



Second Sharing

Second Presbyterian Church

Dedicated to Jesus Christ, we are committed to making a difference by caring for one another, growing in our ministries, and reaching beyond ourselves.

KAIROS CORNER

November, 2025



I am writing to you today to ask you to make a financial commitment in support of our congregation's ministry in 2026 and to share your giving plan on or before **Commitment Sunday on November 16.**

Our theme this year is "***For the Living of These Days.***"

Can you hear the strains of one of our best hymns? Specifically, the second stanza?

*Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.*

We need wisdom and courage these days, don't we? And that's what makes our congregation's ministry together so important.

Our life together invites us to find the courage to "live and speak otherwise" and to follow the of Jesus in a world grown fractious and cynical. To embody the kind of wisdom that sometimes seems foolish to the world.

You should soon receive a mailing from the church office that includes all the information about this year's generosity focus, including details about why our ministry plans for 2026 will require an increase over this year's budget. I am hopeful that you will take time to engage with the materials. Your prayers, participation, and financial gifts will be more important than ever in the coming year.

During worship on Commitment Sunday (November 16), you will have the opportunity to offer your financial commitment for 2026 as an act of worship. By doing so, you will signal your trust in God, as well as your belief in the work our congregation is doing together.

Be watching for ways to share your Commitment Card on or before November 16. You'll be able to do online, through the mail, or by stopping by the church office.

Let's commit ourselves to responding to God's grace by supporting the ministries that nurture us, even as we provide care, compassion, and love to our neighbors. Your generosity will make a difference as we seek God's wisdom and courage ***for the living of these days.***

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor John

MEMBER AND OTHER NEWS

Congratulations To:

- **Sarah (Strong) and Brandon Wells** on the birth of son, **Wade Brandon Wells**, on September 24th. *Grandmother is Betsy Strong.*

We Express our Love and Sympathy To:

- **Mike and Susan Leemhuis** on the death of Mike's sister-in-law.
- **Susan and Dal Harper** on the death of Susan's brother-in-law, Henry Evens.
- **Elizabeth Edelman** and her family on the death of her grandmother.
- **The family of John Witt** who died on October 21st.
- **Tom Barker** and his family on the death of Tom's father, Stephen Barker.

LEXINGTON CHAMBER CHORALE CONCERT



THE LEXINGTON CHAMBER CHORALE present
Sounds of the Seasons!

- When: **Sunday, November 30**
- Where: **Second Presbyterian Church**
- Time: **5:00 p.m.**

Come welcome the holiday season as we perform new and familiar tunes celebrating Christmas and Hanukkah. Featuring an audience sing-along, **this is the perfect concert to get your entire family in the holiday spirit.**

- Tickets available at the door or visit www.lexingtonchamberchorale.org.
- General admission \$25.00; Students (K-12) Free

Contact Gary L. Anderson (ganderson@transy.edu or 859-317-3353) for further information.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HONORS STOJANKA SIMIC FOR 30 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE!



In the early 1990s, while much of the world was celebrating the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, another conflict was intensifying just a short distance away. Following the death of Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito, tensions among the republics of the former Yugoslavia escalated into violent conflict—ultimately leading to the Bosnian War. This period was marked by countless atrocities, the most infamous being the Srebrenica genocide. The war triggered a massive refugee crisis throughout the 1990s. Among those affected were **Stojanka Simic, her husband Vinko, and their children—15-year-old Bojana and 9-year-old Bojan**—living in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They had built a good

life, with steady jobs and a loving home. But when the war reached their doorstep, it took everything: their jobs, their house, their safety. They, like many others, were forced to flee.

Yet even in the chaos, **God's provision** was at work. By divine grace, the Simics and members of their extended family found their way to a refugee center in Croatia. With the help of Kentucky Refugee Ministries (KRM), they were among 400 refugees placed on a plane bound for the United States. It was no coincidence—Vinko's brother had already found refuge in Lexington through KRM and was determined to help them escape. Doors opened, one after another.



In Kentucky, **God's hand** continued to guide their steps. Second Presbyterian Church, through its sponsorship with KRM and faithful volunteers, became a vessel of welcome. Carson and Lida Evans provided a downstairs apartment as the family's first home in America. Others from the church helped with immigration paperwork, school enrollment, job searches, English classes, and transportation. There was much to do—but God provided the people and the means. "It was so easy, really," one volunteer said. "It felt like God wanted them here." Within a year, Vinko and Stojanka had settled into their new life. With the help of their young son Bojan—now speaking English—they purchased their first home. God had taken them from fear and loss to safety and stability. And Stojanka, with her deep love for children, was soon busy helping in the nursery at Second. She found full-time employment help children at Bellewood, Buckhorn, MASH, and spending over 14 years at Good Shepherd Day School.

Through it all, she became a quiet but powerful presence in the lives of countless children at Second Presbyterian. Week after week, year after year, **God used her hands and heart** to cradle, comfort, and nurture the youngest among us. Today, we pause to honor her journey—a story not just of survival, but of **God's faithful provision** through war, exile, and restoration.

Thank you, Stojanka, for loving our children as your own—and for showing us how God's love moves through the hands of those who serve. *Personnel will honor Stojanka at the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19th.*

Thanksgiving Dinner



We invite you and your family to join us as we come together to celebrate the return of this wonderful tradition!

**Wednesday, November 19
6:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)**

**Menu: Roasted Turkey with Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Southern Green Beans
Cornbread Stuffing
Corn Pudding
Dessert**

We will also celebrate Stojanka Simic on her remarkable 30 years of making a difference in the lives of children who visit our nursery on Sundays!

Scan the QR code to RSVP or call the church office (859) 254-7768. You can also pick up a sign up form on Sundays at the entrances. *Deadline: Sunday, November 16th*

Suggested Donation:

Adult: \$15.00

Child: \$10.00 (6-12 yrs)

5 & Under: Free



Below are various opportunities where we could use your gifts of time and talent! **Scan the QR code** and visit our LinkTree to sign up today!

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE!



- **Children's Christmas Pageant**

We are in need of 1 adult volunteer per evening during the Children's Pageant rehearsal on **Thursday evenings from 6-7pm**. We also need lots of volunteers to help us, especially at our dress rehearsal (December 20th; 9:30-11:00am), and on the 21st to put on and off costumes.

- **Advent Workshop**

Our Beloved Advent Workshop will take place on **December 7th from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** We need volunteers to make it run smoothly. *Youth are invited to sign up too!*

- **Host Coffee/Donuts**

We need you (or your family) to host between services. The donuts are delivered to the church on Sunday mornings...all we need is your smile!

- **Worship Leader (11:00 service)**

Worship is the work of the whole church, and we hope you'll share your gifts to inspire our congregation to a deeper praise. We will send you the readings, instructions, and any special information before your selected Sunday

- **Water Pourers**

Looking for children and/or youth to pour the water into the baptismal font on Sunday mornings.

Children and Youth Fellowship Events

⇒ **Sunday, November 9: Youth Fellowship** will take place from **12:15-3:15pm** and is mission focused. We will begin at the church for lunch, games and packing for "backpack buddies". We will then take the church bus to The Willows at Fritz Farm to visit with the residents and assist with scribing Christmas Cards to their loved ones. **Youth must RSVP to attend** to be sure we have enough food, and adults to drive additional vehicles if needed. We will arrive back at the church around 3:15 p.m., and be picked up in the parking lot. **Scan the QR code to sign up today!**



⇒ **Sunday, November 16: Youth Fellowship** will be held from **12:15-2:15pm**. This is a mission-based event that is very dear to my heart. We will eat lunch and fellowship together, and then go **shopping for 3 to 5 children from Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program**. This is such a special way to show love to our youngest neighbors. **Scan the QR code to sign up today!**

⇒ **Sunday, November 23: Downtown Youth Group** will be held from **5:00-7:00 p.m** (First Presbyterian Church).



The Kids for the Kingdom choir did a wonderful job singing on October 19th during the 11:00 a.m., service



Sunday Fellowship Group for **4th and 5th graders** will meet on **November 2nd**. We will gather after worship from **12:15-2:15pm (lunch provided)** for games, hands-on activities, mission projects, and learn about *Showing Thanks!*

Mark your calendars for our upcoming get-togethers and themes. Remember, friends are always welcome!

- **January 11**
Perseverance
- **February 1**
Love In Action
- **March 1**
Constant in Prayer
- **March 29**
Joy in the Lord
- **May 3 (End of Year Party)**



Children Leading Worship
Sharing the Christmas Story
Sunday, December 21st
11:00 a.m.

The Christmas Pageant is a special way for the children ages 3 through 5th grade to learn and share the Christmas story with the congregation.

Our children will lead our Sunday morning worship service on Sunday, December 21st. Liam and Abigail will both be teaching the music on Sunday mornings during WOW and at our Thursday evening rehearsals.

We need lots of volunteers to help us, especially at our dress rehearsal and on the 21st to put on and off costumes. If you can help, **please scan the QR code**.



- * **November 6, 13, 20** (6-7 pm)
- * **December 4** (6-7 pm)
- * **December 11:** (6-7 pm)
- * **December 18:** (6-7 pm) Speaking parts/solos/duets only
- * **Saturday, December 20: Full Dress Rehearsal**
9:30-11:00 a.m.
- * **December 21:** Christmas Pageant: (11 am)

FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

He who guards his way guards his life.
Proverbs 16:17b



Be aware of energy scams! Scammers are ever present and evolving. Reports of scam calls, fake energy rebate offers, and phony disconnection threats have increased in recent months.

These schemes begin with a call, text, or visit from someone claiming to represent a local electric provider. The goal is always the same: to pressure you into acting quickly. They may demand immediate payment or threaten to shut off service, offer, too good to be true rebates or free equipment.

Do not provide your banking information! Some may manipulate caller ID to make it appear to be a utility provider. If it doesn't feel right, or they won't let you verify the source, hang up or close the message. **Call your provider using the number on your monthly bill.** There are service professionals there to assist you. *Resource: Kentucky Living Magazine*

Jackie Grave, Parish Nurse

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Tammy Copeland,
- 3 Elaine Simpson, Shelby Kratt
- 4 Andrey Pugh
- 5 Jerry Pigman, Susan Phipps, Paige Bensing, Joe Swayze
- 6 Laura Kerns
- 7 Aimee Mesta, Claire Deitz, Perry Hauke, Pam Chesnut
- 8 Abby Freibert, Jane Morris
- 9 Bob Beck
- 10 Barb Hagen, Jim Rogers
- 11 Michael Hagen
- 13 Hilary Miller, Amber Deitz
- 14 Betsy Rogers
- 15 Nancy Cox, Aaron Leggett
- 16 Jane Wallace, Jennifer Reid, Sally Maggard, Will Culbertson
- 17 Cynthia Yeiser
- 19 Janet Pugh, Mary Robbins, Susan Tebbs
- 20 Peggy Reeves, Carol Morgan
- 21 Joanne Olson-Biglieri
- 22 Maddie Oakley, Clay Monohan
- 23 Jane Stanger
- 24 Creed Gray, Mason McCauley, Jeff Monohan
- 25 Courtney Sawyer
- 26 Linda Crawford, Anne Graham
- 27 Fred Copeland
- 28 Diane McLaughlin
- 29 Barbara Boyer, Katherine Monohan, Eliose Bell
- 30 Ann Sisler, John Loeff, Becky DeHoag, Tandy Repass

TRUNK OR TREAT & CHILI COOKOFF

Our Trunk or Treat and Chili Cookoff was held on October 26th. Thanks to all who came out and enjoyed a night of wonderful fellowship and connecting with each other! A special thanks to all who volunteered. We couldn't do this without you!



CROP HUNGER WALK

Over 200 Hunger Fighters representing 16 diverse congregations and 5 organizations gathered Oct. 12th to WALK in solidarity *with* our sisters and brothers who are struggling to feed their families. God's Pantry Food Bank and Church World Service's (CWS) fervent, frequent pleas for HELP are intensifying with additional impending funding cuts to 'the least of these'. To help assuage this worsening crisis, the WALK community is continuing our fundraising through Thanksgiving. Please make checks payable to **CWS/CROP WALK**. Place in Sunday's offering plate or give to Judy Maxson or Nathan Lee. Thank You for caring and sharing!

Abundant Gratitude to 2nd's family for your exceedingly generous WALK gifts! We've already exceeded our \$7K online Team goal! And this does not include cash Nathan has already remitted to CWS! Many Thanks, Joyce D., Mary M., Joanne B., Vicki W., Evelyn and Stan K., Louie B., David K., Nathan L. and Phil M. for your volunteer expertise! 35 2nd Pres. folks extended hospitality to our community of WALKers. Laura Anderson, God's Pantry Program Coordinator for Fayette CO, graciously accepted **444#** food donations; 90% from St. Peter Claver Catholic. Andrew Gifford, CWS Community Engagement Manager and his father, Rev. Ken Gifford informed/encouraged folks to sign the *Ecumenical Statement on Hunger Justice*. **What a joy to greet Bill McAtee and Barbara Hagen!** They certainly surprised everyone! God and the sun shone brightly on our very Good Day!



CARDINAL VALLEY ELEMENTARY FOOD DRIVE



To each of you that contributed in any way to the October food drive for the children and families of our Backpack Buddies partner, Cardinal Valley Elementary School, **THANK YOU!**

This is a pic AFTER the first delivery had been made to the school in a SUV that was stuffed, top to bottom, with canned goods of meats, tuna, fruits, vegetables, tomato sauces and soups. Boxes and bags of pasta and dried beans, bags of rice, cereal and snack bars were overflowing and quickly helped restock the nearly empty pantry shelves. *We can and do make a difference....thank you for opening your heart to help these families!*

JUSTICE MINISTRY NEWS

Second's Justice Ministry Team Leaders, *Shawn Caudill and Judy Maxson*, appreciate all who attended our recent House Meetings. We are pleased to welcome *Kathleen Robinson, Kathy Hall, Anne Keating and Sebastien Geroli* to 2nd's Justice Team. We were delighted to have Rev. Katherine Redmond participate in our conversations. We are continuing the listening process reaching out to those that missed our gatherings. We are honored to do this sacred, heart work with 2nd's current (27) Justice Ministry Network Members and our BUILD community.

BUILD's first large gathering, **Community Problems Assembly (CPA)** will be **Monday, November 3rd, 7:00 p.m., at Consolidated Baptist**. Even though a 'new' issue will NOT be 'up' for a vote this year, the emphasis on **stories** as it relates to one or more of our ongoing campaigns-eldercare/Villages, micro-transit and renter's concerns- will be the focus of each congregation's caucus. The initial result of the community assessment needs survey and Villages next steps will be announced. With the council's vote Oct. 21st to delay making a decision on the micro-transit pilot until Nov. 20th, you will want to hear 'why'? You will also learn how the environmental UK-CARES research team is assisting with analyzing code enforcement data—what's the most current finding?

A Biblical Justice reflection, moving personal testimonies (one of 2nd's JM sharing), election of Executive Board officers and Commissioning of all Justice Ministry Network Members will be included in our Assembly. Lakshman to provide transportation; leaving at **6:20**; contact Judy Maxson, jke659@gmail.com, before Noon Nov. 3rd if you wish to ride.

Alternative Gift Fair: The Gathering Place will host a decades-long tradition the Alternative Gift Fair on the **Sundays, November 23rd and December 7th**. Both international and local opportunities will be available. You can contribute to the Tambu Chirwa Scholarship that continues Tambu's support of village girls in Malawi to complete secondary school or buy a blanket for the Hope Center in honor of a family member and more!

Calendar

Monday, November 3

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

7:00 p.m. Mission Committee

Tuesday, November 4

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (202)

5:35 p.m. Yoga 7:15 p.m. Chamber Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 5

6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast (Zoom)

1:00 pm Community Life Committee

Thursday, November 6

6:00 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, November 8

8:30 a.m. Buckhorn Board Meeting (CR)

9:00 a.m. Saturday Book Group (Forum)

Sunday, November 9

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:15 p.m. Youth Fellowship

12:15 p.m. Joint Session/Deacons Meeting

Monday, November 10

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

1:00 pm Beth Wachs Circle

Tuesday, November 11

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (202)

1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl (Zoom)

5:30 p.m. Needlepoint Group

5:30 pm Trustees

5:30 p.m. Yoga

6:30 p.m. Finance

7:15 p.m. Chamber Chorale

Wednesday, November 12

6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast (Zoom)

Thursday, November 13

11:00 a.m. Preschool T'giving Lunch (FH)

5:30 p.m. Advent Workshop Prep

6:00 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, November 15

9:00 a.m. Saturday Book Group (Forum)

Sunday, November 16

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:15 p.m. Youth Fellowship

Monday, November 17

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday, November 18

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CMR)

1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry (zoom)

5:30 p.m. Yoga

7:15 p.m. Chamber Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 19

6:30 a.m. Men's Book Study (Zoom)

6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Dinner (FH)

Thursday, November 20

5:00 p.m. ITN Event (Forum Room)

6:00 p.m. Children's Pageant Rehearsal

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, November 22

9:00 a.m. Saturday Book Group (Forum)

Sunday, November 23 (Alternative Gift Fair)

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Downtown Youth Group (1st Pres)

Monday, November 24

9:30 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday, November 25

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CMR)

5:30 p.m. Yoga

7:15 p.m. Chamber Chorale Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 26

6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast (Zoom)

12:00 p.m. Backpack Buddies

Thursday, November 27 (Office Closed)

Thanksgiving Day

Saturday, November 29

9:00 a.m. Saturday Book Group (Forum)

10:00 a.m. Chamber Chorale Rehearsal

Sunday, November 30

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Chamber Chorale Concert (Sanctuary)



⇒ **Coffee & Conversation - Do you need any of these things?** A chance to connect with others. A safe place to talk about your faith or your fears—or even the mundane thing of your life. If so, join Pastor John and unknown others in the congregation **each Monday morning from 9:30-10:30 am (or so) in the Gathering Place.**

⇒ **Women's Saturday Discussion - Women's Saturday discussion group meet each Saturday at 9:00 a.m.,** in the Forum Room. Contact Amy Palmer (859-825-8703) for details.

⇒ **Men's Book Study - Meet virtually via Zoom on Wednesday morning from 6:30-7:30 a.m.** Contact Shawn Caudill for more information and the zoom link (859-608-6662 or tscaud1@uky.edu).

⇒ November Forum Program Schedule (Sundays: 9:40-10:40 am):

- **November 2: Dr. Chuck Dietrich** will talk about bird watching basics. If you have wanted to become a more knowledgeable ornithophile, come hear how to start!
- **November 9: David Kratt** talking about climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro with son Mason.
- **November 16:** We will be viewing local filmmaker **Kristen LaRue Bond's** *Lexington: Resilience in the Redline*
- **November 23: Regina Lewis, M.S.,** doctoral candidate in public policy at UK's Martin School of Public Policy and Administration and lead data research scientist for **Black Yarn, Inc.**
- **November 30:** Thanksgiving weekend – **No Forum**

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ADVENT WORKSHOP—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH!



Mark your calendar for our annual Advent Workshop on **Sunday, December 7th** from **3:00-5:00 p.m.**

This is a free family event that gives church members (and friends) of all ages a great way to kick-off the Advent season. We have **12 crafts, a music station, and a Christmas-themed photo booth**. It is such a delight for adults and youth to help our children make wonderful Christmas crafts to mark the season and share with others.

We are currently recruiting volunteers as craft leaders and assistants, craft prep help, set-up, and clean-up. **If you would like to volunteer** or more information, **please scan the QR code** or email Katie Baird (katieb@2preslex.org).



- **Craft Prep Day: Thursday, November 13th** from **5:30–7:00 p.m.**, in the Fellowship Hall. *All are invited to come as they are able to help prepare for this beloved event!*
- **Help Set Up: Thursday, December 4th** from **6:00-7:00 p.m.**