

Encountering God at the

CROSSROADS

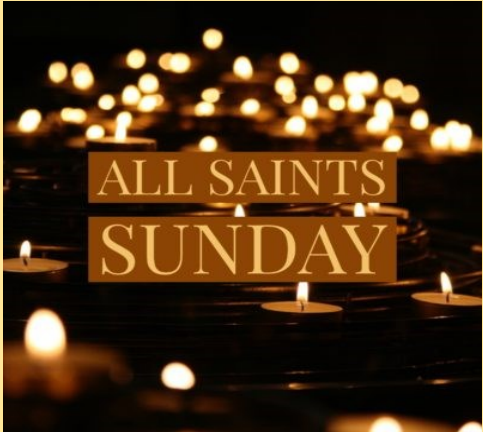
of community and mission.

Volume 35 Issue 11

November 2024

All Saints Sunday is November 3

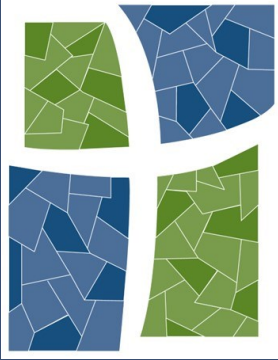
The first Sunday in November each year is designated as All Saints Sunday. This is a time Christians remember and give thanks for our predecessors in faith. When our congregation gathers for worship that morning, we will read the names and honor the memories of those from our Second family who have died since last November and who, collectively, represent more than 300 years of membership in our church. We have invited the family members of all those who have passed away to join us that day as we celebrate these saints who now rest eternally with God.



Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

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

COME HELP US CELEBRATE OUR PATCH AND OUR VOLUNTEERS! Immediately after worship on Sunday, November 3, we will gather in the patch for lunch and a time to celebrate all God has done through our pumpkin patch and the amazing volunteers who make that possible. We know the patch is only possible because of God's grace and because of all the youth, children, and adults who give their time to set up the patch, unload pumpkins, work shifts, and pray for the patch. The guests who come and the funds we raise are a direct result of the gifts of time, ideas, prayers, and joy that our volunteers offer. So wear your orange Pumpkin Patch shirt or order a new one from Grind City Designs and join us as we thank God for another amazing year in the patch.



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

Daylight Saving Time Reminder



Please remember to set your clocks *back* one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 2. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep as Daylight Saving Time ends that evening and then come refreshed and ready for Sunday school, worship, and our pumpkin patch volunteer appreciation lunch!

from the pastor

SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

November 3:

All Saints Sunday

Title: Ours from the Outset

Text: Romans 14:7-9

OT Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9

November 10:

Title: Do You Want to Make the Wounded Whole?

Text: John 5:1-9

OT Lesson: Psalm 67

November 17:

Title: A Lifelong Project

Text: Deuteronomy 30:19-20

NT Lesson: Matthew 5:33-37

November 24: Christ the King Sunday

Title: Thanksgiving Fit for a King

Text: Psalm 93

NT Lesson: John 18:33-37

When It's Over

I am writing these lines on a Monday evening, overlooking a group of early voters I see entering the Christian Family Life Center to cast their ballots. So, full disclosure: these words are coming to life without any awareness of the outcomes of our current political contests.

I tell you this because what follows is less dependent on who wins and more a heartfelt, pastoral appeal to us all to take heed of what we do when this election is over.

Those whose candidates win might be tempted to breathe a deep sigh of relief, just as those whose preferred candidates lose might be just as tempted to despair. We seem to be at a place in our culture that we put such a high premium on the power of one – one leader, one perspective, one party – that we neglect the true value of many. Isn't it bordering on idolatry when we look to one elected official to accomplish everything we want? Whatever energy and attention we might have expended over the past months (years?!) grouching about the way things are, how would it be if we spent even a fraction of that energy praying for others? What if we make it a point to practice careful speech that unites instead of divides, builds up instead of tears down?

If the other person or other party comes out on top, we have to choose whether we will grumble about that and immediately jump to the conclusion that all is lost. Or will we engage the divisive passion that comes all too easily to partisan politics and instead compassionately pursue the "still more excellent way" of which Scripture speaks?

Years ago, after some election cycle finished, I clipped a couple of lines from a writer who said, "Imagine if all the people in America who claim to believe in God actually prayed for their leaders? Or spent one-tenth as much time in seeking the heart of God as they do in griping?" What a notion, right?!

Perhaps when it's over – when the yard signs come down, the ad campaigns get replaced by commercials for Christmas shopping – perhaps that will be the time you and I recommit ourselves to prayer that builds up instead of tears down. Perhaps that will be the time we put into practice the values we espouse as citizens of a Kingdom community far better and greater than any national identity we claim. Perhaps when it's over it will be time to start again, in our homes, our church, our community, the common work of loving God and neighbor together.

Grace and peace,
Stephen



Christmas Baskets

Saturday, December 14

Coordinated by our Deacon Benevolence team, Second Baptist provides 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 Monday, December 2 of individuals or families needing a basket.
2. You can collect banana boxes.
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 invite friends, co-workers, or others you know to give a financial gift to support this growing ministry.
5. You can share the joy and generosity of Christ to a family by delivering baskets December 14. To sign up to deliver, contact the church office or watch upcoming Second Baptist communications for the sign-up link.



Banana Boxes Needed

Each December, we use hundreds of banana boxes for our Christmas Basket ministry. Last year alone, we served 120 families and used over 240 boxes. To



make sure we have enough boxes for this year, we need your help. As you visit your local grocery or big box store, please ask if they will donate any of their empty banana boxes. Some store or produce managers will even set them aside for you to collect in bulk. Whether you collect one box or a

whole truck full, they all help. Boxes need to be dropped off at the church before Wednesday, December 11.

Share a Giving Opportunity

Over the last 10 years, Second Baptist has doubled the number of Christmas baskets we provide to neighbors.

Last year alone, we provided 120 baskets to families referred to us by church members and ministry partners like Brinkley Heights, Refugee Memphis, and Thistle & Bee but there were still people on our waiting list. To meet this growing need, we must look beyond our own congregation. We need you to invite your friends, co-workers, employers, and business contacts to join us and give to this ministry so we can fill the pantries of families at Christmas. Each basket costs \$100 but any amount will help. Last year, total costs were over \$10,000. Please share the image or this [link](#) with those who might want to give.

Second Baptist Church
CHRISTMAS BASKET MINISTRY
Gifting Families Food

We need your help to stock the pantries of families across the community and ensure there is food on their tables at Christmas.

Donate Today

- \$100 - 1 family
- \$500 - 5 families
- \$1000 - 10 families

No one should go hungry at Christmas!

scattered to serve

Update Contact Info



If any of your contact information has changed, please email updates to info@2ndmemphis.org.

gathered to worship

Poinsettias for Advent and Christmas



This year during the Advent and Christmas seasons, the children of 2BC are selling poinsettias to help raise funds that will help support our congregation's Christmas baskets ministry. If you would like to donate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, please complete the [online form](#)



and submit your secure payment. Each poinsettia costs \$15, with \$5 going towards the children's ministry project. Please place your orders by December 1.



Giving Thanks

As Christians, thankfulness should be our way of life; our first thought rather than an afterthought. I'm very grateful for my family, my church and work families, and everything God has provided. My husband and I give back to God through our church, as tithes and offerings are a way of expressing our thankfulness to Him. We all have so much to offer our Lord: our time, talents, and treasures.



As we approach year-end, the church is in a deficit of spending over receipts. This is not unusual, but now is the time to turn that around and have giving exceed spending. In the coming days, you'll receive a letter along with your giving record to Second through October 31, 2024. I ask that you and your family look at your gifts and see if there's a way to catch up if you're behind, or possibly even increase what you are giving to God through Second Baptist. Every gift matters!

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". 1Thessalonians 5:18

STEWARDSHIP

Take a peek at our generosity and ministry costs
Year-to-date through 10/25/24

Receipts	\$707,228
Expenses	797,596
Net	(\$ 90,368)

*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.



hanging of the Green Sunday, December 1



New Deacons Elected

Please express your appreciation to the following six church members who have agreed to serve as deacon ministers with three-year terms beginning in January. These were elected by the church in our October congregational meeting: Greg Cotton, Sharon Ludwig, Amy Moffatt, Cathy Moore, Bob Serino, and Bill Summons.

South Africa Mission Experience

For more than a decade, Second Baptist has participated in the South Africa Ministry Network where we walk alongside a variety of ministry partners in South Africa, as well as with sister congregations here in the United States. Our next team to serve in South Africa will be there July 10-21, 2025.



If you are planning to participate, please make sure that you submit your \$700 non-refundable deposit by Sunday, November 3.

If you are not sure or would like to learn more, please contact Daniel Johnson or Stephen Cook to explore this mission partnership possibility.

 *A note from Larry Derman*

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded of the blessings in our lives. One of the most joyful ways we give thanks is through song. For our choir, singing is an offering of praise and gratitude, a way to uplift spirits and share God's love.

This season, our choir fills the sanctuary with songs of thanksgiving, reminding us all to "make a joyful noise to the Lord" (Psalm 100:1). Whether from the pews or by joining us in song, let's celebrate this Thanksgiving with hearts full of praise.

Parents' Day Out

PDO has the cutest pumpkins in the patch. Story time, hayrides, and pumpkins, oh my! This was the highlight of their month and we

thoroughly enjoyed our field trip to the patch!



scattered to serve



November

- 3 Brad Davis
- 3 Bob Serino
- 5 Henry Mallory
- 8 Tina Scoggins
- 9 Pam Summons
- 10 Spencer Bryan
- 10 Lenora Smith
- 10 Spence Wilson
- 11 Charles Woodward
- 12 Mary Haddock
- 13 Adelaide Denman
- 14 Barbara Elliott
- 14 Katie Harris
- 17 Debbie Cotton
- 21 Mary Dee Robertson
- 24 Quara Vowan
- 27 Bonnie Stahl
- 28 Dontae Currie Jr
- 28 Margaret Long
- 30 Jim Lewis
- 30 Burt Waller

Please send any family birthday updates to: info@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 24. Your ornament might represent something about your family (hobbies, interests, etc.) or simply express your joy during the season.

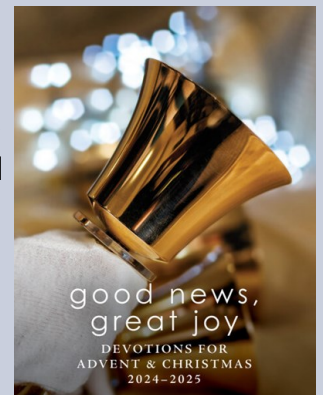


Hanging of the Green Rehearsal and Preparation Sunday, November 17

For decades, the youth of Second Baptist have played a pivotal role in Hanging of the Green. Though the service has now expanded to involve all ages, the youth still lead the way in decorating and setting a festive but intentional tone for the service. To ensure our youth are prepared for their responsibilities, we will have a Hanging of the Green rehearsal after church on Sunday, November 17. Followed by a quick lunch, youth will gather in the sanctuary to be assigned and practice their roles in decorating the sanctuary. We NEED ALL YOUTH to attend this rehearsal so we can help lead the rest of the church on the first Sunday of Advent.

Advent Devotionals Available

The season of Advent begins on December 1. We have devotional guides available for everyone in the Second family to pick-up beginning Sunday, November 17. While there is a suggested \$3 donation to offset the cost of the books, we want every household to have one as a guide for this sacred season.



In *Good News, Great Joy*, we have the opportunity to join Christians from around the world in reflecting on the angelic announcement to the shepherds in the fields outside of Bethlehem: good news of great joy for all people.

The devotions begin the first Sunday of Advent and go through the celebration of Epiphany on January 6. We hope everyone will enjoy the rich traditions, reflections, and insights afforded for this sacred season of the year!



FAMILY ministry

Intergenerational Movie Night in the Pumpkin Patch



It was an amazing night for year two of Movie Night in the Pumpkin Patch! We had beautiful weather, lots of friends and 2BC family of all ages on hand to enjoy fire pit roasted hot dogs and s'mores! Our movie: "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" was shown for all to enjoy as well as Pumpkin Patch games. Our newest game The Great Pumpkin Launch was a HUGE hit! Folks of all ages aimed for targets and launched pumpkins of all sizes! A BIG thank you to all brought their fire pits for us to enjoy and to the deacons who brought hot

dogs and buns! A special thanks to Chris Bryan who built the launchers! Also a special shout out to many who came to set up and help at stations: Julia Pilgrim, Jacqueline Martin, Ginny & Brandon Ramey, OJ Johnson, Pat Mabry, Ken Elliott, Tim & Carol Bearden, Larry Denman, Aaron Parker, Daniel Johnson, Jonathan Cook, Audrey Johnson, Ethan Dockery, and Stephen Cook. You are greatly appreciated! What a fun way to end of our month long Pumpkin Patch celebration of all things orange!

Sunday, December, 8
4:00 p.m.

Christmas
CAROLING



Trezevant Manor
 177 North Highland Street, Memphis, TN 38111
 After caroling we will return to church
 for dinner, hot chocolate & a movie!

scattered to serve



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



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