

Second Life+

The Newsletter of Second Presbyterian Church

January 2024

Keep Your Spirit Warm This Winter at Second

Food and fellowship activities offer fun and thoughtful ways to connect



A Deeper Look into Faith in the Middle East with Jake and Anna

Wednesday, January 3
6-7:15 p.m.
SPC fellowship hall

Join us for a Middle Eastern meal and an opportunity to hear about the work and life in Jordan of our friends and partners, Jake and Anna.



A Progressive Meal without Cars

Wednesday, January 17
6-7:15 p.m.
SPC fellowship hall

Get to know other SPC members and friends in new ways at a Progressive Dinner in the fellowship hall. Three members of the church will provide each of three courses: salads, main course, and dessert. You'll savor each course with a different, random group of people, during which time you'll reflect together with jokes, questions, scripture, and readings. Sign up on the sign-up sheets in the sanctuary or call Jo Kolb in the church office. We need an accurate head count to design a well-mixed seating plan. Older children are welcome.



Ladies' Night Out at Mack's Barge

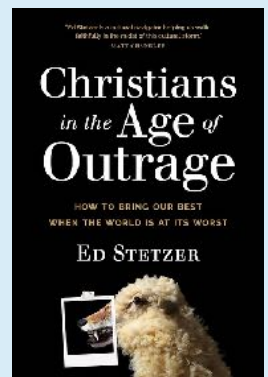
Monday, January 22, 6:30 p.m.

After a long hiatus fueled by the pandemic (and with thanks for our successful trip to the Barbie movie last summer), we've scheduled another Ladies' Night Out. At 6:30 p.m. Monday, January 22, we'll meet at Mack's Barge, 4300 Colley Avenue, Norfolk. Please call Lynn Ruehlmann at 757.642.6813 by Sunday, January 21, so we can provide the restaurant with an accurate head count.

Christians at Our Best: A Six-Week Guide to Living in the Age of Outrage

*A Sunday Morning Study for Adults
9:45-10:35 a.m., SPC fellowship hall*

Each Sunday at 9:45 a.m., join Pastor Craig and Philip Byrd as we reflect together on how we—as Christians—can bring our best to a world that can too easily be engulfed in caustic divisiveness, disagreement, conflict, and outrage.



Using scripture and material from Ed Stetzer, Craig and Philip will lead us as we think through the kinds of conflict and disagreement we face not only in our society in general, but even in our families and our personal lives.

From the Senior Pastor

Why We Pray the Lord's Prayer

In 2024 it is good for us to begin with prayer.

Jesus shares an example of how we are to pray when he offers what we have come to call the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-15. The prayer is corporate, not personal: In the prayer we use words like "our" and "us," rather than words like "my" and me."

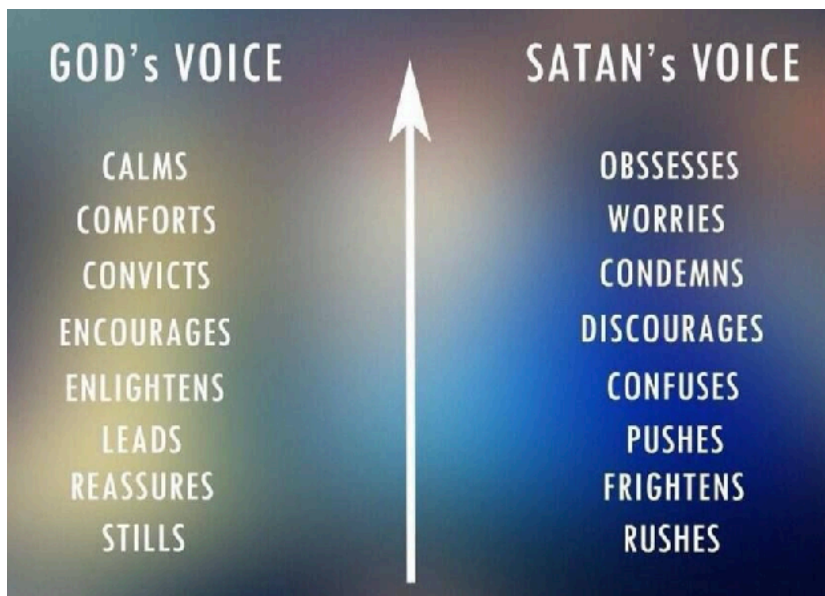
The prayer begins with our focusing on God and on God's will, not on our immediate perceived needs. The prayer begins with our acknowledging that we may not be seeing the world correctly. The prayer focuses on the past ("forgive us our debts"), the present ("give us this day our daily bread"), and the future ("lead us not into temptation").

The Lord's Prayer, more than anything else, calls us to open ourselves to a dependence on God. Any well-intentioned plan of building a kingdom needs to involve talking with the king. If we run so fast that we don't have time to get on our knees, we lack a relationship.

In my study at home, I have a reminder of why I need to pray. A sign there says "God's voice calms, comforts, convicts, encourages, enlightens, leads, reassures, stills. Satan's voice obsesses, worries, condemns, discourages, confuses, pushes, frightens, rushes."

That is why I pray. Our lives leak all sorts of things. That's fine, since we were built to leak. Hopefully we leak out joy, and love, and clues of the presence of God.

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But sometimes what leaks out of us is bitterness, condemnation, confusion, and shortness with others. The things of Satan.

Mother Teresa said, "Pray. I must be able to give only Jesus to the world. People are hungry for God. What a terrible meeting it would be with our neighbor if we give them only ourselves."

The sad thing is that we do give out only ourselves unless we fill ourselves up through prayer.

Discipline forms you into a disciple. Prayer—day by day—allows you to become a disciple.

Join us in worship as we start this year with a focus on the Lord's Prayer. Through your prayers, may God fill

you so completely that you find yourself leaking faith, hope, love, kindness, and grace to all whom you meet.

With blessings,

Pastor Craig

Sermon Series

The Words of Jesus in a Noise-Filled World: Why the Lord's Prayer Matters

To get things right in your life, pray for six things. That's what Jesus tells us. In a few, brief sentences, Jesus' words in the Lord's Prayer highlight key ways in which Christians have come to understand their lives and their world in ways that are distinctive. Gather with us as we begin this year thinking about how the words of Jesus' prayer cut through the noise of the world, keeping us focused on what matters.



- January 7 **"Our Father, Who Art in Heaven"** (Psalm 61:1-4; Romans 8:14-16; Matthew 6:5-9)
- January 14 **"Hallowed Be Thy Name"** (Exodus 3:13-15; Exodus 5:22-6:8)
- January 21 **"Thy Kingdom Come"** (Psalm 103; Luke 17:20-21)
- January 28 **"Thy Will Be Done"** (Genesis 32:22-30; Matthew 26:36-43)
- February 4 **"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"** (Daniel 1:8-16; Matthew 6:25-34)
- February 11 **"Forgive Us . . ."** (Matthew 18:23-35; John 8:2-11)
- February 14 **"And Lead Us Not into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil"** (Genesis 3:1-5; Genesis 4:1-8; Mark 1:9-13)

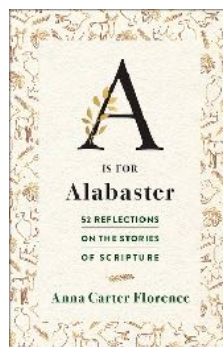


For the Children Kids' Travel Guide to the Lord's Prayer

*Children's Sunday School
9:45-10:35 a.m., upstairs
in the children's room*

Jesus taught us a prayer that he said would help us in many ways. Each Sunday all elementary-aged children and

young middle schoolers are invited to join Ms. Katrina to study how the Lord's Prayer guides us and helps us.



Lunch and Learn Wednesday Fellowship and Study: A Is for Alabaster

*Wednesdays, noon to 12:55
p.m. SPC fellowship hall
(Please bring a bag lunch.)*

Take an hour out of your week, bring a bag lunch, and join us at noon for a meal, conversation, and Bible study as we focus on the Bible through the lens of Anna Carter Florence's book "A Is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture."

Un-Decking the Halls

Sunday, January 14, 12:30 p.m.

Please consider staying after worship January 14 for a time of "un-decking the halls," as we enter the next season of the church. Your help is greatly appreciated in returning the church to its post-Christmas splendor.





Hunger Ministry Needs Volunteers

The January LAUNCH dates are Thursday, January 18, for food distribution and Sunday, January 21, for Feed My Sheep Folks Fellowship. See Joe Morgan or look for the sign-up email in January.

Volunteers are welcome to help prepare the Feed My Sheep after-worship fellowship food Sundays after the third Thursday LAUNCH food distribution. To assist, arrive at Second's kitchen around 9 a.m. on those Sundays.

The food served is selected from surplus or items not suitable for distribution from the monthly pickup of 5,000 pounds of food from Operation Blessing. A donation of \$250 will sponsor 100 family food bags. See Joe Morgan for more information.

Join the Second Singers for the "Twelve Days of Christmas"

Tuesday, January 2, SPC fellowship hall

Second Singers plan to take an SPC version of the classic carol "Twelve Days of Christmas" to the Villages of Rosemont the morning of Tuesday, January 2, the eighth day of Christmas.

Join us by singing or suggesting a verse. For example, the first verse could be: A Virginia cardinal in a dogwood tree. Singers warm up at 8:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall and carpool to the Villages by 10:15 a.m.



Thanks to All Who Stepped Up during the Holiday Season

Stephen was the disciple who took over congregational care in the early church, watching over church members in need, as well as widows and orphans. And like Stephen, our congregation recently rose to the challenge of a couple of emergency situations, using the Take Them a Meal platform to provide food and sending notes of care and concern to affected members.

You also responded to the call for supplies for 24 care bags for clients of St. Columba Ecumenical Ministries, donated dozens of sports balls to be given as gifts, provided fun activities at the LAUNCH Christmas party, and were faithful in sorting, packing, and delivering food to the hungry in nearby neighborhoods.

You staffed the intake desk at St. Columba while the organization was short-staffed, and with the Second Singers, you've sung to the often-forgotten folks at the Villages of Rosemont. Thank you so much for making Second a refuge of care when life throws someone an unexpected curve ball—and for reaching out into the community with love and support!



Christmastime at Your Second Home

SPC's December Photo Album



Christmastime at Your Second Home, continued





SPC January Calendar

Monday, January 1

No activities

Tuesday, January 2

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Second Singers at Villages of Rosemont: 8:30AM [FH]

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Wednesday, January 3

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [FH]

Brown Bag Bible Study: Noon [FH]

A Deeper Look into Faith in the Middle East with Jake and Anna and Middle Eastern Meal: 6PM [FH]

Thursday, January 4

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

BEMA Bible Study: 7:45PM [Zoom]

Friday, January 5

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [FH]

Saturday, January 6

No activities

Sunday, January 7

The office is open from 9:30AM to 12:30PM

Adult Sunday School: 9:45AM [FH]

Children's Sunday School: 9:45AM

[Upstairs]

Worship: 11AM [Sanctuary/webcast]

Fellowship Time: Noon [FH]

Monday, January 8

No activities

Tuesday, January 9

Josh Horner's, Betty Lucas', & Ann Byrd

Porter's Birthdays

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Triple "S" Circle: 10:30AM [FH]

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Wednesday, January 10

Marie Finch's Birthday

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [FH]

Brown Bag Bible Study: Noon [FH]

Choir rehearsal: 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, January 11

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

BEMA Bible Study: 7:45PM [Zoom]

Friday, January 12

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [FH]

Saturday, January 13

No activities

Sunday, January 14

The office is open from 9:30AM to 12:30PM

Choir Rehearsal: 9AM [Sanctuary]

Adult Sunday School: 9:45AM [FH]

Children's Sunday School: 9:45AM

[Upstairs]

Worship [Sanctuary/webcast]: 11AM

Fellowship Time: Noon [FH]

Undecking the Halls: 12:30PM [SPC]

Monday, January 15

No activities

Tuesday, January 16

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Session Meeting: 6PM [SPC]

Wednesday, January 17

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [FH]

Brown Bag Bible Study: Noon [FH]

Progressive Dinner without Cars: 6PM [FH]

Thursday, January 18

Janet Bing's & TJ Jung's Birthdays

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

LAUNCH Volunteer Opportunities: Various times [See Joe Morgan]

BEMA Bible Study: 7:45PM [Zoom]

Friday, January 19

Jen Courtois' & Michael Kittredge's Birthdays

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [FH]

Saturday, January 20

Jess Grimes' & Andrea Phelps' Birthdays

No activities

Sunday, January 21

The office is open from 9:30AM to 12:30PM

Adult Sunday School: 9:45AM [FH]

Children's Sunday School: 9:45AM

[Upstairs]

Worship: 11AM [Sanctuary/webcast]

Fellowship Time: Noon [FH]

Monday, January 22

Ladies' Night Out at Mack's Barge: 6:30PM

[Mack's Barge, 4300 Colley Ave., Norfolk]

Tuesday, January 23

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Session Meeting: 6PM [SPC]

Wednesday, January 24

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [FH]

Brown Bag Bible Study: Noon [FH]

Choir rehearsal: 7:30PM [Sanctuary]

Thursday, January 25

Pam Reed's Birthday

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

BEMA Bible Study: 7:45PM [Zoom]

Friday, January 26

Men's Breakfast: 7AM [FH]

Saturday, January 27

Lisa Dubey's Birthday

No activities

Sunday, January 28

The office is open from 9:30AM to 12:30PM

Choir Rehearsal: 9AM [Sanctuary]

Adult Sunday School: 9:45AM [FH]

Children's Sunday School: 9:45AM

[Upstairs]

Worship [Sanctuary/webcast]: 11AM

Fellowship Time: Noon [FH]

Monday, January 29

No activities

Tuesday, January 30

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Essentrics Exercise: 1PM [Zoom & FH]

Wednesday, January 31

The office is open from 10:30AM to 1:30PM

Men's Bible Study: 6:30AM [FH]

Brown Bag Bible Study: Noon [FH]

**FH: SPC Fellowship Hall*

About Second Presbyterian Church

7305 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23505 | 757.423.2822 | spcnorfolk.org | facebook.com/secondpresbyteriannorfolk
Office hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Dr. Craig Wansink, Senior Pastor: 757.412.7467, cwansink@vwu.edu
- Rev. Catherine Hart Monroe, Covenant Associate Pastor: 757.287.9897, revcat@spcnorfolk.org
- Rev. Nancy Rowland, Parish Associate: 302.354.5880, rowlandnancy73@gmail.com
- Robert Shoup, Director of Music: 757.739.9444, shoup.robert@spcnorfolk.org
- Jo Ridout Kolb, Director of Communications & Administration: 757.406.0879, jokolb@spcnorfolk.org
- Katrina Wansink, Director of Children's Ministry & Nursery: 757.802.1536, katwansink@gmail.com
- Andrea Franklin-Matheson, Coordinator of Intergenerational Outreach: andrea@spcnorfolk.org
- Tom Libbey, Facilities Manager; Joe Morgan, Maintenance Specialist; Barbara Watson, Housekeeper and Host