



A welcoming community of faith where Jesus Christ transforms lives

**BEGIN,
AGAIN.**



A NOTE FROM CHRIS



My brothers and sisters in Christ,

History will one day tell of the faithfulness with which you have been living. These six months have demanded much of us, of our trust in God, of our collective sense of community. We have been called to clear dependence on one another and reminded of God's reassuring and constant presence in chaotic and uncertain times. I write to

you this October in the year two thousand twenty reflecting not only on our journey since March 15, but on the journey of Second Presbyterian Church since the year eighteen thirty-eight. I write to you at this moment imagining Second Presbyterian Church 182 years from now...it will be the year two thousand two hundred and two. Where will this congregation be? Which convictions of faith will its members confess? How will this church serve Christ and the community beyond its doors?

In 1838, fifteen followers of Jesus Christ united to form Second Presbyterian Church. Henry Ward Beecher was called as your first pastor. The history that followed includes the establishment of new congregations, the founding of missions to serve those in need, the building of schools, even a campaign driven by this church to found the Indianapolis Public Library System. The transcendence of worship, the beauty and meaning of sacred music, the powerful proclamation of the gospel. Education, evangelism, and engagement. Public and civil service, Christian formation, care and hospitality, counseling. Made up of only fifteen members, Second Presbyterian Church set for sail on the seas of transformative love and courageous faith, anchored in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the promises of scripture. For 182 years, for the last six months, we have held firm to this clear call. We have grown in grace and persevered in hope. Second Church has a history of holding faith, together.

In our time, there is deep division in discourse and in deed. There are stormy seas. There is injustice and unrest. There is anger. Fear. And there is persistent uncertainty as we look to the future. Worry and wonder wait together for answers. As people of faith, we have known these times

before. Our ancestors in faith wandered in the wilderness of danger and doubt and found the courage to trust God's guiding hand. Generations of early Christians lived under threat of persecution and clung to the promise of Christ's redeeming grace.

How do we stay on the course of bold and Christ-like love amidst such strife? How do we move forward as a welcoming community of faith where Jesus Christ transforms lives? A question that was asked of the disciples two millennia ago, one that calls us into the pages yet to be written of Second Presbyterian Church for the centuries to come. As it was then, the answer is found in claiming the core conviction at the center of our faith.

Unashamed and with conviction, we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord. We choose to be led by his saving love. We seek to embody his compassion and grace. When Christ calls to us, as he did to disciples long ago, we follow. We must not miss our summons to a future of new possibility.

We must not wait to begin, again.

I invite you into the stories of your history. I invite you to reflect on the faith you have held and lived with great courage since March 15. Read these pages and remember our mission: to be God's sent people bearing a united message of Christ's relentless love. And then ask yourself, when our history is read many generations from now, what will it say of Second Presbyterian Church in the year 2020 and beyond? In the city of Indianapolis, how will we serve and lead? As children of God, how will we love and nurture? With faith, hope, wisdom, and love charting our course, I believe with everything I have that we can begin, again.

With peace and grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris A. H". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Christopher A. Henry

The 2021 Giving Goal/Pledge Campaign

Dear Second family,

We pray that you are all safe and well.

The entire world has changed dramatically during the past few months. Our families and personal lives have not been immune to the disruptions and sufferings the pandemic has inflicted. We mourn for what has been lost. We are anxious about what may come.

Nevertheless, two things abide: God's steadfast love for us through Jesus Christ, and God's commandment for us to love one another.

While it is true that "love never ends" (I Corinthians 13:8), how we experience and share God's love does change. As the stories in this magazine demonstrate, our members and staff have exhibited amazing resiliency, creativity, and perseverance in continuing Second's mission. We have had to so thoroughly reimagine, rethink, and recreate our ministries that it feels like we have had to begin, anew.

However, in reality, with God's abiding love and Second's faithfulness throughout many generations, it is more accurate to say that the crises we face have given us the opportunity to begin, *again!*

We are so grateful for your generosity that has enabled us to carry out Christ's life-transforming ministries through this remarkable year.

As we move into 2021, will you prayerfully consider beginning, renewing, or increasing your financial support? The pandemic's economic impact varies greatly among our members. Some of us are doing all right. Others are

in unknown financial waters. When gathering an offering, the Apostle Paul wrote about the "fair balance" between abundance and need in the church (2 Corinthians 8:12-15). We are called to honor this balance, and in faith, to fulfill our own unique and God-given roles in advancing Christ's work through the church.

As a sign of this unity in Christ, our collective and shared call as disciples to be the church, we choose to embrace scripture's call to look forward with hope and expectation. To remember the words from the letter to the Romans about perseverance and hope – and to seize this historic opportunity to begin, again. As you will read elsewhere in this magazine, next year we will develop new possibilities in virtual participation to further broaden the reach of our mission and Christ's message, to expand community partnerships that serve our neighbors in need, and to deepen engagement opportunities within our congregation.

In expectation of the good and faithful work that awaits all of us, we are asking those who are able to help us to increase our member contributions by 5% (\$250,000).

Commitment Sunday is October 25. We invite you to help create the next chapter of our church's history as we begin, again. Express your goal by using the card below or the online form at SecondChurch.org/Give.

Gratefully Yours,

The Giving Goal Campaign Ministry Team

Jim Maggard, Nancy Frick, Jane Funke, Pete Ritz, and John Koppitch

Please fold and tear to remove this form and return it to the church office with the envelope inserted in the middle of this publication.

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

With gratitude to God,

I/we commit to support the 2021 General Fund by contributing:

\$ _____ per

week month quarter year

Signature: _____

I/We will contribute by:

- Cash or Check
- *Automatic monthly bank withdrawal
- *Visa/ MasterCard
- *Online through E-giving
- IRA
- Stock Transfer
- Donor Advised Fund or Family Foundation Grant

Please Send

- Contribution envelopes.
- Information about making a bequest

**Please note that the church incurs a fee for these transactions.*

LEAVING SHORE: WHY WE GIVE

Giving generously is a matter of identity, gratitude, and impact.

- First, giving is a matter of our **identity**. We are created in the image of God who is exceedingly good and generous. As we give generously, we fulfill a deep truth of our identity and purpose as children of God. Because giving is what we were created to do, being a generous giver is the way to live a full and meaningful life.
- Second, it is a matter of **gratitude**. Giving generously is a way to thank God for all the blessings we have received: our individual lives; the loved ones around us; our time, talent, and treasure; the forgiveness of our sins; and the promise of resurrection to eternal life. We express our gratitude by loving God and neighbor, following Christ's teachings, and generously sharing from what God has given us.
- Third, it is a matter of **impact**. Jesus told us to make disciples, feed the hungry, clothe the naked...to transform both people and the world. Our generous giving through Second Presbyterian Church makes a difference in the world.



WHY WE GIVE



ON THE HORIZON FOR 2020-2021

Our Strategic Goal for 2020-2021 is “Keeping Christ at the Center (the Ministry of Unity).”

Three directional beacons will guide us:

- *Courageously assess the full programmatic life of our church, in light of the new and emerging realities accelerated by the disruption of the global pandemic.* Ministry departments will provide creative and innovative opportunities for engagement across ministries and missions. This will include increased possibilities for virtual participation, home-centered discipleship, and compassionate care across distance. To achieve this goal, excellence in digital communication of all forms will be prioritized, requiring us to invest in equipment, software, training, and personnel.
- *Take meaningful steps to form, nurture, deepen, and expand partnerships in Indianapolis that offer hope and concrete support to those in deepest need.* Embracing the call of Matthew 25:31-46, we will put faith into action on behalf of the “least of these who are members of (Christ’s) family.” We will review the practices and processes of our own mission programs; evaluate the sustainability and impact of our existing mission partnerships; and explore new opportunities to be in relationship with the diverse community around us. To achieve this goal, we will need to invest significantly in these partnerships, particularly in light of the devastating impact of COVID-19.
- *Offer a seamless and integrated journey from first-time guest (in worship or other event) to prospective member to incorporated member to equipped and engaged member to leader.* This process will emphasize relational ministry and connection to smaller groups and specific ministries for engagement, mission, and formation. All areas of ministry will focus attention on engaging prospective and new participants and cultivating a sense of belonging. While the first two beacons are new for this year, we “stay the course” with this beacon from last year. But now our ship includes a new “crew” (the Session Engagement Committee) as well as a new “mate” (Associate Pastor of Engagement Rev. Mike Sampson)!



CHARTING A COURSE: **WHY SET A GOAL?**

Setting a giving goal and making a pledge is an important spiritual discipline in which we intentionally and prayerfully consider how to be faithful with our financial resources. There are many advantages for ourselves, and for the church, when we set a giving goal.

- In setting a goal, we deliberately and conscientiously plan our support for Second's ministries.
- As we create a giving goal plan, we are better able to follow the Biblical instruction to give our "first fruits" rather than from what is left over.
- With a goal, we can easily track our progress during the year.
- With a plan, we can set up automatic recurring contributions through our bank account or credit card.
- These recurring contributions help sustain our budget throughout the year.
- A giving goal helps church leaders to more effectively prepare and manage our annual budget.

There are many ways to support the church financially: cash or check; on-line; credit card or automatic withdrawal from a bank account (EFT/ACH); withdrawal from an IRA; stock transfer, grant from a Donor Advised Fund or Family Foundation.

Each gift, no matter the size and no matter the source, makes a difference. Because member contributions provide over 85% of the operating budget, your General Fund contribution is the single-most effective way to support the whole ministry of our church!



WHY WE GIVE

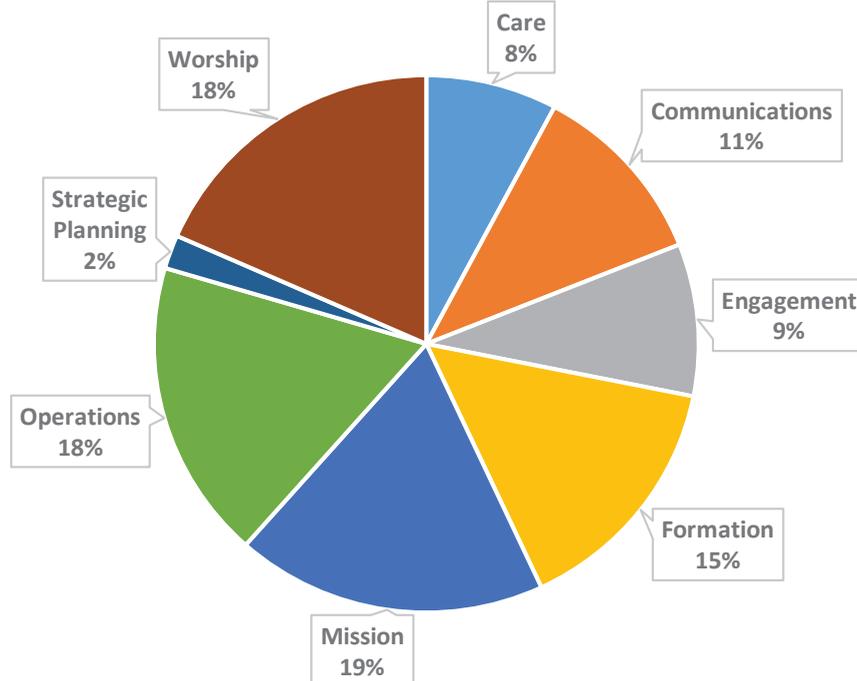


HOW MY GENERAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE USED

It takes nearly \$4.9 million to support our core ministries through the annual General Fund budget. Worship, missions, youth ministries, children’s ministries, fellowship, adult education, communications, salaries and benefits, utilities, building maintenance, administration, information technology.... Nearly every activity and ministry is supported directly or indirectly by the General Fund – including all of those described in this issue of the Stewardship magazine.

This chart is a “Narrative Budget” (sometimes called a “Missional Budget”) depiction of our 2020 budget. A Narrative Budget reallocates the traditional line item budget information into categories that depict what we actually do to fulfill our mission. For example, rather than place all salaries into one nondescript “Personnel” line item, this Narrative Budget classifies salaries by what people do. In this pie chart, all salaries have been folded into categories of worship, formation, mission, operations, etc. Certain operating expenses (like utilities) have been allocated in a similar way.

2020 Narrative Budget



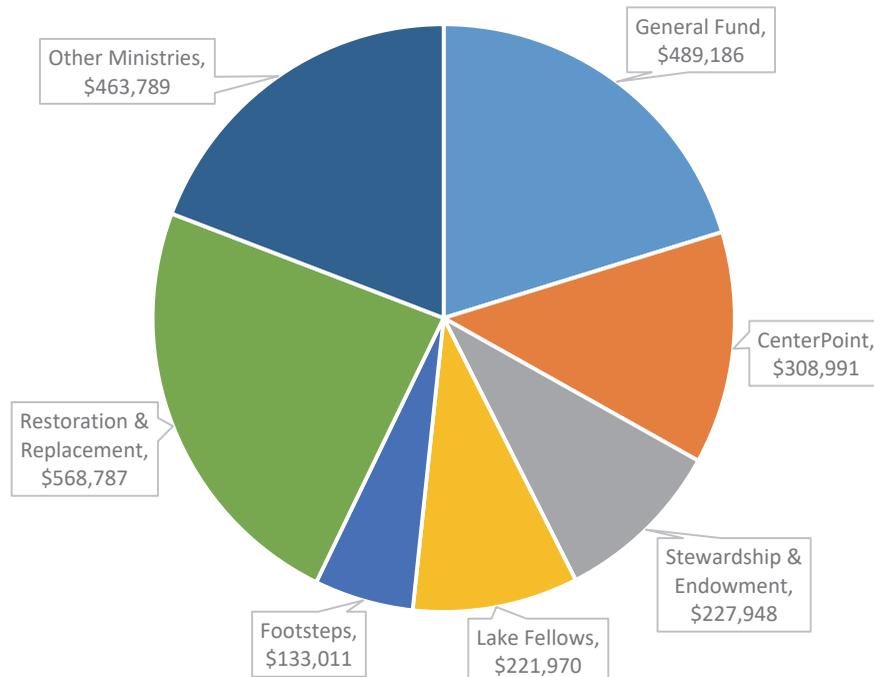
STAYING THE COURSE: THE ENDOWMENT OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

An endowment is not a savings account or rainy day fund. Its purpose is to generate money for Christ's ministry. Donors to our endowment intend their gift to support the church's work for many, many years to come. Their past generosity greatly expands our ability to do ministry today and tomorrow.

Established in 1923 as part of a capital campaign for improvements to the Vermont Street building, the Endowment maintains/improves our current building. Additionally, it provides significant financial support for our Annual General Fund as well for a variety of significant ministries that are outside of the Annual Budget including: Lake Fellows, Footsteps of Faith, Next Steps, CenterPoint Counseling, Music and Fine Arts, Children's Circle Preschool, and Clergy/Staff Renewal Grants. In 2019, Endowment support for all of our ministries totaled more than \$2.4 million.

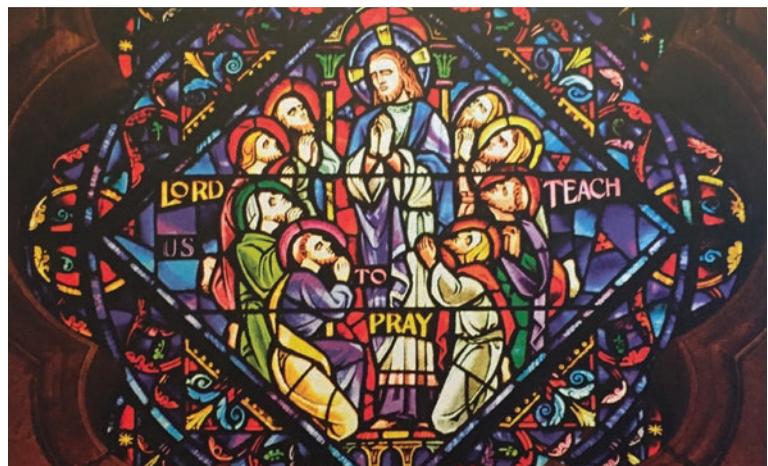
There is no minimum requirement for contributions. While you can make a gift to the Endowment at any time, typically Endowment gifts are made through estate plans, such as a will, bequest, assignment of life insurance, IRA, or 401(k).

2019 Endowment Expenditures



For more information about contributing to the Second Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund (or to inform us that you have already made plans to do so) please contact John Koppitch (jkoppitch@secondchurch.org).

WHY WE GIVE



Navigating Change

Points Along Our Journey Together

The Pandemic of 2020 has dramatically altered our world. The change has been so sudden and pervasive that it is difficult to imagine a “new normal.”

Our mission to be a “welcoming community of faith where Jesus Christ transforms lives” did not change because of the pandemic in 2020. Nevertheless, how we carry out that mission has changed, and it will continue to change, in remarkable ways.

We find ourselves at an extraordinary turning point in world history. What will the future be like? How is God calling us to preserve, restore, and advance a more authentic expression of faith in this dramatically different world? We know that doing everything the same as before the pandemic is not possible. But neither do we have to create something totally from scratch.

This moment in history does not demand the writing of a new book about our church. However, it does call for a new chapter – a chapter that may look very different from all previous chapters. Yet this new chapter is not completely discontinuous with our past. It flows from our past - a past that gives us confidence in our ability to move faithfully into an unknown future. As the following stories show, we’ve done it before. God will lead us to do it again. This new chapter might well be titled: “Begin, Again.”

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: A CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION

“Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda” (a church reformed, always being reformed) was a motto of the 16th Century Reformation. According to Presbyterian Theologian Dr. Anna Case-Winters, the translation of this phrase is most important. The Latin verb is passive and should be translated as “always being reformed” or “always to be reformed.” The church is the object of God’s reforming work. The church does not reform itself.

Rightly understood, this phrase “does not bless either preservation for preservation’s sake or change for change’s sake.” It invites us, as people who worship and serve a living God, to be open to being re-formed according to the Word of God and the call of the Spirit.

There have been several dramatic turning points in our congregation’s 182-year history where God was calling us to be reformed. To, as it were: begin, again. This was never more true than at the very creation of our congregation.

THE CHARTERING OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In the early 19th Century, Presbyterians were embroiled in the “Old School/New School” controversy that involved several interrelated subjects of theology, ecclesiology, and missiology. Did original sin doom individuals to damnation unless otherwise selected by God for salvation, or was sin a burden that a practicing Christian could struggle against and perhaps overcome? Were the basic confessions of the church (like the Westminster Confession written in 1647) binding, or were they admittedly human documents that the Spirit might lead subsequent generations of Christians to interpret and/or improve? Also in dispute was the church’s responsibility to improve the conditions of life in the earthly world – particularly with respect to the issue of slavery.

Since 1801, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches cooperated with each other under the terms of a Plan of Union. For the most part, Presbyterians tended to be Old School, while Congregationalists were New School. The controversy between these two understandings of the Church came to a head in 1837 when the Presbyterian General Assembly repudiated the Plan of Union, going so far as to expel several Synods that had been organized under the plan. The expelled Synods promptly organized their own denomination and urged like-minded Presbyterians to affiliate with this New School Presbyterian Church.

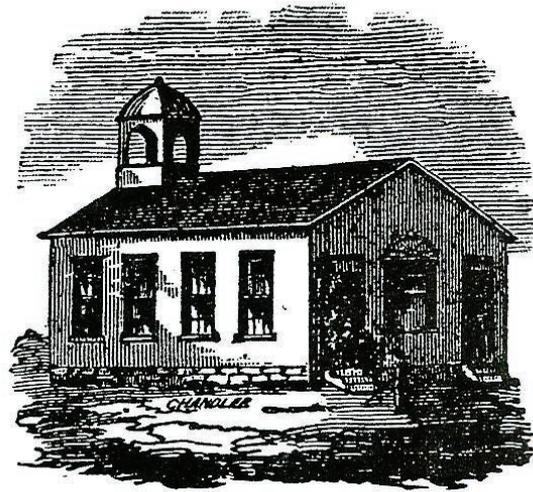
In Indianapolis, First Presbyterian Church was decidedly Old School. In fact, its pastor was a national leader in defending the Old School point of view. Nonetheless, on November 19, 1838, one year following the General Assembly’s action, 15 members left First Church to organize Second Presbyterian Church as a “New School Presbyterian Church.”

An openness to continuing revelations of the Holy Spirit and a passion for serving others has characterized Second Church from its very beginnings. Its vision for

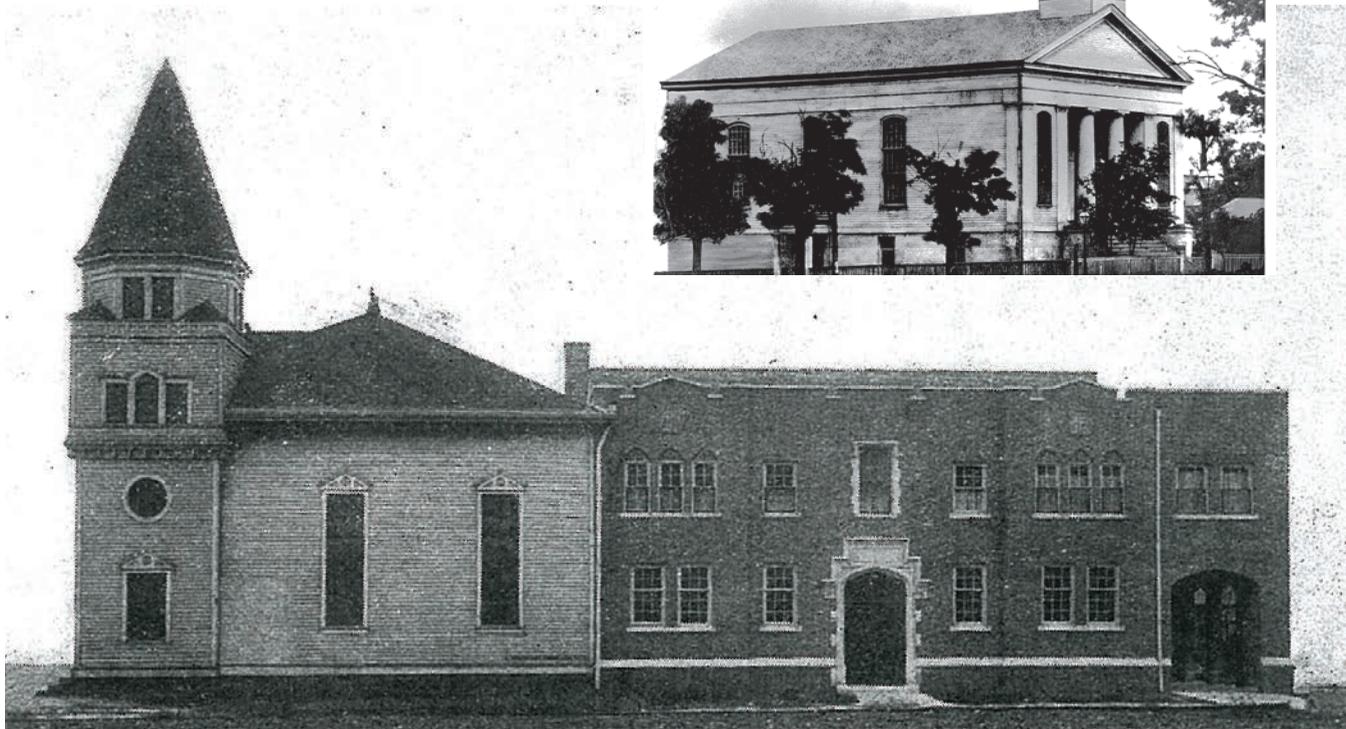
social witness and the transformation of both individuals and society led to the calling of our first pastor, the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, an internationally known abolitionist with a heart for those less fortunate. Under his leadership, Second Church became known as a congregation that took mission seriously.

While this marked the beginning of a brand new congregation, Second Presbyterian did not start from scratch. It drew upon the long history of Presbyterians stretching back to the days of the Reformation, and more recently, the New School movement. It was an opportunity for this particular Presbyterian congregation to begin, again.

Through the remainder of the 19th Century, Second Church continued to expand its outreach ministries by establishing several mission chapels and Sunday Schools for the purpose of evangelization and caring for the sick and poor. The most noteworthy of these was Mayer Chapel, a settlement house modeled after Chicago's Hull House, which provided a multitude of services for the poor. The inner city work of Mayer Chapel continued well into the 1960s.



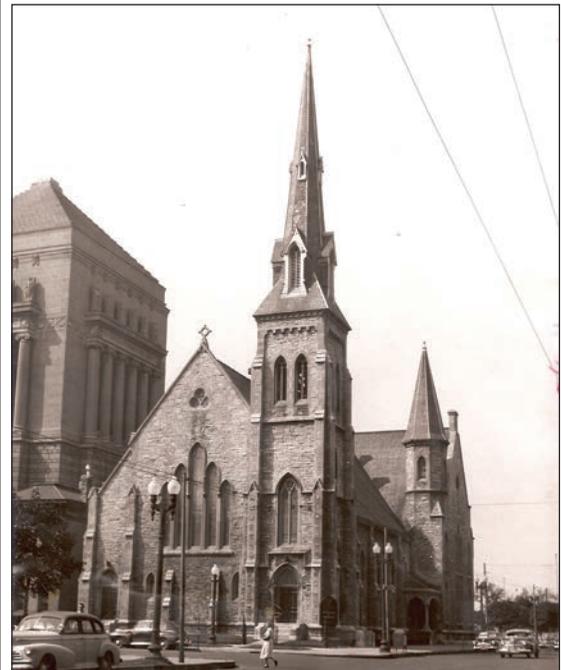
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL ERECTED.
(From an old cut.)





Courtesy Indiana Historical Society, Bass Photo Collection

This 1932 photograph shows the First Baptist Church (foreground left) and Second Presbyterian Church (foreground right) just south of the Indiana War Memorial on Vermont Street in Indianapolis. Both church buildings were demolished in 1960.



RELOCATION TO 7700 N. MERIDIAN

For nearly 100 years (1870 – 1959), the congregation met in a gothic revival building on the northwest corner of Vermont and Pennsylvania Streets in downtown Indianapolis.

In 1919, city and state leaders began planning a Memorial Plaza to honor the veterans of World War I. The Plaza would be a dramatic city centerpiece that would extend five blocks from New York to St. Clair Streets, between Meridian and Pennsylvania Streets. It would be anchored on the south by University Park and on the north by the Public Library.

However, Second Presbyterian Church (and First Baptist Church) already occupied a key portion of the proposed esplanade.

At first, nothing was said about what might happen to the churches. Both were attractive buildings that were certainly consistent with the spirit of the Plaza. Leaders of Second had to sit still and see what the Plaza Committee might do. At the same time, they thought the new Plaza provided an opportunity to make much-needed renovations to the building, which was now over 50 years old. In 1921, the church began to install a set of chimes that could be enjoyed daily by people on the Plaza.

But in 1924, the Plaza Committee unveiled dramatically different plans, which now placed a massive War Memorial building on the same block as the church.

The church had no desire to move. It had deep roots in downtown Indianapolis and much of its focus was on urban activities. Nevertheless, elders worried that the state might begin condemnation procedures to seize the property. Session and Congregational Meeting minutes record that the church advocated to have the Memorial built one block north on Michigan Street as originally proposed. The minutes also noted that “members of the Senate and House of representatives before voting on the bills providing for the Plaza, were assured that our church would not be disturbed.”

Intense negotiations followed, but to no avail. The Memorial was going to be built on Vermont, between the existing church buildings. Options to secure funding to purchase the church’s property all failed. The building survived. However, the congregation had few options for expanding the building in order to accommodate the church’s growing membership, ministries, and programs.

In 1950, it was announced that both churches would be removed from the Plaza. The Plaza Committee and its

governmental supporters began making offers to purchase the building. Varying appraisals of the property complicated the issue. Additionally, the church argued that the cost of relocation should be included. When the County Commissioners finally offered an amount far less than the church’s asking price, only a substantial gift of private funds from an anonymous donor permitted the deal to be concluded. The church had to vacate the mall by 1959.

In 1953, the church accepted a gift of land in Meridian Hills. Ground was broken for the new building in 1956, and on October 4, 1959, the first worship service in the new sanctuary was conducted.

After nearly 100 years in the center of downtown Indianapolis, this old institution found itself with a new building in the suburbs. Second Presbyterian Church had to begin, again.



THE EVOLUTION OF SECOND'S MINISTRIES IN THE CITY

Mayer Chapel

From the beginning, Second was actively involved in urban missionary activity. In 1892, Mayer Chapel was established to serve the southwestern portion of Indianapolis. It was seen as an outpost against many of the evils and temptations of urban life, which included saloons and dance halls. The Chapel began with a strong Sunday School program. A fire destroyed the building in March of 1895, but by May the building had been rebuilt and enlarged. In the early 1900's, ministries included a kindergarten, domestic arts classes, meetings for mothers, and activities for youth. After a building expansion in 1917, athletic programs were created, and a medical clinic for babies and mothers began. A dental clinic opened. Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets were distributed. Glee clubs and scouting programs began.

The Depression brought much misery to a neighborhood that chronically suffered from unemployment. In 1933, the Chapel gave two quarts of milk a day to undernourished children, as well as 2,500 garments and coal to over 200 families.

Second's association with Mayer Chapel/Neighborhood House ended quietly. Since the early 1940s, Mayer Chapel had been increasingly funded by the Community Fund and the Indianapolis Presbytery.

The facility was closed in 1966, bringing 74 years of urban ministry to an end.

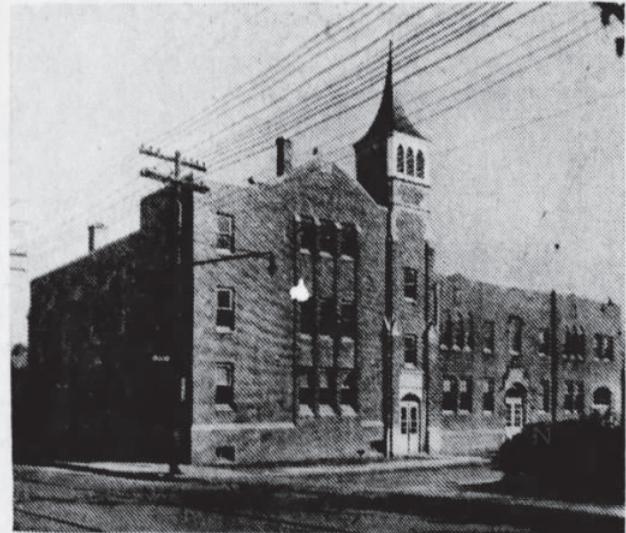
Only to begin, again.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Although Second was now located in a suburban neighborhood, it sought to be a "Caring Cathedral" that "Wraps Its Arms Around the City." To that end, providing members with first-hand experiences in urban ministry was vitally important.

In 1981, Second Presbyterian Church formed a partnership to conduct community outreach with Westminster Presbyterian Church, a small inner-city

Mayer Chapel Presbyterian Church Will Dedicate New Building Nov. 23



NEW MAYER CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Dedication ceremonies for the new Mayer Chapel Presbyterian Church building, Norwood and West streets, completed recently at a cost of \$85,000, will be held Nov. 23.

Merlyn A. Chappel of New York, a secretary of the board of national missions of the Presbyterian Church, will be principal speaker at dedicatory services at 7:30 o'clock that night.

Dr. Jean S. Milner, pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, which sponsored the enterprise, will preside. Elders of Mayer Chapel Church will be ordained under his direction.

The new structure, of modernized Gothic architecture, includes Sunday school rooms, a game room and clinic rooms for dentistry and child care. The gymnasium, a brick addition to the old building, is being retained.

The William P. Jungclaus Company was construction contractor. O. A. Tislow was architect.

The Rev. Roy Linberg is pastor of the church.

congregation on the near-eastside of Indianapolis. Westminster ministered to a community that faced difficult challenges of unemployment, poverty, education gaps, and poor health. In many ways, Westminster evoked memories of Mayer Chapel.

More importantly, Mayer Chapel presented a model for this new relationship. Second began providing significant financial support and scores of volunteers for Westminster's ministries, including tutoring, an after-school program, food pantry, basketball, soup kitchen, and youth job training. Volunteers served on Westminster's Board of Directors.

They also helped maintain and repair Westminster's aging facility.

Eventually, Westminster needed to upgrade its old facilities. As part of the church's 175th Anniversary in 2013, Second raised \$2 million toward a new Adult and Family Services Center, which opened in 2015.



While the mission partnership with Westminster continues today, changing demographics in the neighborhoods surrounding our church building have provided a new opportunity for Second's engagement with urban ministry in the city.

It was time to begin, again.

Northside Mission Ministry

By the early 21st Century, Washington Township had become more socioeconomically diverse, as revealed in this one statistic: 81% of the students at Greenbriar Elementary and Nora Elementary Schools qualified for free or reduced breakfast and lunch.

In some areas of the city, poverty is painfully obvious with empty, overgrown lots, and boarded-up, abandoned houses. However, Washington Township presents the new face of poverty. It is the invisible poverty of the working poor, of families getting by until faced with a catastrophic medical emergency, major car repair, job loss, or divorce.

The racial ethnic profile of the township had also been changing. There had been such an influx of Hispanic and Burmese immigrants that at Greenbriar Elementary School, 30% of the students are English as New Language participants. Throughout Washington Township Schools, there are 75 different languages of origin.

The Northside Mission Ministry Team was formed in the summer of 2009 with the vision of developing specific

programs to address the growing gap between the needs of the community and the basic social services available to meet those needs. The team identified food assistance as an immediate need, and the Northside Food Pantry began operations in December 2009. A rent and utility assistance program (URAP) was added in 2010. In 2011, a partnership with Greenbriar Elementary provided volunteer tutoring and a teacher support program.

In 2013, the 175th Anniversary Fund raised \$500,000 to jump-start the new Northside ministry. A storage area was remodeled and equipped with refrigeration to provide space for the Pantry. A Food Pantry Coordinator was hired. In 2019, the Pantry served an average of 400 families/month. 30 volunteers staff the pantry each week.

In 2018, Northside Mission Ministry continued its development by creating a Board of Directors.



NAVIGATING 2020: HOLDING FAITH, TOGETHER IN WORSHIP

In early March of this year, the season of Lent was upon us. Carefully laid plans for Lenten worship and study and, finally, glorious Easter celebration lay ahead of us with sparkling clarity. Then within a few days in mid-March, everything changed. We shifted to online only worship – surely, just for a few weeks. Days, weeks, and then months passed, and our church settled into a new rhythm of worship.

We celebrate how we have continued to hold faith together during these strange and uncertain times. In addition to Sunday morning services, Second continued the tradition of Maundy Thursday worship by broadcasting the service from 2019. On Easter Sunday 2020, our virtual worshippers surpassed *by the thousands* our in-person attendance on Easter Sunday 2019.

Even as we mourned “Missing Easter” as Rev. Chris Henry titled his Easter sermon, we affirmed that we are Easter people, living into this new reality with grace and hope. On Easter morning, members of our congregation and Sanctuary Choir members led us in song from their living rooms, and in May we were inspired to “Draw the Circle Wide” with a musical video compilation from our Children’s Choirs.

Beautiful music has accompanied and inspired us along this journey. The Music and Fine Arts department brought a blend of creative solutions to Sunday morning worship – with Sanctuary Choir section leaders, other soloists, duets, and guest instrumentalists joining Organist John Allegar (or Dale Caldwell, who filled in when John was on sabbatical). Some worship services have featured carefully chosen music selections from pre-recorded worship services of the past several years.

During the summer months, our online viewership stayed strong, with thousands of worshippers tuning in from around the country. On some Sunday mornings, we have more devices connected to our worship service than there are seats in the sanctuary pews!

As all eyes and ears of the congregation have tuned in online, our AV team has risen to the challenge, overcoming power outages, overloaded streaming platforms, and

exponentially more viewers than ever before. Their dedication and servant leadership continues to bring enhanced broadcast quality to our virtual worship experience and digital communication.

In March we launched a weekly Thursday Evening Prayer Service on Facebook Live. This 15 to 20 minute service is led by one of our pastors, often a Lake Fellow, with another pastor moderating comments. The weekly touchstone provides comfort and care to those in our congregation and beyond. In July the Thursday Evening Prayer featured Virtual Communion with pastors leading the sacrament for worshippers joining from home.

As we look toward the upcoming Advent season, we still face some uncertainty and know that plans may unfold in unexpected ways. But we remember the One who remains constant and sure in our lives. We are learning to adapt and celebrate new ways of worship and praise, as we continue holding faith, together. As in the past, we will begin, again.

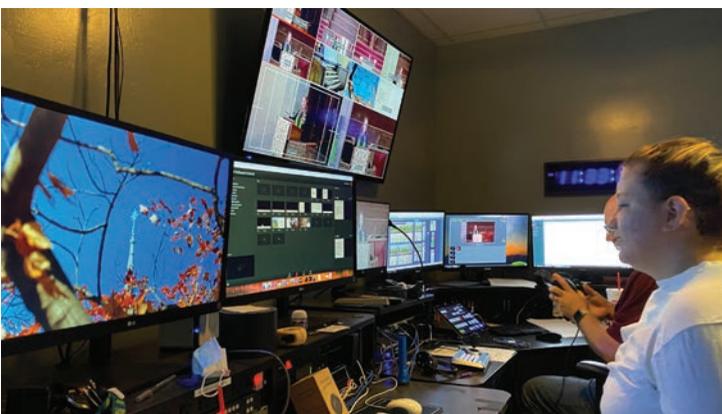
Holding Faith, Together

SecondChurch.org/HoldingFaithTogether

This online magazine chronicles how Second navigated the first weeks of the 2020 pandemic. You can find hope and inspiration in the email messages, video devotionals, sermons, and worship music that encouraged us all to continue holding faith, together.



NAVIGATING 2020



NAVIGATING 2020: CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

As a welcoming community of faith, we share God’s love with each other by supporting one another through calm seas and in turbulent times. Throughout the year, we continue to support each other in ways large and small, communal and individual.

In **prayer** – no matter our distance – we share moments of joy, challenging times, and days of sorrow. This call to stand by one another in prayer stands the test of time and circumstance. Second’s intercessory prayer group has held strong and steady throughout the pandemic, quickly shifting online this spring and consistently joining Second staff in surrounding our members and others in loving prayer. That work goes on. If you have a concern, a sorrow, or a joy, we invite you to share with your church at SecondChurch.org/Prayer.

The **ministry of care for others** with the love of Jesus Christ knows no time or space. Staff and church members have found new ways to reach out to those in need of a gentle affirmation, a kind word, or a reassuring presence. Flowers left on porches, handwritten notes in mailboxes, grocery shopping for each other, sewing masks, drive by parades, delivering meals, posters and signs of love, and more have helped keep hope and fellowship alive. Shepherding one another through grief, new beginnings, and the yet unseen has anchored our faithful work and will always ground our call as disciples of Christ.

The **“Keeping In Touch”** ministry has continued to faithfully reach out to our members to learn family updates and prayer needs. This dedicated group of volunteers provides steadfast care month after month, embodying the presence and care of Christ’s body, the church.

Continuing a years-long tradition, members of the **Board of Deacons** have recorded weekly inspiring messages. These thoughtful devotions are available at SecondChurch.org/Watch and by calling the inspirational phone line at (317) 522-1943. Training for the next class of Deacons is again underway with renewed purpose and conviction for the journey we are called to share with one another.

It is the message of Christ that we are charged to carry forth in our ministry of care. Viewed by tens of thousands across the country, our pastors recorded such messages

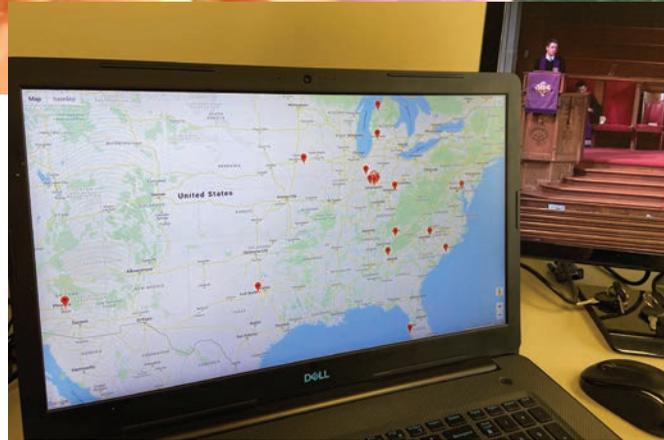
over video in the early weeks of COVID-19. Did you see them? A beautiful series of **video devotionals**, our pastors reminded us of the One who remains sure and steady – telling of God’s grace, God’s presence, God’s unshakable love. These videos are available on SecondChurch.org/Watch and on the Second Church YouTube channel.

CenterPoint Counseling has seen an increased demand for counseling services in this time of uncertainty. The Center’s 12 staff therapists have provided steady guidance and help during crisis for individuals, couples, and families from throughout central Indiana. Most sessions this year have been online via a secure, telehealth portal. Dr. David Chaddock shared the wisdom of CenterPoint with our greater Indianapolis community – and beyond – by participating in a widely viewed panel about mental health hosted by Christian Theological Seminary. He reminded us of our interconnectedness, and spoke of rediscovering our communal sense of belonging – our deep need for compassion, grace, and love.

As we look ahead, we remember the gift that comes with selfless love. The gift of checking in on one another – and allowing others to check in on you. Caring in partnership and with empathy is a beautiful witness of Christ’s love. We are called to share and carry one another’s burdens and walk side by side in faith and in love. No matter what we experience individually or collectively, what will always remain is our call to care for one another, meeting every new challenge with creativity, compassion, and the persistent determination to begin, again.



NAVIGATING 2020



NAVIGATING 2020: NURTURING SPIRITUAL FORMATION



The Holy Spirit continues to move among us, guiding our individual faith journeys and binding us together as a church community. We may be at different stages and ages along the way, but we share a goal of becoming closer to God and living in communion with God's people.

At times when we are not able to meet face-to-face, we come together in new ways -- with Zoom gatherings, Facebook Live events, and carefully orchestrated events.

Children & Family Ministries

Children's Sunday school continues each week. Online resources allow readers and non-readers to engage with Bible stories through video storytelling, crafts, games, and other activities. On Sunday mornings, you can join the Children & Family Ministries team for Prayer Circle at 9:10 a.m. Rather than joining hands on the second floor, we join Zoom from home and continue this tradition of starting our Sabbath with prayer. Children's choirs continued to meet via Zoom to sing and praise God together.



Beginning in March, Kat and Ann launched weekly online devotions each Wednesday evening on Facebook Live. These Faith Family Devotions continue to be treasured breaks during each busy week. Wednesday Night Kids

Club shifted online to Zoom for the spring, and this fall new, innovative children's engagement is coming to a screen near you.

June brought VBS like we'd never experienced before! Virtual VBS was a week of engagement, learning, faith, and FUN for more than 130 children within and beyond Indianapolis ... even beyond Indiana! Each day started with a fun Zoom broadcast with Ann VanMeter, Interim Facilitator of Children and Family Ministries, and Brianna Holt, Director of Children's Music, from within the church building. Deb Leithauser presented fabulous Bibleland Adventure stories via video, and Karen Archbold created inspired music videos for each day. Other online Virtual VBS fun included videos with Second families presenting games, crafts, and other activities.

Later in the summer, Compassion Camp offered another series of videos with lessons and activities encouraging children to "Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You." Like the Virtual VBS videos, these online resources remained available on our website all summer.

In August, our new first graders received their new *Spark Bibles* – a tradition known and loved by the families of Second. This presentation parade and ice cream celebration brought together Second's young families to enjoy fellowship and the excitement of burgeoning faith, all with careful planning and guidelines.

After an abrupt end to the 2019-2020 school year, Children's Circle Preschool has quietly reopened this fall



under the careful guidance of Director Cara Paul. New procedures, such as curbside drop-off and pick-up, ensure minimal traffic inside the church building. All rooms and surfaces are routinely cleaned. Preschool staff follow up-to-date health guidelines, allowing for a safe and nurturing environment for the young learners. CCP parents, most of whom are not Second members, appreciate the regular schedule, which allows them to work while their little ones are well cared for.

We are blessed with wonderful and wonderfully creative staff and volunteers to guide our young believers as they move forward in faith.

Youth

Middle and high school students stayed in touch with weekly Zoom calls and social media updates. Tyler Wolfcale and Tom Markey orchestrated online discussions, allowing the students to guide conversation topics and responding to the issues they identified. Even screen fatigue from online school didn't keep these kids from church on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Our high school seniors continued weekly Footsteps of Faith sessions, studying the writings of Paul with Lake Fellows Jasiel Hernandez and Kelley Jepsen. Their travel was postponed until the summer of 2021 when they will walk in the Footsteps of those who have gone before us. Be sure to watch the video that captures the testimony and strength of these incredible high school graduates at SecondChurch.org/Youth.

In late August, 49 students joined our family of faith in an outdoor Confirmation ceremony. During the event, each student was recognized with a Bible verse chosen just for them, as families watched from a safe distance in the north parking lot. In an updated version of the traditional laying on of hands, elders surrounded the parking lot with outstretched hands. The moving ceremony marks an important passage for these Confirmands and the beginning of a new journey.

Adult

Adult spiritual formation moved online this year, with classes and Bible studies meeting over Zoom. Dr. John Franke presented new education offerings, created with online delivery in mind. *Sent into the Word*, transitioned from a Wednesday evening class to an online exploration. On Sunday mornings, Blessed Messiness, Koinonia,

and Upper Room continue to gather online via Zoom. Theology, Thoughts & Coffee welcomed all into weekly Zoom classes on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. as the group explored *White Fragility*, *Trouble I've Seen*, *White Too Long*, and other topical texts.

During Lent, members of Second's Spiritual Formation team began recording Lectio Divina videos. These ten-minute videos guide viewers through the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina, which involves hearing the same Scripture passage four times, each time with a different intention. The team has recorded more than 150 videos, one for each weekday since mid-March. The videos have logged more than 2,000 views so far as seekers continue to find solace and inspiration in the ancient practice of Lectio Divina.

In the spring, Lake Fellow Kelley Jepsen worked with Rev. Brian Shivers and Dr. John Franke to produce *Presbyterian 101*, a series of videos presenting the tenets of our faith. The series is available at SecondChurch.org/Adults and outlines the history, polity, worship tradition, and mission emphasis of our church.

As the country became increasingly aware of racial issues, Second launched a new section of our website, SecondChurch.org/Justice, with recommended resources inviting people to pray, read, learn, study, and act. Several small groups incorporated these suggestions into their virtual studies.

This summer we revisited Childhood Bibles Stories then jumped into the story of Jonah. Children's Sunday school lessons and youth discussions echoed the stories from Sunday's worship, and adult study questions guided further exploration of these thought-provoking themes.

The spiritual formation team continues to provide innovative resources and classes to guide us along the way as we journey – individually and communally – toward a closer relationship with God. With each new opportunity, we once again find ways to begin, again.

NAVIGATING 2020

LIVING OUT OUR MISSION

Second's story is one of service to others. From our church's founding, Second members have responded to social issues of the time and reached out with programs that were creative and innovative in their day. Changing times continue to challenge us to be faithful and thoughtful in how we engage with our community. In each new age, we find ways to begin. Again.

Our purpose – the way we seek to reflect our love of God – is to stand as a welcoming community of faith where Jesus Christ transforms lives. This summer, the elders of Second voted to embrace the Matthew 25 initiative – a vision set forth by the PC (USA) that anchors our mission work on three key pillars: eradicating systemic poverty, dismantling structural racism, and building congregational vitality. This work has always been our call as people of God and followers of Jesus Christ; this work has long been central to the mission of Second Presbyterian Church in our city and beyond; this work calls to us anew and afresh in this moment. We continue to serve with continued compassion, intention, re-energized conviction, and conversation.

In short, mission is not just what we do; it is who we are as faithful servants of a living God. This year's circumstances have led us to examine existing programs in new ways and to explore how we might respond to fresh challenges. We continue to distill our work to its essence: serving God by serving others. As we move forward under the Matthew 25 banner, we recommit to many mission partnerships that sustain our neighbors, in Indianapolis and beyond.

Northside Food Pantry responds to the needs of those in our immediate Washington Township community. In March, pantry volunteers donned masks and shifted operations to be low contact with curbside check-in and loading food directly into clients' cars. High school and college students, faced with unanticipated time at home, stepped forward to volunteer, providing new energy and enthusiasm in a time of increased need.

With funding assistance from a grant by Second's Presbyterian Women, Northside purchased a reconditioned box truck to facilitate food pick-up in the city. Second members suggested names for the vehicle, and survey results

clinched the name of "Grace." Grace is now sporting a fresh, new look as she cruises the streets of Indianapolis.

Second's community garden, located south of the sanctuary, is once again producing fresh produce for Northside Food Pantry. More than 1,300 pounds of produce from the garden have filled the shelves of Northside Food Pantry this year, and the harvest continues. Volunteers tend this plot year round, ensuring the space is both functional and beautiful, with an abundance of vegetables and flowers. Visitors are welcome in the prayer garden, a lovely spot for rest and reflection.

We continue to work closely with the Washington Township School District. The start of school this fall unfolded differently as in past years, but we navigated the changing plans and partnered with other congregations to provide school essentials for local students. The massive effort involved school supplies for each elementary, middle, and high school student, in addition to special kits for home learning as the district decided to start the school year with virtual instruction. In July Second members spanning all ages came together for masked and physically distant work sessions to pack 3,000 kits for local middle school students.

Second continues its 32-year partnership with Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity. The organization has scaled back its plans for the year, but the annual interfaith build, which Second initiated, is once again taking place this fall. Second members can support future homeowner Doris as she works to complete Habitat classes and move with her two boys into their new home. Habitat is offering engagement kits as a way for Second members to support the family. Each engagement kit includes a notecard (with stamped envelope) to mail to Doris, a profile of the family, a calendar of blessings, coloring and activity sheets, and a wish list of items the new homeowners need.

Recently, Rev. David Berry reflected on the long-term relationship between Second Presbyterian and Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity. Not only has this partnership served our neighbors with the construction or rehabilitation of dozens of homes, providing much-needed stable housing for local families, the annual interfaith build has nurtured relationships among faith communities in our city. By

following “the theology of the hammer” as Habitat for Humanity Founder Millard Fuller said, members of Second have joined with other people of faith to live out the challenge of helping others – not only through Habitat builds, but also through other organizations spawned by these interactions, including the Center for Interfaith Cooperation and Umoja Partnership. The Habitat for Humanity story on our website (SecondChurch.org/Habitat) features a beautiful testimony from Rev. David Berry sharing his experience with Habitat for Humanity.

In October, our church is once again a collection site for disaster relief buckets and hygiene kits to be distributed around our country and overseas by Church World Service. These kits include necessary supplies for those who have experienced natural disasters, such as hurricanes, flooding, tornadoes, or wildfires. In addition to gathering the buckets assembled by others, our church is also hosting sessions (with masks and physically-distanced work stations) for the Second faith family to come together to assemble these essential kits for those in need.

Christmas Benevolence has been a vital part of Second’s local outreach for decades. This year the program is shifting to adapt to changing times. We will continue to serve between 130 and 150 families in our community. Some cherished Christmas traditions, such as opportunities for members to purchase new gifts or wrap presents, will continue. This year we are inviting families to come to Second to pick-up their items, instead of having Second members deliver them. Rather than working toward a single Delivery Day, Deacons are working closely with Northside Mission Ministries to support our local families throughout the year. For example, the Winter Warmth coat drive this fall brings warm outerwear to children and adults as the weather begins to cool.

As a church family, we adjust to changing times and tides while remembering our core identity. We are all children of God, called to reach out in love to our neighbors. The Matthew 25 initiative reminds us to actively engage in our community.

An African proverb states that “If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together.” God equips us for the journey. Jesus travels alongside us. The Spirit guides us to move together toward a more just and loving world for all God’s children.





NAVIGATING 2020





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Cover Art: Ship Banner

Our sanctuary features eight beautiful fabric banners. The originals were handcrafted by Marian Beesley and her assistants, based on designs by Mary Newill. Both women were members of Second Church. Over time, the original banners faded. Volunteers created new ones using chemical dyes to ensure long life. These banners are a visible testament to how our life at Second evolves as we continue to renew our spaces and move forward in our spiritual journey together. The newly invigorated banners breathed fresh life into this sacred sanctuary, offering a flowing reminder of how we continue to begin, again.

In the fall of 2020, we look to the banner of the ship sailing on the water. The image of the ship symbolizes the church, especially its missionary work. At a time when so many of us may feel unmoored and adrift, we put our faith in the One who channels the winds and calms the seas. We settle into the boat, chart a course, set our sails, and begin, again.