

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

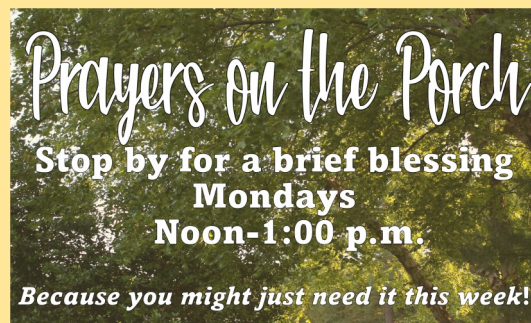
Volume 34 Issue 3

March 2023

Prayers on the Porch

Mondays in March from Noon-1:00 p.m.

As spring arrives our ministry team is inviting anyone from Second and the wider community to stop by the pavilion we added last fall. Drop in for a few minutes to share prayer needs and receive a blessing...because you might need it this week. Anyone and everyone is welcome!



Adult Formation Offerings for Lent

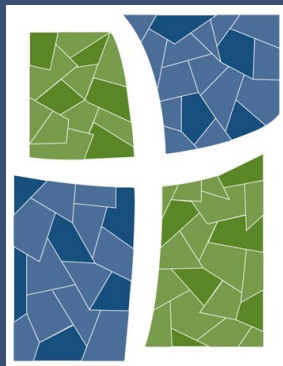
On the Sundays in Lent, we are offering two Sunday morning spiritual formation classes for adults. After gathering in your "homeroom," choose from one of these learning opportunities:

Finding Jesus in the Psalms: A Lenten Journey (facilitated by Burt Waller, room 113)

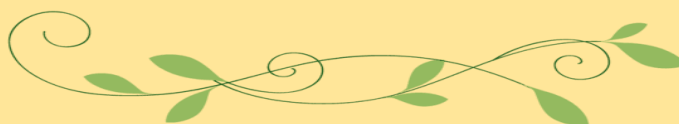
In this study we engage in meaningful encounters with the Psalms through a series of readings to guide us in the season of Lent. Combining an interpretation of the psalms with real life stories, the study moves through the familiar words of Psalm 23 toward the painful cries of Psalm 22 uttered by Jesus on the cross. The study includes reflections on the life of King David and the original context of the writings, along with connections between the psalms and the life and death of Jesus the Messiah.

Following Jesus (facilitated by Matt Meador, room 112)

In this study we explore difficult sayings of Jesus that relate to discipleship. We make our way to the cross and reflect on our willingness to follow Jesus no matter where the relationship with him might take us. In week one, Jesus looks toward Jerusalem and expects his disciples to do the same. Week two considers discipleship through the lens of God's inclusive call to God's feast. In the third week, we are challenged to question any allegiance that might hinder our discipleship. During the fourth week, the class highlights the celebration when the "lost" are no longer lost. Week five provides a significant teaching moment when a rich ruler is called to give up everything to follow Jesus. Throughout the month, we ask, "Will we have the courage to give up everything for Christ too?"



4680 Walnut Grove Road
Memphis, TN 38117
www.2ndmemphis.org



from the pastor

MARCH PREACHING & WORSHIP THEMES

March 5: Lent II

Title: Experience Beyond
Explanation

Text: John 3:1-17

OT Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a

March 12: Lent III

Title: Mercy in the Messiness

Text: Exodus 17:1-7

NT Lesson: Romans 5:1-11

March 19: Lent IV

Title: Those People in Those
Places

Text: John 4:5-42

OT Lesson: Psalm 95

March 26: Lent V

Title: Out Of – and Into – the
Depths

Text: Psalm 130

NT Lesson: Philippians 2:1-11

Setting the Lenten Table

As we continue our journey through this 40-day season of spiritual reflection and anticipation of Easter, our sanctuary has some added elements to enhance our times of worship. Each object is there as an invitation to remembrance and each Sunday has a different focal point for our attention. The object symbolizing each week's emphasis is placed at the front of the table.

The bread on the first Sunday in Lent was there to remind us that Jesus resists the temptation to turn stones to bread. We remember that we are sustained by the word of God.

In the second week, the lantern recalls the story of Nicodemus coming to Jesus by night. Jesus brings to light that all the truth we think we know is not all the truth there is. We remember that in the light of Christ, nothing is hidden.

In the third week, the rocks on the table invite us to remember the children of Israel complaining against God and Moses in the wilderness. Like them, we sometimes wonder whether God is for us. We remember that God's proof comes in the form of mercy. Water flows from a rock and evidence of God's good mercy is on full display.

In the fourth week, the basin and pitcher help take us to a story from the Fourth Gospel. Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman at a well alone and in the middle of the day. Jesus provides the gift of living water to everyone who asks of him. We remember his assurance that all of us can begin again.

In the fifth week, we hear the cry of the psalmist who calls out to God from the depths of despair. We have rope on the table to remember that we are bound all too tightly to that which keeps us from the fullness of life God desires for us. Therefore, God comes to be with us in the depths. We remember that when we are too weak to hang on to God, God is hanging on to us.

In the sixth week – Palm Sunday – we will join the leafy procession of those who hail Jesus as the coming Messiah. The palms on the table help us to recall that Jesus comes in peace to a violent world. We remember that his ways are not our ways.

Hopefully, these enhancements and the images and explanations we are including each week in the orders of worship will add a new dimension to our worship through these days. This is a time of deep meaning, deep reflection, and rich remembrance.

Grace and peace,
Stephen



Holy Week at Second

Next month, make plans to participate in the sacred seven days of Holy Week through worship, formation, and fellowship opportunities.



Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday and Intergenerational Fish Fry

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday worship featuring music from the choir and string quartet, *Light Shines in the Darkness*

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday noontime worship and prayer

Sunday, April 9 – Easter celebration of the resurrection



Light Shines in the Darkness: Music for Maundy Thursday

The weather is hinting at spring, and we know Easter is coming. We also know, we can't have light without the darkness.

This year, the Lenten season at Second will culminate on Maundy Thursday with the celebration of Jesus' final Passover meal and the choir's presentation of Michael John Trotta's 8-movement work, *Light Shines in the Darkness*, accompanied by string quartet.

Whether you are struggling to find the light in the dark places of your life, or are eagerly awaiting the celebration of new life on Easter, this is a piece you don't want to miss.

Make sure you put Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. on your calendars and join us for Maundy Thursday at 2BC.

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 easy! It only takes a few minutes to setup, 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!

Spring Forward on Sunday, March 12

Don't forget to set your clocks *forward* one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 11 so you can be on time for Sunday school and worship as Daylight Saving Time begins.



scattered to serve

gathered to worship

Pancakes and Trivia

Over 90 pancake and trivia enthusiasts gathered for a fun evening to try and win our fun balloons and prizes! Once again, our Questionnaire Extraordinaire, Chris Bryan outdid himself with creative categories and fun questions! A HUGE thanks to all those who helped make this evening fun and for all of you who came out to fellowship with our 2BC families and community partners!



Facility Usage Fees and Updates

Over the last several months, a team of congregational leaders representing the finance and properties committees, along with our administrative and ministry staffs, have been reviewing and updating our facility usage guidelines. We know that ours is a "seven day a week" faith community with more people coming *TO* our church Monday thru Saturday than who come *FOR* church on Sundays.

As we strive to be a welcoming center of Christian community, we also balance that with the practical realities associated with being wise stewards of the gifts of space we have to share.

Moving through the spring, you will see updates to some of the fees associated with use of the Christian Family Life Center and other areas of the church buildings and grounds that our ministry partners and members of the community enjoy utilizing. During the April congregational meeting, we will hear a more detailed report on the work of this group and its recommendations.

Chili Cook-off Winners

Our first Chili Cook-off was a DELICIOUS success! We had over 20 entries whose flavors varied from sort of spicy to fire engine hot! The votes were cast and the Golden Ladle Awards were presented to: Debbie & Keith Cockrell: Best

Traditional; Matt Meador: People's Choice; Becky Wilson: Grand Champion; Matthew & Sarah Grai-Breazeale: Spiciest "Call 911"; and Tanya Mabry: Most Unique. We are sure these fine chefs will share their secrets to creating yummy chili! We are all looking forward to the next competition!



STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs
Year-to-Date through 2/24/2023

Receipts	\$ 147,328
Expenses	<u>143,300</u>
Net	\$ 4,028

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.

Fish Fry on April 2

Prayer, fasting, acts of service, sacrificing sweets or another luxury are all long standing traditions of Lent designed to help us deepen our faith and connect to the amazing sacrifice of Jesus. However, perhaps one of the greatest spiritual traditions of Lent is ... the fish fry. And, on Sunday, April 2, Second Baptist will



Second Sunday Lunch

continue its tradition of offering an intergenerational fellowship and fish fry immediately following worship. The fish fry menu will include something everyone can enjoy. Mark your and calendar and reserve your spot today for this time of great food and even better fellowship. You can sign up by calling the church office, scanning the QR code or emailing info@2ndmemphis.org.



Easter Flower Delivery

How can you help make this Easter memorable? By taking part in a special day of deliveries next month. Sign up to deliver an Easter flower to a senior adult or homebound member. On Saturday, April 8 special 2BC Easter bunnies will scatter to deliver flowers to our senior adults. Sign up via the link in Center Your Week by selecting a 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. Flowers will be available for pickup beginning Thursday, April 6.

Crafts Fair

Benefitting Second Baptist PDO

MARCH 4, 2023

9AM - 4PM

**Second Baptist Church - Fellowship Hall
4680 Walnut Grove Rd - Memphis, TN 38117**

Your support is greatly appreciated

scattered to serve

gathered to worship



PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP
June 9-15, 2023
McMurry University
Abilene, TX
Completed 6th – 12th grades

PASSPORT KIDS
July 15-19, 2023 Cost \$400
Rock Eagle 4H Center
Eatonton, GA
Completed 3rd-5th grades
Before Camp Adventure included

Youth Zoom Meetings with South Africa Mission Partners

Throughout Lent, our youth will have a unique opportunity to visit, in real time, our South African mission partners and get to know the people behind the ministries they hear so much about. Immediately after worship, youth will have lunch together and then join our partners on Zoom. Megan and Jay Strydom (LIV Lanseria), Sister Didi (Refilwe Bophelo Clinic), Betsy Meyer and Xoli Msimanga (Thembaletu), and the Allen family (Door of Hope) will not only share about the organizations they serve, but will also share about their own spiritual path and how God led them to serve in these settings. After partners share, our youth will have the chance to ask their own questions and learn about ways they can pray and support the partners and the organizations. We are looking for parents or caring adults to provide lunch for the youth. Adults who may also want to hear from our partners can contact Daniel.



Toilet Bowl 2023

Fun and fellowship were alive and well at the 2023 version of our annual youth football game. After two years of exciting, down to the wire, and even overtime games, the Chief Flushers were able to pull away for a 33-18 victory led by game MVP Jonathan Cook. A good crowd of parents, caring adults, and siblings were able to watch the fun and cheer on the teams. On the outside, this appears to simply be a football game. However, dig deeper, and you will find important spiritual gifts and impact for our youth. Adults who come to watch and offer support communicate to our youth they are loved and valued. New friends and guests got to experience a place where everyone is welcome. The method of play (like ultimate frisbee) allows everyone to be involved and participate, a metaphor for the Body of Christ. Our focus on fun over victory and encouraging not only those on your team but also those on the competition provides a model for living by the "fruit of the spirit." Now, our youth may not see all those realities while we're playing the game, but we believe it is the reinforcing of these values over time that can lead to deeper faith and our youth embracing these ideals as adults.



FAMILY ministry

Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 1, our 2BC family will host an Easter egg hunt on our church grounds! The egg hunt will begin at 10:00 a.m. with activities and crafts along with our egg hunt! We will have photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and a wonderful time to learn about Easter with friends and family! How can our 2BC family help? By praying for the event and the families that will participate and by donating plastic eggs stuffed with candy by Wednesday, March 29 AND by volunteering to work the day of the egg hunt. Jobs include: a stations of the cross captain, crafts, snacks, Easter Bunny, photographer and more!

Contact Tanya for additional information.



Passport Youth Camp

June 9-15, 2023

McMurry University – Abilene, TX

Completed 6th – 12th grades

This June, our youth will go deep in the heart of Texas for a week of fun and spiritual growth at Passport Camp in Abilene, Texas. At Passport our youth spend a week with daily Bible study, worship, and mission projects along with evening fellowships like the annual Passport dance and variety show. Youth also have the chance to create memories and deepen relationships with our Second Baptist youth group and other youth from around the country. The cost of camp is \$450 and includes a before camp adventure. A \$225 deposit is due Sunday, March 5 with the final \$225 payment due Sunday, May 14. Contact Daniel with questions, to sign up, or if you are interested in chaperoning.

Passport Kids Camp July 15-19 · Eatonton, Georgia

Join us for summer #3 at PassportKids camp hosted again at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, Georgia. All students who have completed grades 3-5 can attend and enjoy Bible studies, mission education, recreation, and worship. Just ask anyone who went last year, and they will be able to share their fun times with outdoor games, a huge slide at the pool and meeting other campers and Passport counselors! The cost of camp is \$400 and includes a before camp adventure. A \$200 deposit is due by Sunday, March 5. Final payment is due by Sunday, June 4. Contact Tanya with questions, to sign up, or if you are interested in chaperoning.

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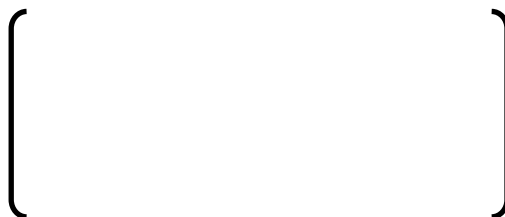
Update
Contact Info



If any of your contact information has changed, please email updates to info@2ndmemphis.org.



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SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

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

STAFF

Dr. Stephen Cook
Senior Pastor

Mr. Larry Denman
Minister of
Music & Worship

Rev. Daniel Johnson
Associate Pastor

Mrs. Tanya Mabry
Minister of
Children & Families

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Phone: 901-682-3308 recreation@2ndmemphis.org

Monday—Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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

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

CLOSED SUNDAY