

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

Volume 34 Issue 10

October 2023

The Pumpkins are Here !!!

It's 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.

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.

The Second Great Pumpkin Unloads: Saturday, 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.

Important Pumpkin Patch Dates

Second Pumpkin Unload: Saturday, October 14 (Child care available)

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

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

www.2ndmemphis.org/pumpkin-patch-volunteers



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

from the pastor

PREACHING & WORSHIP THEMES

October 1: World Communion Sunday

Title: A Spring of Joy in the Desert
Text: Exodus 17:1-7

October 8:

Title: Holiness is Possible and Here's a Place to Start
Text: Exodus 20:1-20
NT Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

October 15:

Title: Whose People?
Text: Exodus 32:1-14
NT Lesson: Philippians 4:1-9

October 22:

Title: The Goodness of Cleft Places
Text: Exodus 33:12-23
NT Lesson: John 14:8-14

October 29:

Title: Still Not There Yet
Text: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
NT Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Another Step in a New Direction

At the time of this issue's printing, our Second family has just practiced something that is at the heart of our life together as a Baptist faith community: a meeting!

Of course, worship and spiritual formation and mission are at the core of what we are about. However, the way our church organizes itself is in a manner that makes space for every person who is part of this congregation to have a voice in how we go about our work.

On the last Sunday in September, we took another step in the new direction that we collectively believe God is leading us. The vote to proceed with the next phases of our Front Porch project received strong affirmation: 93% in favor of moving our conversations out to the community, exploring the feasibility of our fundraising goals, determining the necessary zoning and construction considerations, and so much more. Our Front Porch Team has plenty of work ahead! And, as has been the case over the last year, the Team will keep the congregation informed and involved in its work at every step along the way.

Although we have a very significant majority of our congregation that voted to proceed with our next steps, I know that not everyone is of the same mind (again, this is part of our Baptist identity!). Understanding that not all people feel that Second should take another step in exploring these new ministry possibilities, I hope that throughout these coming months of exploration – and in the times leading to other meetings and other votes – *everyone* will continue to engage in the healthy processes of conversation. Whether you are adamantly opposed, thoroughly uncertain, or completely on board, the gift we can give one another in this season is to continue taking part.

I cannot think of many circumstances where it is better for us to talk *about* others rather than *with* them. I do not know of situations where it is the healthier option to criticize outcomes we do not like but not actively engage in the processes that lead up to those outcomes.

All of this to say, I am deeply grateful for the spirit of openness and willingness that so many in our church have demonstrated in this most recent season of discernment. We have decades of history working in our favor where we have, as the people of God at Second Baptist, walked alongside one another through times of change and exploration.

Know that I am grateful we are on this journey *together*. I am eager to see what we will discover still in the next steps we are taking.

Grace and peace,
Stephen

Congregational Meetings Scheduled for October

This month has two congregational meetings on the calendar.

First, on Wednesday, October 18 at 6:00 p.m. we will gather in person (feel free to bring your own dinner) or on Zoom for our fourth quarterly meeting of the year. This is the time each year when we elect deacons to serve three-year terms beginning in January, vote on recommendations from the nominating committee for ministry area coordinators and committee leaders, and review a plan for funding our ministry and mission initiatives in the coming year.

Then, on Sunday, October 22 at 10:25 a.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for a specially called meeting with a single agenda item: to vote on the adoption of the 2024 ministry budget. This meeting does not include time for discussion, as that will take place on the Wednesday evening prior. **Please note:** instructions for voting electronically for those not able to be present for worship on Sunday will be sent prior to the meeting.

World Communion Sunday Celebration is October 1

Each year the first Sunday in October finds Christians around the globe gathering at the Lord's Table for the celebration of World Communion Sunday. As is our custom at Second Baptist Church, whenever we share this sacred meal, we also collect a special offering to support the benevolence ministries of our deacon body. Plan now to share – both at the table and in this collection – as we remember the depths of God's love for the world.



Memphis Choral Arts presents *Mend a Crack in the Sky*



On October 1, Second Baptist will host Memphis Choral Arts' concert, *Mend a Crack in the Sky*. The concert is presented in partnership with World Relief. Memphis Choral Arts is a diverse and vibrant choral community consisting of ensembles for children, youth and adults. We hope you will come back to church at 3:30 p.m. that afternoon to support these wonderful choirs and hear some spectacular music!

scattered to serve



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 9/26/2023

Receipts	\$ 681,156
Expenses	737,849
Net	(\$ 56,693)

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.



2nd

SUNDAY
luncheon

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

Second Sunday Lunch Moves Outdoors in October

Join us on Sunday, October 8 for our monthly Second Sunday lunch! After worship everyone in the Second family is invited outdoors to enjoy lunch from The Green Beetle Food Truck. To sign up, call the church office, email info@2ndmemphis.org or scan the qr code above.

Menu items available:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| *Hamburger and fries | *Smoked Chicken Sandwich and fries |
| *Veggie Burger and fries | *Chicken Tenders and fries |
| *Children's Menu: Chicken Tenders and fries | |



PUMPKIN PATCH HOURS

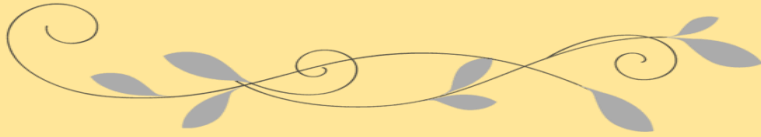
Mon – Sat 10:00 a.m. – sunset
Sunday 12:00 p.m. – sunset

Pumpkin Festival: October 21
Last Day of Sales: October 31

Online and Mobile Giving



It's easy to set up recurring gifts through Vanco, our payment processor. Click on "Giving" on our 2ndmemphis.org website and follow the prompts. It's all safe and secure. If you need any assistance, contact Patti at pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org or 682.3395. May God bless you as you bless Christ's church and our Second community with your generosity!



Poinsettias for our Christmas Season

With pumpkins filling our front lawn this month, we are already looking ahead toward Advent and Christmas.

At the holiday season, our church members so generously donate poinsettias in honor or in memory of someone dear to them. This season, the children of 2BC are raising money to help others during the holidays and are helping to sell the poinsettias for \$15.00, with \$5.00 going towards the children's ministry project. We hope you will join the children by honoring those you care for, and supporting the children in learning how to share with others.



If you would like to ***purchase a poinsettia*** for the season in honor or in memory of someone, our children will be in the foyer before and after worship passing out order forms. You can also contact Alisa Cunningham in the church office at 901.682.3395 or by email at acunningham@2ndmemphis.org.

Second Family Christmas Tree

The first Sunday of December is the first Sunday of Advent. This is when we decorate our Second Family Christmas Tree and share in the hanging of the green. ***If you would like to contribute an ornament to include on the tree, please bring that to the church by Sunday, November 26.*** Your ornament might represent something about your family (hobbies, interests, etc.) or simply express your joy during the season.



gathered to worship

Teachers needed for 2- & 3-year-old class:
Will you be the one who will share the stories of Jesus with our 2's & 3's? This teaching spot will reward you with lots of sweet smiles and bright faces eager to learn songs and stories about God! You can be on a rotating basis with others for this class. Contact Tanya for more information.



Intergenerational Movie Night in the Pumpkin Patch



Come one, come all! On Sunday, October 29, join us for a fun evening in the pumpkin patch for hot dogs, s'mores and a movie! Bring your lawn chair and invite friends and family! See you all at 5:30p.m. and the movie will begin at 6:00p.m.!

Survey about The Front Porch

One way we will move the conversation about developing our church's front porch outside the walls of the church is by gathering input from pumpkin patch guests. There will be signs in the patch with a QR code that will take people to an online survey where they can answer five short questions. This same QR code will be in the flyer that we hand out to all guests. Through this method, we hope to gain insights into the needs and interests of our neighbors and, hopefully, build interest and enthusiasm from these neighbors about the front porch project. When you're volunteering in the patch, be sure to point people to the signs and engage them in conversation about the front porch.



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



Second Baptist
**PUMPKIN
PATCH**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



We want feedback from our
- neighbors and community -
as we faithfully consider developing our
front porch
into a space where every person
can experience
kindness & hospitality
all year long.

THE
**FRONT
PORCH**



FAMILY ministry

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 21, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Once again, we will host our community event to celebrate our pumpkin festival! It is always a fun event for all who attend. We are asking for donations of candy to use for trunk or treat cars which can be dropped off at the church office or financial donations will be accepted.



Contact the following to volunteer for these areas:

Set Up: Tanya Mabry

Registration: Bonnie & Rogers Smith

Assist with parking: Aaron Parker & John Moore

Host a Trunk or Treat car: Catherine Denman & Whitney Hochstein

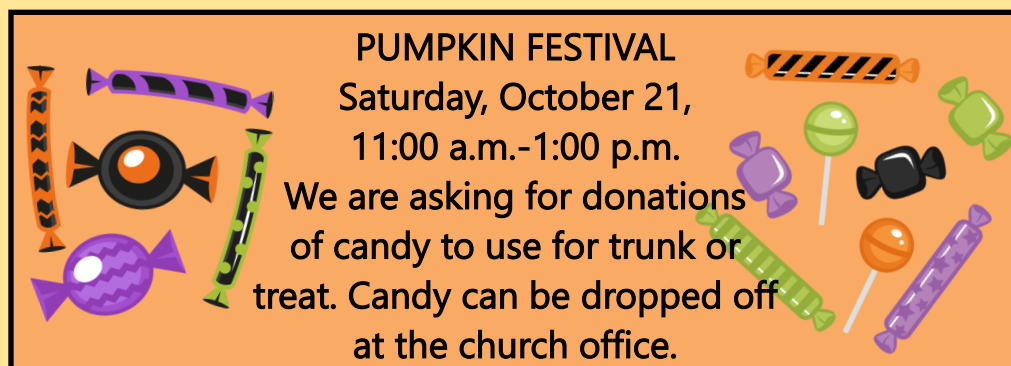
Prepare hotdogs: Anne Bryan, deacons & friends

Hayride: Tommy Sexton

Popcorn, Snow cones: Tanya Mabry

Games: Daniel Johnson

Clean up: Chris Bryan

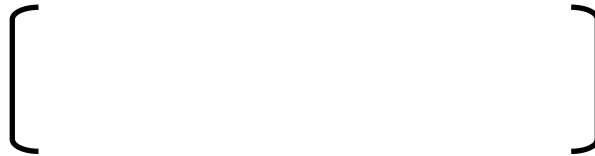


scattered to serve





CROSS ROADS (USPS 0005-206) is published monthly by Second Baptist Church, 4680 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38117-2599. Periodical Postage Paid at Memphis, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CROSS ROADS, 4680 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38117.



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