

Encountering God at the

# CROSSROADS

of community and mission.

Volume 35 Issue 10

October 2024

## The Pumpkin Patch is Open!

Each fall, our pumpkin patch becomes the holy space where we can reflect the love, kindness, and generosity of Christ to thousands of our neighbors.

Although most of these guests may never visit or join our church, we know God can use the moments they have in the patch for a larger purpose.

Through our patch, people can find a quiet space to escape the world for a moment, a safe place for children to play, a convenient place to meet friends, and the chance to create memories. In our patch, kindness flows and glimpses of the kingdom of God abound. Guests may arrive to purchase a pumpkin, but they depart receiving much more. So, let the excitement begin and be sure to find your happy place in the Second Baptist Pumpkin Patch!

## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH PUMPKIN PATCH

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

September 28 - October 31

MONDAY - SATURDAY  
10:00 AM until SUNSET

SUNDAY  
12:00 PM - SUNSET

pumpkins - hay - corn stalks - flowers  
cookies - carving kits - granola - more

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT YOUTH MISSIONS & MINISTRY



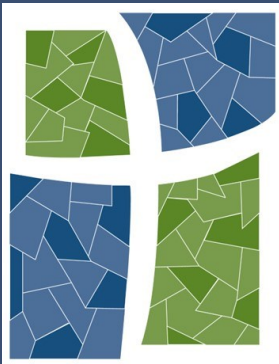
## CONGREGATIONAL - MEETING -

### Congregational Meetings Scheduled for October

This month has two congregational meetings on the calendar.

First, on Sunday, October 20 immediately after worship we will gather in the sanctuary 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. This year's ministry budget presentation is particularly important and everyone in the Second family is encouraged to take part.

Then, on Sunday, October 27 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 2025 ministry budget. This meeting does not include time for discussion, as that will take place in the meeting on the Sunday 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.



4680 Walnut Grove Road  
Memphis, TN 38117  
[www.2ndmemphis.org](http://www.2ndmemphis.org)

# from the pastor

## SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

### October 6:

World Communion Sunday

Title: Conscientious Community

Text: Luke 22:24-27

### October 13:

Title: Conscientious Hospitality

Text: Genesis 18:1-15

NT Lesson: Hebrews 13:1-3

### October 20:

Title: Conscientious

Forgiveness

Text: Ephesians 4:25-32

OT Lesson: Hosea 11:1-4

### October 27:

Title: Conscientious Economics

Text: Luke 12:22-23, 31

OT Lesson: Psalm 100

## The Power of Those Pumpkins

A guest who came to worship shared an encouraging note with me. Included in this person's message was the line: "I cannot praise your congregation enough for the warmth, heartfelt openness, and welcoming kindness." That certainly speaks well of the spirit we try to embody around here all year round. October, though, is when that spirit shines brightest! Through the other 11 months of the year combined we don't have the privilege of welcoming as many guests to the grounds of Second Baptist than we do in October.

Our Pumpkin Patch is an offering to the community. It is a gift we give that allows us, as the givers, to practice what our guest wrote about experiencing here: warmth, heartfelt openness, and welcoming kindness. It's that kind of spirit and disposition that we hope will define the culture of The Front Porch as that dream moves closer to becoming reality.

It was during October 14 years ago that I was called to become pastor in this beloved community that is our Second family.

In preparation for that call, I had a conversation with someone who advised me that Second has a tendency toward introversion. While we all could certainly stand to do more by way of relationship building and inviting our neighbors to not only know our church, but more importantly, to know the Christ who is at the center of our life together, I would say that October is when we move past our tendencies to introversion. There is something powerful about all of those pumpkins that makes it so we suddenly become a congregation of extroverts!

As we sign up for shifts to volunteer in the patch, as we work alongside neighbors who help with unloads, and as we play host to those who come for early voting in what promises to be a heavy turnout election, I cannot help but wonder: what lessons do we need to learn about warmth, heartfelt openness, and welcoming kindness that we share these days that can extend well past this season?

After all, we gather to worship and scatter to serve in the name of the Christ who himself embodied those traits and is always calling us to follow in his way.

Grace and peace,  
Stephen



### Front Porch Work is Underway!



On the last Sunday of September, our congregation joined with representatives from the wider Memphis community to mark a milestone day. We officially broke ground on The Front Porch, a project born out of prayerful discernment, creative collaboration, and a commitment to extend Christ's hospitable welcome to all our neighbors.

Over the coming months we will continue to share updates and information about the progression of The Front Porch. Through our pumpkin season we will have abundant opportunities to tell the story about this new venture that is getting underway. And, if all goes according to plan, by next year's pumpkin season we will have already celebrated The Front Porch's grand opening.



Thank you to everyone who has played a role in bringing this new expression of ministry and mission to life. This is, truly, an exciting step of faith for our Second family to take!



### Second Sunday Lunch Moves Outdoors in October

Join us on Sunday, October 13 for our monthly Second Sunday lunch! After worship everyone in the Second family is invited outdoors to enjoy a delicious sandwich from Huey's. Please call the church office or sign up online as we need to pre-order your lunch. Cost for the meal is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children, and \$32 maximum for families.

*2<sup>nd</sup>*  
**SUNDAY**  
*luncheon*

**\$12 per adult**

**\$ 8 per child**

**\$32 family max**

October 13, 2024

Burger or Chicken Sandwich or Veggie Burger  
All toppings will be on the side  
Hot Dogs for the children  
Chips, Drinks and Cookies

RSVP at [info@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:info@2ndmemphis.org) or click [HERE](#)

Scattered to serve

Update Contact Info



If any of your contact information has changed, please email updates to [info@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:info@2ndmemphis.org).



# gathered to worship

## STEWARDSHIP

Take a peek at our generosity  
and ministry costs  
Year-to-date through 9/27/24

Receipts	\$632,738
Expenses	728,822
Net	(\$ 96,084)

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](http://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](mailto:pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org).

## World Communion Sunday Celebration is October 6

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.



## The Pumpkins Are Here, Christmas is Coming

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

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 24.* Your ornament might show something about your family (hobbies, interests, etc.) or simply express your joy during the season.



Also, if you would like to *purchase a poinsettia* for the season in honor or in memory of someone, please contact Alisa Cunningham in the church office at 901.682.3395 or by email at [acunningham@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:acunningham@2ndmemphis.org)

## Ways to Support Second Baptist

Do you shop at Kroger? Did you know a portion of your purchases can be shared with Second Baptist? Simply go into your Kroger account, Community Rewards, and register Second Baptist as your charity for donations. Our organization number is CB549.



Thank you to all who have changed their recurring giving to OneChurch. We are saving money on service charges by using that platform. In addition, quite a few of you have directed your RMD from IRAs to Second, saving yourselves in income taxes. For information or help on either of these two opportunities, please contact Patti, [pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org) or 901-682-3395. Happy Orange Outreach Season!

### Pumpkin Patch Shifts

October 1 - October 31

Come spend a beautiful fall morning, afternoon, or evening serving in the Pumpkin Patch. We need volunteers to staff the patch from 10:00 a.m. until sunset Monday thru Saturday and 12 noon until sunset on Sundays. During a three-hour shift, volunteers welcome people, 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 then sign up [here](#) to serve in the patch. Don't forget to wear your Pumpkin Patch shirt.



### VOLUNTEER FOR Daily Shifts

September 28 - October 31

10:00 AM until 1:00 PM

1:00 pm until 4:00 PM

4:00 PM until SUNSET

LEARN MORE 2NDMEMPHIS.ORG/PUMPKIN-PATCH

### A note from Larry Denman

On Tuesday, October 1, Second Baptist has the opportunity to play host to

Memphis ChoralArts presents

# HOMeward BOUND

featuring Memphis Men's Chorale & Memphis Women's Chorale

Tuesday, October 1 at 7 PM  
Second Baptist Church / 4680 Walnut Grove

Memphis ChoralArts, as they present their concert, *Homeward Bound*. Memphis ChoralArts, under new artistic direction from Joseph Powell, is one of the premier choral ensembles in Memphis. We hope you will come support this wonderful organization, as we continue to lean into our identity of as a Center of Christian Community. Concert begins at 7:00 p.m. Go to [memphischoralarts.org](http://memphischoralarts.org) for ticket information.

### Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Sunday, November 3 at 11:45 a.m.

Our annual appreciation lunch is a time to celebrate all God has done through our Pumpkin Patch and the amazing volunteers who make that possible. We know all the funds raised and the ministry offered through our patch is not possible without the support and encouragement of volunteers across our entire Second Community. There is no way the

patch happens without all the youth, children, and adults who give their time to set up the patch, unload pumpkins, work shifts, and pray for the patch. Make your lunch reservation [online](#) by Wednesday, October 30.



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October

- 1 Carol Densford
- 2 Tommy Young
- 3 Judd Lindsey
- 4 Greg Cotton
- 5 Peggy Michel
- 6 Amanda Gowen
- 10 Anne Bryan
- 11 Ron Anderson
- 13 Diane Wadlington
- 16 Cindy Wooten
- 18 Steve Loughridge
- 18 Wilson Young
- 19 Addison Meador
- 21 Brandon Ramey
- 27 Brian Mallory
- 29 Pam Jenkins
- 31 River Montgomery

Please send any family birthday updates to: [info@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:info@2ndmemphis.org)



# gathered to worship

## Youth Group "Closing Time" in the Patch

Each Sunday in October, all youth are invited to hang out in the patch during the last shift (4:00 p.m. – sunset) and then, after closing the patch, we will celebrate closing out the week with pizza and games in the gym. Youth unable to come during the last patch shift are still welcome to join in the fun of Closing Time. Closing Time is a great opportunity for fun, fellowship, and growing relationships during a very hectic month of October for our youth.



## Second Pumpkin Unload

October 12

We need your help to unload our second tractor trailer full of pumpkins. Whether you can lift the biggest pumpkins, only the tiniest pumpkins – even if you can't lift any pumpkins anymore - EVERYONE is invited to

participate. Pumpkin unloading days are a day to celebrate the power of the church working together. Please call the church office or sign up online.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25, Collegiate School of



# COLLEGIATE SCHOOL OF MEMPHIS

Memphis is hosting mock interviews to help 9<sup>th</sup> grade students build confidence in an interview setting, practice interpersonal skills, and prepare for future job opportunities. Volunteers will spend one hour interviewing students in a format similar to speed dating. To see available times and sign up, contact Daniel. Additional details will be sent closer to the mock interview dates. CSM students show up to serve in our patch. Let's show up for them.

# FAMILY ministry

## Intergenerational Movie Night in the Pumpkin Patch

It was such a big hit last year, so we are doing it again! On Sunday, October 27, 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 5:00 p.m. for dinner, hayride, and a NEW pumpkin launch! The movie will begin at 6:30 p.m. We hope you come and make some fun memories this pumpkin season!



## NOTE: No Pumpkin Festival this year

After careful consideration, we have decided not to have our annual Pumpkin Festival this year. We always have such a wonderful turnout from 2BC families and community friends for the festival and we believe that this year would be the same. However, considering that our church is one of the largest early voting centers in Shelby County from October 16-31, and that constriction on the Front Porch will be happening, we simply do not have adequate space. We appreciate your understanding in this decision and look forward to working with you again next year! Please see Tanya with any questions.

**PDO**  
is  
**NOW ENROLLING**

**MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS:**  
5MO - 15MO

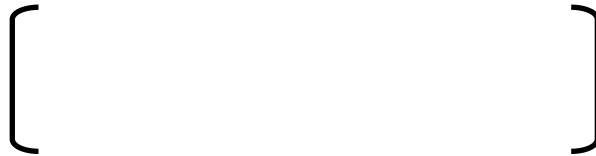
**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS:**  
5MO - 5 YR

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BECCA: [PDO@2NDMEMPHIS.ORG](mailto:PDO@2NDMEMPHIS.ORG)

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## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

4680 Walnut Grove Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38117  
Office: 901.682.3395

### STAFF

**Dr. Stephen Cook**  
Senior Pastor

**Rev. Daniel Johnson**  
Associate Pastor

**Mr. Larry Denman**  
Minister of  
Music & Worship

**Mrs. Tanya Mabry**  
Minister of  
Children & Families

**Ms. Julia Cunningham**  
Youth Ministry Intern

