

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

Volume 34 Issue 8

August 2023



Quarterly Congregational Meeting
Wednesday, August 2 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 third congregational meeting of 2023 on Wednesday, August 2. We will discuss updates on our Ministry Fellow Search Team's work as well as other ministry and mission initiatives for the fall.

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 Center Your Week email that day or contact Alisa Cunningham in the church office

Story to Story: Discovering Belonging
Tennessee CBF General Assembly
Friday and Saturday, September 15-16

In the telling of our stories, we hear one another, discover our shared story, and locate the redemptive work of God, in us, one another, and the world God so loves. Join other Cooperative Baptists from across our state for this special weekend when we hear stories, reflect on our own, and together discover the belonging in our shared story. Registration is now open for next month's TCBF General Assembly on September 15-16 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville. For details, visit www.tncbf.org.



Second Sunday Lunches Return!

Following a summer break, our monthly Second Sunday lunches are returning on August 13! That day we will hear an update from our Front Porch Team and a presentation that follows up from the material shared with the congregation at the beginning of June. Mark your calendar and make your reservation now by emailing info@2ndmemphis.org or calling the church office at 901.682.3395. As a reminder, the cost for the meal is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children with a \$32 maximum per family.



Second Sunday Lunch

	\$12 per adult
	\$ 8 per child
	\$32 family max



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www.2ndmemphis.org

from the pastor

PREACHING & WORSHIP THEMES

August 6:

Title: Generosity in the Name and Spirit of Jesus
Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
OT Lesson: Deuteronomy 15:7-11

August 13:

Title: Blessed for the Parting of Ways
Text: Numbers 6:24-26
NT Lesson: Philippians 4:4-9

August 20:

Title: When Jesus Changes His Mind
Text: Matthew 15:21-28
OT Lesson: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

August 27:

Title: Heroic Disobedience
Text: Exodus 1:8-2:4
NT Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

Decisions, Decisions

At the threshold of a new day in a weary congregation's life, that ragtag gathering of God's people heard their leader say:

"Revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness...Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:14-16)

Joshua sees that the Israelites are facing their hour of decision. The time has come to decide if they want to keep up with their neighbors or stay true to their God. After all, all around them they could see nations – bigger nations, more prosperous nations, stronger nations with well-fortified military forces. These nations surround them on every side. And these nations don't worship the big "G" God of Israel. These nations worship all manner of lesser, little "g" gods.

Joshua is wise enough to know what could happen; what would happen. He knows. So, he says, "You've got to make a choice. My household and I: we're going all in with God who's gone all in for us. But it's up to you to determine how far you're willing to go, how much you're willing to give, and how much you are willing to reject of what's around you to go with this One who has gone with you all this way. You can accept or you can reject, but there isn't any middle ground; not with this God."

At its best, the community of faith is a place where, each of us individually and we together collectively, make decisions over and over again that reflect how much we will give and how far we will go with the God who wants nothing less or other than to have our whole selves.

This month we have the opportunity to share some important conversations and considerations as God keeps calling us to look forward. Hopefully, you have circled August 13 and the Second Sunday lunch and Front Porch Team presentation on your calendar. I believe that God is inviting us to choose faithfulness at all costs; to listen closely to what God is calling us to do, all the while remembering who God is calling us to be as Second Baptist Church in this time and this place we are privileged to call our faith home.

Grace and peace,
Stephen

Ministry Planning for 2024

Although we are still very much in the heat of summer, our church leaders have begun developing plans for mission and ministry initiatives to undertake in the year ahead. From coordinating calendar dates to developing a plan for funding our congregational commitments to gathering names for nominations to fill different leadership roles, many of our members are hard at work behind the scenes preparing for the next year.

Prayerfully consider where you might be called upon to serve and share your gifts for the ongoing work of our church in the community and beyond!



Deacon Nominations are Underway

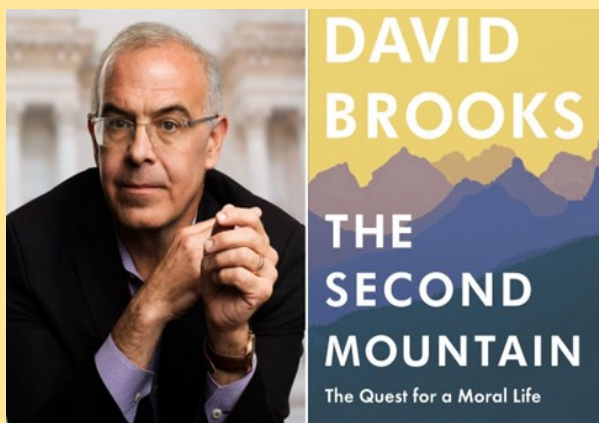
Now through Sunday, August 13, members of Second Baptist Church are invited to submit names of qualified persons willing to serve as deacons on a three-year term beginning in January of 2024. The deacon selection committee wishes to receive feedback from as many church members as possible during this time.

Nomination forms are available online at 2ndmemphis.org or in the church office. Please prayerfully consider those persons qualified to serve and return the form to the church office, by mail, or by emailing info@2ndmemphis.org.

Our City, Our Story

Our ministry partners at MIFA are welcoming David Brooks on September 21 for the annual Our City, Our Story event.

Brooks is a bi-weekly columnist for the *New York Times* and regular analyst on *PBS NewsHour* and NPR's *All Things Considered*. He has authored several bestselling books, including *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life*.



Brooks is also the founder of Weave: The Social Fabric Project at the Aspen Institute. Much like MIFA's vision to unite the community through service, Weave's mission is to invite everyone to start living like a weaver and shift our culture from that values achievement and individual success to one that finds value in deep relationships and community success.

Room in the Inn

Through Family Promise, hospitality and care for the homeless was a part of the ministry of Second Baptist Church for decades. Although Family Promise closed its doors in 2019, opportunities to serve and care for the homeless are still available through Room in the Inn. Volunteer opportunities include making welcome and get well cards for guests, maintaining a 55-gallon fish tank, serving meals, painting and decorating rooms for guests, beautifying the campus by maintaining raised beds and sprucing up the property, and playground pals offering a little creativity to take upcycled donations and create multi-sensory activity boards that hang from the playground fence, and more. Visit <https://ritimemphis.org/> and click the volunteer button to learn more or sign up to serve.



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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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STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs
Year-to-Date through 7/21/2023

Receipts	\$ 539,266
Expenses	571,079
Net	(\$ 31,813)

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.



September Adult Sunday School Electives

Beginning on the Sunday after Labor Day, our adults will have a four-week block of elective Sunday school offerings. Classes will gather in their home groups for prayers, announcements, and fellowship from 9:00-9:25, then from 9:30-10:15 have the opportunity to choose from one of three formation groups:

Equally Called

Over the course of these sessions, participants will have the chance to consider how Scripture reveals God's plan for all of humanity—male and female together—to serve God's people. This class will use both video and curriculum resources to reflect on the biblical and theological basis for affirming the calling of women and nurture a culture that more fully welcomes their leadership.

Four Critical Questions for the Encore of Life

According to a global study of nearly 14 million people, 53 is the unhappiest age in life. Is this number the new mid-life crisis? And if so, what do we do about it? If you are approaching or have passed this age, you may be assessing how to (re)invest the "encore" years of your life. We will spend time exploring four questions, examining how to live this chapter of life to God's glory. Facilitated by Andrew Beach, Director of Life Planning and Encore Coaching at The Center Memphis.

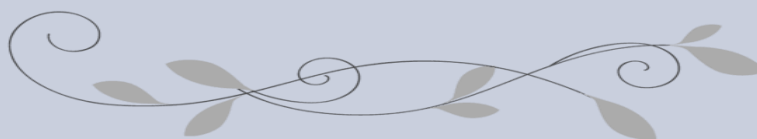
God's New People

This series will navigate biblical lessons from 1 Peter that emphasize the hope, identity, responsibility, readiness, and vigilance believers in Christ should have. These conversations will help provide a guide for living a life that is pleasing to God and fruitful in the Christian faith.

The Ministry of Giving

"I am an imperfect person loved by a perfect God." - Unknown

God doesn't want us to be perfect before we give our hearts to Him. God wants us, dirt and all. Surrender. Let God lead you. Allow God to love you to the fullest. God gives us everything we need and oftentimes much of what we want. God will work through you to be a blessing. Thank you as you share your financial blessings with Second to reach our community and the world. Help us share God's love with others!



Why Isn't Remembering Enough to Repair?

Wednesday, August 23 at 6:00 p.m.

The National Civil Rights Museum

The Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel did not believe in collective guilt. Instead, he asked for repair, and for holding the post-World War II generation of Germans responsible "not for the past, but for the way it remembers the past. And for what it does with the memory of the past." Other societies and communities have taken up Wiesel's call—at the national level, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Argentina's efforts to prosecute Dirty War military leaders, and at the local level, movements like the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission in North Carolina and land back efforts in the Pacific Northwest. What comes after we remember, from apology and forgiveness to justice?

This event is part of a national initiative that asks the question, "How Should Societies Remember their Sins?" This is a two-year editorial and event series supported by the Mellon Foundation. Blending scholarly essays and personal stories, we will explore how societies around the world collectively remember their transgressions and make attempts at repair, and how we might imagine new paths forward.



Pack-A-Backpack for Brinkley Heights

Brinkley Heights Ministries support students going back to school by donating a backpack full of supplies. Items needed include:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1) backpack (grade appropriate) | (24) #2 pencils | (1) pair safety scissors |
| (24) count crayons | (2) glue sticks | (2) packs wide ruled notebook paper |
| (10) count classic markers | (6) folders with pockets and brads | (1) wide ruled composition book |
| (12) count colored pencils | (2) wide ruled spiral notebooks | (1) tissue box |
| (2) large pink erasers | | |

There are a few ways to donate: Fill a backpack and bring it to the drop box outside the church office or drop individual items off to the church office. Donations are needed by Friday, August 4.



August is here, which means choir is back and we need your voice! If you would like to join us in the loft, rehearsals are every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary beginning August 2. Want to join us just for Christmas? We will kick off our Advent and Christmas preparations on Wednesday, September 6.

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Second Baptist Church IS HIRING!



Requirements:

*Love for Children

*Availability Tuesdays & Thursdays

9am-2:45pm

*Team player

Contact: pdo@2ndmemphis.org

gathered to worship

South Africa Mission Experience

Catherine Piche: Returning to South Africa was a chance to reconnect with everything I love about the country, the people most of all. Being able to serve them alongside my family was a blessing beyond measure.

Lyra Piche: This was an incredible experience. I learned so much about the culture and saw God in so many different ways.

Jojo Piche: This experience was a very new and fun one for me. Seeing so many kids, some younger and older than me, being so happy with so little and seeing how God was so prominent in their lives.

Jason Piche: It was so fulfilling to be back in South Africa among our friends in the country and with our friends from other churches, working and sharing. I found myself tired out, and also truly renewed in so many ways after the experience.

Amy Moffatt: It was such a joy to fellowship with my Second family and other Christians,

both American and South African, on this trip. I came away feeling hopeful and loved, and I pray the people I met along the way felt that too.

Chris Bryan: If you don't want to come back after being here, something is wrong with you. It was amazing to be with Anne, Kirsten, Spencer, our church families, and new friends on an adventure through mission projects, fellowship, a beautiful country, and lifetime memories.

Anne Bryan: It is beautiful and refilling to bear witness to those dedicating their lives in service. I pray we provided some needed encouragement for the hard work of daily compassion in overwhelming circumstances.

Audrey Johnson: South Africa was very beautiful and I'm very glad that I went. The people I met, the scenery I saw, and the love I was shown was extraordinary.

Alice Moffatt: My experience in South Africa was very welcoming; everywhere I went there were waves and smiles from the people. I also loved playing soccer with all the kids and having that connection.

Kirsten Bryan: Both the scenery and the people were so beautiful. I really enjoyed being in charge of painting and, overall, it was such a cool experience!

Benjamin Cook: South Africa was both an emotionally enlightening experience and an emotionally trying one. We were embedded in communities that had so little but were so rich in spirit.

Hear more about this year's South Africa Mission Experience at the full presentation after Second Sunday lunch on Sunday, September 10.



FAMILY ministry

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION, AUGUST 20

Children will start the new Sunday school year and welcome new members to their classes on Sunday, August 20. Each year a Sunday is designated as "promotion day." This day usually coincides with the school calendar to allow students to advance in Sunday School to the appropriate school grade they attend.

Bed Babies- 5th Grade Promotion Sunday "Meet and Greet"

Please come by from 8:45-9:00 a.m. and visit your child's classroom, meet their teachers, and enjoy refreshments as you take your child to Sunday School on Promotion Sunday. All classes begin at 9:00 a.m.

Departments/Classroom Locations/Teachers/Directors

Bed Babies-- 3-year-olds room 208 & 210: Pam Harris & Dianna Waring, Directors

Iris Orteza, Leslee Hernandez, and Ady Leyva, Teachers

Entering PK4 and K – room 310: Becky Lindsey, Barbara Elliott, Pat Mabry

Entering grades 1-2 – room 308: Shan Criswell, Sandra Livesay

Entering grades 3-5 – room 302: Rebecca Buehler, Pam Summons, Tanya Mabry



Back to school bubble party for kids of all ages:

On Sunday, August 27 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., we will enjoy pizza, popsicles and lots of bubbles! Wear your swim suit, bring a towel and be ready for an exciting afternoon! All family members are welcome!

PASSPORTKids Camp Theme: UpsideDown!

On Saturday, July 15, 4 campers and 2 chaperones left to participate in PassportKids Camp at the Rock Eagle 4 H Center in Eatonton, GA. We first stopped for a fun afternoon of laser tag, skating, and bowling in Murfreesboro and on to Chattanooga.

When we arrived at camp Sunday afternoon, our campers were so excited to meet our cabin mates from First Baptist Church, Commerce GA. We made new friends while participating in team activities with our Bible Study groups at the very messy Rec Party and Night Market- which featured the countries of El Salvador, Northern Africa, Belgium. During the week, we learned God wants to turn our faith UpsideDown so we can make the world a place where everyone feels welcomed and loved! It was a camp time filled with many blessings through Bible verses and songs!

PassportKids was truly a blessing for all our campers: Larry Breland, Joseph Bryan, Charli Meador, Iva Kate Parker, Aaron Parker and Tanya Mabry.



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Rev. Daniel Johnson
Associate Pastor

Mrs. Tanya Mabry
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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