

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

Volume 34 Issue 4

April 2023

Second Celebrates Holy Week

The season of Lent leads us to a very special seven days in the life of the Church when Holy Week arrives. We have a number of special events on the horizon that help us celebrate this sacred season.

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday

Children of all ages will participate in the procession of the palms as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. As we move through worship, we turn our attention to the gathering shadows as Jesus moves toward his death.

Following worship everyone from every generation is invited to join in our annual intergenerational fish fry in the fellowship hall. This will be a time to celebrate the gift of community and value what comes from being one in the body of Christ.

Thursday, April 6: Maundy Thursday Worship

At 7:00 we come together in the sanctuary where the choir and string quartet will lead in sharing *Light Shines in the Darkness*. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we remember the mandate Jesus gave his disciples: that every time we eat the bread and drink the cup we remember his sacrificial death.

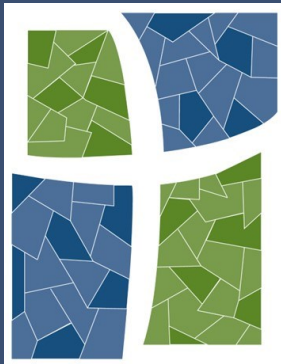
Friday, April 7: Good Friday Reflections and Prayers

At noon we come together in the sanctuary for a contemplative service of scripture readings, prayers, and music that summon us to the events of that fateful day. We remember the agony of the cross and depart into the silence that death delivers.

Sunday, April 9: Celebration of the Resurrection

On Easter morning we celebrate the resurrection through music, readings, and prayers. Join us as we recall the joy and hope we find at the discovery of the empty tomb that glorious day!

Join in the richness of what these sacred days have to offer as we share life together and gather for worship on each of these occasions!



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from the pastor

APRIL PREACHING & WORSHIP THEMES

April 2: Palm / Passion Sunday

Title: From Parade to Passion

Text: Matthew 21:1-11

OT Lesson: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

NT Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

April 9: Easter

Title: This Odd and Happy Truth

Text: Matthew 28:1-10

April 16:

Title: Hand Holding

Text: John 20:19-31

OT Lesson: Psalm 16

April 23:

Title: The Difference Between
Knowing and Knowing About

Text: Luke 24:13-35

OT Lesson: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

April 30:

Title: Gatekeeping

Text: John 10:1-10

OT Lesson: Psalm 84

Home and Journey: A Model for Spiritual Formation

During worship on the last Sunday in March we heard about a model for adult spiritual formation that we are beginning on April 16, the first Sunday after Easter.

A year ago, our congregation's Sunday school leaders began praying and dreaming together about ways to enhance our spiritual formation offerings on Sunday mornings. Guided by our commitment to the shared values of our "THIS is 2BC" initiatives (Telling our story, Hospitality, Intergenerational ministry, and Spiritual formation), this group crafted a six-month experiment that we set into motion last fall.

Since September we have learned a tremendous amount and I am deeply grateful for everyone who has participated with us in this time of trying new things. We have heard how much people appreciate sharing fellowship and learning alongside people outside of their age groups. We have also heard how deeply valuable people's "home groups" are for sharing care and prayer with one another. We have explored a wide variety of topics, have experienced new and different approaches to prayer, and also reaffirmed our commitment to Bible study and focused, thematic learning.

With all of that in mind, our Sunday school leaders have been working alongside our ministry staff the last several months to develop a plan that will take what we have learned these last six months and guide us into the coming years. What we shared in worship the last Sunday in March provided an overview of this approach.

Using the language of "home" and "journey," we will dedicate certain seasons of life in each year to fostering relationships and spiritual growth. During our "home" times, adults will meet in our traditional age-based groups from 9:00-10:15 on Sunday mornings. The times for fellowship, announcements, prayer, and teaching will all be held with the same group.

During our "journey" times, adults will continue to meet for fellowship, announcements, and prayer from 9:00-9:25. Then, at 9:30, people will break into different intergenerational groups for learning around specific topics and themes.

From April 16 through September 3, we will be in our "home" groups. September 10 through October 1, we will "journey" through a variety of topics that will be offered. We will return "home" October 8 through November 26, then take our Advent "journey" together.

There will be much more publicity and information about all of this as we live into this approach. For now, though, please join me in expressing your gratitude to the teachers who guide our Sunday morning spiritual formation experiences so faithfully week in and week out.

Grace and peace,
Stephen



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 eight-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.

The Children of Abraham: Interfaith Dialogue

Sunday, April 16 at Memphis Islamic Center

Join others from across the Memphis faith community as we listen and learn together about our Abrahamic faith traditions. On Sunday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m. we will gather at the Memphis Islamic Center (10299 Humphrey Road) to join with neighbors in breaking the fast of Ramadan and continued learning and growth together.

Congregational Meeting Reminder

Wednesday, April 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Each quarter our congregation gathers to share ministry updates, report on the work of our various leadership teams, and decide together about different matters related to the operations of our church. Make plans to take part in the second congregational meeting of 2023 on Wednesday, April 19. We will discuss updates on our Ministry Fellow Search Team's work, a recommendation from our Finance Committee, as well as updates on ministry and mission initiatives for the spring and summer.



We will gather in the fellowship hall for this meeting, as well as have a Zoom option for those who need to participate remotely. Watch for the link to the meeting in the week prior or contact Alisa Cunningham in the church office to receive the login information.



Church Office and CFLC Closing Reminder

Please note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed for Easter Monday, April 10. We will resume regular hours on Tuesday, April 11.

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Update
Contact Info



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

gathered to worship

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs
Year-to-Date through 3/24/2023

Receipts	\$ 232,331
Expenses	<u>224,374</u>
Net	\$ 7,957

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.

IRA Distributions to Charity - Tax Free!

For those of you living in retirement and drawing on your IRAs, did you know you can actually reduce your income taxes on your Required Minimum Distributions?

Per the IRS.gov website:

"Required minimum distributions (RMDs) are the minimum amounts you must

withdraw from your retirement accounts each year. You generally must start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and retirement plan accounts when you reach age 72 (73 if you reach age 72 after Dec. 31, 2022).

On November 17, 2022 the Internal Revenue Service reminded IRA owners age 70½ or over of their option to transfer up to \$100,000 to charity tax-free each year.

These transfers, known as qualified charitable distributions or QCDs, offer eligible older Americans a great way to easily give to charity each year. Moreover, for those who are at least 72, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

Normally, distributions from a traditional individual retirement arrangement (IRA) are taxable when received. With a QCD, however, these distributions become tax-free as long as they're paid directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization. QCDs can be made electronically, directly to the charity, or by check payable to the charity.

An IRA distribution, such as an electronic payment made directly to the IRA owner, does not count as a QCD. Likewise, a check made payable to the IRA owner is not a QCD.

Each year, an IRA owner age 70½ or over can exclude from gross income up to \$100,000 of these QCDs. For a married couple, if both spouses are age 70½ or over and both have IRAs, each spouse can exclude up to \$100,000 for a total of up to \$200,000 per year. The QCD option is available regardless of whether an eligible IRA owner itemizes deductions on Schedule A. Transferred amounts are not taxable, and no deduction is available for the transfer."

So, if you'd like to contribute to Second Baptist Church directly from your IRA, simply contact your IRA trustee with instructions. And thank you for your faithfulness!

Easter Flower Delivery

How can you help make this Easter memorable? 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.



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. On Sunday,



Second Sunday Lunch

April 2, Second Baptist will continue its fairly new tradition of offering an intergenerational fellowship and fish fry immediately following worship. The fish fry menu is catfish, chicken tenders, french fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw, banana pudding, sweet tea, and lemonade and cost is \$8/child, \$12/adult, \$32/family. Sign up by calling the church office or emailing info@2ndmemphis.org.



Congregational Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, April 30 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Plan to share lunch and learn about the work of our Second Baptist Front Porch Team during this important congregational conversation.

In our congregation, we share a calling to show hospitality to all people of all ages. We participate in ministries that are geared toward showing and sharing the love of Christ, because that is at the heart of the Gospel story on which we build our faith and faith community.

With that in mind, a group of church members and community partners have been praying and working together on ways to make Second a more welcoming, hospitable place.

Join us for this time to hear from different members of the team and to keep praying the questions, "Lord, who would you have us to be?" and "Lord, what would you have us to do?" These foundational prayers keep guiding our church into exciting opportunities for mission and ministry together!

Join in Thanking Our Administrative Staff

There is no way our church could function – especially through these most unusual years we have been living – without the dedicated service of our administrative staff members: Patti Calvert, Becca Childress, Alisa Cunningham, Teresa Howard, Jacqueline Martin, and Barry Pope. Each of these consistently cares for our members and neighbors in the community through their work and support of Second Baptist. Wednesday, April 26 is designated as Administrative Professionals' Day but any day is a good day to say thanks to these who serve and support us!

Thank you!

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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 have had the unique opportunity to visit, in real time, our South African mission partners and hear about the people behind the ministries. Sunday, April 2 will be our last meeting and our youth will hear from the Allen family about the spiritual path that led to the start of Door of Hope and how God has led that work for more than twenty years. Adults who may also want to hear from our partners can contact Daniel for more information.



South Africa Collections

Not everyone has the time or ability to go and serve IN South Africa. However, everyone can take the opportunity to be IN-VOLVED with ministries and our ministry partners in South Africa. One way to get involved is by helping supply partners with items to support their ministries. We are currently gathering requests for needed items and will begin collecting donations soon. Donations can be dropped off in the church foyer and we will set up an Amazon wish list. Our team departs for South Africa on June 30.

Youth Sunday and Senior Recognition

Sunday, May 7

Youth Sunday is a day to empower, encourage, and be led by our youth. We offer youth the chance to lead by teaching adult Sunday school classes and using their gifts to lead worship. In Psalm 144, the psalmist prays, "May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars, cut for the building of a palace." We share this same hope and prayer for our youth and Youth Sunday is an opportunity for our youth to grow in stature and wisdom. That spiritual growth also happens when caring adults take time to personally encourage our youth. We invite anyone to give the youth a SHOUT OUT and share how much you appreciate what they offered. You can: 1) Post your comment on the Second Baptist Facebook page (a specific post for comments will be published Sunday morning) or 2) Email Daniel. At the conclusion of our worship service, we will recognize and celebrate our graduating seniors. As a part of that recognition, anyone in the congregation is welcome to come forward and join in the singing of "Ancient Words" to our seniors.

GIVE 5 for Brinkley Heights Graduates

On Friday, May 12 Brinkley Heights Urban Academy will honor graduates from the Class of 2023 in the sanctuary at Second Baptist and there are a couple of ways you can make this day even more special for those graduates. First, Second Baptist members are invited to the graduation ceremony which begins at 6:00 p.m.

Second, you can "take five" minutes to write an encouragement card or donate funds to purchase gift cards for the graduates. Here's how:

1. Take 5 minutes and write a note to the grads. Be sure to include words of encouragement, a Bible verse, or wisdom for their next chapter of life. Mail or drop the cards by the church. Address cards to Brinkley Graduation c/o Second Baptist Church.
2. Donate \$5 (or more) and we will purchase gift cards for the grads. You can mail a check or donate [online](#). Please put "GRADUATION" in the memo section.



FAMILY ministry

Easter Egg Hunt

On Sunday, April 2, our 2BC family will host an Easter egg hunt on our church grounds! The egg hunt will begin at 4:00 p.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 volunteering to work the day of the egg hunt. 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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DO YOU KNOW ANYONE LOOKING FOR A
TEACHING POSITION?

Second Baptist Church
IS HIRING
Preschool Teachers



*LOVE FOR CHILDREN

*AVAILABILITY TUESDAYS AND

THURSDAYS 9AM-2:45PM

*TEAM PLAYER

CONTACT: PDO@2NDMEMPHIS.ORG



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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