

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

Volume 34 Issue 12

December 2023

Advent and Christmas at Second

Join our Second family and community for these special events, opportunities, and occasions for worship and ministry that we have on the horizon as we anticipate Christ's coming!

Sunday, December 3 – The First Sunday of Advent

Stay Awhile: Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality study for adults at 9:30 a.m.

The Hanging of the Green and Decorating the Second Family Christmas Tree at 10:30 a.m.
Intergenerational Christmas Caroling and "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 9 – The Grove Music Academy Open House and Recital at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 10 – The Second Sunday of Advent

Stay Awhile: Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality study for adults at 9:30 a.m.

Grief and the Holidays conversation, reflection, and prayer at 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13 – Senior Adult Christmas Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Please contact the church office at 682.3395 or info@2ndmemphis.org to make a reservation.

Saturday, December 16 – Members of Second Baptist deliver Christmas baskets to neighbors in our community beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 17 – The Third Sunday of Advent

Stay Awhile: Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality study for adults at 9:30 a.m.

A Service of Lessons and Carols, featuring music from our adult choir.

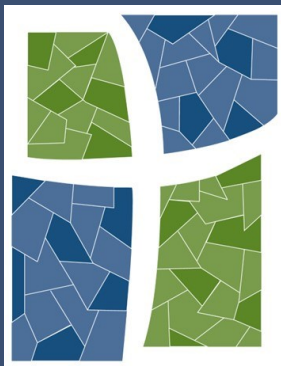
Thursday, December 21 – Parents' Day Out Christmas Program at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 24 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

Intergenerational Sunday school fellowship breakfast, impromptu Christmas pageant, and lesson for all ages at 9:00 a.m.

Boggan Family baby dedication during morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service at 5:00 p.m.



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



from the pastor

PREACHING & WORSHIP THEMES

December 3: First Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Green
Title: Come on Down...and Hurry!
Text: Isaiah 64:1-9

December 10: Second Sunday of Advent
Title: We Were Looking for a Savior, Not a Servant
Text: Mark 1:1-8
OT Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

December 17: Third Sunday of Advent
A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Title: Don't Be Afraid to Look Up
Text: Luke 1:26-38
OT Lesson: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

December 24: Christmas Eve
Candlelight & Communion
Title: This Song's For You
Text: Luke 2:1-11; John 1:1-14
OT Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

December 31: The First Sunday of Christmas
"Fast Away the Old Year Passes"
Christmas Carols and Reflections



Chaos at Christmas?

As the year is nearing its end and we are awash in holiday happenings, I suspect many of us feel a kind of chaos about these days. Some of that is external, with a host of places to go and things that pile up on our to-do lists. To be sure, though, some of the chaos we experience is internal. A flood of feelings come in times such as these; some exciting and energizing, others depressing and depleting.

By now, some of us are already overwhelmed by all that we feel we still ought to do and get done. Some of us are afraid we will miss out on what these days are *supposed* to be about – even though this year we pledge will be the one that is different – because life is complicated, and relationships are complex.

Amid all of that – and everything else you might be experiencing just now – I offer a few lines from the rich and insightful poetry of Jan Richardson's piece, "Blessing in the Chaos."

*Let what distracts you
cease.*

*Let what divides you
cease.*

*Let there come an end
to what diminishes
and demeans,
and let depart
all that keeps you
in its cage.*

*Let there be
an opening
into the quiet
that lies beneath
the chaos,
where you find
the peace
you did not think
possible
and see what shimmers
within the storm.*

My prayer is that the Prince of Peace will be born in you anew amid whatever chaos you might be experiencing as Christmas comes again.

Grace and peace,
Stephen

Advent Devotionals Available

The season of Advent begins on December 3. We have free devotional guides available for everyone in the Second family to pick-up in the church foyer. If you would like to receive a copy by mail, please contact the church office at 901.682.3395 or email info@2ndmemphis.org.

The devotions begin the first Sunday of Advent and go through the celebration of Epiphany on January 6. Please take one book per household and enjoy the rich traditions, reflections, and insights afforded for this sacred season of the year!



Adult Sunday School Sessions

Through the season of Advent, we are sharing a special study to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Stephen Cook is guiding our adult classes in *Stay Awhile: Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality*.

Everyone meets in their "home" Sunday school group at 9:00 for fellowship, prayer, and announcements. Then, at 9:25, everyone comes together in room 113 of the fellowship hall for this study that speaks to some of our congregation's core values as we explore biblical hospitality in this season of great expectations.



Church Office and CFLC Holiday Schedules

Please make note of our holiday schedule for the church office and Christian Family Life Center.

The church office and CFLC will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas and on Friday, December 28 and Monday, January 1 for the New Year holiday.

In the event of an urgent pastoral care need during the time our offices are closed, please contact the minister on call at 901.604.6686.



A Note About Sunday School and Worship on December 24 and 31

Please note that on Sunday, December 24 we will gather at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall for an all-ages Sunday school fellowship, impromptu Christmas pageant, and lesson. Morning worship will follow at 10:30 a.m. and our Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service will be at 5:00 p.m.

On December 31 we **WILL NOT** gather for Sunday school, but we **WILL** gather for worship at 10:30 a.m.



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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 11/24/2023

Receipts	\$ 825,548
Expenses	<u>904,415</u>
Net	(\$ 78,867)*

*Figures do not include Pumpkin Patch proceeds.

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.

Grief and the Holidays

Sunday, December 10 at 3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

We are approaching the season when those in our Second family who are grieving will miss loved ones even more than usual. Our deceased loved ones are unforgettable, and the memories we have are precious. The holidays magnify these truths. It does not matter whether our loved one died recently, or years have passed. In either case, feelings of grief are typically stirred during what might not feel like the most wonderful time of the year. Therefore, the need for grief support significantly increases.

Join Stephen Cook and Jacqueline Martin for an informal gathering best described as "a gentle leaning" into grief and loss. This will be a time of conversation, reflection, and prayer as we offer a sacred space to acknowledge our grief, provide support, and offer hope for the holidays.



Christian Family Life Center Transition News

Last month, our recreation director, Teresa Howard, announced her resignation from Second Baptist Church. In addition to serving at Second, Teresa also is a chaplain at Regional One



SECOND BAPTIST
Christian Family Life Center

Medical Center and the interim pastor of her congregation in Millington. She has stepped down from her role with us in order to focus fully on her calling to pastoral ministry. We certainly honor and bless that move for her!

As we move into this transition time, our personnel committee has worked with Elijah McBride for him to serve as our interim CFLC supervisor for the short-term. Elijah has recently completed his education and is pursuing certification as an aviation mechanic. In the meantime, he will serve as the primary staff person in the CFLC in addition to our student recreation assistants.

Please welcome Elijah to this role and offer your encouragement to him during this time he serves at Second!

Christmas Baskets

Saturday, December 16

Coordinated by our Deacon Benevolence team, Second Baptist provides Christmas baskets full of food and grace to families in need, and there are several ways you can help.

1. You can submit names to the church office by December 6 of anyone who could benefit from receiving a basket.
2. You can collect and donate banana boxes used to carry the food we share.
3. You can make a financial donation to support this ministry. Whether you donate online or by mail, please designate the donation "Christmas Basket Ministry."
4. You can share the joy and generosity of Christ to a family by delivering baskets on Saturday, December 16. Please sign up to deliver baskets using the QR code.



Basket Delivery



End of Year Giving Reminders

Thank you everyone for your generosity this year. As we approach year-end, there are many ways to make your gifts to the church. Remember to *make the gift by midnight on December 31 for it to count in 2023:*



Mail your checks to the church and remember they must be postmarked by December 31. Bring your gift to worship on Sunday, December 31 and drop it in the offering plate or office. If you won't be in town on the 31st, bring your gifts to the church by Thursday, December 28 no later than 4:30 p.m. Please note, this is the *last* day the office is open between Christmas and New Year's!

Give online through our website, www.2ndmemphis.org. Select "Giving" and follow the prompts.

Text-to-Give 888.704.0507 *or* give through the Vanco Mobile Faith app on your smartphone.

Initiate a stock transfer or retirement distribution prior to year-end.

As we enter the final days of 2023, help us finish strong by continuing to support Second Baptist and our ministries. We are blessed when we give back to God in thankfulness of what we have been given!

Sharing Your Gifts in a Season of Sharing



As we approach the end of the calendar year, we encourage you to contact your financial advisor or CPA about all the ways you can contribute to our ongoing mission at Second. Legislation passed in recent years due to the pandemic has created some different opportunities for you to continue your faithful giving to the church and support of other charitable organizations. As a reminder, the church can easily accept stock gifts, and that may be one option you wish to explore with your financial advisor or CPA.

For further information about this or other giving options available, please contact Patti Calvert, our Church Financial Administrator at 682.3395 or pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org.

Second Baptist Women's Retreat: February 23-24

Save the date and watch for updates in the new year! Women of all ages are invited to take part in this retreat that will happen in late February. We will spend the weekend at the Wilsons' lake house where we will enjoy a time of fellowship, fun, and meaningful conversation. If you'd like to get involved with planning the magic, contact Miko Montgomery at m.montgomery8517@gmail.com.



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gathered to worship



On Sunday, December 17 the choir and strings will present *A Lessons and Carols Service* during our morning worship. This service will be a new spin on the *Festival of Lessons and Carols* tradition that began at King's College Chapel over a hundred years ago. This year, our service will break down the Christmas story into the perspectives of some of the major players: Mary, the Angels, the Shepherds, and the Star. Oftentimes, we find ourselves approaching the Christmas story as a historic event—a pivotal moment in our faith retold year after year. However, as Shari Brand Ray observes in her essay, *What the Star Sees*, "the Christmas story is about movement, journey, paths of love from there to here."

Perhaps this year, we can think of Christmas as more of a call to faithful action. As we look at the journey each of these characters took to come face-to-face with the Savior, perhaps there is a message for each of us to be a part of the story, to be a part of the journey and the movement. After all, as the choir will sing that morning, "When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins."



Children's Sunday Thank You! On Sunday, November 12 our children provided

leadership during the worship service. We were so proud of how many of them willingly volunteered to participate by reading scripture, praying, singing, leading our songs, taking up offering, sharing the children's sermon and benediction. We want to say a special thank you to Tam Krag and Tommy Sexton for accompanying us during our anthem "I'm So Blessed!" Thank you also to moms and dads who got their children there for practices and Larry Denman, Pam Summons, Rebecca Buehler, Sandra Livesay, Shan Criswell, Becky Lindsey, Barbara Elliott, and Pat Mabry, whose added support makes all things possible with our children's ministry! Our future looks so bright with these children as our leaders!



FAMILY ministry

Advent for Children and Families:

As we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, we set aside time each day in December to pause and celebrate Jesus, the miracle of Christmas. So, to enhance the home experience, each family has been given a copy of the book, "Advent Devotions & Christmas Crafts for Families." Our children have been learning about the Advent wreath symbols of hope, love, joy and peace through activities done with friends at Sunday School. Our wish is for each of our families to have an Advent season filled with wonder and love learning about the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

Sunday, December 10 Children's Christmas Party: Our children will celebrate Jesus' birth on December 10 during Sunday School. We want to share our gifts with others so this year instead of exchanging gifts with each other, each child should bring children's gloves and /or stocking hats to donate to Brinkley Heights.



Candy Cane Lane: Along with our Children's Christmas Party, we will have Candy Cane Lane! This will take place during Sunday School and is a fun opportunity for children to buy gifts for family members. Children should bring in \$1.00 for each present they wish to buy! They will leave with wrapped gifts for family and friends.




**CHRISTMAS
caroling**

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE

SECOND BAPTIST INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR

TREZEVANT MANOR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 4:00 P.M. UNTIL 4:30 P.M.

Dinner, movie and hot chocolate at 2BC after caroling!

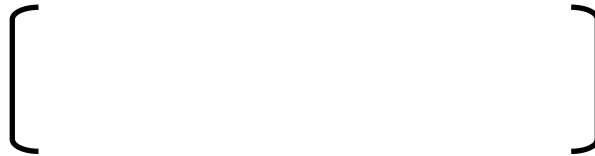
Christmas Caroling:

We hope you will all join us for Intergenerational Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 3! We will meet at 4:00 p.m. at Trezevant Manor to provide some festive music and then return to 2BC for dinner, hot chocolate and a Christmas movie! We hope you wear your colorful Christmas outfits and hats and enjoy the fellowship with our always fun intergenerational group! Please contact Tanya Mabry with any questions.

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SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

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STAFF

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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