

Second Edition

NOVEMBER 2020 ISSUE



On Second Thought...

This month we consider the fifth and final doctrine of the "five points of grace": that we are Held by God. We believe that we are Held by God securely for all eternity. This is the joyous conclusion of the doctrine of salvation.

This has been expressed in different ways by different people:

- *Once saved, always saved*: We cannot lose our salvation.
- *Perseverance of the Saints*: We persevere through to the end, through to heaven.
- *The Perseverance of God*: It is really God who perseveres, not us. God brings us through.
- *The Preservation of the Saints*: God preserves those whom he chooses. Salvation is God's action, not ours.
- *Eternal Security*: Our ultimate destiny is certain.

However we express it, the meaning is the same. I do not have to worry about losing my salvation. The end result is not up to me; it's up to God. My eternal destiny is secure because I am Held by God.

This is what Scripture teaches:

In him you, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it.
(Ephesians 1:13-14 NRSV)

We have an inheritance in heaven, we have not yet come to possess it, but we have the guarantee that we will receive it. That guarantee is the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. With that guarantee, we do not have to worry that we might do something to lose our inheritance.

Scripture goes on to say:

You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish - an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you. Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God's power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time. (1 Peter 1:4-5 CEB)

We have an inheritance in heaven that is protected and guarded by God's faithfulness and power, not ours. Our salvation is dependent upon God's faithfulness, God's power. And as if that isn't enough, we have the promise of God in the words of Jesus, himself:



My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life. They will never die, and no one will snatch them from my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them from my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.
(John 10:27-30 CEB)

There is the image right in Scripture - we are Held by God. Forget being in good hands with Allstate, the Bible tells us we are in better hands with God! No one - not even Satan himself - can snatch us out of God's hands. We cannot do anything to lose our salvation.

Paul tells the Romans that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:39) The reason he is able to give them - and us - this assurance is because our salvation does not depend on us. It depends totally on God. Friends, this is the heart of the Good News.

Sadly, there are many Christians in the world today who do not experience the peace and joy that Jesus Christ brings because they are afraid that they have done or can do something to lose their salvation. They have not been taught the Good News of being Held by God. Rather, they have been taught that their salvation depends on them, on a choice they must make or a prayer they must pray. Further, they have been taught that if they are not perfect, if they "backslide" or lose faith or quit going to church or sin in any way, this will cause them to fall out of God's hand and that they will be in danger of losing their salvation.

This is simply not what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that our eternal security does not depend upon us holding on to God, but upon God holding on to us. Just as a father securely holding on to his child's hand keeps her safe when she stumbles, so we are safe when we stumble because of God's loving grip on our lives. This knowledge frees us from worry, fear, and doubt, to live joyfully and gratefully for him in all we do.

Grace and peace...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J.M.' or similar, located at the bottom right of the page.

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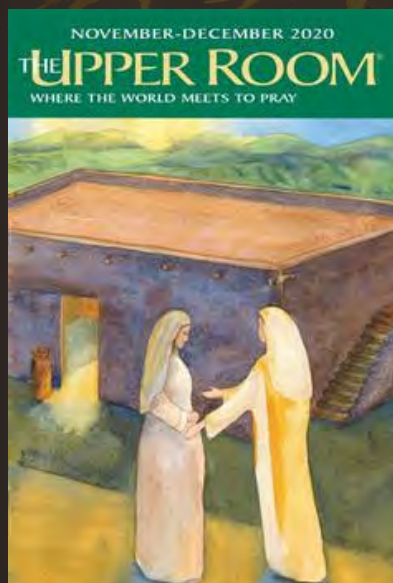
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Upcoming Sermon Texts & Topics

Our scriptures and topics for November will be:

Nov 1	Worship & Hope	Revelation 7:9-17
Nov 8	Covenant Renewal	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Nov 15	The Day of the Lord	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Nov 22	Paul's Prayer	Ephesians 1:15-23
Nov 29	<i>Those Who Dream...</i> Keep Awake	Isaiah 64:1-9 Mark 13:24-37



The November-December Upper Room is available! If you would like one, Sandra Butler has copies that she would like to hand deliver to you! Please contact Sandra directly by phone (659-4416 or 584-4397) or email sandyb446@comcast.net! There will also be copies available in the narthex and the atrium.

All Saints' Day Service of Remembrance and Celebration

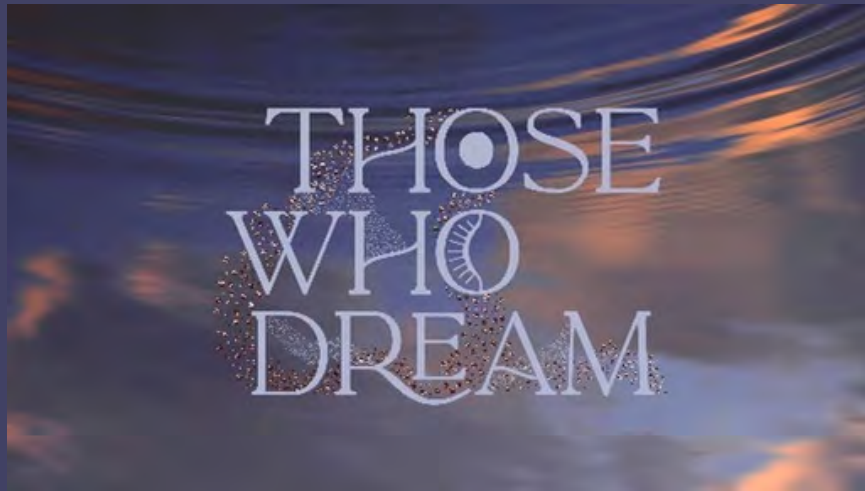
On the afternoon of All Saints' Day (Sunday, November 1st) we will gather in the sanctuary to celebrate the lives of our members who passed on to the Church Triumphant during the time when we could not gather safely in the sanctuary.

The service will be at 3:00 p.m. and will celebrate the lives of Catherine Beals, Nettie Downen, Bill Miller, Al Pierson, John Testerman, and Dottie Thomas.

This service will also be Live Streamed on our YouTube channel.

We ask that you please pre-register via our online system, just as you have been doing for Sunday morning worship.

ADVENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 29TH



Our theme for Advent this year is *Those Who Dream...* It is inspired by the Revised Common Lectionary passages for Advent (Year B), with particular inspiration coming from Psalm 126: “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.”

What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the magi – they were all dreamers. They received, discovered, and responded to God’s dreams for the world. During Advent, we, too, have the chance to be dreamers, stepping into the mystery and awe of God’s dreams as we pray for them to shape our reality.

This series is for those who dream of a deeper connection with God, for those who dream of a better world, for those who dream of comfort, and for those who have given up on their dreams. It is for those whose dreams have been crushed, and for those who show us that dreams take time.

An Advent Devotional will be available in both paper and digital format beginning November 22nd. The first Sunday of Advent is November 29th.

1st Sunday of Advent – ***Those Who Dream...***keep awake (hope)

2nd Sunday of Advent – ***Those Who Dream...***prepare the way (peace)

3rd Sunday of Advent – ***Those Who Dream...***sow joy (joy)

4th Sunday of Advent – ***Those Who Dream...***are not alone (love)

Christmas Eve – this night, we are ***Those Who Dream***

1st Sunday after Christmas – ***Those Who Dream...***will not keep silent

2nd Sunday after Christmas – ***Those Who Dream...***persevere

November Birthdays

Angela Jones

11/02

Ed May

11/09

Bob Cross

11/03

Marsha Grieve

11/11

Imogene Posey

11/04

Parker Dodson

11/18

Joe Clarke

11/05

William Owen

11/18

Bennie Myers

11/05

Tom Sullivan

11/20

Bob Campbell

11/07

Mancil Milligan

11/21

Rachel Rogers

11/07

Mary Nell Pruitt

11/22

Miller Callaway

11/09

Genna Bartlett

11/27



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS DURING NOVEMBER

On the 1st Wednesday in November we will be studying lesson 3 in our study of *Gathering Around the Word*. Our theme will be *Praise God for His Mighty Acts* and we will examine how we are called to offer praise to God in worship for the things he has done, is doing, and will do in the world.

On November 11th and 18th we will discuss our next film, *Lars and the Real Girl**. This is a delightful dramedy about an awkwardly shy, kind-hearted, and possibly mentally ill young man in a small northern town looking for a deep and meaningful relationship. The story shows how his family, faith community, and entire town learn to support the young man they love as he finds his place in the world.

On November 25th we will not meet due to the Thanksgiving Holiday the following day.

**Disclaimer: The movie is rated PG-13 but it does deal with concepts of an adult nature, including romantic love. While sexual acts are not depicted, the story revolves around sexual scenarios and allusions.*



INTRODUCING THE BOOK LADY OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN

Contact Liz Peebles at
865-247-4503 or 865-660-9597.

Notes from the Book Lady:

Many people are out and about. Many of us are not. I have been given some books that you might be interested in reading as we stay at home and stay safe.

A highly acclaimed book from author Eric Larson is *The Splendid and the Vile*. This book is also recommended by Helen Grant, Ed Batts, and Liz Peebles. It deals with the story of Churchill, his family, and happenings during the Blitz. More history comes from author Elaine Weiss - *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Reviews say "superb... I got goosebumps" and "political history at its best." Finally, there are two books from Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard: *Killing Patton* and *Killing Jesus*. Both are billed as fast reads.

Two fiction books that are set in World War II Europe. *A Train in Winter* by Caroline Moorehead recounts the extraordinary story of women, friendship, and resistance in occupied France. It is a "Notable Book of the Year" in the New York Times. From the author of *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*, Jennifer Chiaverini, is the novel *Resistance Women*. This takes a different approach to World War II resistance - inside Nazi Germany! The book is inspired by actual events.

Two books dealing with faith are *When God Winks at You* by Squire Rushnell and *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. My friend and church member Tammy Akers loaned me her well-used book *When God Winks at You*. I really enjoyed this book, especially at the beginning of Covid-19. So those are two recommendations.

Finally, do you need some jollies? Then I recommend the Sam Venable book *You Gotta Laugh to Keep From Cryin': A Baby Boomer Contemplates Life Beyond Fifty*.

REMEMBER, I DELIVER!

The Book Lady
247-4503 or 660-9597 (text available)

In-Person

SHOWER FOR BABY MORGAN!

On October 8th Presbyterian Women held an in-person baby shower for Sarah Morgan whose baby is due in November. Those who attended signed up for a thirty-minute slot. The attendees were given cookies as they left the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Bobbie Denton, Sandra Butler, Caroline Buckner, Helen Grant, and Liz Peebles for the cookies.


A beautiful fall flower arrangement was donated by Bennie Myers. Ileen Cheek brought a Bundt cake for Sarah to take home to share with Andy and Robert. Thanks to Kim Hudgens for the water she donated for our first shower but was not used due to it being a Zoom Shower.

We are blessed to have two new babies in our midst.



A NEW PROJECT FOR THE

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COOKING TEAM!



With our Wednesday night dinners on hiatus, our Wednesday Night Cooking Teams have decided to take on a new project. In collaboration with Jan Barber, Visitation Minister, the teams have identified an opportunity within our congregation to share some food and company with folks that they miss seeing at church.

Beginning in November, members of the cooking teams will come together to create a home-cooked meal, gather safely at the church to package them into individual portions, and then distribute them to some of our members who are living in their homes but may not be getting out and about to either pick up dinner or groceries to make a home-cooked meal.

The teams would love to have your help in cooking and/or distributing meals in hopes that this ministry might be able to grow in the coming months. This is a great opportunity to serve your brothers and sisters of Second Presbyterian Church, to let those that you haven't seen in a while know that you're thinking about them, and even to see some of those faces that you haven't seen in a while.

If you're interested in helping by cooking a portion of one of the meals and/or would be willing to deliver some of the meals, please contact:

Leslie Matthews: flowlilly@gmail.com, (865) 765-0549.





The Service & Outreach Ministry is working to resume FISH on the 4th Tuesday each month starting in November. FISH Hospitality Pantries are the largest direct food providers that distribute food to over 7,000 families each month. If you are interested and can help with delivery or the packaging of food at the church, please contact Tim Wright, Tracy Horton, or Dick Dodson.

otwright4.7@gmail.com

tracy4edu1@aol.com

rtdodson52@gmail.com

WEST VIEW SCHOOL WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

Second Presbyterian Church for their help in purchasing school coupon books. Your purchases generated programming assistance of \$134.00 (\$1.00 per book sold + contributions) for the 2020-2021 school year. We greatly appreciate YOU!

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Pastors' Discretionary Fund is a fund used by the pastors to assist people in times of difficulty or special need. It provides a discreet and direct way for our pastors to help individuals who are in need, both within and outside of the congregation. It's called the Pastors' Discretionary Fund because the pastors have the discretion to use these funds to help people without having to seek prior approval from a committee or the Session. This allows the pastors to offer immediate help and relief to individuals when needed. To ensure that there is accountability the Treasurer of the congregation must review and approve each check by signature and money is never given directly to individuals. When the pastors use this fund, it is to directly pay companies or entities that will result in helping individuals.

Monies in the fund are donated by individuals in the congregation who desire to help those in need. In recent months this fund has been used to pay for the fumigation of a home infested by bed bugs, to pay the utilities bills of two families whose electricity was going to be turned off, to pay for necessary car repairs so a young man could keep his job, to pay for part of a headstone for a family whose teenage son committed suicide, and to help with mortgage and utilities expenses for a family experiencing loss of income due to injury and due to the pandemic. Thanks to all who have donated to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in the past year. Your gifts have made a real and tangible difference in the lives of many.



Updates from the Session



Highlights from the October 2020 Stated Session Meeting

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Approved the transfer of Mrs. Mary Alice Porter to Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, Knoxville and Harriet Rosson Starkey to the Church of the Cross in Bluffton, South Carolina.
- Elected Elders Dean Farmer and Neal Peebles as Representatives to the November 2020 Meeting of the Presbytery of East Tennessee.
- Approved the resumption of monthly communion beginning in November 2020, with those worshipping in person using self-contained, prefilled communion juice and wafer sets.
- Approved having a Christmas Eve Service via live stream only.

Stewardship



SEPTEMBER BUDGET REPORT

	September	YTD	Budget
Total Giving	\$41,024.55	\$597,989.04	\$771,833
Total Expenses	\$56,022.20	\$499,264.65	\$777,908.00
Excess/(Shortage)	(\$14,997.65)	\$98,724.39	(\$6,075)

1 Daylight Savings ENDS! Communion Sunday 9a Outdoor Worship 11a Worship (Sanctuary) 3p All Saints Day Service	2	3 Election Day 9a Staff Meeting 5p Facilities Meeting -Zoom 6p Care & Compassion-Zoom 6p Stewardship-Zoom 6p Boy Scouts Meeting 7p Service & Outreach-Zoom	4 6p Wednesday Night Study (via Zoom)	5	6 Church Office Closed	7
8 9a Outdoor Worship 11a Worship (Sanctuary)	9 6p Discipleship-Zoom	10 10a Presbytery Meeting-Zoom 6p Worship Ministry-Zoom 6p Boy Scouts Meeting	11 Veteran's Day 6p Wednesday Night Study (via Zoom)	12	13 Church Office Closed	14
15 9a Outdoor Worship 11a Worship (Sanctuary)	16 12p Preschool Board	17 9a Staff Meeting 6p Session Meeting-Zoom 6p Boy Scouts Meeting	18 6p Wednesday Night Study (via Zoom)	19 10a Arts & Crafts	20 Church Office Closed December 2nd Edition Deadline!	21
22 9a Outdoor Worship 11a Worship (Sanctuary)	23	24 9a FISH Pantry 6p Boy Scouts Meeting	25 No Bible Study	26 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed Preschool Closed 	27 Church Office Closed Preschool Closed	28
29 9a Outdoor Worship 11a Worship (Sanctuary)	30					



Second Presbyterian Church
2829 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37919
Ph. 865.523.2189
Fax 865.637.2617
www.2ndpres.org

CLERGY STAFF

Pastor Tim Reynolds
Pastor/Head of Staff
treynolds@2ndpres.org

Pastor Sarah Morgan
*Transitional Associate Pastor for
Congregational Life & Youth*
smorgan@2ndpres.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Matthew Mimbs
Director of Music & Arts
mmimbs@2ndpres.org

David Stultz
Asst. Dir. of Music / Organist
davidstultz12@gmail.com

Holly Grimm
Children's Ministry Coordinator
hgrimm@2ndpres.org

Jan Barber
Visitation Minister
jbarber@2ndpres.org

SUPPORT STAFF

Audrey Johnson
Church Administrator
ajohnson@2ndpres.org

PRESCHOOL STAFF

Linda Sue Byrd
Director
lsbyrd@2ndpres.org

Holly Grimm
Assistant Director
hgrimm@2ndpres.org

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