

THE HIDDEN LESSONS OF BIBLICAL BANQUETS
“Inviting the Unusual Suspects”
Second Presbyterian Church, August 20, 2017

Second Presbyterian Church

We are . . .
 a family of Christians,
called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD’S GRACE AND LOVE,
 to care for one another,
AND TO SERVE JESUS CHRIST
 in our community and throughout the world.

2017 SPC SESSION AND MINISTRY TEAMS

Larry Hull, Clerk of Session

DISCIPLESHIP

Helen Pribesh
 Jeff Stark
 Marie Finch
 Sandra Simmermon

MISSION AND STEWARDSHIP

Alice Allen-Grimes
 Elizabeth Sherin
 Joe Morgan
 Denise Tinkham

ADMINISTRATION

Sam Stearns
 Dave Horner
 Bill Reed

STAFF

Dr. Craig Wansink, *Senior Pastor*
 Rev. Catherine Hart Monroe, *Covenant Associate Pastor*
 Isaac Thomas, *Pastor of Music, Outreach, and Technology*
 Katie White, *Director of Administration and Publications*
 Philip Ndahi, *Director of Youth*
 Horatio Menendez, *Nursery*
 Hallie Edwards, *Nursery*
 Tom Libbey, *Facility Manager*
 Helen Pribesh, *Parish Cook*
 Barbara Watson, *Housekeeper*

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Our pastor since 2010, Dr. Craig Wansink received his Ph.D. in New Testament from Yale University, after having graduated from seminary in Chicago, and having studied at universities in Japan, Jordan, Germany, and Israel. Since 1993 he has been a Professor of Religious Studies at Virginia Wesleyan College. Craig is married to Nancy Chapman, and his two children – Katrina and Teddy – are college students.

Rev. Catherine Hart Monroe, our Covenant Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Spiritual Formation, received her M.Div. from Union Presbyterian Seminary in 2016. She and her husband, Chuck, live in Norfolk with their three children, Whitley, Hart, and Alden.

Isaac Thomas, our Pastor of Music, Outreach and Technology, joined the SPC staff in 2014. He received his education at John Brown University and The University of Texas at Arlington. He is a published composer and has served as conductor for contemporary Christian recording artists Twila Paris and Fernando Ortega. He is a recent graduate of Dubuque Theological Seminary via the Commissioned Lay Pastor program. Additionally, he recently completed a six-week piano course through The Juilliard School under the instruction of Dr. Michael Shinn, Chair of Keyboard studies.



— We Gather in God’s Name —

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
 Greet your neighbor with the peace of Christ.

CHIMING THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Peggy Troyer, piano

Peggy Troyer, piano

Whether we are old or young, whether we are first-time or longtime worshipers, whether we come full of doubts or confidence, joy or sorrow, in this place we all are family, because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Welcome!

“True ambition is not what we thought it was. True ambition is the profound desire to live usefully and walk humbly under the grace of God.”
—Bill W.

OPENING INVOCATION (inspired by Luke 14: 7-14)

God, send your Spirit now, so that we may find a place at your table and welcome others into your kingdom.

Be with those who have never known a table blessed by laughter. Have us welcome those who do not know your abiding love.

Remind us, O God, that we are to set many tables, to speak blessings often, and to be your love in the world.

In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #610** “*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*”

Featuring Peggy Troyer, piano; Nancy Chapman, drums; Rob Courtois, bass; Teddy Wansink, guitar

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Loving God, we know you welcome the abandoned, the misfit, the wretched to your feast.

Forgive us for the times we have allowed our prejudices to overrule, and rejected you because you are different or despised.

We know that there is beauty hidden in each person.

Forgive us for the times we have failed to see your face, because you are disabled, poor, or homeless.

We know we are all precious in your sight.

Forgive us for when we have counted you unworthy of our love, for when we have been indifferent to your cries.

We know we are called to share life together as members of one family.

Forgive us for when we have been unconcerned for your suffering, and failed to see others in your worldwide community as you do.

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive us.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

This is the good news. After what God has done for us, what can anyone or anything do to us? We are new people. Forgiven, embraced, and welcomed by God, we are called to offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

***MUSICAL RESPONSE #903 (vs. 1)** “*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*”

—Words based on Pslam 102:1-2; Music by Jacques Berthier and the Taizé Community, France

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and listen to me.

— ***We Hear the Word*** —

TIME OF DISCOVERY “*Jesus Loves the Little Children*”—Traditional Children’s Song

***Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red, brown, yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.***

For those desiring childcare, the nursery is available during the service for children five years of age and younger. In addition, there is a “family room” available at the back of the sanctuary.

“Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines.”
—Henri J.M. Nouwen

VOCAL SOLO “*Let’s Share A Journey*”

—Words and Music by Karen Jackson; Arranged by Eldon Sully

Featuring Karen Jackson, soloist

*Let’s share a journey the way it should be. Let’s share a journey you and me. Let’s share a journey and teach the ways, God’s love can endure all of our days. Lord show us how to accept all people now. Oh show us how, show us now. Let’s share a journey the way it should be. Let’s share a journey you and me. Let’s share a journey and teach the ways, God’s love can endure all of our days. Lord let us sing praise be to God our King. Oh let us sing, let us sing. Let’s share a journey the way it should be. Let’s share a journey you and me. Let’s share a journey and teach the ways, God’s love can endure all of our days. Let’s share a journey and we will see that a journey together that’s the way it should be. Let’s share a journey, Lord, show us how. Let’s make it together right here, right now.
Let’s make it together, right here, right now.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 14:12-24

SERMON

“Inviting the Unusual Suspects”

—Dr. Craig Wansink

HYMN (See Insert) “*Make Me a Servant*”

— ***We Respond to God’s Word*** —

If you have a request you would like the congregation to pray for, please fill out a prayer request form (found in the friendship register) and place it in the offering plate. We will include that request in the bulletin for a month, unless you request for us to leave it longer.

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

(Those who are celebrating a birthday or an anniversary in August will be invited up front for a blessing.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING: THE SHARING OF OUR LIVES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Peggy Troyer, piano

***THE DOXOLOGY #965** “*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*”

—Words by Thomas Ken; Music by Louis Bourgeois

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***HYMN #743** “*O God, You Are My God*” (*Step by Step*)

Featuring Peggy Troyer, piano; Nancy Chapman, drums; Rob Courtois, bass; Teddy Wansink, guitar

— ***We Are Sent in Christ’s Name*** —

***BENEDICTION**

Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in you generous friends. **Amen.**

***POSTLUDE**

Peggy Troyer, piano

In gratitude we remember God’s blessings. We offer our time, talent, and money, so we grow in our own faith and so we may be a blessing to others.

“We forget that Jesus, whom we claim to follow, was the ultimate lover of otherness in people. Even differences in religion didn’t freak Jesus out when it came to loving people.”
—Holly Sprink

As you leave Second, know that God calls you beyond these walls, to serve Christ and others in your daily life.