THE SEASON OF LENT AT SECOND

In addition to our weekly worship services that will feature specific elements for prayer and reflection during the 40 days leading us to Easter, we are offering a variety of ways to engage this special time of reflection and repentance. Our celebration of the resurrection is made richer by us recalling the depths of God’s love and our desperate need for God’s saving grace.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, March 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The 40-day season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Our congregation marks the start of this sacred time through a service of worship at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary that includes prayer, reflection, and the opportunity to receive ashes and other symbols that help us prepare the way for our Easter celebration in the spring. Make plans to join us as we begin the journey to Holy Week and Easter by sharing this time of worship together.

Grace Unbounded

As in past years, during the Lenten season we are providing devotionals to everyone who would like to receive one. Grace Unbounded provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from the Gospel of Luke. Different writers bring their unique voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

The devotional books are available for pickup at the church. If you are unable to get a book in person, please contact the church office and we will be sure everyone who wants one is able to get one.

Unrevealed Until Its Season
Thursday Evening Lenten Series

During the season of Lent, from Thursday, March 3 until Thursday, April 7, Stephen Cook is leading an online study at 6:00 each week via Zoom. Join in conversation that is focused on a hymn and scriptural theme for this season as we look together at such topics as forgiveness, vision, beauty, and more.

To take part in the sessions, please contact the church office at info@2ndmemphis.org for the Zoom login information.
RENEWED GRATITUDE FOR A HARD, HOLY SEASON

“To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul...Make me to know your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long” (Psalm 25:1, 4-5).

I love these lines from the 25th Psalm. At the heart of the prayer is a yearning to be near to the heart of God. The prayer shows us a heart that is open to what the Spirit of God may yet do.

As we come to the Lenten season this year, I am especially grateful that we are able to be together in our sanctuary for our times of worship. In 2020, the season was interrupted by the arrival of COVID-19. In 2021, we were all virtual and preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter worship in the parking lot. This year, I am glad we get to be together in our sanctuary.

As we come into this season of reflection that invites us to deeper spiritual formation, how would it be if we took stock of the kinds of thoughts and prayers, feelings and emotions we are bringing to our lives each day?

Through these last years, could the Spirit be telling us, “Quit acting like you are in control of things. Stop telling God what to do. No matter how long you’ve been at this thing called faith, there’s still a lot of learning left for you.” Don’t we all need to know more of God and God’s ways?

Let me urge you during these days: do not neglect the chances we have to gather with one another. Ash Wednesday and the 40-day Lenten season are gifts for growth and renewal. Do not miss the opportunity to learn, to pray, to care, to trust, and to love God and one another more deeply. This is hard and requires work, which is all the more reason why we need one another; why we need the church to prod us to get out of our comfortable ruts and run to the wilderness where Jesus went fresh from the waters of his baptism.

Brett Younger captures our condition so well: “we are so used to choosing what is easiest that becoming more than we are doesn’t even occur to us...It’s much easier to settle for a tepid faith and anemic action. We get so used to always choosing what’s easiest that we seldom really consider the hard way of sacrifice. We’d love to believe that an easy life is a sign of God’s approval, but if we’re comfortable, then we’ve missed what’s best.”

Those are hard words, but they’re true. Let’s approach the days before us with a readiness to know God and God’s ways more fully than we already do.

Grace and peace,

Stephen
PANCAKES AND TRIVIA
Pancakes & Trivia returns on Sunday, March 6 (COVID rain date Sunday, March 27) at 5:00 p.m. Whether you love trivia or just people, this event is a wonderful time for all generations of the church to connect, consume, celebrate, and compete. The evening will be led by our Questionnaire Extraordinaire, Chris Bryan, and, as always, there will be questions from various categories and PRIZES will be given away. Prizes include door prizes, prizes for the winning table, prizes for the table with the largest difference in age, and more. You can sign up for trivia night online or by calling the church office. You can sign up as an individual or as a whole table, and this year we have invited ministry partners and friends from around Memphis to join us and deepen connections with our church. All the fun begins at 5:00 p.m. with dinner followed by trivia starting at 5:45 p.m. Childcare and transportation for those unable or uncomfortable driving in the evening is available. Contact Tanya to reserve a spot in childcare and contact Daniel if you need transportation.

SUNDAYS DURING LENT
Life can be busy. Life can be loud. Life can be chaotic. God is available to us amid the noise, but how can we hear, let alone experience, the peace of God’s presence if we do carve out space to stop and be still. To help, during Lent, we are offering time and space to being still and listening to God through scripture. From Sunday, March 6 to Sunday, April 10 at 8:15 a.m. in Room 103, come listen to scripture shared through the discipline of Lectio Divina. Come one Sunday or come every Sunday. Just come to be still and know God.

DELIVERING EASTER GIFTS FOR OUR SECOND FAMILY
We had so much fun last year with our “Easter Egging and Flowers for 2BC Folks” that we are going to do it again!

How can you help make this Easter memorable? By taking part in a special day of deliveries next month. Sign up to deliver and hide eggs in at a church family’s home. Or, sign up to deliver an Easter flower to a senior adult or homebound member. Or, sign up to do both!

On Saturday, April 16 special 2BC Easter bunnies will scatter to deliver at-home egg hunts for our families with children and youth at home. Others will go to deliver flowers to our senior adults. There is something for everyone and every family can take part.

Sign up via the link in Center Your Week by selecting a family or senior to serve. The link includes each household’s ZIP code to help you know the area of town where they live. Once you have signed up, you will be emailed the specific addresses for your deliveries.

Volunteers will be able to pick up eggs from the church office beginning on Monday, April 11. Flowers will be available for pickup beginning Thursday, April 14.

How else can you help? Please donate plastic eggs stuffed with candy by Wednesday, March 23. If you would like to help organize the eggs for families during the week of March 28 or for more information about these opportunities to serve, please contact Tanya.
A NEW ADDITION TO SECOND’S STAFF TEAM
This month we welcome Arreon Parks to our staff, serving as our worship media specialist. This is a position that was created late in 2021 and factored into our ministry budget for 2022. In this role, Arreon will lead the church’s worship media ministry, especially through the livestream of weekly Sunday morning services and other technological support.

Arreon holds a degree in communications from the University of Memphis with a concentration in film and video. He has served two churches in our community in similar roles and also does contract work with local news and sports media outlets.

Although Arreon will mostly be behind the scenes (or, more accurately, above the congregation in the sound booth) on Sundays, please introduce yourself to him and welcome him to the Second family.

THE CHOIR IS BACK!
Choir rehearsals have resumed once again, and we are raising our Easter voices! Preparations are underway for Lent/Holy Week/Easter. Join us at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary for music and fellowship. We are saving a seat just for you. Hope to see you Wednesday!

SPRING FORWARD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 13
Don’t forget to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 12 so you can be on time for Sunday school and worship as Daylight Saving Time begins.

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS UPDATE
At the time of this issue’s printing, national and local health officials indicate that we are at a stage in the coronavirus pandemic where we will move to a masks recommended phase. As you participate in various congregational gatherings and events, please be mindful of those around you and, as always, if you are feeling ill and experiencing cold and flu-like symptoms, please take part in our church’s virtual offerings until you are feeling better.

YOU MAKE “IT” POSSIBLE!
What is “IT”? IT’s ministry and missions! Because YOU give to Second Baptist Church, we are able to support our in-house ministries, as well as our community missions in Memphis and around the world. “IT” wouldn’t be possible without your support. Thank you.

As a reminder, you can set up recurring gifts through our Vanco platform (either online or the mobile app). The advantages to you? It’s easier! It only takes a few minutes to set up so you don’t have to think about it every week or month. The advantages to Second? We can count on consistent gifts to carry out our on-going ministries.

So again, thank you for giving to God through Second!

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT
Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs through February 24, 2021:

Year-to-Date Receipts $161,977
Year-to-Date Expenses 158,979
Net $ 2,998

Remember that when it comes to giving, we have several options for sharing gifts with our church:
- Cash and Checks
- Text-to-Give: 888.704.0507
- 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.
UNDIE SUNDAY(S)
Each spring, Second Baptist dedicates attention and extends compassion to our vulnerable neighbors. We remember those neighbors who struggle to afford or find even the most basic clothing needs, underwear. This year, through the entire month of April, we invite anyone in our community to donate *NEW* underwear for the Brinkley Heights clothes closet. Undies (all ages, sizes and genders) can be dropped off in the church foyer or purchased through our Amazon Wish List. Please drop off or have donations delivered by Sunday, May 1.

TENNESSEE CBF GENERAL ASSEMBLY: IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH (NASHVILLE)
Friday and Saturday, April 29-30
Registration opens Tuesday, March 1
Save the date and make plans to take part in the 30th anniversary Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly. This year’s theme is “Through the Eyes of Jesus” and will feature renowned Baptist historian Bill Leonard, founding dean of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity. Watch for more details in the weeks ahead but make plans to take part now!

DATES TO REMEMBER
Wednesday, March 2, 6:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Worship

Sunday, March 13
Spring Forward

Sundays, April 3-24
UNDIE SUNDAYS

Thursdays, March 3-April 7, 6:00 p.m.
*Unrevealed Until Its Season* Lenten Series via Zoom

Sundays, March 6-April 17, 8:15 a.m.
Stillness & Scripture

Saturday, April 16
Easter Eggig & Flower Deliveries

Sunday, April 17
Easter Sunday

Friday & Saturday, April 29-30
Tennessee CBF General Assembly

*More Holy Week events & details to come!*
YOUTH SPRING RETREAT
APRIL 1-3 · NATCHEZ TRACE STATE PARK
Second Baptist youth will join with youth from First Baptist Church in Memphis and youth from Delta Hands for Hope in Shaw, MS for a weekend of discipleship and fun. Our focus for the weekend is on the biblical concept of unity and takes its inspiration from the Zulu word *Ubuntu* which is often translated “I am because we are.” The words of Paul echo this idea when he writes, “You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.” Please pray for all those attending and for how God can challenge our youth and give them a glimpse of the unity Jesus describes when he said, “I am in the Father and the Father is in me.”

PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP
JULY 10-16 · BEREA COLLEGE
Our youth will hit the road again this summer for a week of fun and spiritual growth at Passport Camp in Berea, Kentucky. Passport camps provide youth with daily Bible study, worship, and mission along with evening fellowships like the annual Passport dance and variety shows. Youth going to Passport also have the chance to create memories and deepen relationships with youth in our Second Baptist group as well as youth from around the country. The cost of camp is $400 and includes a before camp adventure. A $100 deposit is due by Sunday, March 6 with a second $100 payment due Sunday, April 24. Final payment is due by Sunday, June 5. Contact Daniel with questions, to sign up, or if you are interested in chaperoning.

**You can make payments for either Passport camp by scanning the QR code.**

SAVE THE DATES!
Parents of children of all ages save the dates: Friday, June 3 and August 5, from 5:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m., we are having a “Drop Your Kids Off And Go On A Date” night just for YOU!! More info later! Contact Tanya with any questions.

INTERGENERATIONAL SUMMER FUN NIGHTS!
Dinner, games, Bible study—with friends of all ages! More info coming!
2022 TOILET BOWL ... OVERFLOWING WITH FUN!

The 2022 Toilet Bowl was another incredibly exciting game that included a 28-point comeback (for the second year in a row) and five minutes of extra time. In the extra time, both teams, Royal Flush and the Peegles, scored a touchdown so the game ended in a 56-56 tie. Team Captains Harrison Moffatt and Nicholas Keith led their teams valiantly and everyone had fun. Our first ever halftime Skills Competition was won by the Peegles, besting Royal Flush in the passing and kicking competitions. In his final Toilet Bowl, fans voted senior Harrison Moffatt as MVP, but each youth had their time to shine.

Photos courtesy of Jim McLain