

# Second Life+

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022



## Jews and Christians: Same Art, Different Responses

*Friday, May 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m.*

*The Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk*

*Rabbi Michael Panitz and Pastor Craig Wansink*

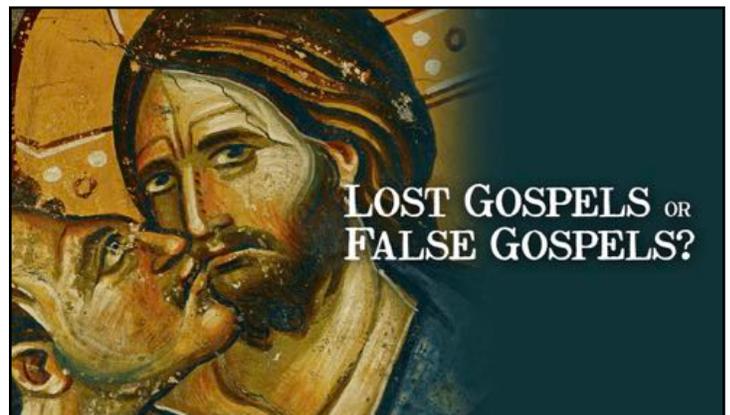
The same art sometimes provokes very different responses from Jews and Christians. Join Rabbi Panitz and Pastor Craig for a walk-through tour of The Chrysler Museum of Art as they look together at diverse works of art, reflecting on them from the perspective of their own faith. The tour size needs to be limited, so please contact Pastor Craig ([cwansink@vwu.edu](mailto:cwansink@vwu.edu) or 757.412.7467 to indicate your interest.

## Judas, Thomas, James, and the “Other” Gospels in the Early Church:

### An Evening of Pizza, Salad, and Gospels

*Wednesday, May 25, 6:00-7:15 p.m., SPC Fellowship Hall*

During a month when we focus almost exclusively on the Gospel of John, this evening reminds us that many gospels existed during the church’s first centuries. Pastor Craig will highlight three gospels he focused on in his PhD work—those of Judas, Thomas, and James. Although not included in the New Testament, they show us unique ways in which people understood Jesus and their own faith. What was Jesus like as a child? What was his mother like as a child? Why was a gospel attributed to Judas? Why did people even ask these questions? Join us and invite friends as we reflect on what these ancient gospels say and how they’ve shaped us.



## Church News

### If you see Joe Morgan around a little more. . .

This past year, as a series of physical changes were made to the church, members of the Session thought it would be helpful if the church added a part-time maintenance worker to help maintain the church building, equipment, facilities, and grounds, particularly during typical workday hours.



We're grateful that Joe Morgan expressed an openness to serving in that position, and—with his familiarity with the building—he has stepped into the role in ways that both serve all of us and create opportunities for us to serve as well. Joe brings so many skills, so much knowledge, and such a servant's heart.

Joe's efforts supplement everything that Tom Libbey does in his continued care for Second Presbyterian. As our longest-serving employee, Tom has been our faithful Facility Manager for over 30 years. We're very grateful for the ways in which Tom, Joe, and all of you care for our church home.

### Wanted: Video Help & Church History

Jay Layne is seeking someone to run the church video system when he's unavailable. Training will be conducted Sunday mornings before and during the service. Contact him at [jlayne736@gmail.com](mailto:jlayne736@gmail.com) if you're interested.



Jay is also looking for old photographs of church events, the sanctuary, and rooms that have been remodeled. He can make copies of your photos, slides, or negatives at the church. Jay also is collecting old bulletins, church directories, or any other interesting documents about the church. You can email photos and documents to Jay at [jlayne736@gmail.com](mailto:jlayne736@gmail.com).



## Save the Date!

Coming June 5 to  
Second Presbyterian:

***The Spirit descends!***

*From the Pastor*

## Letting Scripture Make Something of Us

**While driving a tractor on his father's farm in Indiana, Rich Mullins wrote songs. After he grew to be one of the most popular Christian contemporary musicians of the last 40 years, he stepped away from the fame and went to teach music to Navajo children on a reservation in Arizona. He walked by faith and had a heart for God's will. In 1997 a car accidentally struck him, and he died at age 41.**

I mention him because there is so much in his life I respect. Often I find myself humming or singing his songs because they emphasize so well for me the importance of reliance on God. He tried to live out his beliefs in concrete ways and in ways that served and reached out to others.



We were given the Scriptures to humble us into realizing that God is right, and the rest of us are just guessing.

— Rich Mullins —

Recently I read a brief book—actually, a collection of columns—he wrote, titled *The World As I Remember It*. In one column he describes the Bible. I read it because I've been particularly grateful for those weekly moments—Sunday mornings at 9:45, Wednesday mornings at 7, and Thursday evenings at 7:30—when our members gather for Bible study.

Mullins writes that the Bible “is the written witness to God's revelation of Himself in His Word: Jesus Christ. And, if you like, you can make a great deal of it. You can speculate about it: This will make you a philosopher and people will think you are deep and very smart. You can pontificate in view of it: This will make you a preacher and people will marvel at your courage and gift for oratory. . . . You can adulate it: This will make you its No. 1 fan. You can display your very fine collection of its various versions all over your house. . . . You can practice it: This will make you a model citizen—a fair, generous, and righteous (if somewhat uptight) person.”

He goes on to write, “Of course, what we make of the Bible will never be as great a thing as what the Bible will—if we let it—make of us. . . . The Bible is a very great book. Let us submit to it so God may do the great work of making us into a great people.”

Lent for many of us was a time spent in daily prayer, frequently listening to Bob's singing as we offered prayer. Just as we opened our lives to the power of being shaped by prayer, so it is my hope that we open ourselves to the power of what scripture can do in our lives.

Join us Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Or see what BEMA is all about on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays. Join the men early Wednesday mornings for their Bible study. Or come to our program on the gospels Wednesday, May 25, or join Rabbi Panitz and me at The Chrysler Museum of Art as we discuss scripture in terms of art.

How can scripture “make something” of us? Please join us in May as we think together about this question.

With blessings,  
Pastor Craig

## *A Sermon Series through May 29*

# **“So That You May Believe”: The Signs of Jesus in the Gospel of John**

Near the end of his gospel, John writes: “Now Jesus did many other signs (that) are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:30-31).

In this sermon series, we examine the “signs” of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. They are not simply miracles, but they point us to a world beyond ourselves. Please join us as we enter that world together.



May 1: “Five Loaves, Two Fish, and Our Limitations” (John 6:1-14)

May 8: “Seriously, Do You Want to Be Made Well?” (John 5:1-15)

May 15: “Terror on the Water” (John 6:16-21)

May 22: “When Our Eyes Open” (John 9:1-12)

May 29: “Lazarus Unbound” (John 11:1-4, 30-50)



## ***Adult Bible Study***

# **Only in the Gospel of John: John’s Unique Story and Beliefs**

Before the service each Sunday morning, from 9:45 to 10:30, adult Bible study focuses on unusual passages not found in Matthew, Mark, or Luke.

Join us as we look together at these unique, fascinating, and meaningful passages:

May 1: John 20:1-19 “Jesus, A Fish Breakfast, and an Awkward Meeting with Peter”

May 8: John 1:1-18 “The Prologue: The Logos . . . Long Before Bethlehem”

May 15: John 4:1-29 “A Triple Outsider: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman”

May 22: John 3:1-21 “Nic at Night: Nicodemus, Being Born Again, and John 3:16”

May 29: John 6:25-59 “The Bread of Life: Eating Flesh and Drinking Blood”

## Committee Updates

### From the Missions Committee

Here are opportunities for you to be of service in May:

- Friday, May 13: Sandwich-making at noon in the Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday, May 15: Faithful Neighbors Blood Drive. This will be held at Church of the Good Shepherd across from SPC from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up on the Red Cross website; search by date or enter "Faithful Neighbors."
- Thursday, May 19: Feed My Sheep. SPC continues to participate in the LAUNCH food distribution to benefit the Park Place community. Volunteers are needed for various shifts, locations, and duties between 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. A sign-up form will be sent out closer to the date. See Joe Morgan with questions.
- St. Columba requests the following items to support its Day Center, which provides services to walk-in clients. Items may be left in the large bin in the Fellowship Hall.
  - Seasonal clothes (lightweight for summer)
  - Coffee (large cans like Maxwell House or Folgers)
  - Pine Sol
  - Laundry detergent
  - Bleach
  - Beef jerky
  - Disposable masks
  - Granola bars
  - Razors
  - Canned and dry goods for the food pantry

Thank you,  
Karen McKinley, Missions Committee Moderator



### From the Administration Committee

- Thanks to everyone who took part in the Spring Church Work Day, held Saturday, April 23. For photos of the fun, see the SPC Facebook page.
- Window lintel work is still in planning stage.
- The children's Sunday School classroom upstairs is operational.
- Work has begun to create a succession plan for the church treasurers.
- The Director of Communications and Administration position has been posted (*see article on page 7*).

With gratitude,  
Pam Reed, on behalf of the Administration Committee



*If you haven't seen the new plantings along the back of the church building, please take a look!*

## From the Discipleship Committee

- The pandemic is subsiding—an opportunity for healing all around! Get out into the greenery and enjoy the earth coming to life with new growth everywhere you look. (If you can't find any new growth, I have some weeds that would totally amaze you with their exuberance!)
- Look for the rescheduled Walk of the Wild Side in June, when the flurry of graduations, Mother's Day brunches, and Memorial Day festivities have subsided. Wish we could have done it in April as planned, but the Norfolk NATO Festival was in full swing, a rather poignant celebration this year in light of the world situation.
- Put on your thinking caps and consider a motto/design for a T-shirt to mark our 150th year as this very special band of Christians. Contest to follow!
- If you haven't done so yet, create your password for the online directory. If you're having difficulty, don't feel bad. I took three attempts before getting it right. Others can help you. Bring your smartphone to church, and we can get you squared away.
- As we come out of the pandemic, we have some souls in need of a healing touch. Gathering with friends—whether in a "Dinner 4" pairing, with neighbors, with family, or in a Sunday school class—is so healing! Do you find you've changed? Used to be the life of the party and now standing around trying to think of something to say? Don't berate yourself. We're all a little rusty, but it will come.
- God has you in the palm of his hand and just loves you to death. Even after death, for that matter! Come out from under that rock of the past couple of years, and warm yourself in the sunshine of His love and the glorious spring He is giving us.

Many thanks,  
Peggy Troyer, Discipleship Committee Moderator

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### **Stay Up to Date** **Get a weekly SPC text reminder**

To sign up for a weekly text with reminders of events coming up at Second, please see an SPC staff member, or email your cell number to [nancychapman1223@gmail.com](mailto:nancychapman1223@gmail.com).

Monday 2:00 PM

This Week @ Second:  
W: Men's Study 6:30A [SPC];  
NO CHOIR REHEARSAL  
TH: BEMA 7:30P [Zoom]  
F: Men's Breakfast 7A [SPC]  
SAT: CANCELED: Walk on the  
Wild Side Breakfast & Walk  
SUN: Children & Adult Sunday  
School 9:45A [SPC]; Worship  
11A [SPC/Webcast]  
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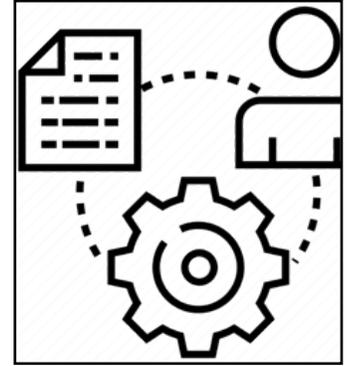
Text Message



***We're hiring!***

## **SPC seeks Director of Communications and Administration**

SPC has started a search for a person to serve as the Director of Communications and Administration. This person coordinates the multiple tasks of running the church office and is an important, creative, and contributing member of the professional ministry team.



We could use your help. In our last search for a Director of Music, our three finalists heard about the position only because members took the time to share the position description with friends and contacts. If you know someone who might see this as a meaningful opportunity, please let them know. They may contact either Craig or Catherine with any questions or to get the position description and application.

Thanks to Nancy Chapman for the hours of work she has invested in maintaining our communications systems. Thanks to Mark Stearns, moderator of the Administration Committee, for his help with the search process. And thanks to all of you for your patience and understanding during this time of change.

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***For the Children***

## **Helpers Needed in Nursery and Children's Sunday School**

Helpers are needed to assist Katrina Wansink, Director of Children's Ministry, during Sunday School from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. and in the nursery during worship from 11 a.m. to noon. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the church and get to know our youngest disciples! Please contact Katrina at [katwansink@gmail.com](mailto:katwansink@gmail.com) or 757.802.1536, or Rev. Catherine Hart Monroe at [revcat@spcnorfolk.org](mailto:revcat@spcnorfolk.org) or 757.287.9897 to volunteer or for more information.

**Welcome to Sunday school!** All nursery and elementary-aged children are invited to join Katrina every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. We gather to learn Bible lessons, play games, and complete crafts. For more information, please contact Katrina at [katwansink@gmail.com](mailto:katwansink@gmail.com) or 757.802.1536.

## **Children's Ministry for May: Cultures Around the World**



This month the children of the church will learn about cultures around the world. In keeping with this theme, the children's mission project will be centered around the missionaries our church supports. The children will learn about the places our missionaries are living, as well as the cultures of those areas. Then they'll create a video thanking our missionaries for their hard work. We encourage all children to join us! Stay tuned for dates and details.

*From the Director of Music*

## Signs & Miracles: The Art of the Possible

I've been thinking about the resonance between our current worship series and the experience of group music making. As we examine the recorded miracles of Jesus, it reminds me of the feeling I've long had about the miraculous nature of what happens in a choir, band, orchestra, or singing congregation.

Discussions that seek to explain biblical miracles as if analyzing a magic trick fail, I think, to seize what matters in these illustrations. I am less interested in "how" they took place than considering the inspiring impacts they've had on God's people.



*Water to wine. Loaves and fishes multiplied. Healing. Walking on water.*

In each of these, Jesus turned what appeared to be firm limitations into new realities that expressed love and care. Jesus challenged the perception of what was possible through unexpected acts that affirmed the health, joy, and comfort of others.

*These people are going to go hungry.  
That blind beggar will never be anything.  
We are going to drown in this storm!*

As in Jesus' time, in today's world there is no shortage of difficulty that surrounds us, as well as apparent limits when it comes addressing them.

*People are hateful to each other.  
We feel like we can't trust our news. Or our friends or relatives.  
We answer problems with bombs and memes that destroy and demoralize.*

If we are to believe the message of Jesus' miracles, we might do well to witness the miracles that occur in front of our eyes. One of those miracles for me—and one that has been sustained now for 30 years—is the process of choirs (or any musical group) in rehearsal. Knowing that every choir comprises individuals with diverse perspectives, values, beliefs, and opinions, I am *always* amazed when such a gathering sits together to focus on the hard work of rehearsing. For hours at a time, singers will work at increasing their discipline in the shaping of vowels, the tuning of pitches, the accuracy of rhythm, and the unified expression of music. They do this in spite of sometimes not loving every piece of music, or not feeling well, or (amazingly!) not liking the conductor! Why would they do this?

To create beauty and meaning together. To affirm joy and comfort and health of others.

In a world in which selfless acts of community seem in diminishing supply, I am *always* inspired by singers who offer themselves with such humility and intention. It is a reality that pushes back against conventional perception.

*Continued on next page*

*From the Director of Music continued*

*People are not always hateful.  
We can trust each other—and can live out that trust.  
We answer problems with beauty and texts that inspire and heal.*

I've been fortunate to witness this miracle in many environments. Every spring I experience it at the Virginia International Tattoo when choruses and bands from diverse nations stand together to express unity and strength. In Prague during a concert tour, I witnessed it when a Czech orchestra communicated its joy at learning a new American piece with our VSO Chorus. On Easter, I felt it powerfully when our congregation raised up its voice with energized "Alleluias." Each Tuesday morning, I witness it when people with no homes and little hope are willing to learn and work and strive and create something meaningful together.

As we face the realities of a difficult world, we can also be confronted with the immense beauty and possibility that God places before us each day. May we see and witness with each breath the wonder and goodness of miracles that inspire us now as they did at the hands of Jesus.

Peace,  
Bob

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## ***Holy Week at Second Presbyterian***



*Mauudy Thursday*



*Good Friday*



*Easter Breakfast Chefs*



*Easter Breakfast*



*Easter Worship*



*Easter Greetings*

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

# SPC WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 1

**Everyn Morrisette's Birthday**

*The office is open from 9:30AM to 12:30PM*  
Adult coffee & Sunday School: 9:30AM [Fellowship Hall]  
Children's Sunday School: 9:45AM [SPC]  
Worship: 11AM [Sanctuary/webcast]  
Fellowship Hour: Noon [SPC]

Monday, May 2

No activities

Tuesday, May 3

**Linda Parks' Birthday**

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Essentrics Exercise Class: 1PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, May 4

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]  
Choir Rehearsal: 7:30PM [SPC]

Thursday, May 5

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Essentrics Exercise Class: 1PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]  
BEMA Bible Study: 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, May 6

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [Fellowship Hall]

Saturday, May 7

No activities

Sunday, May 8

**Elijah Wikoff's & Joe Libbey's Birthdays**

*The office is open from 9:30AM to 12:30PM*  
Adult coffee & Sunday School: 9:30AM [Fellowship Hall]  
Children's Sunday School: 9:45AM [SPC]  
Worship: 11AM [Sanctuary/webcast]  
Fellowship Hour: Noon [SPC]

Monday, May 9

**Hassan Ndahi's Birthday**

Tuesday, May 10

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Essentrics Exercise Class: 1PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, May 11

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]  
Choir Rehearsal: 7:30PM [SPC]

Thursday, May 12

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Essentrics Exercise Class: 1PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]  
BEMA Bible Study: 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, May 13

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [Fellowship Hall]  
**Sandwich-making: Noon [Fellowship Hall]**

Saturday, May 14

No activities

Sunday, May 15

*The office is open from 9:30AM to 12:30PM*  
Adult coffee & Sunday School: 9:30AM [Fellowship Hall]  
Children's Sunday School: 9:45AM [SPC]  
Worship: 11AM [Sanctuary/webcast]  
Fellowship Hour: Noon [SPC]  
**Faithful Neighbors Blood Drive: 8AM to 1PM [Church of the Good Shepherd]**

Monday, May 16

No activities

Tuesday, May 17

**Clay Tinkham's Birthday**

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Essentrics Exercise Class: 1PM [Zoom & Upstairs Classroom]  
Session Meeting: 6PM [SPC]

Wednesday, May 18

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]  
Choir Rehearsal: 7:30PM [SPC]

Thursday, May 19

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Essentrics Exercise Class: 1PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]  
**LAUNCH Volunteer Opportunities: various times (See Joe Morgan)**  
BEMA Bible Study: 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, May 20

**Will Grimes' Birthday**  
Men's Breakfast: 7AM [Fellowship Hall]  
**Jews & Christians, Same Art, Different Responses: 10:30AM [The Chrysler Museum of Art]**

Saturday, May 21

No activities

Sunday, May 22

**Stephanie Sugioka's Birthday**

*The office is open from 9:30AM to 12:30PM*  
Adult coffee & Sunday School: 9:30AM [Fellowship Hall]  
Children's Sunday School: 9:45AM [SPC]  
Worship: 11AM [Sanctuary/webcast]  
Fellowship Hour: Noon [SPC]

Monday, May 23

**John Klein's Birthday**

Tuesday, May 24

**Elizabeth Stacks', Philip Byrd's, & Nancy Chapman's Birthdays**

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Essentrics Exercise Class: 1PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

Wednesday, May 25

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [Fellowship Hall]  
**"Other" Gospels, Pizza & Salad: 6PM [Fellowship Hall]**  
Choir Rehearsal: 7:30PM [SPC]

Thursday, May 26

**Jonathan Todd's Birthday**

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Essentrics Exercise Class: 1PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]  
BEMA Bible Study: 7:30PM [Zoom]

Friday, May 27

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [Fellowship Hall]

Saturday, May 28

No activities

Sunday, May 29

*The office is open from 9:30AM to 12:30PM*  
Adult coffee & Sunday School: 9:30AM [Fellowship Hall]  
Children's Sunday School: 9:45AM [SPC]  
Worship: 11AM [Sanctuary/webcast]  
Fellowship Hour: Noon [SPC]

Monday, May 30: MEMORIAL DAY

**Donna Millis' & Dillon Courtois' Birthdays**

Tuesday, May 31

*The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM*  
Essentrics Exercise Class: 1PM [Zoom & Fellowship Hall]

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