

Second Life

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

“A THRILL OF HOPE, THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES”: CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATIONS AT A SECOND HOME



Friday, December 24: 5:00, 5:45, 7:00, 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve is a memorable time, filled with wonderful traditions for the SPC family. Please make time to join us for an event or for the entire evening. And please take the time to invite someone, anyone, who you think might look forward to joining us. Good invitations are what so many people want and need. Invite friends or acquaintances to an evening that matters.

5:00 PM Foley Artists, Fun Music, and a Family Christmas Service

Our 5:00 family service is interactive, with much singing, stories, baggies of “hymn snacks,” and use of senses! It absolutely is not for kids only, but it is focused on Christmas as seen through a young person’s perspective and, this year, through the perspectives of both foley artists and classic carols. All ages are welcome as we celebrate Christmas through stories, songs, and snacks.



5:45 PM Christmas Eve Dinner: Pork Loin, Stuffing, Green Beans, Cranberry Cake, and Great Fellowship

Following the early service, Helen Pribesh will provide dinner for those who would like to be here for both services or who simply want to enjoy a Christmas Eve meal with their SPC family and friends. Registration is required for those attending this meal. Please call the church office or sign up during worship the preceding Sundays.

7:00 PM Candlelight and Communion Worship Service

“A Thrill of Hope, the Weary World Rejoices” describes well our 7:00 p.m. worship service. With the choir singing two jubilant Christmas anthems and with the Second Ending Brass quartet playing prelude, postlude, and joining the congregation for beloved carols, this is an evening of celebration. Please note that childcare is available in the church nursery for this 7:00 service.



8:00 PM Cookies and Treats

Before you go home, please join us for cookies, treats, hot chocolate, and coffee in the fellowship hall! Helen will share a wide variety of cookies and treats. However, if you’re able, we would appreciate your sharing some homemade cookies or treats of your own. Merry Christmas!

FROM THE PASTOR CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AT SECOND—& AROUND THE WORLD

This year the words from “O Holy Night” strike me more differently than they ever have: “a thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices. . . .”

The last 21 months have been tiring for many of us. But a little perspective reminds us that we aren’t the only ones feeling that exhaustion or weariness. People around the entire planet are tired. Many of us remember when China and Italy were the first countries affected by COVID-19, and none of us knew what to expect but hoped that it wouldn’t affect us at all. Last year there were so many unanswered questions. The planet somehow came to seem smaller, since every country was affected.

But despite the weariness, this year—as opposed to last December—many of us feel a thrill of hope, a possibility for rejoicing. We’re grateful that some positive changes seem to be on the horizon. We might be able to gather, eat, play games, and be with family this Christmas in ways we weren’t able to last year.

All around the world, local Christmas traditions will be celebrated again. Some may seem unusual to us. In Ukraine, Christmas trees are draped with artificial spiders’ webs. The tradition grew up around the legend of a family so poor their tree would have been bare if it hadn’t been for a spider spinning a beautiful web over the tree in time for Christmas morning. You may not want fake spider webs on your tree, but the tradition is a reminder of the importance of simple pleasures.



Before I knew Teddy would be coming home from Spain for Christmas, I researched Spanish Christmas traditions. Most often discussed was the Catalan Tió de Nadal (“Christmas log”) tradition. It involves a hollow log about 30 centimeters long, propped up with stick legs, with a little red sock hat and a face painted on one end. Beginning December 8 on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, children give the logs a little bit to “eat” every night. They’re told they must take good care of the log, keeping it warm and feeding it, so that it will defecate presents on Christmas Eve. To make the log do that, the children beat it with sticks while singing. When the children leave the room to prepare their “beating sticks,” relatives put candy, nuts, and small toys in the log, so the log will shoot them out when the children beat it. You can read more about that tradition if you want. I’m just glad Teddy will be home.

Plenty of other global traditions may seem odd to us. In Lithuania an extra place is set at the table for a family member who died during the previous year. That person is seen as being present. Indonesia has festive trees made of chicken feathers. South Africans frequently eat emperor moth caterpillars (deep fried or sun-dried) on Christmas day. And there is a tradition in Venezuela of people roller skating to early morning Christmas mass.

Although all of us are still thinking about that peculiar Spanish Christmas log, I’m just deeply grateful that we have the opportunity to come together this Christmas. If you’ve never joined our church family on Christmas Eve, I hope you’re able to do so this year. Come to as much as you can. For many of you, the notion of attending two very different services and having dinner together, and even cookies after the latter service, may seem as odd as roller skating to church. But I hope you consider doing so.

I pray that the Christmas traditions you find most meaningful lead you to a deeper knowledge that you are loved and that you have reason to rejoice.

With Christmas blessings,
Pastor Craig

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY: FOUR VERY DIFFERENT VIEWS OF CHRISTMAS

Sermon Series Nov. 28—Dec. 26



It is easy to get caught up in the busyness of the Christmas season.

It also is easy to get caught up in the image of the babe in the manger 2000 years ago. And to stop there.

But Christmas past, present, and yet to come all matter. The four gospels look at the birth of Christ in radically different ways. The Gospel of Mark doesn't even talk about the birth of Jesus but focuses on hope and on Jesus' second coming in the future. The Gospel of Luke calls us to be filled with peace as we prepare for that future through the songs of the angels, Mary, and Simeon. The Gospel of Matthew sees the birth of Jesus as the fulfillment of prophecy, so its focus is on the past and on the joy of long-awaited fulfillment. The Gospel of John focuses on the continual incarnation of Jesus as the ultimate example of God's love, so it focuses on the present. There are four different stories of Christmas, each of which asks you to respond in different way. Join us.

Nov. 28 "Then They Will See the Son of Man Coming" (Mark 13:26): Mark, Hope, and the Future
Mark 13:24-27; 32-37

Dec. 5 "Do Not Be Afraid" (Luke 1:30): Luke, Peace, and Preparing for the Future
Luke 1:5-14; 1:26-31; 2:8-11

Dec. 12 "To Fulfill What Had Been Spoken of the Lord" (Matthew 1:22): Matthew, Joy, and the Past
Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 19 "The Word Became Flesh and Lived Among Us" (John 1:14): John, Love, and the Present
John 1:1-14

CAROLING AND A MEAL

Join us for a light meal at 6 p.m. Dec. 15 before we hit the street and share the Christmas message through song. At 6:30 p.m. we'll depart to bring caroling cheer to selected homes in our community. SPC folks of all ages—and of ALL or NO musical abilities—are encouraged to participate in this wonderful time of food and fellowship.

Wednesday,
December 15
Second Presbyterian
Caroling

6 pm
Gather at SPC for a light,
hot bite

6:30 pm
We will depart to bring
caroling cheer to
selected homes
in our community!

Drive Through Nativity Play

AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saturday, December 18
3:30-4:30 p.m.
in the SPC Parking Lot

All are invited to experience the birth of Jesus Christ from their car. Please enter the line at the North Shore parking lot entrance.

Please bring a donation for the
Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team to the play



Suggested Donation List for NEST:

All food should be in individual packaging, store-bought, and not expired.

Clothes are accepted in all sizes and should be gently used, unless noted it should be new.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Crackers | • Splenda packets | • Applesauce | • New-in-package underwear |
| • Cookies | • Bottled water | • Pop Tarts | • Black or white socks |
| • Protein bars | • Coffee | • Shelf-stable milk | • Blue jeans |
| • Granola bars | • Oranges | • Dinty Moore stew | • White shirts |
| • Apples | • Fruit cups | • Soup cups | • Work pants |
| • Laundry Detergent | • Microwavable popcorn | • Chips | • Sweatshirts |
| • Oatmeal packets | • Juice | • Cans of soup with pop tops | • Sweatpants |
| • Sugar packets | • Individual cereals | | |

ADVENT INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us at 9:45 each Sunday morning during Advent for intergenerational Sunday school! There will be activities for all ages, and it is our hope that we'll work side by side across generations, building relationships with each other, as we learn and grow together in service to one another, to our church, and to our community.

Nov. 28: We will meet in the sanctuary at 9:45 where Claire Ficker will lead us in a lesson about the history of the Chrismon tree and the many beautiful ornaments that go on it. Each Chrismon is adorned with a symbol that points us to Jesus Christ. Our own personal collection of Chrismons was lovingly made by the many saints of the church who have gone before us. Please join us as we learn about these ancient symbols, and then stay and help us decorate the tree.



Dec. 5: We will gather in the fellowship hall at 9:45 to make cards and assemble special gifts that will then be hand-delivered to our homebound members and special friends. And our annual Advent mural will be set up for coloring!



Dec. 12: We'll need all hands on deck this Sunday in the fellowship hall. We will festively decorate 50 boxes for LAUNCH for its holiday food distribution in the Park Place community. Please bring old Christmas cards or any extra art supplies you may have around your house. Markers, scissors, wrapping paper, and adhesives will be provided.

Dec. 19: Join Helen Pribesh and friends as we meet in the fellowship hall to bake holiday bars and decorate cookies that we will then enjoy after our Christmas Eve service December 24. There are two ways to participate: You can come work in the kitchen making holiday treats, or you can bring in Christmas cookies that you baked at home, and then we'll decorate them together. All baking and decoration supplies will be provided!



TRADITIONALLY FAMILIAR, RADICALLY NEW

Joy to the World, the Lord is come.

One of the comforting joys of the Christmas season is the knowledge that we will be immersed in rituals, traditions, and sensory experiences that have represented wonderment and hope for most of our lives. Families gathering. Sparkling ribbons, ornaments, and playful twinkling lights. Preparing gifts and singing carols. This annual rhythm of celebration is a welcome reminder of goodness in a world so full of challenges and difficulty.

I'm always fascinated by the way traditional Christmas music is, in a way, an ever evolving and living expression of faith. With melodies we know and words that we carry in our memories and hearts, each year brings new meaning to these carols because of the changes in us and in the world around us.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come: let earth receive her King"
feels like a powerful call to a planet divided.

"Light and life to all he brings"
resonates more directly
after these many months of illness and death.

"be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever"
is potently comforting in its simplicity and directness
in our increasingly complex world.

"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given"
reminds us, in the midst of worldly noise,
of the quietness with which God can penetrate our lives
with unexpected love and grace.

I am eager to experience the convergence of the familiar and the new this Christmas as God speaks to us through words and melodies (and other rituals) we know with meaning and impact that are wonderfully new.

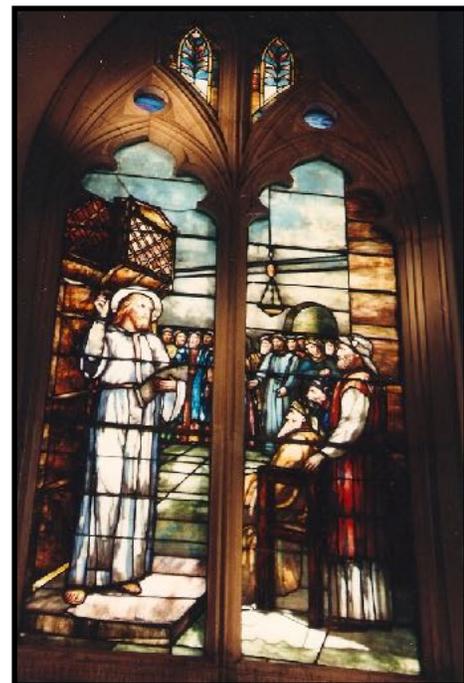
Peace,
Bob

OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thanks to all who supported the church's 2021 capital campaign to refurbish and restore our stained-glass windows. We are pleased to report that we have met our goal in pledges and that more than half of those pledges have been fulfilled. Workers from Willet Hauser Architectural Glass, Inc. are expected to arrive in Norfolk in December to begin the restoration process, which they hope to complete in about two weeks. All of the work will take place on the building's exterior, and we foresee no disruption to worship and other activities.

As we look forward to our congregation's 150th anniversary next year, we are mindful of our many blessings and our many opportunities to serve as good stewards of what we have been given. Thanks to each one of you for your participation in this special opportunity to care for our church home. Please feel free to contact anyone on the Stained-Glass Window Committee for more information.

Kathy Stark, Chair
Marie Finch
Peggy McPhillips



MISSION AT SECOND

LAUNCH will feature **Christmas on 34th Street, Thursday and Friday, December 16 & 17**. Second is asked to provide **ready-to-eat or save-for-the-holidays meals December 16**. Second will continue to sponsor **sports balls for teen gifts to be distributed December 17**. Look for an email with a link to a sign-up form, or reach out to Joe Morgan if you have questions.

St. Columba will distribute **gift cards** to families for Christmas. This allows families the flexibility to purchase what they need, whether it's gifts for their children, household supplies, or additional food. Popular stores for holiday gift cards are Amazon, Target, and Walmart in denominations of **\$25**. If you wish to donate a gift card, you can give it to Alice Allen-Grimes or leave it in the church office with Katie **no later than December 12**.

St. Columba also needs the following items, which may be placed in the container in the hallway. Please contact Alice Allen-Grimes if you have questions.

Spray deodorant	Jelly	Ramen noodles
Bleach	Macaroni and cheese	Instant oatmeal
Bathroom cleaner	Spaghetti and other pasta	Cereal
Baby powder	Tuna	Canned vegetables
Washcloths	Rice	Canned fruits
Travel-size lotion	Canned meat	Beef jerky sticks
Razors	Granola bars	
Peanut butter	Canned pasta	

St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and **St. Columba** continue to need sandwiches to distribute to individuals in need. Please contact Larry Hull if you're interested in assisting with making sandwiches **Friday, December 10, at noon**.

Thank you to the congregation for your continued support of our mission partners!

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

This round of **Dinners 4** continues through February. If you haven't received a reminder of who your December "match" is, contact Peggy Troyer.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side is set for **Saturday, December 4** at the Pagoda, in the heart of downtown Norfolk's Freemason district. If you don't feel like walking, come with your coffee thermos and just hang out at the beautiful Pagoda. We'll meet at 9:45 a.m. and then set out on our stroll at 10:00. There is parking at the Pagoda and street parking through the neighborhood. These walks will take a break after December 4, restarting as we warm for spring.

Get Yourself a Haverim. Suggested materials for reading and discussing a book together will be on the table in the library through January. Pastor Craig is our resource, so if you and your study partner have a special interest, check with him for suggestions. If you haven't heard who your study buddy is, again, contact Peggy.

Bible Study at Harbor's Edge, the perfect New Year's resolution! Pastor Craig has been invited to lead Harbor's Edge residents in worship one Sunday afternoon a month. At press time, that was to be the first Sunday of the month—check the Harbor's Edge news for any changes. He will lead a Bible study immediately after worship for all interested parties. You can start the New Year on the right foot with the first study currently scheduled for **Sunday, January 2**.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

NURSERY & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

All nursery and elementary-aged children are welcome to join Katrina Wansink, Director of Children's Ministry, in person in the youth room every Sunday **at 9:45 a.m.** We gather to learn different Bible lessons, play games, and complete crafts! For more information, please contact Katrina at katwansink@gmail.com or 757.802.1536.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This month, with the Christmas holiday coming up, there is much joy and excitement to be had. The children of the church will have a party with the youth of the church **Sunday, December 12**, from the end of the worship service until 2 p.m.

In addition to the holiday party, the children will take part in a special mission project this month. As the weather gets colder and colder, we're reminded of those experiencing homelessness who might not have the access to a warm place to stay at night or food for every meal. To help those people get through this winter, the children will collect items for NEST (the Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team).

Lastly, the children are invited to be a part of our annual nativity play, where they will get the chance to dress as a sheep, donkey, wise man, or maybe even baby Jesus.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP & MISSION

The youth are invited to fellowship together at the PWSJC Christmas party **December 12 from after worship until 2 p.m.!** The party will feature festive food and games, and we'll complete our tradition of reading Luke 2 together.

For mission, the youth are invited to bring in items for NEST (the Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team), which helps those affected by homelessness. You can see a complete list of suggested donation items in the nativity play article above. If you have any questions, please reach out to Youth Director Katie White at 757-615-8728 or kkerr12@spcnorfolk.org.



T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Prizes in multiple categories! Artists, we need you!

Won't it be great to celebrate Second's 150 years of preaching, teaching, outreach and love to the community of Norfolk with our very own commemorative T-shirt?

Get your designs in by Easter so we can dodge supply-chain issues and have our shirts printed and ready for the big event! Details to follow. Enter early! Enter often!



There is definitely a place for YOU at Second Presbyterian!

SPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 1

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM
Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]
Choir Practice - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, December 2

Aaron Hatten's Birthday
The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM
Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]
BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, December 3

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

Saturday, December 4

Walk on the Wild Side- 9:45AM [The Pagoda]

Sunday, December 5

The office is open 9:30AM to 12:30PM
Intergenerational Sunday School - 9:45AM [Fellowship Hall]
Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream/Sanctuary]
Fellowship Hour - 12:15PM [SPC Lawn]

Monday, December 6

John Vellines' Birthday

Tuesday, December 7

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

Wednesday, December 8

Tom Libbey's Birthday
The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM
Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]
Choir Practice - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, December 9

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM
Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]
BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, December 10

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall]
Sandwich Making - 12:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Saturday, December 11

Second Saturday - 9:00AM [St. Mary's]
Play Rehearsal - TBD [SPC]

Sunday, December 12

Taylor Crouch's Birthday
The office is open 9:30AM to 12:30PM
St. Columba Gift Cards Due
LAUNCH Sports Balls Due
Intergenerational Sunday School - 9:45AM [Fellowship Hall]

Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream/Sanctuary]
PWSJC Christmas Party - 12:00PM [Youth Room]

Monday, December 13

Tuesday, December 14

Triple S Circle - 10:30AM [Fellowship Hall]
Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, December 15

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM
Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]
Dinner & Caroling - 6:00/6:30PM [SPC/Community]

Thursday, December 16

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM
Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]
LAUNCH Advent Fair 5:00 to 7:00PM [Park Place]
BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, December 17

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall]
LAUNCH Advent Fair 5:00 to 7:00PM [Park Place]

Saturday, December 18

Drive Through Nativity Play - 3:30 to 4:30PM [SPC Parking Lot]

Sunday, December 19

Bill Eley Jr.'s Birthday
The office is open 9:30AM to 12:30PM
Intergenerational Sunday School - 9:45AM [Fellowship Hall]
Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream/Sanctuary]
Fellowship Hour - 12:15PM [SPC Lawn]

Monday, December 20

Tuesday, December 21

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & SPC]
Session Meeting - 6:00PM [Zoom]

Wednesday, December 22

The office is open 8:30AM to 12:30PM
Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]
Choir Practice - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, December 23

Emily Byrd's Birthday
Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]
BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Men's Breakfast - 7:00AM [Fellowship Hall]
Christmas Eve Family Service - 5:00PM [Sanctuary]
Christmas Eve Dinner - 5:45PM [Fellowship Hall]
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:00PM [Sanctuary]
Christmas Cookies - 8:00PM [Fellowship Hall]

Saturday, December 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

Nancy Morgan's Birthday

Sunday, December 26

Worship - 11:00AM [Livestream/Sanctuary]
Fellowship Hour - 12:15PM [SPC Lawn]

Monday, December 27

Michael Norman's Birthday

Tuesday, December 28

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

Wednesday, December 29

Men's Bible Study - 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]
Choir Practice - 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, December 30

Essentric's Exercise Class - 1:00PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]
BEMA Bible Study - 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

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

Saturday, January 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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