

Encountering God at the **CROSSROADS** of community and mission.

Volume 30, Issue 12

December 2019



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT SECOND

Our annual season of preparation for the celebration of Christmas begins on December 1, the first Sunday of Advent. Please take note of the special events, opportunities, and occasions for worship that we have on the horizon as we anticipate Christ's coming!

Sunday, December 1—The First Sunday of Advent

The Hanging of the Green and decorating our Second Family Christmas Tree as we worship in the sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.

Saturday, December 7

Members of Second Baptist assemble and deliver Christmas baskets to neighbors in our community beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Grove Music Academy Open House and Recital at 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 8— The Second Sunday of Advent

Second Sunday Lunch and Children's Candy Cane Lane at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 15— The Third Sunday of Advent

Peace on Earth presented by the Sanctuary Choir and a guest orchestra at 10:15 a.m.
Christmas Sing and Play at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18

Senior Adult Christmas Lunch hosted by the ministry staff and deacons in the fellowship hall at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 22—The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Intergenerational Sunday school and fellowship breakfast for children ages 4 and up, youth, and adults in the fellowship hall at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight, Communion, and Baby Dedication Service in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 29

Christmas Worship in the sanctuary at 10:15 a.m.

A NOTE ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WORSHIP December 22 and 29

Please note that on Sunday, December 22 we will have a special intergenerational Sunday school gathering at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Children ages 4 and up, along with all of our youth and adult classes, will come together for a time of learning and fellowship during the Sunday school hour.

On Sunday, December 29 we **WILL NOT gather for Sunday school** but we **WILL gather for worship at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary**. Enjoy the extra rest and then join your Second family to worship together one last time in 2019 before the new year begins!

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SERMON
TOPICSDecember 1

Title: Until the Son of God
Appear

Text: Matthew 24:36-44

OT Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

December 8

Title: Come and Cheer

Text: Matthew 3:1-12

OT Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

December 15

Choir Christmas Cantata

December 22

Title: To Us the Path of
Knowledge Show

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

OT Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

December 24

Title: Fill All the World with
Heaven's Peace

Text: Luke 2:1-14

OT Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

December 29

Daniel Johnson preaching

"O Come, O Come"

On Friday, October 25 at noon is when it happened. I heard the announcement a few hours ahead of time and so knew to steer clear. On that day and at that time, Christmas music began playing on the radio. I couldn't bring myself to listen because I still had shifts left to work in the pumpkin patch. Halloween hadn't happened yet, not to mention Thanksgiving.

I know there are some people who are more than happy to haul down the decorations and get the tree up just as soon as the first frost arrives. I also know there are some people who are such seasonal purists that nothing of Christmas comes out until the actual season of Christmas begins (which, by the way, is December 25 and lasts 12 days until Epiphany on January 6). I suspect most of the folks in our Second family fall somewhere in between these two extremes.

As we move into the season of Advent and we go through these days of preparation that anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth, when we gather to worship we are going to give some attention to one of the great Advent hymns of the Church: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

We will, of course, sing familiar carols and look forward in expectant joy for the reminder of God's putting on flesh and coming to dwell among us. But each week through Christmas Eve our worship will focus on a phrase from this classic hymn. When we come to light the candles each time we gather, we will sing a selection from the hymn. We will listen together to the voices of sacred scripture that articulate the human heart's longing for God with us. We will contemplate and ponder together the power of God's presence and how desperately we need that in our lives every day of every year.

This promises to be another wonderful season of studying, singing, and sharing with one another. I am thrilled to be marking my tenth Advent and Christmas in Memphis. For as many occasions as I've already had to take part in telling it, the good news we share these days is truly a word of hope for the ages. I look forward to what we have on the horizon together!

Grace and peace,

Stephen

END OF YEAR GIVING REMINDER

Please note that the last day the church office will be open for 2019 is until 4:30 on Monday, December 30. As you plan your end of year giving, please be sure to deliver offerings to the church by this date. If you choose to mail your contributions, please note that they must be postmarked *no later than* December 31 in order to be counted for the year 2019. Of course, offerings received on Sunday, December 29 will also count for the current year, but they must be turned in during worship that morning. Online and text-to-give gifts can be received through midnight on December 31.

SECOND BAPTIST IS DEBT FREE!

In its October meeting this fall, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to pay off our capital loan using excess cash in our church operating account. On November 4, we paid off the balance of \$28,103.14 and we now have zero debt! Thank you for your generosity to Second and your support of our mission and ministry initiatives!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

A SEASON FOR GETTING INVOLVED IN GIVING

*"...we must help the weak. In this way we remember the Lord Jesus' words:
'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

During Advent, find a way to live into Paul's encouragement and support the holy work of our church and our church's ministry partners.

CHRISTMAS BASKET MINISTRY

On December 7, we will provide Christmas baskets full of food and grace to families in need and there are several ways YOU CAN HELP! 1. People can donate BANANA BOXES that we use to carry the food. 2. WE NEED DONATIONS to help fund this ministry. We are about \$1000 behind where we were last year. Please designate your gifts for "Christmas Basket Ministry." 3. HELP DELIVER BASKETS. Join the crowd and experience the joy of praying for the families and then delivering the baskets on Saturday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. If you plan to deliver Christmas baskets, please contact Donna Taylor.

TOGETHER FOR HOPE ARKANSAS

Each year, Together for Hope Arkansas has an Christmas Book Drive via Amazon for students in their community. Books are a wonderful gift as exposure to age-appropriate, high interest books increases a child's desire and ability to read. Moreover, books inspire children and spark their imagination as they see themselves in each adventure. You can find their list of high-interest, diverse and fun books by searching "Together For Hope Arkansas - Christmas Drive."

TENNESSEE CBF CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR APPALACHIA

CBF Field Personnel / Missionary Scarlett Jasper serves the rural poor of Scott County, TN and McCreary County, KY. At Christmas, Scarlett provides Christmas boxes to children who may otherwise receive nothing. Boxes include toiletry items, schools supplies, winter hats and gloves and gift cards. Recently, God opened a door at a Scott County elementary school when administrators asked for Scarlett's help to support their families. In order to meet this new need, Scarlett is asking churches for help provide with needed items or donations for the Christmas Shoeboxes by the first week of December. You can find a list of needed items on our website or outside the church office. Contact Daniel Johnson with any questions.

YOUNG LIVES BABY ITEM NEEDS

YoungLives, a ministry to more than 50 teen moms, will celebrate the birth of the Savior on December 4. At this meeting, girls will also be able to Christmas shop for their children at the Baby Bucks Store using incentive dollars they have earned throughout the semester for attendance, good report cards, well child checkups, prenatal and postnatal care, parenting class and club attendance. At the store, these young moms receive a sense of dignity as they are able to provide a little something for their children. To stock the store, YoungLives needs more new baby items. A gift registry of needed items can be found at Target.com under the name Danita Calhoun. Items need to be delivered to 658 Colonial Road 38117 by December 2.

scattered to serve

Thank you!

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of our volunteers, friends, and supporters who supported and served during the 2019 Pumpkin Patch season. We could not have had the hugely successful season without you!

If you would like additional information on volunteer hours and how the funds raised will be used, Pumpkin Patch flyers can be found in the church office.

gathered to worship

SECOND SUNDAY LUNCHEON

December 8 at 11:30 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall



Our monthly second Sunday lunch will take place on December 8 immediately after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Please make your reservation no later than Wednesday, December 4 by emailing Donna Taylor at dtaylor@2ndmemphis.org or calling the church office at 682.3395. If you would like to volunteer to help with our Second Sunday lunches, please contact Betty Sexton or Daniel Johnson.

SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

All "wise" adults are called to follow the star to a time of Christmas food and fellowship on Wednesday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Hosted by the ministerial staff and deacons, this event will include a catered meal, program and an opportunity to celebrate the season together. If you're wondering if you qualify as a senior or as "wise," the answer is yes. Please RSVP to Donna Taylor at 682.3395 or dtaylor@2ndmemphis.org if you plan to attend.

CHURCH OFFICE AND CFLC HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

Please make note of our holiday schedule for the church office and Christian Family Life Center. We will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday, December 25 and 26 for Christmas and on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31 and January 1 for the New Year holiday. In the event of an urgent pastoral care need during the time our offices are closed, please contact the minister on call at 901.604.6686.

LAUGH IN PEACE COMEDY TOUR

Wednesday, January 8, 2020
at the Crosstown Concourse Theater

On the heels of our fall study on Christianity and World Religions and our interfaith Thanksgiving service focus on "How to be a Perfect Stranger," in January a very special evening of comedy and community building will take place at the Crosstown Theater.

The Memphis Friendship Foundation and the Laugh In Peace Comedy Tour are two groups that share an inspiring philosophy—that conversation and laughter between people of different backgrounds can build a lasting legacy of friendship and peace.

The Foundation has joined with the likeminded group, the Laugh in Peace Comedy Tour, to entertain and enlighten Mid-South residents. Laugh in Peace is a cross-cultural show featuring stand-up comedians Gibran Saleem, Rabbi Bob Alper and Reverend Susan Sparks. Saleem is Muslim, Alper is Jewish and Sparks is Baptist.

Mid-South residents can experience their unique blend of comedy and empowerment, all while supporting the Memphis Friendship Foundation to raise money to help the Foundation expand its service to the community.

Tickets for the event cost \$27. Contact Annabeth Barnes in the church office at abarnes@2ndmemphis.org or 682.3395 to learn more about this unique opportunity.

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs through November 21:

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$900,358
Year-to-Date Expenses	<u>\$939,437</u>
Net	\$ (39,079)

Remember that when it comes to giving, we have several options for sharing gifts with our church:

- Cash and Checks
- Text-to-Give: 901.401.9621
- Online at 2ndmemphis.org
- Click "Giving" and follow the prompts
- Stock and Mutual Fund Transfers

To learn more about any of these, please contact our Financial Administrator, Patti Calvert, at pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org.

SHARING STOCK IN A SEASON OF SHARING

Did you know that Second Baptist Church can easily accept gifts of stock?

As we approach the end of the year a good review of any marketable security holdings you may have might be in order. Our church has an account through which any gifts of stock can be easily liquidated to cash. This might be an appropriate strategy for you to discuss with your financial advisor. Your advisor may recommend that you gift highly appreciated securities to charity/church and then contribute cash (that would have been used to gift to charity/church) to your investment joint account to replenish.

As an example, \$4,000 of appreciated stock out and \$4,000 of cash can be put back into an investment account. This allows you to make a charitable contribution with a stock that has a large capital gain and maintain your investable assets. Handling it in this fashion may exclude long term capital gains from your taxes as the stock was gifted to a charity/church. The church will not have to pay tax on the gain.

As with anything financial, please contact your advisor or CPA as this should not be considered as financial planning or tax advice. However, it is an avenue to explore for sharing resources that help sustain our Second mission!

For further information about this or other giving options available, please contact Patti Calvert, our Church Financial Administrator at 682.3395 or pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org.

SECOND'S FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE

Last year we started a new tradition during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Included among the decorations in our sanctuary we now have our 12-foot Second Family Christmas Tree!

We need help from every household in our church with the decorations for the tree. If you did not share an ornament last year, or if you would like to add a new one this year, you are invited to create or purchase ornaments and include your family's name on them. Ornaments might show something about your family (hobbies, names, etc.) or simply express your joy during the season. Everyone sharing ornaments will add to the beautiful decor of our worship space.

On Sunday, December 1 during our annual Hanging of the Green service, we will include time for people to place ornaments on the tree.

STILLNESS AND SCRIPTURE

Sundays during Advent at 8:15 a.m.

Second Baptist is an active "doing" congregation. This is no more evident than during the pumpkin season. However, doing and serving is only part of the work of a disciple. We must also nurture our spiritual lives lest our actions become clanging cymbals. So during Advent, we are once again creating space to concentrate on our "being" through stillness and scripture. Beginning Sunday, December 1 and continuing each Sunday in Advent, we will offer a time for anyone to come and sit quietly with scripture. We will meet in the multipurpose room at 8:15 a.m. and use the lectionary scriptures as our guide. December is the most hectic time of the year, so why not accept this invitation to be still? Life can be noisy and confusing, so why not take time for God to quiet your soul and offer clarity?

tis* the season



POINSETTIAS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

During the seasons of Advent and Christmas, consider sharing the gift of a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. Each one costs \$10.00 with order forms available in the church office and foyer. Please give generously to help enhance the beauty of our space during this sacred season!

Please note: We will not have our poinsettia tree in the foyer as we have in past years, but please give generously to decorate our sanctuary.

FAMILY ministry

ADVENT TABLE DEVOTIONS

Pick up a cozy Advent devotional and an Advent wreath kit from the church foyer to enhance your experience of worship and togetherness at home this holiday season. This resource features a lovely little table devotional, including a scripture reading, reflection, suggested practices, and a prayer for each week in Advent starting December 1!

YOUTH HANGING OF THE GREEN

Youth continue their tradition of leading in worship for Hanging of the Green on the first Sunday of Advent on December 1 at 10:15 a.m. Please arrive on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Youth Room for breakfast and then rehearsal in the sanctuary.



Candy Cane Lane is a store where children ages 3+ can shop for Christmas gifts for family members. Our store will be held in Room 118 off of the Fellowship Hall and will be open for business on Sunday, December 8 during Second Sunday lunch. Children are encouraged to earn their own money to pay for their gifts so that they can fully participate in the joy of giving. Each gift will cost \$1 and volunteers will assist children with their purchases while parents wait outside so each carefully chosen gift will be a surprise!

CANDY CANE LANE

CROSSROADS

Submissions: Material for inclusion in the monthly *CrossRoads* publication must be submitted by the 15th day of the month.

Digital Option: To receive an electronic version only, please contact Donna Taylor at dtaylor@2ndmemphis.org.

Next publication date:
January 1, 2020

Second Look: Those signed up to receive our communications via email will also receive our weekly *Second Look*.



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www.facebook.com/
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CHRISTMAS SING AND PLAY

There will be a special Christmas Sing & Play Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 210. Common Grounds fellowship and childcare will follow at 4:30 p.m. in the nursery area. Childcare will be available for older siblings starting at 4:00 p.m. in Room 209.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Sunday, January 5 at 5:00 p.m. the youth will enjoy an (after) Christmas Progressive Dinner and will visit several homes to enjoy appetizers, entrées, desserts and fun activities.

VOLUNTEERING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN 2020

New volunteer schedules for 2020 Nursery Care and Children's Chapel for worship will be distributed this month. As people rotate off giving others the opportunity to serve, we will need new loving and caring volunteers to lead in these areas.

If you would like to be added or removed from these schedules, please let Julia know in a timely fashion so that the first publishing can be as accurate as possible. If you are a new volunteer, you are required to participate in the Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Program of Second Baptist Church which includes a background check. Forms are also available in the church office and must be completed and returned to Julia before volunteering with children and youth.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
First Sunday of Advent Deacons' Meeting 8:00 am Worship Service, Hanging of the Green & Second Family Christmas Tree decorating 10:15 am	2 Margaret Ware Bible Study 9:30 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	3 Weight Watchers 11:30 am	4 Jerry Michel's Texas 42 1:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	5	6 Open Gym WSHS Students 2:30 pm	7 Weight Watchers 9:00 am Christmas Basket Delivery 9:00 am Grove Academy Open House and Recital 12:30 pm
Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:15 am Second Sunday Lunch & Children's Candy Cane Lane 11:30 am	9 Margaret Ware Bible Study 9:30 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	10 Weight Watchers 11:30 am	11 Jerry Michel's Texas 42 1:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm	12	13 Open Gym WSHS Students 2:30 pm	14 Weight Watchers 9:00 am Second Basketball League Games 9:00 am-2:00 pm Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal 10:00 am
Third Sunday of Advent Choir presents <i>Peace on Earth</i> in Worship Service 10:15 am Christmas Sing & Play and Common Grounds 4:00 pm	16 Margaret Ware Bible Study 9:30 am Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	17 Weight Watchers 11:30 am PDO Christmas Program & Reception 1:30 pm	18 Senior Adult Christmas Lunch 11:30 am Jerry Michel's Texas 42 1:00 pm	19	20 Open Gym WSHS Students 2:30 pm	21 Weight Watchers 9:00 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent Intergenerational Sunday School and Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 am Worship Service and Baby Dedication 10:15 am	23 Margaret Ware Bible Study 9:30 am Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	24 Weight Watchers 11:30 am Christmas Eve Candlelight, Communion, and Baby Dedication Service 5:00 pm	25 Christmas  Office & CFLC Closed	26 Office & CFLC Closed	27	28 Weight Watchers 9:00 am
Christmas Worship Service 10:15 am (no Sunday School)	30	31 Office & CFLC Closed				



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, December 1

10:15 a.m. Hanging of the Green and Decorating our Second Family Christmas Tree

Saturday, December 7

9:00 a.m. Christmas Baskets
12:30 p.m. Grove Music Academy Open House & Recital

Sunday, December 8

11:30 a.m. Second Sunday Lunch and Children's Candy Cane Lane

Sunday, December 15

10:15 a.m. Choir presentation of *Peace on Earth*
4:00 p.m. Christmas Sing and Play and Common Grounds

Wednesday, December 18

11:30 a.m. Senior Adult Christmas Lunch

Sunday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Candlelight, Communion & Baby Dedication

Sunday, December 29

No Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Christmas Worship

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

4680 Walnut Grove Rd.
Memphis, TN 38117
Office: 901.682.3395

STAFF

Dr. Stephen Cook
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Congregational Care

Mr. Larry Denman
Associate Minister:
Music and Worship

Rev. Daniel Johnson
Associate Minister:
Congregational
Formation and Missions

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Phone: 901-682-3308

CLOSED SUNDAY

tsexton@2ndmemphis.org

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.