

*What's First
at
Second Presbyterian Church
May 2026*

Our Vision

*As members of Second Presbyterian Church,
We gather in worship;
We grow in God's Word;
We serve in Jesus' name.*

Session

Moderator

William C. Seay, Jr.

Clerk of Session

Bettie Guthrie

Session

Beverly Coleman

Carl Guthrie

Garland Harrison

Alice Martin

Mark Stevens

Wendy Stevens

Committees:

Building & Grounds

Carl Guthrie

Finance/Stewardship

Mark Stevens

Office & Personnel

Garland Harrison

Wendy Stevens

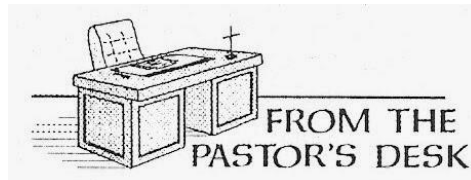
Outreach

Carole Ellis

Kimberly Jones

Worship/Education

Alice Martin



The student led protests at Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China began on this month in 1989. Both university pupils as well as

everyday Chinese citizens marched to the Square to demand the political reforms of a recently deceased Chinese Communist Party member be made law. Military tanks and troops attempted suppression only to fail as students stood in front of tanks to show no intimidation.

The military left the Square on May 20, 1989, unable to stop the protests. Some moderate political and economic reform later came to China. Yet much is to be desired, still.

We Christians must also stand up against an ungodly world. Many persecute us as they did Christ and the prophets before Him. But we must do so peacefully.

It shows that God's Powerful Love cannot be stopped and that Jesus as John reminds us, overcame the World!

"For you will be persecuted if you follow Jesus Christ."
(2 Timothy 3:12).

William C. Seay, Jr.

MOTHER'S DAY/FATHER'S DAY OFFERING
May 10

The Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering supports the Sunnyside Communities Fellowship Fund and provides financial and personal resources for residents who can no longer fully pay their way. This Presbyterian Ministry serves more than 800 older adults in our three retirement communities: Sunnyside in Harrisonburg, Summit Square in Waynesboro and King's Grant in Martinsville.

**Please make your checks payable to Second Church and
on the memo line write Mother's/Father's Day Offering.**

OUTREACH COMMITTEE
Carole Ellis and Kimberly Jones

PRAY FOR:

CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Christian sympathy to Betty Plocek and family upon the death of her husband Neal, Martha Churn, Bill and Mona Ellis, Bob Elmore, Garland Harrison, Brandy Martin, Keith Snavely, Wayne Tucker, Ethel Peterson, Thelma Kirkland, Eva (Becky's niece), Jack Schoeb, Liam Clegg (Guthrie's grandson), Amy Rush, Whitney Palmore, Susan Crew and Bonnie Snyder.

WORLD AND COMMUNITY: The Middle East, Men and Women in our Armed Forces.

“Share with God's people who are in need.” Romans: 12:13

SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR BLESSING BOX: Peanut butter, jelly, snacks (fruit snacks, crackers, chips, applesauce).

SUGGESTIONS FOR DCU FOOD PANTRY: Pasta, rice, canned milk, dried beans.

We appreciate the donations each of you make for the two above needs. The need is greater than ever. Thank you for your continued support.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Alice Martin, Moderator

PW BIRTHDAY DINNER

Monday, May 4

6:00 p.m.

We all enjoy this special gathering each year as all Area 5 Presbyterian Women come to celebrate the important work we each do and have a wonderful time seeing friends from all the churches. Our speaker will be The Rev. Aggie Walker from Bott Presbyterian Church and, of course, a delicious dinner will be served. We hope all of our PW will be able to join in the fun.

MORNING CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 5

10:30 a.m. in the church parlor.



PW MAY MISSION PROJECT: Gloria Summers

May 31- Networker's "Nickels for Nets" is a malaria prevention program. Malaria kills a child every 30 seconds making it the most common cause of death for a family in sub-Saharan Africa. Make your checks payable to **Presbyterian Women** and on the memo line add *Nickels for Nets*.
PLEASE HELP!!!

SPC BREAKFAST CLUB

TUESDAY, MAY 26

8:00 a.m.

McIlwaine Hall

All are Welcome!

Don't forget to sign up in the church office.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Bettie Guthrie, Clerk of Session

Stated Session Meeting; Approved September 28, 2025 Stated Session Meeting: Ratified the Electronic Vote of December 9, 2025 and December 31, 2025; January 29, 2026, February 4, 2026, February, 26, 2026

Received the November, December, 2025 and January and February, 2026 Treasurer's report.

Received the annual Audit by Wendy Stevens indicating "Based on the scope of the audit the books are in balance as of December 31, 2025. It is in my opinion, Second Presbyterian Church finances are being handled in a most conscientious manner.

Approved the Clerk of Session report for the 2025 Church Statistical Report.

Approved Clerk of Session recommendation to no longer maintain "Servant Keeper" since it is not used and their annual fee is increasing from \$200 to \$500.

Approved Building and Grounds recommendation to replace the entire Sanctuary air conditioning System at an approximate cost of \$65,000.

Approved the repair of the office roof, at an estimated cost of \$28,000.

Approved moving worship service to McIlwaine Hall after Easter in an effort to save gas and AC costs.

Electronic Vote December 9, 2025– Ratify approval of Rev. Carson Rhyne as Pulpit Supply on December 14, 2025. Pastor William is not available.

Electronic Vote December 31, 2025: Ratify the approval of the 2026 Budget; and approve AA's request to use McIlwaine Hall for their anniversary breakfast on Monday, January 26, 2026 9:00 a.m. – noon.

January 10, 2026 Temporary General Presbyter, Kerry Foster was notified that "Second Church no longer meets the Book of Order Guidelines G – 2.0401 and G – 2.0404 and W – 4.0403 and requested a waiver of limitations of Election of Elders, Terms of Service, and Order of Worship.

Electronic Vote January 29, 2026: Ratify the approval of a hymn sing on Sunday, February 8, 2026 rather than pulpit supply.

Electronic Vote February 4, 2026: Ratify the approval the request from Westminster Presbyterian Church to use Second Church Sanctuary on February 10 for a funeral service for Mrs. Ora Bonner. Rental fee waived and only Sexton fee charges.

Electronic Vote February 28, 2026: Ratify the approval to allow former Music Director Donald Traser to digitize the framed images of our former Pastors beginning March 1. The images are now digitized and online at the church website.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Carl Guthrie, Chair.

Pardon our dust. we are repairing the sagging roof over the office.

Special thanks to Jon Shaffner for volunteering to take care of the Church grounds. Thanks again for doing a great job last week.

11 Marlee A. Dance
Mary Tucker
18 Jenna Autrey Zufelt
Reeves A. Dance
21 John W. Spence

MAY BIRTHDAYS



27 William Spencer
Kathy Traylor
28 Heather Gill
29 Eli Iselin
31 Jeanne Johnson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2026					1	2
3 11:30 Worship	4 6:00 PW Birthday Dinner	5 10:30 Morning Circle	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day 11:30 Worship Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering Received	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 11:30 Worship	18	19	20 12:00 noon "What's First" Articles for June Due	21	22	23
24 11:30 Worship 12:45 Session	25 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	26 8:00 SPC Breakfast Club	27	28	29	30
31 11:30 Worship Nickels for Nets Received						

Second Presbyterian Church
419 W. Washington Street
Petersburg, VA, 23803

Address Service Requested

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

Written in Flanders on May 3, 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



*All we have of freedom,
All we use or know,
This our fathers bought for us
Long, long ago.
-- Rudyard Kipling*