

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

Volume 34 Issue 9

September 2023

Specialty Called Congregational Meeting

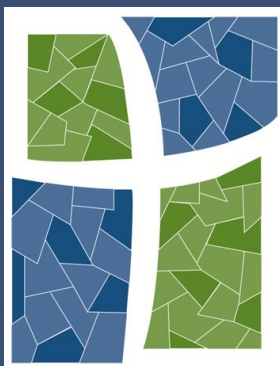
Sunday, September 24 at 11:30 a.m.

This is the day that our church will vote on the next steps in developing The Front Porch. The proposed steps include:

- Communication with our guests in the Pumpkin Patch about the potential project and the development of a preliminary website with an overview of The Front Porch;
- Conversations about The Front Porch concept with neighbors and stakeholders (e.g., nearby churches and schools)
- Exploring the viability of raising the necessary capital funds from foundations and philanthropic individuals in our community;
- Administrative tasks necessary to move the project forward (e.g., permitting, zoning, finalizing renderings, etc.)

The architectural rendering of The Front Porch is available to review online or copies can be picked up from the church office.

Members of The Front Porch Team as approved by the deacons and the congregation at-large are: Tim Bearden, Sarah Breazeale, Greg Cotton, Daniel Hochstein, Catherine Lewis, Cathy Moore, Katie Parker, Burt Waller, Becky Wilson, Lauren Young and ministry staff: Stephen Cook, Larry Denman, Daniel Johnson, and Tanya Mabry.



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

BELIEVE

God's idea

BUILD

God's community

BENEFIT

all God's people

whoever believes in me
will do the works that I do — **JESUS**

THIS is 2BC

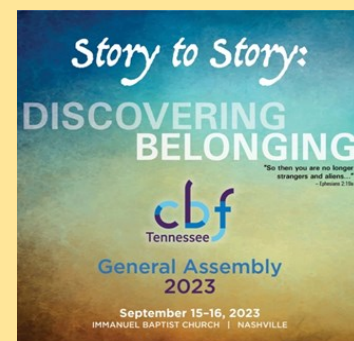
Story to Story: Discovering Belonging

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 open for TCBF General Assembly on September 15-16 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Nashville. For details, visit www.tncbf.org.



from the pastor

PREACHING & WORSHIP THEMES

September 3:

Title: A God Who...

Text: Exodus 3:1-15

NT Lesson: Romans 12:9-21

September 10:

Title: An Education in Freedom

Text: Exodus 12:1-14

NT Lesson: Romans 13:8-14

September 17:

Title: When the Best Thing to Do is to Do Nothing

Text: Exodus 14:10-25

NT Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

September 24:

Title: Grace, Even for the Grumblers

Text: Exodus 16:2-15

NT Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16

Like No Place Else

All of us are aware of the shifting dynamics of religious life and participation in our culture. The downward trends of attendance, engagement, and support for faith communities is well-documented. Most churches have seen somewhere between 30-50% of their pre-pandemic participants not return.

To say this is discouraging is an understatement. Anyone taking time to read this far into the church newsletter is likely to be someone who feels a close sense of connection to the Church generally and this church specifically. We feel the absences. We know that there is no such thing as a perfect community of faith and yet, there is also nothing quite like this place of grace in our lives. That is part of what keeps us coming back.

Philip Yancey, an author whose honesty and insight I cherish, has shared openly about his struggles with church and congregational engagement. He admits, "I rejected the church for a time because I found so little grace there. I returned because I found grace nowhere else."

Indeed, plenty of people do not associate the Church (capital "C") with words like grace, hospitality, welcoming, and loving.

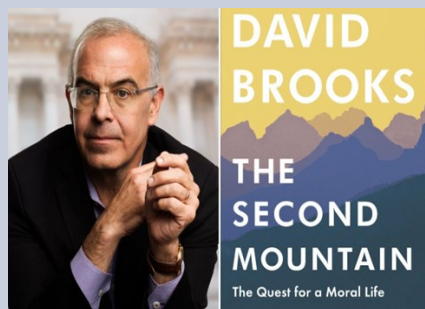
Here in this little corner of the Kingdom we are privileged to call home, though, I hope and pray constantly that we will live up to the highest, best, and most Christ-like ideals; that we will be a place of grace and hospitality, welcome and love for all who come our way. In my (admittedly biased) opinion, this place is Second to none when it comes to being a place of grace.

Later this month, we will have a tractor trailer load of pumpkins arrive for us to put on the lawn. Soon enough, we will have the chance to practice again a broad and generous welcome to any and all who come our way. There is nowhere else quite like this place of grace that we call our congregational home. I continue to thank God for every chance we get to practice being and doing the work of the Church together!

Grace and peace,
Stephen

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.

September Spiritual Formation Classes

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 chance to choose from one of three formation groups:



Spiritual formation is the process of being formed in the image of Christ by the gracious working of God's Spirit for the transformation of the world.

Equally Called Room 111

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.

Facilitators: Neil Boggan, Amy Cook, Jacqueline Martin, Linda Serino

God's New People Room 112

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.

Facilitator: Matt Meador

Four Critical Questions for the Encore of Life Room 113

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.

Facilitator: Andrew Beach, Director of Life Planning & Encore Coaching at The Center Memphis.

Home & Journey

*Recognizing the value of long-term relationships formed through fellowship, prayer, and learning together, adults will have seasons of meeting in **HOME** groups.*

*Recognizing the value of moving beyond the comfortable and inviting a spiritual challenge, adults will have seasons of **JOURNEY** to learn from and with different groups.*

2023-24 Schedule

September 10 - October 1	JOURNEY
October 8 - November 26	HOME
December 3 - December 24	JOURNEY
January 7 - March 31	HOME
April 7 - May 12	JOURNEY
* May 19	YOUTH SUNDAY
May 26 - June 30	HOME

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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

Faith and Trust

Tony Evans tells a story of a time early in his ministry that he was driving a "klunker" car that needed mechanical work he didn't have money for. He and his wife had a choice to tithe or to get the car fixed. They chose to honor God and trust Him to meet their needs. It was shortly after that the car caught fire! He was a little miffed at God because he had a \$200 deductible on his insurance. That is, until the mechanic showed him the deductible does not apply - in the case of fire!



It's sometimes hard to release what we have to God. It all comes down to faith.

Do we really believe God has our best interest at heart and that God can and will provide for our needs? Even when my husband and I were tempted to hold on to our tithe because we knew the expenses we had coming up, we gave to our church anyway. And we have never lacked anything that we need.

Patti Calvert, Church Financial Administrator



Holiday Closing Reminder

Please note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. In the event of an urgent pastoral care need, please contact the minister on call at 901.604.6686.

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs
Year-to-Date through 8/25/2023

Receipts	\$ 601,315
Expenses	652,106
Net	(\$ 50,791)

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.

Fall Blood Drive in Memory of John Avis

Second Baptist Church will host a blood donation drive with the American Red Cross in memory of John Avis. Watch for signup information in the weeks ahead and please help spread the word to others in our community about sharing the gift of life in memory of one of Second's beloved servant leaders. Details to follow.



Honey Harvest Event

Join our ministry partner Thistle & Bee for their fall fundraising honey harvest at Harvest Moon Pavilion Barn at Lanier Park. The evening includes fabulous food



FUNDRAISING
DELICIOUS FOOD
SIGNATURE
COCKTAILS
SILENT AUCTION
GOOD MUSIC

by chef Kelly English, soul-soothing music by singer/songwriter Amy Steinberg and a silent auction set. What a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon. For tickets, go to thistleandbee.org and click the link at the top of the page.

Sock Sabbath(s)

Sock sabbath(s) is our annual collection of *NEW* socks that support the Brinkley Heights Ministry. The collection starts September 1 and will continue through the entire month. Socks can be dropped off in the church foyer or ordered through our Amazon wish list. For the wish list link, contact the church office or find it in the Center Your Week email. Like water to the thirsty, clean socks not only supply a need but also offer dignity and signify God's grace to the recipient.



Choir Starts to Prepare for the Advent and Christmas Season

It may still feel like 100 degrees outside, and pumpkin spiced lattes may have just hit the menus, but in the music world, it's Christmas time! In September, the choir begins preparing music for the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you need an early dose of Christmas this year, join us at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary choir loft as we begin our preparations for everyone's favorite season! Hope to see you there!

South Africa Mission Experience Presentation

Sunday, September 10

When our South Africa mission team returned in July, they carried the same desire as the disciples, to share all they had done, taught, and experienced with the ones who sent them. That sharing will take place during Second Sunday lunch on September 10. Come hear stories about who they met, what they did, and where they experienced God. Come hear the story of the *MEMPHIS 10* and their adventure just getting to South Africa. Come hear about the joy and gratitude our ministry partners shared when receiving the gifts and donations our church helped provide. Come hear about the power of God working through the power of relationships.

Second Sunday Lunch

Sunday, September 10

Mark your calendar and make your reservation now by emailing info@2ndmemphis.org or calling 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.



scattered to serve

gathered to worship

The pumpkins are coming...the pumpkins are coming!!!

It's time to gear up for the most exciting season at Second Baptist Church. Pumpkin season! Each year, God provides us an incredible opportunity to reflect the love, kindness, and generosity of Christ to thousands of our neighbors. Our patch offers a safe place for children to laugh and smile. It's a special space for families to create memories. It's a holy place where kindness is offered freely and where we see glimpses of the kingdom of God. Guests arrive to purchase pumpkins but depart receiving so much more thanks to our amazing church and community volunteers.



Important Pumpkin Patch Dates

Patch Preparation: Monday – Friday, September 18-22 and September 25-29

First Pumpkin Unload: Saturday, September 30 (Child care available: ages 0-3.)

Second Pumpkin Unload: Saturday, October 14 (Child care available: ages 0-3.)

Pumpkin Festival: Saturday, October 21 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch: Sunday, November 5, 11:30 a.m.

Patch Preparation and Pallets

Help us set up the patch. Volunteers can contact Daniel to help lay out pallets and other supplies necessary for the patch. Youth opportunities are available the weeks of September 18 and 25 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Adults can help at any time convenient for them. Even thirty minutes is helpful.

The Great Pumpkin Unloads: Saturday, September 30 and October 14

Find your Pumpkin Patch shirt, invite a friend, and be a part of the fun and fellowship that occurs when we unload a tractor trailer full of pumpkins and transform our front lawn into a pumpkin paradise. Whether you can lift the biggest or only the smallest pumpkin, EVERYONE is invited to participate. We hope to see you – and your friends – in the patch.

Save the date for the Pumpkin Festival

We are planning to celebrate pumpkins and fall with our community once again! Rain or shine! So, mark your calendars for Saturday, October 21, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. for our Pumpkin Festival! We are looking for volunteers to head up each of our areas: registration, trunk or treat, hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones, hayride, inflatables, photos in the patch, games and much more! Be looking for an online sign-up to serve or contact Tanya or Daniel.

Pumpkin Patch Shifts: October 1 - October 31

We NEED your help serving daily three-hour shifts in the Pumpkin Patch! During your shift, you'll welcome people to the patch, hand out PUMPKIN BREAD, water flowers, take payments, help people to their cars, share about our church and so much more. Be sure to invite a friend to serve with you and wear your Pumpkin Patch shirt. Don't have a shirt? Don't worry, we have one for you. 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.

Sign-up links are available on our website and Center Your Week emails.

WELCOME
TO THE



SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

PUMPKIN
PATCH

Visit www.2ndmemphis.org
for all online sign-up links.

FAMILY ministry

Sunday School Promotion Day

On Sunday, August 20, as part of our Sunday School promotion day, our new first graders were presented with their own Bibles. Gibby Carlson, Harry Hochstein, and Dani Meador were presented the Celebrate Wonder Deep Blue Kids Bible. We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray that God will guide you and your family and all of the children as we use this Holy Bible in Sunday School, worship and at home.



Back-to-School Bubble Party!

What a fun time we all shared at our Back-to-School Bubble Party! Mr. Nick and his fabulous bubble machine showed up with music and LOTS of bubbles for kids of all ages! We all celebrated returning to school with pizza and popsicles, too! We decided it was going to be a wonderful school year!



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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