

Encountering God at the

# CROSSROADS

of community and mission.

Volume 31 Issue 6

September 2020

## ROADMAP TO RESUMING

As our community continues moving through this unique season, our congregational leaders are prayerfully discerning the appropriate steps to take that will allow us to resume different elements of our life together at Second Baptist Church. The following schedule outlines our plans that allow us to gradually gather groups in the facilities, starting small and building from there.

The most important part of our plans for regathering are our own actions. **Everyone coming to the church facilities must sign a waiver, wear face masks covering the nose and mouth, practice good hand hygiene, keep safe physical distancing, not congregate in groups indoors, and self-screen for coronavirus symptoms.** By doing this, we create a safer environment for our neighbors and families.

As we make these plans, we have learned through these past months that, at times, adjustments need to be adapted in order to accommodate what local health officials advise. Please note that the following schedule for resuming may need to be amended and that we will notify everyone in as timely a manner as possible.

*In everything, we will work together to minimize risks and trust our congregation to act responsibly in our commitment to loving God and loving our neighbors.*

*For additional details, see p. 4 inside.*

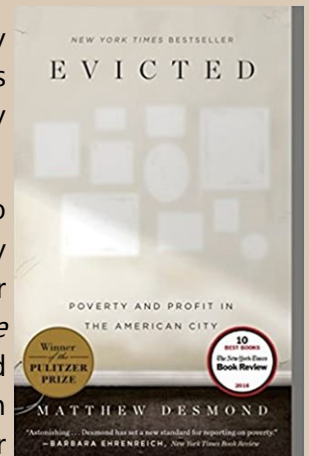
## OUR CITY, OUR STORY

This fall, our church is joining again with our ministry partners at MIFA to take part in Our City, Our Story. This is designed to inspire, foster unity, and forge community conversation.

This year's Our City, Our Story offers an opportunity to explore the realities of housing insecurity. A community-wide read is underway of Matthew Desmond's Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. In it, the Princeton sociologist and MacArthur "Genius" Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads.

On Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. our church will host a virtual book discussion on Zoom to share insights and perspectives we gain from the reading. Watch for the meeting details as the date approaches.

Then, on October 7, MIFA will host a virtual event featuring the author as we work to broaden our community conversation about housing inequality. To learn more or to register for the virtual event in October, please visit [www.mifa.org](http://www.mifa.org).



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4680 Walnut Grove Road  
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[www.2ndmemphis.org](http://www.2ndmemphis.org)

# from the pastor

## SERMON TOPICS

September 6:  
Title: Why So Special?  
Text: Exodus 12:1-14

September 13:  
Title: From or To?  
Text: Exodus 14:19-25

September 20:  
Title: When Victory  
Gives Way to  
Grumbling  
Text: Exodus 16:2-15  
NT Lesson: Philippians  
1:21-30

September 27:  
Title: Weak Enough to  
Be Chosen  
Text: Philippians 2:1-13  
OT Lesson: Psalm 25

## NEW MAPS FOR NEW REALITIES

In the last issue of *Crossroads*, I used this space to share some questions that congregations like ours ought to be asking as we continue to move through these most unusual days. Drawing on the insights of my colleague Bill Wilson, those questions are:

- ✦ Are we looking to restart congregational life as soon as possible?
- ✦ Are we looking to refresh our approach to ministry?
- ✦ Are we sensing a call to relaunch our congregational life for this new decade?

In the month since sharing those questions, a number of you have been offering your perspectives and providing creative ideas for consideration. Thank you! Know that I am always happy for us to explore best practices for being and doing church, especially when we are traveling a path none of us have ever taken before.

Also in the last month, our leadership team of deacon officers, medical, legal, personnel, and various representatives of our administrative and ministry staff have crafted the "Roadmap to Resuming" that has been circulated electronically and is included in this publication. This "roadmap" is serving as our guide for returning to some of our church operations in the short-term. I suspect that many of us recognize that forecasting much beyond a few months (or is it a few weeks?!) has a very provisional feel to it right now.

Albert Einstein wisely observed that, **"You can't use an old map to explore a new world."** The global health pandemic has ushered us into a new world and we have all been adapting to new realities. That being the case, we have need for some new maps; new guides for considering how we carry on the worship, work, and witness of Christ's church through our particular congregation.

While we know that our gatherings through the fall are going to look and feel different than what we were accustomed to prior to mid-March, we also know that we do not go into these coming days alone. The God who, by grace, has "brought us safe thus far," as the classic hymn says, is the same God who is leading us still.

I am excited to see what's in store for us. I look forward to us finding even more ways to foster connections that bind us together as the body of Christ for such a time as this. In the midst of so much uncertainty, I thank God for the sure and certain hope that the work of the Church carries on.

Grace and peace,  
Stephen

## HOLIDAY CLOSING REMINDER

Please note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. In the event of an urgent pastoral care need, please contact the minister on call at 901.604.6686.



## PUMPKIN PATCH 2020 ... WHAT WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW

There's nothing like pumpkin season at Second Baptist. It has all the feels. The sights, the sounds and the smells. However, in light of COVID-19, as with everything else, we are having to evaluate what is possible and what is not for the 2020 pumpkin season. Our hope, as always, is to have a fun and successful pumpkin patch. However, we will only initiate this ministry if we can do it safely for our members, volunteers and customers. Please pray with us as we seek to make wise decisions that honor and serve God and our neighbors.

WHAT WE KNOW	WHAT WE DON'T KNOW
Some of our most faithful volunteers will be unable to serve this year because of the virus.	The date of the first Great Pumpkin Unload. Our current date is September 26, but we are reconsidering.
We must be sensitive to the fact that many of our most faithful volunteers are in higher risk groups.	How we can safely unload pumpkins this year.
We will <b>NOT</b> have a pancake breakfast.	How many unloads we will have.
We will <b>NOT</b> have story times and hayrides.	How to safely set out all the pallets, a process traditionally done by all the youth.
We will <b>NOT</b> have a Pumpkin Festival.	The best way to have volunteers working safely together.
We will use the entire front lawn to allow more distancing between pallets	How the virus will affect sales.
We will move the hay to a different location.	Whether we can have cookie and granola sales.
Having an outdoor operation is safer.	How we will celebrate and show appreciation to our volunteers at the end of the season.
WE WILL STILL NEED LOTS OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS.	Exactly which COVID-19 precautions we will require of all volunteers and customers.
WE WILL ALL NEED TO BE FLEXIBLE.	Whether we can safely provide pumpkin bread.
GOD IS IN CHARGE.	

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**ROADMAP TO RESUMING continued...**

Monday, August 31: Church Office Hours Resume

The church office resumes its regular hours of operation:

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, 8:30 a.m. – Noon

Tuesday, September 1: PDO Fall Session Begins

The Parents' Day Out ministry resumes its schedule for two days per week. Following guidelines developed by the CDC and LeBonheur Children's Hospital for childcare facilities, PDO will operate Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Sundays in September: Adult Sunday School Class Gatherings

All adult Sunday school groups will have an opportunity to gather for one, in-person meeting according to a schedule being developed with each individual group. Classes will gather in either the sanctuary or the CFLC lobby for fellowship and study, as well as to watch the online worship service for the day. **Please note that this is not a substitute for class meetings via Zoom as we make that available along with the in-person gathering.**

Sunday, October 4: Worship in the Sanctuary Resumes

As of this time, this date remains tentative but is the goal toward which we are working. **Even when in-person worship resumes, we will continue to offer an online service for those who are unable to attend at this time.**

Please note that worship will be abbreviated and will not include congregational or choral singing. Offering plates, hymnals, pew Bibles, and worship registries have been removed from the sanctuary. (Please bring your own Bible.) For those wishing to give offerings in person, giving stations will be set up where gifts can be collected. Please remember that our digital giving options are always available. Congregating in the foyer, hallways, or other areas of the church prior to and after worship is not advisable. Worshipers will be dismissed by rows and asked to exit the building immediately afterwards.

While we expect that our church operations and worship experiences will continue to look and feel different, we remember the truth of God's word through the prophet Malachi:

*"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished." (3:6)*

**A CONVERSATION THAT MATTERS  
Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m.**

Members of the Healing Center Full Gospel Baptist Church and Second Baptist will join together for a virtual prayer meeting and conversation. Make plans to take part in a Zoom discussion that draws together black and white Christians who will share insights, perspectives, and experiences that help us to better know, understand, and love our neighbors.

Watch for the Zoom login information in the days leading up to this important time of continuing to build our relationships with one another.

## MAKING SECOND SAFE AND HEALTHY

As our Second family moves toward resuming more of our in-person ministry operations, we know that each of us has a part to play in *Making Second Safe and Healthy*. This short phrase helps remind us of what we need to commit to as we have occasions to gather:

Masks are a must;

Social distancing helps us protect each other;

Symptom review reminds us to stay home if we have signs of illness;

Handwashing reduces the spread of germs.

These simple steps are essential elements of our church doing its part for the well-being of one another when we return to our campus in the weeks ahead.

## THANK YOU, DONNA!

After more than three years serving on our administrative staff, at the end of August, Donna Taylor shared the news of her decision to resign from this role. In the time that Donna has been with us at Second, she has endeared herself to countless members and guests with her warm and gracious hospitality, her loving heart, and her spirit of humble service. Preferring to stay out of the spotlight and working behind the scenes, Donna has organized everything from our Christmas baskets ministry to coordinating the logistics of our annual Pumpkin Festival to checking in on our homebound members during the pandemic.

We are grateful for the years we have shared with Donna and wish her all God's blessings in the next season of her life.

## CELEBRATING STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

This month we mark the first anniversaries of service with two of our staff members, Annabeth Barnes and Isaac Maldonado.

Annabeth brings her gifts of creativity and care to every element of our church's operations in her role as our church office administrator and communications specialist. Isaac shares his commitment to teamwork and service in his role as our maintenance supervisor. They both make Second a better place by being among us!

**amazon**smile

You shop. Amazon gives.



community  
rewards

## WAYS TO GIVE

Amazon and Kroger both offer ways to give back to your local community when you shop! For Kroger, you link your rewards card to 2BC and we receive funds whenever you shop with them. From May to July 2020, 10 households donated \$50.89. For Amazon, you can shop on Amazon Smile found at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and designate Second Baptist as your organization to contribute to. From April to June 2020, we received \$21.20 from our members shopping with Amazon. The little ways of contributing like these add up to better serve our family and community. If you need assistance

signing up your account, contact Annabeth in the church office or email her at [abarnes@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:abarnes@2ndmemphis.org).



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**SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**

Many lessons have been learned thus far, as COVID has interrupted our "normal" and forced us to experience church in new ways. While the journey is certainly far from over, we do know one day in the future, we will be able to gather together in the church building for worship once again. We also know we will likely be offering some form of remote worship experience, probably long after the church doors are opened again.

To prepare for a time when we will be able to offer both in-person worship and remote worship, a plan is taking shape to install cameras in the Sanctuary. Now, in addition to the team that rotates to handle our sound and lighting needs during worship, we will also be putting together a team of volunteers to handle the visual media needs of our church.

If you have experience with cameras or filming, or if you would like to learn a new skill, we would love to have you serve as part of this important new ministry. If you are interested, please email Larry Denman at [ldenman@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:ldenman@2ndmemphis.org).

**FALL SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR CHILDREN**

Our children's fall Sunday school program will begin Sunday, September 13! Our SS teachers are busy planning for a Sunday morning Zoom class (exact times will be sent to parents). This year we are using a program called "Whirl" from Sparkhouse—the creators of the Family Sunday School videos we shared earlier this year. In the fall quarter of Whirl, we will be studying 12 Old Testament Lessons from Genesis through Jonah. Our teachers will be making home visits to welcome our children back to SS and to deliver a student booklet to each child. These booklets help children process the Bible lesson and provide activities for children and families to help keep them connected to church all week long! A special thank you to all of our children's leaders: Nursery desk: Pam Harris & Diana Waring; 2's & 3's: Katharine Huffman and Pat Mabry; 4's & 5's: Becky Lindsey, Juli McDonnell, Barbara Elliott and Jane Paysinger; 1st & 2nd: Shan Criswell and Sandra Livesay; 3rd-5th: Rebecca Buehler and Pam Summons. We are grateful for our leaders and know you will join with me in praying for all of these leaders and our children as we begin our Zoom Sunday school!

**FALL SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR YOUTH****Sundays @ 7 p.m.**

Starting Sunday, September 13, youth will meet Sunday nights via Zoom to study and grow in their faith. Youth will be working through a curriculum called "Echo the Story" that uses a variety of learning methods to invite youth into the biblical story from Genesis to Revelation. Each youth will have their own journal to follow along and use as much or as little as they desire. We hope this study will bring new insights to some familiar stories while also giving our youth a view of how the entire biblical story tells of God's desire to bring the world and his creation into wholeness and salvation.

## **SOCK SABBATH**

**Sunday, September 27**

Our annual \*NEW\* sock collection for Brinkley Heights Ministries will take place during the month of September and there are two ways to donate. Socks can be dropped off at the church office anytime throughout the month OR you can order socks through our Amazon Wish List and have them delivered to the church. On September 27 –whether we are meeting in person, online or both – we will bless the socks that will meet the needs of our neighbors.



## **SUPPLYING NEEDS FOR TEEN MOMS**

Young Lives is a ministry of Young Life whose vision is to reach teen moms by entering their world, modeling the unconditional love of Christ, and encouraging them to become the women and mothers God created them to be. We too can show unconditional love by supplying some staple needs for these moms and their babies. To help out, use our Amazon Wish List (found on Facebook or in "Center Your Week") of needed items. Simply order online and the items will be shipped to Second Baptist. Join in and help us show these teen moms the abundant love of Christ.

## **SACK LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS**

The weekly opportunity to serve the homeless by making sack lunches that are distributed by Constance Abbey will continue in September. Over the last five months, our faithful volunteers from Second Baptist and other churches in Memphis have provided hundreds of lunches weekly to those who would otherwise go hungry. Each volunteer packs 10 sack lunches and drops them off at Second Baptist Thursday mornings between 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. Contact Daniel to sign up to help on one Thursday or several.

### **\*NEW\* WAY TO SERVE THE HOMELESS**

For months, Second Baptist volunteers have provided sack lunches to Constance Abbey for the homeless every Thursday, an opportunity that will continue. However, starting September 10, there will also be an opportunity for volunteers to provide a hot meal. Because of a grant received by Constance Abbey, the only cost to volunteers is time. All food and supplies can be picked up at Second Baptist starting Monday mornings and can be dropped off (cold) before Thursday morning at 9 a.m. Contact Daniel to sign up or for questions at [djohnson@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:djohnson@2ndmemphis.org). We are also looking to find someone to coordinate this mission opportunity. If you are interested, contact Daniel.

## **THANK YOU!**

As we prepare to begin our fall Sunday School program, we would like to take a moment to say thank you to someone who is retiring from teaching our children. Barbara McLain has been involved in the life of our church for many years serving and teaching the children in several areas including Sunday School and VBS. She has made a lasting impression on their lives with her love for sharing God's word in story, memory verses and activities. Mrs. Barbara, as she is lovingly referred to, uses her creativity to transform a simple snack into a Bible story or a story telling idea for our annual Easter Egg hunt. The children of Second Baptist would like to thank Mrs. Barbara for her love and dedication! We love and appreciate you and will miss seeing you in our children's ministry!

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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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Church Office Hours Resume

**Tuesday, September 1**  
PDO Fall Session Begins

**Sundays in September**  
Adult Sunday School  
Class Gatherings

**Sunday, October 4**  
Worship in the  
Sanctuary Resumes

## CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE CENTER IS NOW OPEN!

Phone: 901-682-3308 [mpatterson@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:mpatterson@2ndmemphis.org)

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

CLOSED SUNDAY

Events and hours are subject to change,  
please check our website, [www.2ndmemphis.org](http://www.2ndmemphis.org), for updates.

## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

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### STAFF

**Dr. Stephen Cook**  
Senior Pastor

**Mr. Larry Denman**  
Associate Minister:  
Music and Worship

**Rev. Daniel Johnson**  
Associate Minister:  
Congregational  
Formation and Missions

**Mrs. Tanya Mabry**  
Interim Children's  
Ministry Coordinator