



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

January, 2026

I am typing these words on January 5, 2026, which as you may know is the 12th Day of Christmas. Epiphany's arrival tomorrow marks another pivot point in the story around which we gather week by week.

Before the crush of things that a new year always brings, I want to take a moment to look back. I don't want to forget the many moments from our congregation's celebration of Advent and Christmas. I know you don't either. We have bountiful reasons to give thanks.

As always, the music offered in worship during the seasons just past expressed the fullness of human emotion. From the reflective, quieter moments to the soaring explosion of praise. Martha's ability to coax so many sounds from our organ stirs me in ways that still surprise. And Gary's direction and the Covenant Choir's musical offerings reflect the intentionality and thoughtful care that I hope we never take for granted.

I offer my gratitude to bell ringers, singers, keyboardists...and I dare not forget the entire percussion pit. And for all the ones who gathered in worship to lift their voices in praise of God. The gift of Christmas made not only the angels sing, but also the church. Thank you for keeping the music going.

I'm also still reflecting on the amazing job that our children did with their Christmas Pageant. Jenna, Abigail, and Liam created an environment in which our children's gifts could flourish. And they sure did flourish. The courage, vulnerability, and obvious joy of the cast members shone brightly as they led us in worship. The message that continues to ring in my heart is this: "God's light still shines and always will."

While I could go on far longer, I want my final word here to be my deep appreciation for the Tech Team volunteers whose presence ensures people who can't be in the sanctuary are still included in the congregation. They serve every week, and often are invited into service for a funeral or wedding outside of Sundays. That they could do the marvelous job they did with this year's pageant is evidence of their skill, but also their love. They are saints among us in every way

And now, as 2026 opens, my prayer for you is that the God who brought you through 2025, with all its joys and pains, will surround you with deep peace throughout this year.

With gratitude and love,
Pastor John

MUSIC NEWS



As rehearsals resume for our choirs, here is some information to share. **Abigail Royal will now be the single director of our children's choir** (Kids for the Kingdom) and will also lead music during WOW. Although It has been good to have Abigail and Liam Schippers working collaboratively, Liam's class schedule has increased and he will no longer be working with the childrens' music or be in the Covenant Choir.

The Covenant Choir will soon begin working on a major work to be presented on Palm Sunday. This is a great time to welcome new members! **Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7:15-8:30 p.m.** All voice parts are welcome. Contact Gary L. Anderson, Director of Music, with questions (ganderson@transy.edu).

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

What a wonderful time of delicious breakfast treats and fellowship at our Christmas Brunch on December 14th *A big thank you to our volunteers and Evelyn Kramer for coordinating this event.*



SNOW NEWS



On Sundays, worship will always be held for those who can gather. However you (including teachers, choir members, etc.) are encouraged to attend only if you feel safe traveling on the roads.

On Wednesdays, if Fayette County schools are cancelled, or dismissed early due to inclement weather, our Wednesday Night programs are also cancelled (special worship services will typically be held).

2026 SANCTUARY FLOWERS



Donating floral bouquets adds to the beauty of our sanctuary on Sundays and gives members a chance to remember a loved one. You are also welcome to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, wedding or baptism.

Scan the QR code to see the Sundays in 2026 we have open or contact the church office (859-254-7768). A local florist will provide the flowers at a cost of \$100.



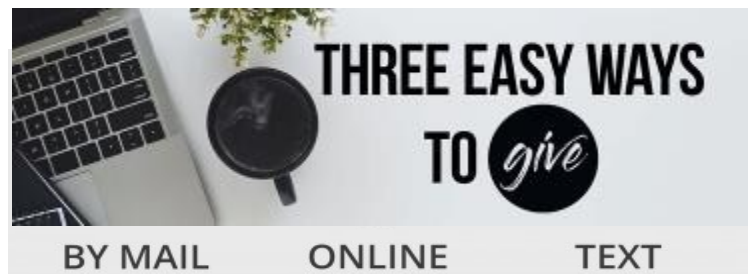
2026 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT



If you haven't returned your **2026 Commitment Card**, you still have time!

Your generosity will make a difference as we seek God's wisdom and courage for *the living of these days!*

Contact the church office (859-254-7768) if you'd like a Commitment Card mailed to you or if you have questions about making a pledge.



Second Church
460 E. Main St.
Lexington, KY 40507

www.2preslex.org

Text **73256** and type **2preslex** as the message and follow the prompts

Children and Youth Ministry



We hope you all have had an amazing Christmas holiday! With the start of the new year, we hope you join us for our upcoming Children and Youth Ministry events. **Remember, friends are always welcome!**

Youth Fellowship is for all youth in grades 6th-12th grade. We meet on Sundays from **12:15-2:15 p.m.** to play games, do team building activities, mission projects, and learn about different people in the bible. **Lunch will be provided!** See the schedule below and reach out to Jenna Coy (jennac@2preslex.org) if you have questions.

January 18: Social Media Challenge (12:15-2:15)

February 15: Fun Event- Off Site

March 8: Justice Journey (12:15-2:15)

April 19: Creativity, Art & Faith (12:15-2:15)

May 17: End of Year Party - Off Site



Sunday Fellowship Group for **4th and 5th graders** will meet on **January 11th**. We will participate in the Rise Against Hunger Mission event as a group. *Note: Alight will end once the event is over.*

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

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



Downtown Youth Group (DYG) is an ecumenical collaboration between five congregations in Lexington: Central Christian, Christ Church Cathedral, Faith Lutheran, First Presbyterian and Second Presbyterian. DYG is proud to be a space where everyone are welcome! **All 6th-12th grades are invited** to come on Sundays from **5:00-7:00 p.m.** Invite your friends and share a meal and meet other youth in our community: **Our first meeting in 2026 is set for January 25th at Faith Lutheran.** We hope to see you there!



Our youth had a great time at our Christmas party on December 14th. We decorated cookies and then headed off to deliver Westminster Christmas Baskets. *See page 4 for details.*

Mission Spotlight



Westminster Village, a 132 unit complex of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments, is located at 1510 Versailles Road/Lexington. In partnership with Presbyterian Housing Corporation (PHC) and Lexington Christian Service Ministries (CSM), **Second Presbyterian supports the mission of Westminster Village to provide safe and affordable low-income housing in Fayette County.** Currently approximately 45% of the units are home to African individuals/families through an affiliation with Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

Members of Second serve on the board of PHC and CSM along with representatives from other Presbyterian local churches in an advisory position concerning property management or with the coordination of programs to assist or educate the residents; new members are welcomed.

Volunteer opportunities abound at Westminster ranging from working at a summer reading camp, sponsoring a summer activity onsite for children, donating school supplies for a Westminster student during the Back to School drive in August, assisting with **the annual Christmas basket delivery** or sponsoring a \$5 gift card for a child for the annual children's Christmas party.

Donations are accepted year round of gently used infant through adult clothing and household items; these items may be dropped off in the Mission Closet behind the Security desk in the Gathering Place.



On Sunday, December 14th, our youth and volunteers braved the cold weather and **delivered Christmas baskets** to the residents of Westminster Village and Lakeside Manor. *Thank you for your donations to this wonderful ministry.*



CROP Walk Update: Abundant appreciation to our Second Church family and friends for your exceedingly generous, \$10,308 CROP Hunger Walk donation! The WALK community raised the most ever- \$35,469.55!

God's Pantry grant is \$8,867! Over 500 national Walks were held in 2025. \$6.5M was raised; 615 local food agencies received 25% of the total. Many Thanks! for taking the extra STEPS needed to support Church World Service and God's Pantry Food Bank's capacity to serve more, a lot more, of our neighbors around the world and at home.

FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory in Jesus Christ.
1 Cor 15:57



A new year, a fresh start and a new to do list that can begin with **Embrace Gratitude**. Growing a grateful outlook can help reduce depression and anxiety, increase self esteem and improve life satisfaction. There many ways to make gratitude a daily habit.

Suggestions I have read include:

- Take turns telling family members 3 things you are grateful for.
- Write notes or call anyone who has been helpful, pleasant or especially kind. Acknowledging this is reinforcing to keep positivity going.
- Take walks with the intent of noticing surroundings or as an opportunity to pray.
- Journal your gratitude and keep track of the good things in your life.
- Share what you are grateful for with others - it's contagious.
- With the help of a concordance do a word study to see what the Bible says about a thankful heart.

Jackie Graves, Parish Nurse

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Marie Garrett, Greg Leopold
- 2 J.D. Castleberry
- 3 Angene Wilson
- 4 Mary Hartley, Stephanie Spires, Shawn Phelps
- 5 Tucker Lee, Brenda Penn
- 6 Tom Gilbert, Jack Farrell, Doralene Webb
- 7 Lisa Applegate, Randy Master
- 8 Jennifer Coffman
- 9 Daniel King
- 10 Penni Gerard, Gary Anderson
- 11 Linda Granacher, Hannah Gray, Jillian Privott
- 13 Cindy Woolwine, Martha Renfro
- 14 Lakshman Chelvarajan, Fiona Mowbray, Mary McGaha, Barb Hauke
- 15 Elizabeth Edwards, Rebekah Kerns
- 16 Margaret Spicer
- 17 Kathryn Beck, Harry Clarke
- 18 Kate Lillich, Veronica Taylor
- 19 Stuart McIntosh, Christopher Turner, Kyle Phillips
- 20 John Chaney
- 21 Lois Edmiston, Michael Leopold, Trey Kramer
- 23 Sherrill Thomas, Doug Wimmer, Becky Drahovzal
- 25 Greg Ladd
- 27 Beth Porter, David Kratt, Ann Chapman
- 28 Tom Harris, Lisa Richardson
- 29 Marjorie Polites, Madeline Rukavina
- 30 Dale Meenach, Korin Olson
- 31 Jo Greene, Joy Oakley, Jessica Power



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



• 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! **We have lots of open Sundays in 2026!**

• 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. **Open Sundays: January 18; January 25 and more!**

• Water Pourers

Looking for children and/or youth to pour the water into the baptismal font on Sunday mornings. **Open Sundays: January 11 (8:30 service); January 18; January 28 and more!**

• Provide Meals for Alight

We are looking for members of our congregation to provide lunch after the 11am worship service for our Alight Fellowship (4th & 5th graders). **Open Sundays: February 1; March 1; March 28; May 3.**

Calendar

Monday, January 5

9:30 am Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday, January 6

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

5:30 p.m. Yoga

Wednesday, January 7

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

Thursday, January 8

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 10

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

Sunday, January 11

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Church School

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:15 p.m. Rise Against Hunger

12:15 p.m. Alight

12:15 a.m. Deacons Meeting

Monday, January 12

9:30 am Coffee & Conversation

1:00 p.m. Beth Wachs Monday Circle

7:00 p.m. Mission Committee

Tuesday, January 13

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

5:30 p.m. Needlepoint Group (Forum)

5:30 p.m. Yoga

5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Zoom)

6:30 p.m. Finance Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 14

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

Thursday, January 15

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 17

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

Sunday, January 18

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Church School

11:00 a.m. Worship

12:15 p.m. Session

12:15 a.m. Youth Fellowship

Monday, January 19 (MLK Holiday)

Tuesday, January 20

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

1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl (204)

5:30 p.m. Yoga

Wednesday, January 21

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

Thursday, January 22

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 24

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

Sunday, January 25

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Church School

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. DYG (Faith Lutheran)

Monday, January 26

9:30 am Coffee & Conversation

Tuesday, January 27

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

5:30 p.m. Yoga

Wednesday, January 28

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

12:00 p.m. Backpack Buddies

Thursday, January 29

7:15 p.m. Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 31

9:00 a.m. Saturday Book Group

Coffee and 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 things of your life. A time to unwind with others as you begin your week. If so, then join Pastor John and unknown others from the congregation each **Monday morning from 9:30—10:30 am (or so) in the Gathering Place**. There will be no agenda, other than talking together and sharing life. Hope to see you there!

⇒ Beth Wachs Monday Circle

The **Monday Beth Wachs Circle** will meet **Monday, January 12th** at 1:00 p.m., in the Forum Room. Join us for fellowship and study. Contact Sandra Harrison (859-806-1172) with questions.

⇒ 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

Men's Book Study meets each **Wednesday (6:30-7:30 a.m.)** by zoom. Contact Shawn Caudill (timothy.caudill@uky.edu or 859-608-6662) for zoom instructions and details on the book they are discussing.

⇒ Prayer Shawl Ministry

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** group will knit or crochet together on the Third Tuesday of the month at **1:00 p.m. in-person (Room 204) at Second**. Contact Kathy Blomquist (kbbloomquist@gmail.com) with questions or details.

Here's to a wonderful 2025 holiday season. May peace, love, and prosperity follow you into the New Year!



Children's Christmas Pageant. We had over 50+ children participate!



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



The staff enjoyed a holiday lunch at Malones.



Thanks to all who attended our **Advent Workshop** on December 7th. We had so much fun making crafts with our friends and family!

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460 E. Main St.
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Church Phone: 859.254.7768

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RESOLVE TO RISE AGAINST HUNGER—SUNDAY, JANUARY 11!



It's not too late to sign up! We will again join with other volunteers of **all ages** from Second Church for **"Rise Against Hunger" meal-packaging event** on **Sunday, January 11th from Noon–2:00 p.m.** (lite meal will be provided).

With guidance and materials provided by the Rise Against Hunger organization, our goal will be to package at least 15,000 meal kits in one sitting to be distributed around the globe in medical clinics, vocational training programs, elder care facilities and schools.

Rise Against Hunger, an international humanitarian organization, is growing a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies. Through a global network based in the U.S. and with six international offices, the organization provides immediate nourishment for those facing hunger today and implements sustainable solutions that will lift entire communities for years to come. **Rise Against Hunger has facilitated volunteer meal packaging of more than 600 million meals to be distributed to countries around the world.**



To learn more about Rise Against Hunger, visit www.riseagainsthunger.org. **Scan the QR code to register** or contact Shawn Phelps (shawnp@2preslex.org) for more information!