

Brief Description of Second Presbyterian – Its History and Current Ministry

Second Presbyterian Church was established in 1830 in downtown Louisville at Second and Broadway when several members of the First Presbyterian Church petitioned to begin a new congregation. The Church grew and expanded and was a thriving congregation in the center city area into the 1950's. Following a fire that destroyed the sanctuary, the congregation moved into Rolling Fields neighborhood on Brownsboro Road where they were establishing a chapel. The first building was constructed, in 1956. An educational building was added in 1964 which included classrooms and a large fellowship hall. A weekday school was begun and it continues to provide preschool instruction. In 1974, a tornado struck the area around the church (as well as other parts of Louisville) and the fellowship hall was the center for emergency care and meals for weeks. In 1980, a sanctuary and new offices were added to the building to provide a much larger worship space and room for an expanding program staff for the ministries of the congregation. In 2004, the church added a gymnasium/activity space and 6 classrooms for the Weekday School. All of the church building except for the sanctuary was remodeled and the HV AV of the entire complex was upgraded or replaced. The enlarged space has greatly enhanced the activities, outreach and the ministry of the church.

Second Presbyterian Church has multiple ministries to enrich the lives of the members and to offer support and care for the adjacent community, city and world. Worship and music is at the heart of the life of the church, with choral and bell choirs for a variety of ages. Well-qualified professionals and caring lay members of the church provide leadership for educational ministries for adults, young adults, youth, and children.

The youth program is very strong and involves 75-100 middle school and high school youth each Sunday. A confirmation education program for 8th graders is offered each year and usually involves 25-30 youth who spend at least 6 months in study and activities leading to full church membership.

The Children's programs are an active and expanding ministry. It involves more than 100 children ages 0 – 10 each week in our Sunday programs. Our Sunday programs include Sunday School for Infants through Fifth graders, Sacred Space (children's church) for 3 year olds through Kindergartners, and Tweeners (3rd -5th graders) on Sunday Evenings.

During the week Second Presbyterian's Weekday school children fill the building with energy and laughter. The Weekday school offers programs for Infants through Kindergartners.

The church professional staff currently includes Pastor/Head of Staff, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults, Director of Music Ministries, Director of Ministries for Children and Adults, and Church Business Administrator. All of these positions are full time. Part-time staff includes Director of Children's Music, Mission Coordinator, Children's Education Assistant and Organist. Second Presbyterian also has seven staff members who offer support for the ministries of the church.

Second Presbyterian Church, through its membership and contributions, is involved in the ministries of United Crescent Hill Ministry, Cabbage Patch, Healing Place, Presbyterian Community Center and many other local organizations. The church is active in the ministries of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, Synod of Living Waters, and the PCUSA General Assembly through mission giving and through members who participate in committees and other functions of the church.