

Encountering God at the
CROSSROADS
of community and mission.

Volume 35 Issue 12

December 2024

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 1 – The First Sunday of Advent

The Hanging of the Green and Decorating the Second Family Christmas Tree at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 4 – Evergreen Christmas Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Adults of all ages are invited to gather for a special luncheon featuring music from Julia Pilgrim and others from the Grove Music Academy. Please contact the church office at 682.3395 or info@2ndmemphis.org to make a reservation.

Friday and Saturday, December 6-7 – The Grove Music Academy Open House and Recital beginning at 6:00 p.m. (Friday) and 10:00 a.m. (Saturday)

Sunday, December 8 – The Second Sunday of Advent

Second Sunday Christmas Lunch immediately after worship
Christmas Caroling and "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 14 – Members of Second Baptist deliver Christmas baskets to neighbors in our community beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 15 – The Third Sunday of Advent

Children's Candy Cane Lane and Christmas Party at 9:00 a.m.
A Service of Lessons and Carols, featuring music from our adult choir.
Grief and the Holidays conversation, reflection, and prayer at 3:30 p.m.

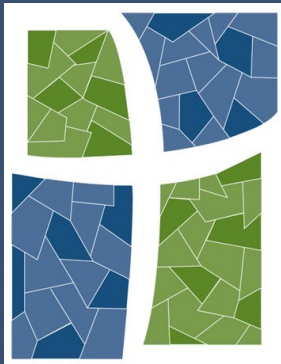
Thursday, December 19 – Parents' Day Out Christmas Program at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 22 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Montgomery family dedication during morning worship at 10:30 a.m.
Youth Christmas Party and Photo Scavenger Hunt at 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.



4680 Walnut Grove Road
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www.2ndmemphis.org



from the pastor

SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

December 1: First Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Green
 Title: Aching Hope
 Text: Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent
 Title: Peace Offering
 Text: Malachi 3:1-14
 NT Lesson: Luke 3:1-6

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent / Service of Lessons and Carols
 Title: God's Jubilee
 Text: Zephaniah 3:14-20

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent / Family Dedication
 Title: Unhurried Love
 Text: Luke 1:39-45

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion
 Title: What Child is This?
 Text: Luke 2:1-20

December 29: The First Sunday of Christmas
 Title: Joy To – and For – the World!
 Text: Psalm 148

The Candles Show Us Something Special
 Entering the Advent season, we return to traditions in our homes and in our congregational home that help add meaning, richness, and depth to these days. The decorations we put out, the tree and the ornaments we put up, the rituals and routines that help designate these as out of the ordinary moments.



Each year in our sanctuary, we light the candles that adorn the Advent wreath. Each week we add another light, moving us from hope, to peace, to joy, to love, until – on Christmas Eve – we light the candle that stands at the center: the symbol of Christ's presence here with us, the light of the world in our midst.

Most years at Second we have different families – in their various and sundry forms – to light the candles each week of Advent. This year, though, we are doing something a bit different.

Ours is a church that is extraordinarily fortunate to have partners in ministry from around our community with whom we share space in the facilities. We also have members of the Second family who have particular connections with and a calling to serve with these different ministry partners.

That being the case, each time we worship during Advent we will pair a member of the church with one of our ministry partners. From the afterschool ministry to Thistle and Bee to the Grove Music Academy to Parents' Day Out to the Afghan church: each of these is a vital part of our Second family.

Amid the many familiar sights and sounds of the season, I am excited that we have the opportunity to spotlight the richness of being and belonging together in our shared mission: to be and to bear the presence of Christ in a world that is made better when we work and serve together.

Grace and peace,
 Stephen

2nd
SUNDAY
luncheon
\$12 per adult
\$ 8 per child
\$32 family max



Dec. Lunch

December 8, 2024

Salad, Chicken Pot Pie, Rolls and Dessert

Click [HERE](#) to make your reservation.

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 2024*:



- Mail your checks to the church and remember they must be postmarked by December 31.
- Bring your gift to worship on Sunday, December 29 and drop it in the offering plate or office. If you won't be in town on the 29th, bring your gifts to the church by Monday, December 30 no later than 4:30 p.m. Please note, this is the *last* day the office is open for the year!
- Give online through our website, www.2ndmemphis.org. Select "Giving"
- Initiate a stock transfer or retirement distribution prior to year-end.

As we enter the final days of 2024, 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 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.

IRA Distributions to Charity - Tax Free!

Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when received. With a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), however, these distributions become tax-free as long as they're paid directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization.

Each year, an IRA owner age 70 ½ or over can exclude from gross income up to \$100,000 of these QCDs. Also, the QCDs count toward the IRA owner's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year. Remember, the Qualified Charitable Distribution has to be made directly from the trustee of the IRA to the charitable organization for it to be non-taxable.

So, if you'd like to contribute to Second Baptist Church directly from your IRA, simply contact your IRA trustee with instructions. Thank you for your faithfulness!

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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

Grief and the Holidays

Sunday, December 15 at 3:30 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 with others from our congregation and community 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.



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 Wednesday, December 26 and Thursday, December 26 for Christmas and on Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, 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.



Hanging of the Green
Sunday, December 1



A Note About Sunday School and Worship on December 29



Please note that on Sunday, December 29 we will NOT gather for Sunday school but we WILL gather for worship at 10:30 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP

Remember that when it comes to giving, we have several options for sharing gifts with our church:

- Cash and Checks
- 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.

Advent Devotionals Available

During the season of Advent we have devotional guides available for everyone in the Second family to pick-up. 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!

Christmas Basket Ministry

Saturday, December 14

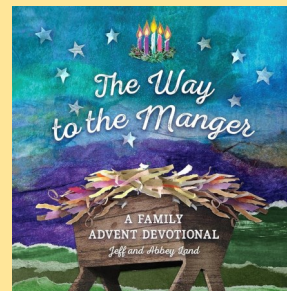
Coordinated by our Deacon Benevolence team, Second Baptist will provide



Christmas baskets full of food and grace to over 100 families in need this season and there are several ways you can help. 1. Submit names to the church office (info@2ndmemphis.org) by Monday, December 2 of individuals or families needing a basket. 2. Collect banana boxes from grocery stores and drop off at the church by December 11. 3. Make a financial

donation to support this ministry. Whether you donate online or by mail, please designate the donation "Christmas Basket Ministry." 4. Invite friends, co-workers, or others you know to join us by donating [online](#) to support this growing ministry. 5. Share the joy and generosity of Christ to a family by delivering baskets on December 14. Sign up to deliver by contacting the church office or using the link in Center Your Week emails.

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, *"The Way to the Manger, A Family Advent Devotional"* by Jeff and Abbey Land. Our children



have been learning about the Advent wreath symbols of hope, peace, joy and love 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.

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December

- 1 Dianna Waring
- 2 Charli Meador
- 3 Keith Cockrell
- 4 Lynette Pearson
- 10 Barbara McLain
- 11 Lana Marler
- 12 Jeremy Robertson
- 13 Janice Woodward
- 21 Whitney Hochstein
- 25 Rob Montgomery
- 26 Eleanor Hochstein
- 27 Margaret Orr
- 28 Kevin Reed

Please send any family birthday updates to: info@2ndmemphis.org

gathered to worship

A Big Pumpkin Thank You!

It was a banner year for the Second Baptist Pumpkin Patch as we broke our record for most total sales (over \$120,000) and most funds raised (over \$40,000) for youth ministry and mission. Our Second Baptist youth also served 474 hours in the patch, more than any previous group of youth. However, more important than all the numbers, is the spirit of



welcome, kindness, selflessness, and helpfulness exemplified and led by our Second Baptist volunteers. It is impossible to operate our patch without the prayers, dedication, and support of so many in our church and broader Second Baptist community. To borrow from the apostle Paul, if we break sales records but don't have love, we are nothing but a noisy gong and there is no benefit

whatsoever. Thank you to all who served in this year's pumpkin patch. And remember, we are 300 days until pumpkin patch 2025.



Youth Christmas Party Help Needed!

Sunday, December 22

All 2BC Youth are invited to celebrate the season with a Christmas movie themed scavenger hunt followed by dinner. The fun starts in the foyer of the Christian Family Life Center at 3:30 pm where youth will be divided into teams with an adult driver. Those teams will then spend the next two hours driving around Memphis taking videos of their team trying to complete as many of the tasks on the scavenger hunt list. Upon returning to the church, youth will enjoy dinner together followed by watching all the pictures and videos from the scavenger hunt. For this party, we do need help from caring adults in our Second community. We need adult volunteers to *1) drive for the scavenger hunt, 2) provide dinner and, 3) help collect, organize, and present the pictures and videos from the teams.* If you are able to help, please contact Daniel.



oh
holy
night



FAMILY ministry

Join Us for an Evening of Christmas Caroling!
Sunday, December 8, at 4:00 p.m.

Trezevant Manor

As Christmas approaches, there's no better way to celebrate the joy and spirit of the holidays than by spreading love and cheer through music. We are excited to invite everyone in our church family to participate in our Christmas Caroling event.

Let's come together to sing beloved Christmas songs and bring smiles to everyone we meet. After caroling, we'll return to the church for an evening filled with fellowship and fun. Warm up with a delicious dinner, enjoy a cozy cup of hot chocolate, and relax with a festive movie that will delight the whole family!

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, spread the joy of Christmas, and make cherished memories with your loved ones. No professional singing skills are needed—just bring your enthusiasm, your holiday spirit, and your voice!

Let's make this season brighter together. Mark your calendar, invite your friends and family, and join us for this festive and meaningful event. We can't wait to see you there!

Sunday, December 15 Children's Christmas Party

Our children will celebrate Jesus' birth on December 15 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 a small donation for a Christmas basket.

Candy Cane Lane Along with our Children's Christmas Party on December 15, 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.



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