

WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY RESUMES AT A NEW TIME

A much anticipated and exciting day of worship will happen on *Sunday, October 4*. This is the day that we expect to be able to resume in-person worship in the sanctuary for those who are able and comfortable attending. **Please note:** there are several adaptations we are making to provide the safest environment possible and a schedule that accommodates the virtual experiences we are continuing to offer.

Time. Sanctuary worship will be from 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Registration. Please sign up online or contact Annabeth Barnes in the church office to register for attending on the Sundays you expect to be present. This will assist us in the event that our local health officials need to perform contact tracing.

Safety Precautions. All worshipers must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth at all times they are in the church building. Additionally, physical distancing will be practiced with at least six feet of distance between people who do not live in the same household. Every other row in the sanctuary will be blocked off.

Music. We will not have congregational singing but will have soloists, ensembles, and instrumentalists who will lead us in our music.

Childcare. At this time, childcare will not be provided. Worship is available for everyone of all ages.

Sunday School. We have developed plans for each class of every age group to accommodate virtual, in-person, and hybrid group meetings.

Online Worship. We will continue to offer online worship in the format we have been using. By the first Sunday of Advent we hope to offer livestreaming of the sanctuary service.



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS
 SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER VIA ZOOM**

Our *fourth quarterly congregational meeting* will take place on *October 21 at 6:00 p.m.* This will take place via Zoom and include recommendations from the Nominating Committee for electing church leadership in the coming year, our Deacon Selection Committee for electing new deacons to three-year terms, as well as a presentation from the Finance Committee for the 2021 ministry budget.

On *Sunday, October 24* we will also have a *specialty called congregational meeting* to vote on the proposed ministry budget. In consultation with our church parliamentarian, we have developed a method for receiving votes on the proposed funding plan electronically and, for those who are able to come to worship that day, in person. Please watch for instructions on this process in the week leading up to this specialty called meeting.

Add your voice and take part in this important work that we share together at Second!

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from the pastor

SERMON TOPICS

October 4:

World Communion
Sunday

Title: Cleared at the Table

Text: Psalm 19

October 11:

Title: A Love Letter from
the Pastor

Text: Philippians 4:1-9

OT Lesson: Psalm 106:1-5

October 18:

Title: Renderings

Text: Matthew 22:15-22

OT Lesson: Psalm 24

October 25:

Title: Invest in Love

Text: Matthew 22:34-40

OT Lesson: Leviticus 19:

1-2, 15-18

PLANNING, ADAPTING, AND WORSHIPPING

In more than six months of pandemic living, our congregation has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to adapt to circumstances that none of us would have predicted at the beginning of this year. Thank you for your consistent grace and patience as we have shifted so many elements of our life together at Second.

As we prepare to resume worship in the sanctuary for those who are able and comfortable participating, please know that we are keeping safety at the forefront of our planning. Early on in the pandemic, I said that we don't get a "do over" if someone gets sick because we have not taken proper precautions. That statement still holds now.

Our plans at this point include shifting the time that we gather for worship to a new time: 11:30 on Sunday mornings. In all likelihood, this will be in effect through the end of December and potentially longer.

As we come back into the sanctuary for worship, we all recognize that each of us has to be flexible. There are limitations to what we can and cannot do. I trust that we all understand and can adapt as needed.

Remember that we are also offering an online worship experience each weekend. That service is pre-produced for an online audience. The service is similar in sermon, scripture, prayers, and will share most of the same music. Please take advantage of this format if it suits your personal health needs best.

Our deacon officers, medical advisers, and other church leaders have worked closely with our church staff to guide us to this place. I am looking forward to starting this new chapter of our life together, whether that's in person or by all of the other means available to us these days!

Grace and peace,

Stephen

RETURNING TO WORSHIP, CELEBRATING WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Each year the first Sunday in October finds Christians around the globe gathering at the Lord's Table for the celebration of World Communion Sunday. This is the first Sunday that we plan to be present for worship in the sanctuary and it will be a different kind of celebration. Worshipers will be provided a small bag that includes the bread and the cup for our remembrance.

For worshipers participating online, if you would like to pick up the elements ahead of time, please come to the church office between Wednesday, September 30 and Friday, October 2 at noon.

As is our custom at Second Baptist Church, whenever we share the Lord's Supper, we also collect a special offering to support the benevolence ministries of our deacon body. ***There will be a collection station in the church foyer to receive those gifts.*** Plan now to share – both at the table and in this collection – as we remember the depths of God's love for the world.

GATHERING TOGETHER

It has been a long time in the making, but with October, we are returning to in-person worship at last! While it will be great to worship together in person again, we know it will not look or feel exactly like it did last time we were together. One thing that will be different for a while is how we worship through music. Out of an abundance of caution, we will not sing together, but we will have various vocal ensembles singing the hymns we hope we will sing together again one day soon. Until that day, we encourage you to sing along on the inside with the words printed in the order of worship and the vocal leadership of small ensembles.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

No doubt 2020 has been a complex year for all of us. We have seen our regular routines disrupted and we have been reminded how important it is for everyone to work together for the common good of others.

Several weeks ago, every household in our church received a contributions statement. This lets each of us know where we stand in our generosity to the church through the first eight months of the year. For everyone who has shared financial resources with Second thus far, thank you! Your gifts have allowed us not only to sustain ongoing ministries of the church and to continue paying our personnel through the pandemic, but you have also helped underwrite the costs for new technologies that allow us to keep connected, even when we are apart.

Please continue to give. The pandemic has disrupted so much. But, the need for our church and its ministries continues. Those ministries do not come without costs. Everyone sharing together helps us meet those opportunities. Whether you give online, by mail, or in person, please continue to do so!

We need your help to finish strong in the last months of 2020. The fourth quarter is when we tend to be at our best when it comes to generosity. Will you commit now to helping us keep that up as we round out the year?

WELCOME, ELLEN LITTLE!

This month we welcome a new team member to our church staff. Ellen Little begins work as our front office receptionist on Tuesday, October 6. Ellen will be serving with us two days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) to provide additional administrative support during the times that PDO is in session. Ellen's daughter "graduated" from PDO at Second several years ago and Ellen already has a strong sense of connection with our church. We welcome her to this new role as she begins serving among us!

GOLDEN RULE PRACTICES IN AN ELECTION SEASON

Each Wednesday at noon, our congregation gathers via Zoom for a time of reflection and prayer together. Beginning on *Wednesday, October 14*, we will focus attention in these midweek gatherings on ways we can live faithfully in the weeks leading up to our national election.

As Americans, we are hungry for a respectful tone in our politics and public life. Many of us are concerned that the hostility and bitter divides we see in the country will be made even worse by the upcoming elections.

Even if you do not typically take part in these 30-minute gatherings, make plans to join these discussions as we strive to be faithful witnesses to Christ. Contact Annabeth Barnes at 901.682.3395 or abarnes@2ndmemphis.org for login information.

Scattered to serve



EARLY VOTING

Please be aware that Second Baptist is serving as an early voting location from October 14-29.

Voting will take place in the CFLC lobby weekdays from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., on Saturday, October 17 from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 24, from 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

STRENGTHENING THE TIES THAT BIND

Our next time for conversation and community-building with our neighbors from the Healing Center Full Gospel Baptist Church will take place on **Tuesday, October 6 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**. Watch for the link to the meeting in the week prior or contact Annabeth Barnes in the church office to receive the login information for this important time together.

OUR CITY, OUR STORY

Without a home, everything else falls apart.

Memphis and Shelby County have some of the highest rates of eviction in the nation: one in four renting Memphians have an eviction notice filed against them each year. Despite a [national eviction moratorium](#) because of the coronavirus pandemic, tenants who are behind on their rent—mostly women with children—will still have to pay up eventually.

Please join MIFA for **Our City, Our Story 2020**. We'll welcome **Matthew Desmond, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* on October 7 at noon** for an important (virtual) conversation—including local experts—about eviction in Memphis and Shelby County and how to increase stable and safe housing options.

Register online via link provided in "Center Your Week" for the October 7 event, and take part in this critical community conversation.

SURROUNDED BY PUMPKINS, PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS

With pumpkins filling our front lawn this month, we are already looking ahead toward Advent and Christmas. We know that this year's celebrations will be different than any we have shared before. But, if ever there were a year we needed to remember the promise of Emmanuel (God with us), this is the one!



The last Sunday of November is also the first Sunday of Advent. Decorating the Second Family Christmas Tree will be different than in past years. ***If you would like to contribute an ornament to include on the tree, please bring that to the church by November 22.*** Your ornament might show something about your family (hobbies, interests, etc.) or simply express your joy during the season.

Also, if you would like to ***purchase a poinsettia*** for the season in honor or in memory of someone, please contact Annabeth Barnes in the church office at 901.682.3395 or by email at abarnes@2ndmemphis.org.

CHURCH NEIGHBORS UNITE TO RAISE FOOD, FUNDS & AWARENESS FOR MID-SOUTH FOOD BANK

Thank you

Even through an early morning rainstorm, dedicated volunteers from neighboring churches Second Baptist, Church of the Holy Communion and Independent Presbyterian had an amazing day supporting the Mid-South Food Bank. In total, the ecumenical collaboration raised \$9,921.73 and collected 1,432 pounds of food. The combined food and funds equate to about 30,958 nutritious meals for local families in need. We are

incredibly grateful for the amazing teamwork and energy displayed on our block of Walnut Grove. It was a phenomenal day of spreading God's light from the center of Memphis.

PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS

We need your help in the Pumpkin Patch!

October 3 - October 31

More guests come to our church during October than the rest of the year combined. This means we have a tremendous opportunity to reflect the love, kindness, and generosity of Christ to our neighbors during a year when people are longing for such things. Because of COVID-19, we know not everyone is able or comfortable to serve and we understand that. For those able to serve, you can sign up online at 2ndmemphis.org/pumpkin-patch for the three-hour shifts. We also ask that you check out our webpage to see what precautions we are putting in place for the safety of our volunteers, guests and the community. When you come to serve, be sure to bring a mask and wear your Pumpkin Patch shirt. Don't have a shirt? Don't worry, we have one for you and we also have Second Baptist Pumpkin Patch masks too. Want to serve but you can't serve the whole shift or want to serve more than three hours? No problem. Just let Daniel know and we can work around your schedule. As always, proceeds from the patch support youth mission opportunities and it takes our whole church family to show our community the love of Christ.



JOIN THE PUMPKIN PATCH UNLOADING FUN

Saturday, October 17

A second load of pumpkins is coming but, when we *safely* work together, unloading thousands of pounds of pumpkins can be a great time of fun and fellowship. Please join the fun and invite friends to help restock the pumpkin panorama for our Second Baptist Pumpkin Patch. Because our unloading process will be different, everyone will need to sign up online for specific tasks and times. Look for the online sign-up link in Center Your Week, Family Ministry News, and on social media. Whether you can lift the biggest pumpkins, or the small pumpkins or gourds are your style, we hope to see you there.

PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

To Be Determined

If there was ever a year to thank our pumpkin patch volunteers for going over and above in service and sacrifice to our youth and community, this is the year. And, if there was ever a year when we may need to adapt from the normal and be flexible, this is also the year. What you can count on, however, is that we will plan a safe way to thank those who serve in the patch and to celebrate all God has accomplished during the pumpkin season. And, naturally, we will also find a way to share "the numbers" from this year's pumpkin patch. Our patch cannot operate without the support and encouragement of our entire church community (and even local community). We are grateful to everyone - youth, children and adults - who make sacrifices to set up the patch, unload pumpkins, work shifts, and offer prayers for the patch that lead to ministry benefiting Memphis and beyond.

scattered to serve

gathered to worship

FAMILY ministry

ZOOMING INTO CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL!

We are so happy that our children's Sunday school classes are meeting again! While we aren't able to meet in person, we have Zoomed through September on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. We are using a new curriculum from Sparkhouse; the same company that brought us the Family Sunday School videos we've been watching with online worship. Our wonderful teachers visited our children at home to deliver materials and were greeted by many smiling faces! We really miss you all! Each Sunday, we are studying stories of the Old Testament and learning how to apply these truths in our lives.

We are so thankful for our dedicated Sunday school teachers who are adapting to teaching with Zoom and our Zoom hosts who are taking care of the technical aspects of the program: Bed Babies-2's & 3's: Katharine Huffman, Pat Mabry, Host: Ginny Ramey; 4's & 5's: Becky Lindsey, Barbara Elliott, Jane Paysinger, Host: Larry Denman; 1st & 2nd; Shan Criswell, Sandra Livesay, Host: Matt Meador; 3rd, 4th, & 5th: Rebecca Buehler, Pam Summons, Tanya Mabry. We also want to thank every parent who is making this possible! We appreciate how you are becoming Zoom experts yourselves while sitting with your children and helping them with their activities! We couldn't do this without ALL of you!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	2	3 First Pumpkin Patch Unload
4	5	6	7 Pumpkin Patch Season	8	9	10
World Communion Sunday 11:30 a.m. Worship	5:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m. Ties That Bind Conversation	12:00 p.m. Our City, Our Story			
11	12	13	14 Early Voting	15	16	17 Second Pumpkin Patch Unload
11:30 a.m. Worship	6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting		Pumpkin Patch Season			
			12:00 p.m. Midday Prayer Gathering			
18	19 Early Voting	20	21	22	23	24
11:30 a.m. Worship			Pumpkin Patch Season			
			12:00 p.m. Midday Prayer Gathering 6:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting 7:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting			
25	26 Early Voting	27	28	29	30	31
11:30 a.m. Worship Called Congregational Meeting for 2021 Budget Vote			Pumpkin Patch Season			
			12:00 p.m. Midday Prayer Gathering			



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, October 3
First Pumpkin Patch Unload

Sunday, October 4
Worship in the Sanctuary Resumes

Tuesday, October 6
Ties That Bind Conversation

Saturday, October 17
Second Pumpkin Patch Unload

Wednesday, October 21
Fourth Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 25
Called Congregational Meeting

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

4680 Walnut Grove Rd.
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STAFF

Dr. Stephen Cook
Senior Pastor

Mr. Larry Denman
Associate Minister:
Music and Worship

Rev. Daniel Johnson
Associate Minister:
Congregational
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CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

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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