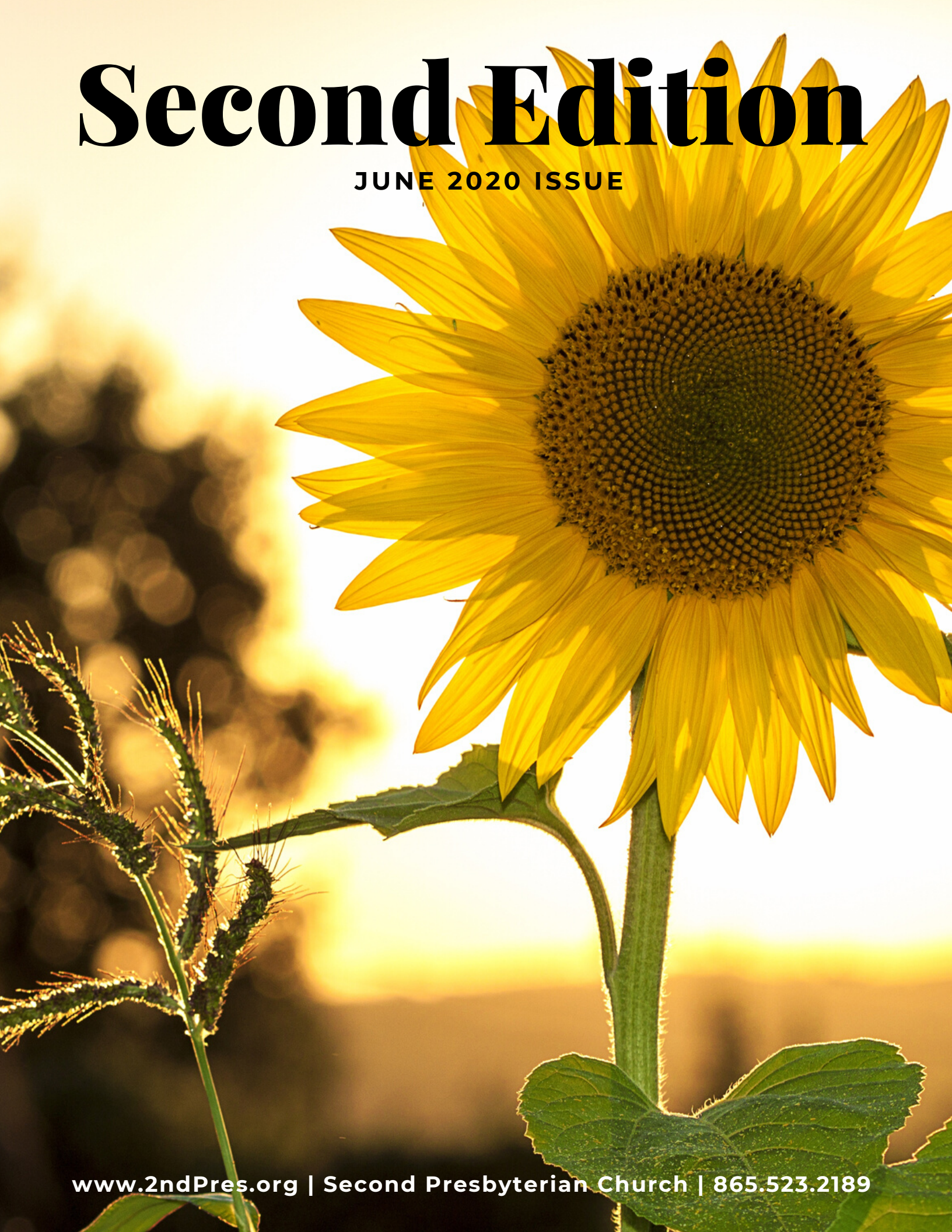


Second Edition

JUNE 2020 ISSUE



On Second Thought...

During his term as President, Thomas Jefferson and a group of companions were traveling across the countryside on horseback. They came to a river which had overflowed its banks due to recent rains. The swollen river had washed the bridge away. Each rider was forced to ford the river on horseback, fighting for his life against the rapid currents. The very real possibility of death threatened each rider.

Just prior to this, a single traveler had reached the same crossing on foot, only to find the bridge washed away. As he stood there pondering how he was going to get across, President Jefferson's party arrived and began their crossing. After seeing the men and their horses begin to cross, the traveler asked President Jefferson if he would ferry him across the river. The President agreed without hesitation. The man climbed on and shortly thereafter both men were safely on the other side.

After thanking the President, the stranger slid off the horse. As he was preparing to continue on his way, someone in the President's group approached him and asked, "Tell me, why did you select President Jefferson to ask this favor of?" The man was shocked, admitting he had no idea it was the President of the United States that had helped him. (This, of course, was before the days of photography.) "All I know," he said, "is that on some of your faces was written the answer 'No' and on some of them was the answer 'Yes'. His was a 'Yes' face."

There are two things that strike me about this story. First, when it comes to humanity God writes the answer "Yes" on his face. So many people have this idea that God is against us, just waiting for us to trip up so that he can smite us with a lightning bolt. But the Bible tells a different story.

The Bible tells the story of God loving us even when we don't love him, of God being faithful to us even when we are unfaithful to him, of God providing and caring for us even when we sin. The Bible tells the story of God coming to us in Christ Jesus "while we were still sinners," as Paul writes in Romans, and dying for us. Jesus Christ is God's resounding "Yes" to all of humanity.



The simple truth is, when we are facing certain death, God, with "Yes" etched on his face, picks us up, puts us on his back, rescues us, and gives us life. Because of this, we are called to say "Yes" to the world. Which brings me to the 2nd thing.

As we approach day 734 of quarantine (that's how long it's been, right?), what face are we presenting to the world? In these difficult times, as the country starts to reopen, as our political divisions are influencing our responses to this health crisis, as our leaders exploit that division for their own gain, as people are anxious and worried and afraid and defiant and angry and judgmental, as people are yelling at each other in stores, as people are shooting people who ask them to wear a mask, as the Covid-19 death toll rises over 100,000 - there's a lot of negative energy out there. There are a lot of faces upon which is written the answer "No".

Let's not add to that. People aren't drawn to those with "No" on their face. People don't look to those with "No" on their face for hope and help. God says "Yes" to us and calls us to say "Yes" to all of humanity. Let's put "Yes" on our face and respond to people with love, kindness, gentleness, compassion, sympathy, care, and concern during these difficult times. Let's show the world that our hope is not in vaccines or treatments or flattened curves or masks, but in Christ Jesus. If that's what they see on our faces, perhaps they will put their hop in him, as well.

Grace and peace...

A handwritten signature or mark, possibly reading "J.M." or similar, enclosed in a simple oval loop.

IN THIS ISSUE

ADMINISTRATION	4
WORSHIP & CELEBRATION	5
DISCIPLESHIP	8
STUDENT MINISTRY	9
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN	10
CARE & COMPASSION	11
SERVICE & OUTREACH	12
STEWARDSHIP	13

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL REOPEN JUNE 8TH!

Now that the City of Knoxville & Knox County have moved to Phase 2 of its reopening plan, the church office is once again open for regular office hours, which are **Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

In order to maintain social distancing guidelines and not take any unnecessary risks, we are still encouraging folks to complete all church business **via phone and email and to not come to the church office unless absolutely necessary**. If you do find it necessary, however, we ask the following:

- 1) **Make an appointment.** If at all possible, we would prefer that you please call and make an appointment to see whomever you need to see or do whatever business needs to be done. This allows us to keep density at a minimum and to avoid having too many people on the property at the same time.
- 2) **Wear a mask.** We are asking anyone coming to the church office to please wear a cloth mask while on the church property. This is for the protection of everyone, including office staff. We will have disposable masks available, should you forget yours.
- 3) **Do not come if you are sick.** Hopefully everyone knows this by now, but if you are sick or have symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, fever, or shortness of breath, please do not come to the church office.
- 4) **Avoid congregating in groups.** Please conduct whatever business you have at the church office quickly and efficiently. We ask that you not “hang out” or congregate in staff offices, especially the church administrator’s office. Once you have conducted your business, we ask that you leave the church premises to make room for others who need to conduct their own business.
- 5) **Maintain social distancing.** For your safety and the safety of the church staff, we ask that everyone stay at least 6 feet away from staff and from one another whenever possible while on the church premises. Remember, “farther is safer.”

PLEASE NOTE that this announcement pertains to the reopening of the church office only. For the time being all in-person church activities (including worship) remain suspended. Additional information will be given via email and social media at which time it is decided to resume in-person church services and activities.

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS & TOPICS

WE ARE STILL FOLLOWING THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY FOR OUR SERMONS. BUT FOR A LARGE PART OF THE SUMMER WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON THE HEBREW BIBLE SELECTIONS. THE OLD TESTAMENT SELECTIONS FOR YEAR A ARE FROM GENESIS AND TRACE THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOD'S COVENANT WITH HIS PEOPLE. SO WE WILL HAVE A NICE LITTLE SERMON SERIES ON GENESIS FOR ABOUT 6 WEEKS!

JUNE 7TH MAKING DISCIPLES (MATTHEW 28:16- 20)

JUNE 14TH SARAH LAUGHS (GEN. 18:1- 15 & 21:1- 7)

JUNE 21ST HAGAR CRIES (GEN. 21:8- 21)

JUNE 28TH ABRAHAM & ISAAC (GEN. 22:1- 14)

JULY 5TH GOD & ELIAZAR (GEN. 24:34- 67)

JULY 12TH JACOB & ESAU (GEN. 25:19- 34)

JULY 19TH JACOB'S LADDER (GEN. 28:10- 19)

JULY 26TH WHAT CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD? (ROMANS 8:26- 29)

AUG 2ND JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD (GEN. 32:22- 31)

The Sanctuary Lighting Project

WAS COMPLETED THIS MONTH!



In January of this year the Session approved a recommendation to replace all the lighting in the sanctuary with LED lights. The project was completed by Helios Energy of Nashville on Friday, May 8th.



Thanks to Dick Dodson for heading up the project on our end, and to Neal Peebles for helping make decisions on the fly. Thanks, also, to the following folks who helped move pews around the sanctuary to make room for the lift and then return them to their proper places.

Parker Dodson, Taylor Dodson, Dale Henley, Cleston Jones, Max Jones, Will Pruitt, Seth Reynolds

Finally - a BIG thank you to Bill Ragsdale who was a tremendous help with many aspects of the project and without whom things would have been much more difficult!



June Birthdays

John Henley 06/07

Mary Farmer 06/23

Tim Reynolds 06/07

Genevieve Hendrix 06/24

Jim Thuesen 06/08

Elizabeth Rochelle 06/25

Mary Alice Callaway 06/14

Helen Ferguson 06/26

Ruth Campbell 06/16

Margie Gill 06/26

Michael Turner 06/17

Owen Wall 06/28

Bonnie Beals 06/18

Sherri Lee 06/30

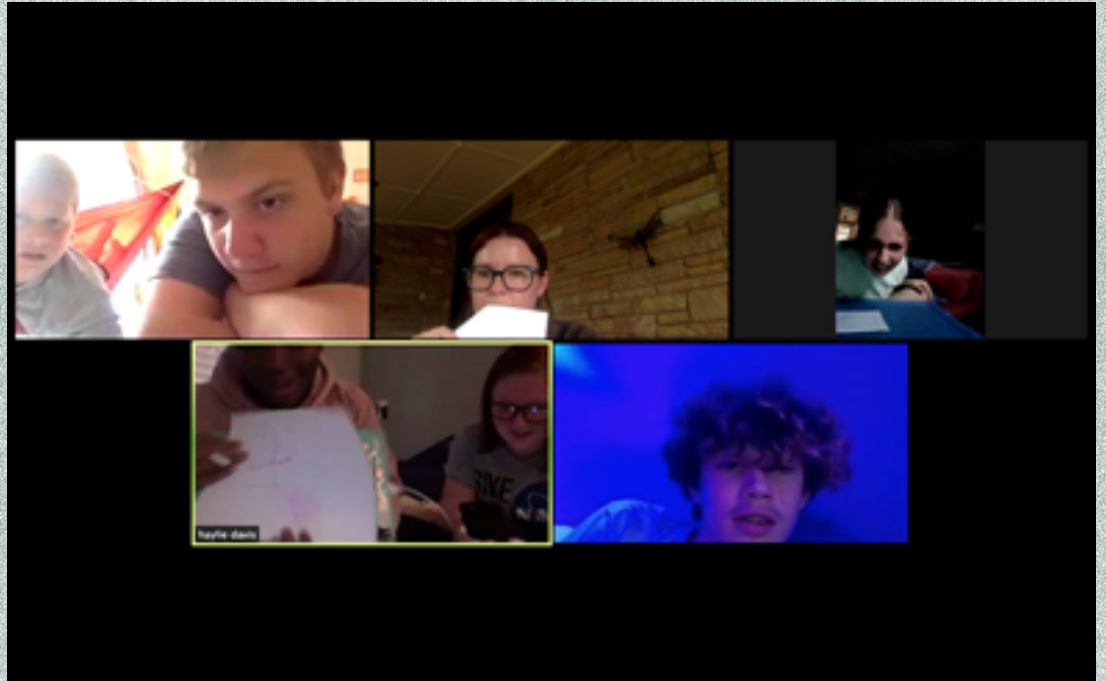
Summer Bible Study On Racism

Due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines, we are taking our summer Sunday school online! You may recall that we usually have a combined Sunday school class in the summer where we discuss hot topics and current issues. Since it still isn't safe to gather so many people in one room, we have decided to continue our online Wednesday night Bible study in place of our summer Sunday school. However, we will still be discussing a hot button current issue – racism.

No one can deny racism exists yet talking frankly about it is often difficult. We often feel like we've come a long way in regard to race relations. However recent shootings – such as the one in Brunswick, GA, where 25 year-old Ahmaud Arbery was gunned down by two white men while jogging – show us we still have much work to do. This 11-session adult study on racism in America is designed to help start faithful, honest, and freeing conversations about race and racism in our country.

Our first class will be on Wednesday, June 17th, and will open up avenues for interaction that will make the conversation on race easier. In other sessions, we will come to understand terms such as race, ethnicity, power, privilege, and culture. Will explore some key concepts that are often misunderstood, such as white privilege and the nature of its impact on society. We will also take a closer, more focused look at the issues of affirmative action and consider the cultural ramifications of segregated churches. Also included is a substantive and enlightening look at the history of racism in America from 1492 to the present. And we'll go even further back in history with a look at racism in the Bible, where differences were more likely to be based on culture rather than color.

We hope that you'll join us at 6pm on Wednesdays this summer for this challenging but enlightening study.



OUR YOUTH GROUP CONTINUES TO MEET VIRTUALLY TO STUDY THE BIBLE AND PLAY GAMES. HERE'S A SCREEN GRAB FROM A RECENT GAME OF ONLINE Pictionary WHERE THEY ARE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT LILY REYNOLDS' DRAWING!

POSTPONED!

VBS

DUE TO THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES, WE HAVE DECIDED TO POSTPONE OUR RECENTLY ANNOUNCED VBS. UPDATED DETAILS WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS WE ARE ABLE TO RESCHEDULE!

IF YOU NEED A REFRESHER, VBS STANDS FOR OUR VERY BEST SERVICE. EACH DAY, WE WILL TRAVEL TO A DIFFERENT PLACE IN KNOXVILLE TO DO A SERVICE PROJECT, AND WE HOPE THAT YOU'LL JOIN US.

WHILE THIS PROJECT IS BEING HOSTED BY THE YOUTH, IT IS OPEN TO THE WHOLE CONGREGATION. WE HOPE YOU'LL PLAN TO JOIN US IN SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS TOGETHER AS SOON AS WE ARE ABLE!

The Arts & Crafts Circle of PW

The Arts and Crafts Circle of Presbyterian Women have been hard at work! Check out a bit of what they have been working on!



Many of them are working on prayer shawls to get a stockpile together, so they will be ready to work on another project this fall.

Here are a couple of photos of their "works in progress"!



Liz Peebles has also sent items the group knitted and crocheted for the animals injured in the Australia wild fires to the Animal Rescue Craft Guild in New South Wales.



Care & Compassion

JOIN US FOR OUR

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR!

Each Sunday following worship, we will be having a virtual coffee hour immediately following worship. A Zoom link will be sent out in the same email with the worship link on Sunday morning. Following worship just click the link to join your brothers and sisters from 2nd Presbyterian for a time of fellowship. It's BYOC and there's no meeting agenda, no Bible study – just hanging out together and chatting about worship, life, whatever!

You can stay and visit as long as you like, or leave after just saying hey. We hope this will be a good way to have virtual fellowship until we can have the real thing.



EST 1899

SUNSET GAP

COMMUNITY CENTER

Sunset Gap Community Center is located in Cosby, Tennessee, where it seeks to “Build Better Futures with Appalachian Families.” Started in 1899 by the United Presbyterian Church as a mountain mission, it began as Juniper School conducted in a tent. Over time nearby property was purchased and structures were built to accommodate the many programs operating today under the oversight of our Synod.

There is a Food Pantry, where last year 75 meals were prepared and delivered twice a week and 200 food boxes were packed and distributed each week. The Thrift Store offers new and gently used clothing and household goods. The Learning Resource Center provides free access to books and internet, computers and other educational materials.

A major program for the community is the Mission Camps, where mission groups from all over the country come for a week in the summer to help by repairing homes, making houses wheelchair accessible, building decks and porches to expand cramped living quarters, or to improve campus facilities. In past years Second has sent youth missions groups. Unfortunately, there will be no mission camps this summer.

Second Church has had a close relationship with Sunset Gap for many years. Long time members Barbara and Roy Nix were strong supporters; Barbara served on the Board. Our Presbyterian Women have been faithful supporters in many ways, such as collecting food donations to be delivered at the annual gathering of the Presbytery’s PW groups in the fall, collecting items for their Christmas store, and contributing to the purchase of a refrigerated truck for food delivery several years ago.

PW ladies, mark your calendars for Thursday, October 15, in hopes that the annual gathering will take place this year.

Second continues to reach out to a nearby community in need.

Highlights from the May Session Meeting

Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.

Received the Treasurer's Report.

Accepted the recommendation from the Covid 19 Task Force as a whole with minor amendments.

Approved the nomination of Phil Snow as Community Representative Director and Michelle Brothers as Parent Representative Director to fill two vacant positions on the Board of the Pre-School.

Approved a disbursement of \$1000 to our missionaries, the Turks, from the Clara Rennolds Endowment Fund and two disbursements of \$500 each to retired missionaries, the Dimmocks and the Morgans, from the separate Rennolds Endowment Fund for retired missionaries.

Stewardship

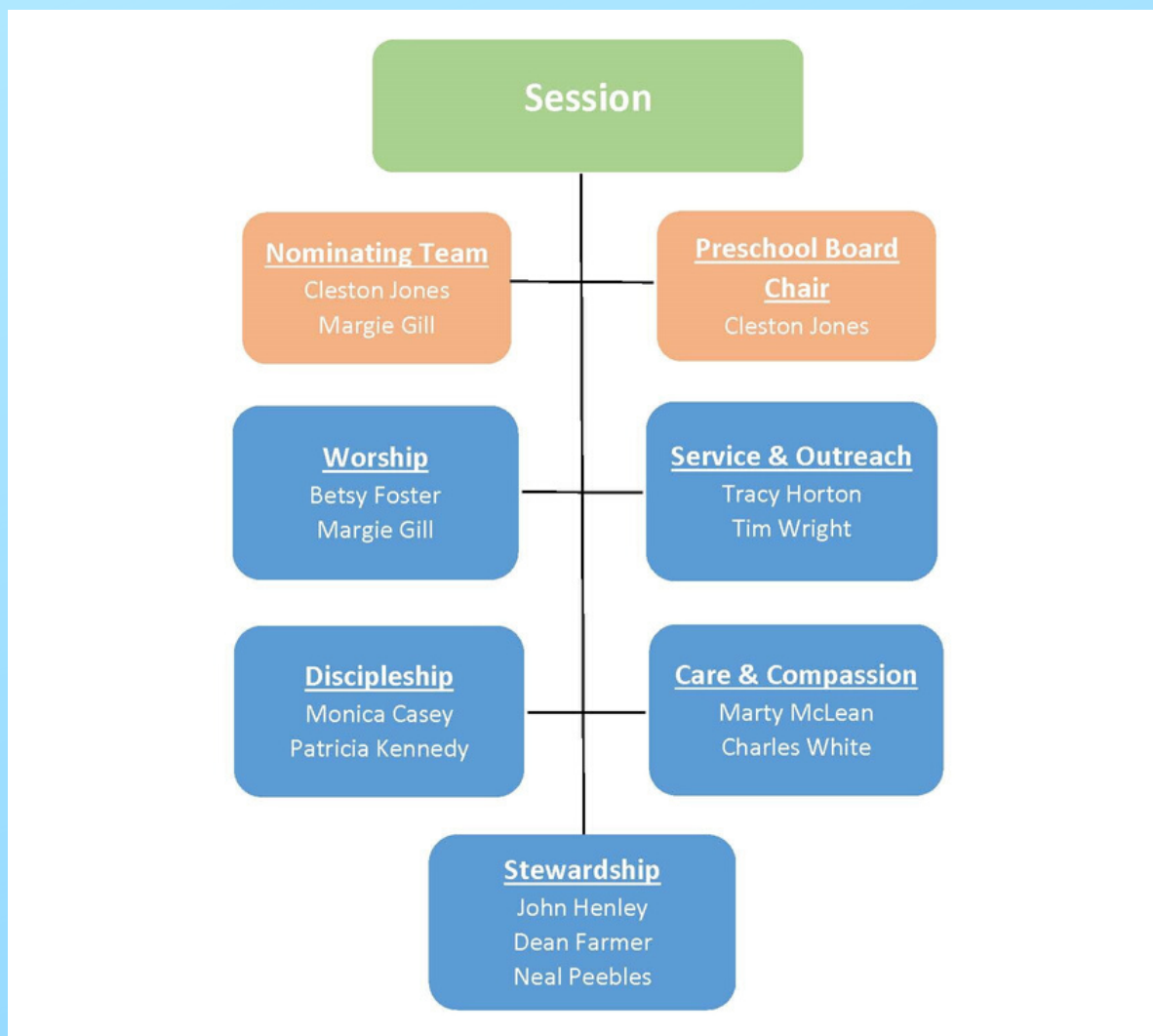
APRIL BUDGET REPORT

	April	YTD	Budget
Total Giving	\$68,254.37	\$310,703.51	\$771,833
Total Expenses	\$52,745.36	\$219,184.13	\$777,908.00
Excess/(Shortage)	\$15,509.01	\$91,519.38	(\$6,075)

New

MINISTRY UNIT MODERATORS

Our new elders came onto the Session in May as the elders from the class of 2020 rolled off. This means that the Ministry Units have new leadership, as well. The chart below shows which elders have been assigned to which Ministry Units. Please contact them if you would like to volunteer to serve in or have any questions about any of the ministry areas.



	1 In-person activities suspended. Church Office Closed 7p Service & Outreach	2 In-person activities suspended. Church Office Closed	3 In-person activities suspended. Church Office Closed	4 In-person activities suspended. Church Office Closed	5 In-person activities suspended. Church Office Closed	6 In-person activities suspended.
7 In-person activities suspended. 9 ³ a Sunday School 11a Worship 12p Virtual Coffee Hour	8 Church Office Reopening! In-person activities suspended. 6p Discipleship	9 In-person activities suspended. 9a Staff Meeting 10a PW Bible Study 6p Planned Giving Mtg 6p Worship Ministry 8 ³ p Men's Basketball	10 In-person activities suspended. 4p Line Dancing 4 ³ p Handbells	11 In-person activities suspended.	12 In-person activities suspended. Church Office Closed	13 In-person activities suspended.
14 In-person activities suspended. 9 ³ a Sunday School 11a Worship 12p Virtual Coffee Hour	15 In-person activities suspended.	16 In-person activities suspended. 6p Session Meeting 7p Boy Scouts 8 ³ p Men's Basketball	17 In-person activities suspended. 3p 2 nd Readers 4p Line Dancing 4 ³ p Handbells	18 In-person activities suspended. 10a Arts & Crafts	19 In-person activities suspended. Church Office Closed	20 In-person activities suspended. July 2 nd Edition Deadline
21 Father's Day In-person activities suspended. 9 ³ a Sunday School 11a Worship 12p Virtual Coffee Hour	22 In-person activities suspended.	23 In-person activities suspended. 9a FISH Pantry 10a House & Garden 8 ³ p Men's Basketball	24 In-person activities suspended. 4p Line Dancing 4 ³ p Handbells	25 In-person activities suspended.	26 In-person activities suspended. Church Office Closed	27 In-person activities suspended.
28 In-person activities suspended. 9 ³ a Sunday School 11a Worship 12p Virtual Coffee Hour	29 In-person activities suspended.	30 In-person activities suspended. 8 ³ p Men's Basketball	PLEASE NOTE: As of the printing of this newsletter, all <u>in-person</u> church activities are still suspended indefinitely . This calendar reflects previously scheduled activities You will be notified when in-person activities resume. Please visit 2ndpres.org for the most recent updates!			



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Congregational Life & Youth*
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David Stultz
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Holly Grimm
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Jan Barber
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THE SECOND EDITION
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2829 KINGSTON PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

*Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace,
we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community,
following Jesus and serving him in the world.*

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2021

Monica Casey
Betsy Foster
John Henley
Cleston Jones

CLASS OF 2022

Dean Farmer
Margie Gill
Patricia Kennedy
Marty McLean

CLASS OF 2023

Tracy Horton
Neal Peebles
Charles White
Tim Wright

MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

Worship & Celebration

Betsy Foster
Margie Gill

Discipleship

Monica Casey
Patricia Kennedy

Service & Outreach

Tim Wright
Tracy Horton

Care & Compassion

Marty McLean
Charles White

Stewardship

John Henley
Dean Farmer
Neal Peebles

Preschool Board

Cleston Jones