienting. During the Passing of the Peace and after the worship service, Tex and Freeda turned to the camera, waved broadly, flashed their SPC flashlights, and smiled at us. Those waves were orienting, a beautiful reminder of something so very basic and so very important.

My second highlight was when Alden offered a beautiful and simple prayer. It was basic. It was heartfelt. Again, it was orienting.

Sometimes we feel like we haven't got a prayer. Sometimes we are at wit's end. Sometimes we don't know where to turn. That is why I appreciate sometimes having the words of someone else lead me to God.

During the last week, three prayers—all of which were linked to the pandemic—have stood out to me. The first prayer, from Thomas Merton, was published in 1956, but it is amazing how a 64-year-old prayer can resonate with us today. The second prayer, “Prayer for a Pandemic,” reminds us to keep our own challenges in perspective (thanks to Sam Stearns for sharing this on Facebook). And the third prayer invites us to take the frequent task of putting on a mask and make it not into a burden, but into a reminder of God's desire that we equip ourselves to live in His name.

Each of us gets lost at times.

Orienting ourselves to God brings us home.

With love,
Pastor Craig

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

—Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*

Prayer For A Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

AMEN

SERMON SERIES UNQUALIFIED: FROM OUR WEAKNESS TO GOD'S STRENGTH

Jacob was a cheater,
Peter had a temper,
David had an affair,
Noah got drunk,
Jonah ran from God,
Paul was a murderer,
Gideon was insecure,
Miriam was a gossip,
Martha was a worrier,
Thomas was a doubter,
Sara was impatient,
Elijah was moody,
Moses stuttered,
Zaccheus was short,
Abraham was old,
Lazarus was dead.

"My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness."
2 Cor 12:9

"God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called!" That quotation frequently then is followed by a list of biblical figures who fell far short of perfection, but whom God used in significant ways. And the same is true for each of us. In 2 Corinthians, the apostle Paul talks about the challenges he faces and highlights that those challenges are ways in which God began to use him. Paul says that even in his own weakness, God let him know, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

If your goals in life don't go beyond your own strength, or if they don't demand that you rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, then likely you are not paying close enough attention to God's call. Join us as we focus on how God used the "unqualified"—people like us—as part of the greatest story ever told.

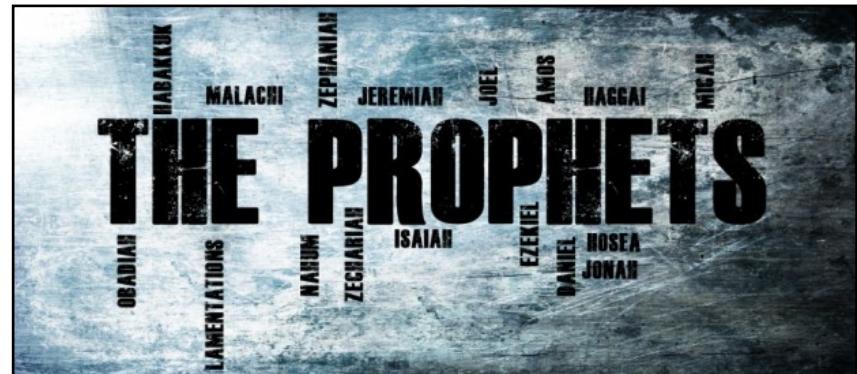
- Sept. 13** Dealing with Impatience: Sarah and the Promises of God (*Genesis 16:1-6, 18:1-14*)
Sept. 20 Overcoming Lack of Confidence: Moses and God's Needs (*Exodus 3:7-12; 4:1-3, 10-17*)
Sept. 27 Tempering Our Speech: Miriam's Gossip and God's Judgment (*Numbers 12:1-16*)
Oct. 4 Moving Beyond Moodiness and Burnout: Elijah Leaning on God (*1 Kings 19:1-15, 18*)
Oct. 11 Finding Focus in Distraction: Martha and the Priorities of God (*Luke 10:38-42*)
Oct. 18 Calming Our Impulsiveness: Peter's Temper (*Matthew 16:22-23; 26:51-53*)
Oct. 25 Tempering Our Zeal: Christ and Paul's Regarding All as Loss (*Acts 7:54-8:2; Phil 3:2-16*)

FIVE DEAD PROPHETS WHO MATTER VERY MUCH TODAY WEDNESDAYS, 6:30-7:10 P.M.

Sometimes the radically different prophetic writings of the Bible may run together for those of us in the 21st century. It should not be that way. Join Craig Wansink, Catherine Hart Monroe, and Nancy Rowland, as each briefly describes her/his favorite prophet, which will be followed by an open discussion about the prophet, his uniqueness, and his continuing influence. On September 30, Bob Shoup will join the panel as he looks at the prophet Elijah through Felix Mendelssohn's Oratorio of the same name.

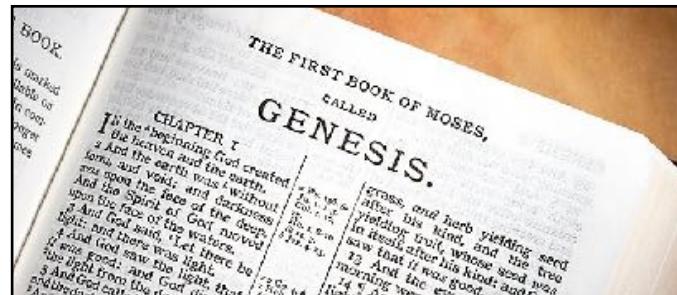
- Sept. 2** Amos
Sept. 16 Habakkuk
Sept. 30 Elijah
- Sept. 9** Hosea
Sept. 23 Isaiah

Please join us either through our church website or the church's Facebook page for these special discussions.



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 from 7:30 to 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.

SUNSHINE MEETING 2020

The Sunshine Committee sends birthday cards, get well cards and notes of encouragement to members of the congregation. If you are interested in becoming a Sunshine, consider attending our meeting **Sunday, September 13, 9:45-10:45 a.m.** The meeting will be in person at the church (on the lawn under the oak tree near the playground, bring your own lawn chair, or in case of rain widely spread throughout fellowship hall) or on Zoom. Let **Peggy Troyer** know if you will be attending by Zoom so she can invite you to join by email.

A NOTE FROM NELL ARMSTRONG

As the landscaping committee, Mary Buckelew and I are delighted with the new plantings in several beds and containers made last fall and this past spring. If only I could get "Forget Me Nots" to thrive for Tex Badkins. I'll be trying a third location soon.

I was recovering from surgery during late July and August. Mark and Sam Stearns took over the watering responsibility during the hottest, driest July on record. Thank you so much.

Roger Phelps used his Stihl equipment to give three large holly trees professional pruning. This also will help with the scale infestation.

Joe Morgan is using gray water from Ginny's food truck to water the Hampton Boulevard flower bed. The irises, rose of sharon, cannas, and daisies are thriving.

Also, we appreciate the encouragement from our Second family.

—Nell Armstrong

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE – FALL BEGINNINGS!

These seemingly unending months of schedule inertia have been unlike anything I have ever experienced. I'm sure you have had similar feelings! Because the early weeks of the pandemic left us simply trying to figure out what was immediately before us, my planning for worship music became a largely week-to-week enterprise.

I am glad that we have spent the last few months at SPC learning and seeking to respond to the moment with intention and creativity, as I hope (and believe!) that it is helping us prepare for a next phase of worship life this fall. As we enter the autumn season, our choir's activity will once again become a regular feature of SPC life. Starting September 9, the choir will participate in 30-minute sectional rehearsals on Zoom that will help singers prepare to make recordings at home. *If you'd like to participate (no driving to the church, and short sessions!), this will be the rehearsal schedule on Wednesdays:*

7:30 p.m.	Soprano section
8:00 p.m.	Alto section
8:30 p.m.	Tenor and Bass sections

After not having rehearsed since March, these sessions will also provide a return to vocal and musical instruction. Even online, rehearsals will be a joyful opportunity to once again feel like a team in music ministry!

As the choir returns to more regular work, a detailed plan for worship music through December is in development. While recorded choir music cannot be produced on a weekly basis, we hope to create choral recordings for worship every three or four weeks. Our instrumental team will also lead worship on a regular basis through the fall.

As we enact new schedules and procedures for bringing music ministry to the SPC community, my prayer is that the planning, practicing, recording, editing, and presenting of music will lead to insights of spirit, amplification of faith, and illumination of truths for those who create, watch, and listen. May Christ be present in all of our our praying and singing as a church family.

Peace,
Bob

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 August 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@spcnorfolk.org) by **Monday, September 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!



THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SUPPORTED THE PARK PLACE HUNGER INITIATIVE

The weekly Park Place meal distribution concluded at the end of August. Thank you to the many Second Presbyterian Church volunteers who donated cookies, fruit, veggie sticks and bottled water; helped prepare hot meals; and served the dinners to Park Place residents during the coronavirus outbreak every week for nearly 20 weeks from mid-April through August. Special thanks to Joe, Alice, and Larry for leading the volunteer efforts each week.



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 St. Columba, 2114 Lafayette Blvd., Norfolk, Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to noon. If you have questions, contact Joe Morgan (jnmorgan18@gmail.com) or Larry Hull (l Hull49@cox.net).

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



A NOTE FROM AMANDA BESSO

Nathan and I are deeply saddened to say that we will be moving to Mayport, Florida, where Mac has been assigned, September 4. I want to say thank you to everyone at SPC who has helped us grow in so many ways. We will miss our Second family! However, if you are down in Florida, be sure to let us know! You all have helped in some way, shape, or form, and many of you don't even know it. Thank you for welcoming us with open arms; you will always be my Second home! I wish I could stay and share all the big ideas I had, but God has a plan. If you ask Nathan if he's excited, he'll say yes because he'll have stairs in our new house—haha! (We'll see how long that will last!) Please keep us in your prayers as we make the trip by car next month.



I do want all to know that while the church is looking for a new Director of Children's Ministry, I will continue to lead the children each week virtually in Sunday school and in mission/fellowship projects when possible.

NURSERY & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:

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

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

In August, the youth gathered on the second Friday of the month to make sandwiches and bag homemade cookies, both of which were passed out outside of St. Mary's Soup Kitchen the following day. The youth worked hard and had a lot of fun, despite the social-distancing measures we had in place. It was good to see these young people serving others once again at the church!

In September, the youth will make blessing bags for St. Columba. The date is still to be determined, but it will coincide with one of our outdoor worship services or fellowship activities. Stay tuned for details! Please contact Catherine Hart Monroe with questions or suggestions at (757) 287-9897 or revcat@spcnorfolk.org.



There is definitely a place for YOU at Second Presbyterian!

SPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 30 Online & In-Person Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream & SPC] Blessing of the Backpacks & Workplace Items - 11:30AM [Livestream & SPC] Children's Sunday School - 12:00PM [Zoom] SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]	Thursday, September 10 Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall] BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]	Monday, September 21
Monday, August 31	Friday, September 11 Mark Gower's Birthday Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall] Sandwich Making - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]	Tuesday, September 22 Amanda Besso's Birthday SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall] Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]
Tuesday, September 1 Paul West & Anna Baragona's Birthday SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall] Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]	Saturday, September 12 Samantha Bull's Birthday Second Saturday - 9:00AM [St. Mary's]	Wednesday, September 23 Rob Courtois' Birthday Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall] Wednesday Evening Discussion - 6:30PM [Livestream] Choir Rehearsal - 7:30P [See Key] SAA- 7:30PM [Library]
Wednesday, September 2 Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall] Wednesday Evening Discussion - 6:30PM [Livestream] SAA- 7:30PM [Library]	Sunday, September 13 Phyllis Layne's Birthday Sunshine Committee Meeting - 9:45AM [Zoom] Online & In-Person Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream & SPC] Children's Sunday School - 12:00PM [Zoom] Lebanese Treats & Outdoor Worship - 6:00PM [SPC] SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]	Thursday, September 24 Dan Magee & Jason Kittredge's Birthday Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall] BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]
Thursday, September 3 Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall] BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]	Monday, September 14 SPC Family Update Due	Friday, September 25 Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall]
Friday, September 4 Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall]	Tuesday, September 15 Emma Jean Apodaca's Birthday SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall] Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall] Session Meeting - 6:00PM [Zoom]	Saturday, September 26
Saturday, September 5 Cindy Sherwood's Birthday	Wednesday, September 16 Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall] Wednesday Evening Discussion - 6:30PM [Livestream] Choir Rehearsal - 7:30P [See Key] SAA- 7:30PM [Library]	Sunday, September 27 Online & In-Person Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream & SPC] Children's Sunday School - 12:00PM [Zoom] Franklin Farewell & Outdoor Worship - 6:00PM [SPC] SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]
Sunday, September 6 Online & In-Person Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream & SPC] Children's Sunday School - 12:00PM [Zoom] SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]	Thursday, September 17 Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall] BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]	Monday, September 28 Cecil Chapman's Birthday
Monday, September 7 Robin Hoff's Birthday	Friday, September 18 Roz Klein's Birthday Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall]	Tuesday, September 29 Tom Morissette's Birthday SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall] Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]
Tuesday, September 8 Mary Franklin & Dean Troyer's Birthday SAA - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall] Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]	Saturday, September 19	Wednesday, September 30 Breanna Stacks' Birthday Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall] Wednesday Evening Discussion - 6:30PM [Livestream] Choir Rehearsal - 7:30P [See Key] SAA- 7:30PM [Library]
Wednesday, September 9 Wendy Horner's Birthday Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall] Wednesday Evening Discussion - 6:30PM [Livestream] Choir Rehearsal Resumes - 7:30P [See Key] SAA- 7:30PM [Library]	Sunday, September 20 Online & In-Person Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream & SPC] Children's Sunday School - 12:00PM [Zoom] SAA - 7:00PM [Fellowship Hall]	Choir Zoom Wednesday Rehearsal Key: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sopranos - 7:30-8PM• Altos - 8-8:30PM• Basses/Tenors - 8:30-9PM

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. Craig Wansink

(757) 412-7467 [cell]

cwansink@vwu.edu

7305 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23505

(757) 423-2822

www.spcnorfolk.org

Rev. Catherine Hart Monroe

(757) 287-9897 [cell]

revcat@spcnorfolk.org