

Encountering God at the

CROSSROADS

of community and mission.

Volume 36 Issue 2

February 2025

New Days are Dawning at Second

This month, a group of eight congregational leaders and our ministry staff will begin a new Dawnings experience. Since 2013, our church has utilized Dawnings in different seasons of our life together.



Dawnings is rooted in stories that help individuals and churches discover and fulfill their God-given mission. The resource is designed to equip us to practice faithful discernment together, centering ourselves on two essential prayers: "Lord, who are you calling us to be now?" and "Lord, what are you calling us to do now?"

Please pray for our leadership team as they prepare for a retreat together on February 7-8. The members of the group are: Carmen Anderson, Tim Bearden, Anne Bryan, Greg Cotton, Catherine Denman, Bart Harris, Cathy Moore, Burt Waller, and our ministry staff.

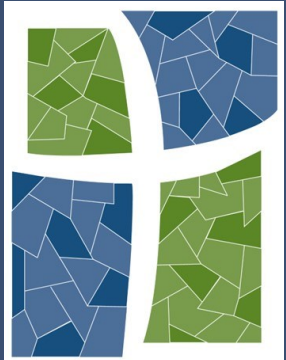
Following the retreat in February, through the month of March our Sunday school classes will share a special Bible study in their groups that is centered on calling. During worship as we move through the season of Lent our themes will also focus on calling and will incorporate different voices that help us listen for the voice of God in our midst now. Also, in March and moving through the spring, we will have four congregational conversations to pray, listen, and dream together that will culminate on the day of Pentecost in June.

Continue watching for additional information and opportunities to engage with Dawnings and, most importantly, pray for God's guiding care in this important initiative!

Rescheduled Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 2 – Immediately after worship



The first quarterly congregational meeting (originally scheduled for January) will take place the first Sunday in February. In addition to hearing a year-end report on our stewardship and generosity in 2024, we will also receive an important update from the personnel committee and vote on a recommendation from the nominating committee.



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

from the pastor

SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

February 2:

Title: Pressed Down,
Running Over

Text: Luke 6:27-38

Rickey Letson preaching

February 9:

Title: Great Catch!

Text: Luke 5:1-11

OT Lesson: Psalm 138

February 16:

Title: Rooted

Text: Jeremiah 17:5-8

OT Lesson: Psalm 1

February 23:

Title: Better Than Forgiving
and Forgetting

Text: Genesis 45:3-11

NT Lesson: Luke 6:27-36

Discerning God's Ways Together

You and I are living in a global, national, and cultural context that can often feel unsteady, uncertain, and – at times – downright chaotic. The same can certainly be said of life in the Church universally and our church locally.

The psalmist in Psalm 25:1, 4-5 sings: "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul...Make me to know your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long."

I love these lines. At the heart of the prayer is a yearning for closeness to the heart of heaven. The psalmist's prayer portrays a heart that is open to what the Spirit of God may yet do.

As Second prepares to engage in its next Dawnings process – and then next month as we come to another Lenten season of reflection and deeper spiritual formation – I cannot help but wonder. How would it be if we took stock of the kinds of thoughts and prayers, feelings and emotions we are bringing to bear on our daily living?

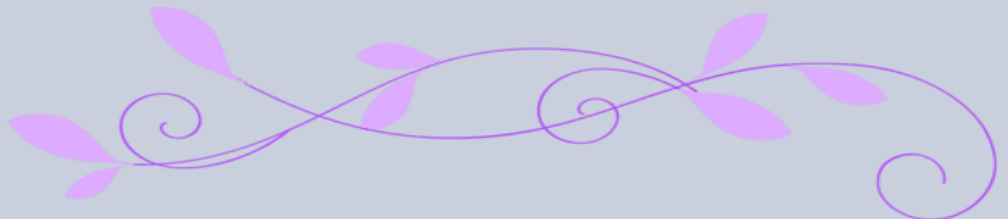
Could the Spirit be telling us, "Settle down. No need to take charge of telling God what to do. No matter how long you've been at this thing called faith, there's still a lot of learning left for you to do." Don't we all need to know more of God and God's ways?

Please take advantage of the opportunities that are ahead of us.

Opportunities to learn, to pray, to care, to trust, to grow, and to love God and one another more deeply. This can be challenging work, which is all the more reason for why we need one another; why we need the church to prod us to get out of our comfortable ruts and listen for who God is calling us to be now and what God is calling us to do now.

I hope you will commit to approaching the days ahead of us with a readiness to know God and God's ways more fully than we already do in order that we can live and serve even more faithfully than we already do.

Grace and peace,
Stephen



Celebrating 45 Years – and Two Months! – of Ministry

Sunday, February 23

Thanks to a winter storm last month we postponed the celebration we had planned to honor Julia Pilgrim's 45th anniversary of service to Second Baptist. We will try again on the last Sunday of February.

During worship that morning we will formally honor her and then, afterwards, we will gather in the fellowship hall for a very special luncheon to celebrate Julia and express our love for her faithful service, even as we look forward to more years of ministry ahead.

Please remember that, if you reserved a spot for the luncheon in January then that has been applied to the new date on February 23. If you did not sign up for January but would like to take part in February, please contact the church office at 901.682.3395 or info@2ndmemphis.org. And, if you signed up for January but cannot attend in February, your payment will be applied to a future Second Sunday lunch.

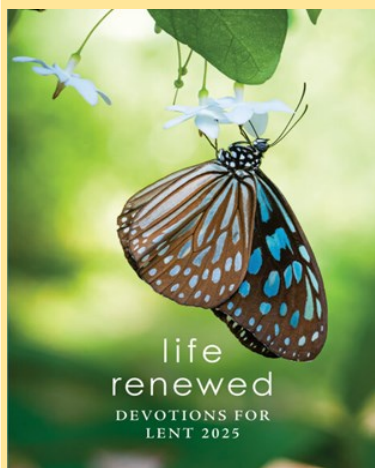
Second Sunday Lunch February 23, 2025

*Mixed Greens
Chicken Caprese
Broccoli
Rustic Mashed Potatoes
Rolls
Dessert*



Life Renewed: Devotions for Lent

As in past years, during the Lenten season we are providing devotionals to everyone who would like to receive one. *Life Renewed* provides daily devotionals for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The devotionals begin with an evocative image and a brief passage drawn from traditional Easter texts. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.



The devotional books will be available for pickup in the church foyer or office beginning Sunday, February 16. A \$3 donation to offset the costs of the books is appreciated. If you are unable to get a book in person, please contact the church office and we will be sure everyone who wants one is able to get one.

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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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Monday, January 20, 2025

Civil Rights activist Cleveland Sellers once said, "We cannot sit around and talk about the beloved community." This past Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, volunteers from Second Baptist Church and Beth Shalom Synagogue lived into that truth by serving together, in community for the community. Volunteers made meals for the hungry, prepared spaces for children, supported organizations serving the homeless, and sorted supplies that bring dignity to neighbors in need. Now January 20 was a very good day, but we know more work is necessary to achieve lasting change. Let us celebrate what was accomplished for the glory of God while also continuing to find ways to make it on earth as it is in heaven.



Year-End 2024

Receipts	\$919,837
Expenses	<u>954,664</u>
Net	(\$ 34,827)

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.



A note from Larry Denman

Singing has always been a cornerstone of worship and spiritual life, serving as both a collective and personal expression of faith. The Bible is filled with exhortations to sing, such as Psalm 95:1: "Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." Modern research also highlights the benefits of singing, showing it reduces stress, fosters connection, and improves mood—all vital components of spiritual well-being. As a church, singing together unites us in purpose and spirit, creating a shared spiritual experience that strengthens the body of Christ. Whether in the pews, the choir, or the quiet of your home, your song becomes a reflection of God's love and grace. Let us embrace this gift to nurture our faith and draw closer to God.



Second Baptist, thank you so much for your support in the year 2024. We accomplished so much that would not have been possible without your generous donations to our mission and ministry. Our staff worked diligently to hold down expenses, even as offerings and other income were below what we had anticipated. We ended the year with a modest shortfall of (\$34,827).

The new year is here and we're off to a roaring start! As I write they are pouring concrete for the new Front Porch building. So many exciting events upcoming - Julia Pilgrim's anniversary celebration, the Toilet Bowl, PDO Crafts Fair, and Trivia Night are just a few. Thank you for being part of our Second story. Together we make a difference for our Lord in our neighborhood and beyond!

Patti Calvert
Financial Administrator

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February

February 1	Frank Vick
February 3	Frankie Hromada
February 5	Joyce Hawkins
February 5	Martha Huffman
February 5	Steve Pilgrim
February 7	Charles Biggers
February 9	Theresa Jennings
February 11	Adam Carlson
February 12	Hart Gowen
February 12	Dora Mullenix
February 13	Katie Parker
February 13	George Pearson
February 17	Rogers Smith
February 18	Shan Criswell
February 24	Andrew Smith
February 25	Debbie Cockrell
February 26	Liam Hochstein
February 29	Parker Young

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

Second's Third Annual Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, February 9 at 11:45 a.m.

Who from the Second community has the tastiest, hottest, and best overall chili recipe? Come find out during our Second Sunday Lunch in February! Sign up [HERE](#) to enter your chili or dessert as we gather for this friendly – and tasty – competition!

**Toilet Bowl 2025**

Sunday, February 9, 2025



If you thought family football games were reserved only for Thanksgiving, think again. We are calling all players and fans to come out for the Toilet Bowl, our annual youth-led football game. The competition is always fun and exciting as our youth (and even an adult for two) showcase their "skills". Each year something fun and memorable happens and you definitely don't want to miss out! So, invite a friend! Come out to play! Come out to watch! Youth arrive at 2:30 p.m. to warm up and select teams. Kickoff is at 3:00 p.m.

Pancakes and Trivia

Sunday, March 2 at 5:00 p.m.

Soon it will be time for one final celebration before the sacrificial season of Lent begins. At Second Baptist, that means the church family gathering for a delicious pancake supper followed by a friendly intergenerational trivia competition. Whether you love trivia, pancakes, or just love gathering with the Second community, Pancakes & Trivia is a wonderful time for all generations to connect, consume, celebrate, and compete. Don't miss this fun evening that also includes door prizes, laughs, and trivia questions coming from various categories (and generations). Feel free dress up and decorate your table or just show up and we'll decorate you. The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. with pancakes followed by trivia.

**Undie Sunday(s)**

In our local community, some of our neighbors struggle to obtain even the most basic clothing



Undie Sunday

needs, including new and suitable undergarments. These neighbors, despite their economic hardships, are no less loved by God and deserve no less dignity than any other person. So, each year, Second Baptist takes one month to collect *NEW* underwear to stock the Brinkley Heights clothes closet. Undies will be collected all March and can be dropped off in the church foyer or purchased through our Amazon Wish List. Please drop off or have donations delivered by Sunday, March 30. NEW undies of all sizes, ages, and genders accepted.

FAMILY ministry

Passport Kids Camp July
12-16 Eatonton, Georgia
Join us for summer #5 at
PassportKids camp hosted
again at Rock Eagle 4-H



Center in Eatonton, Georgia. All students who have completed grades 3-5 can attend and enjoy Bible studies, mission education, recreation, and worship. Just ask anyone who went last year, and they will be able to share their fun times with outdoor games, a huge slide at the pool and meeting other campers and Passport counselors! The cost of camp is \$430 and includes a before camp adventure. A \$200 deposit is due by Sunday, March 2. Final payment is due by Sunday, June 1. Contact Tanya with questions, to sign up, or if you are interested in chaperoning.

Children's Sunday- March 2

We would like to invite you to our Children's Worship Service, March 2, a special moment of joy, learning, and community. This event is not just about gathering together, but about nurturing the spiritual growth of our young ones through



worship and fellowship. This will be a chance for you to support and encourage our children as they express their faith through the elements of worship. Your presence means the world to us and to the children. It's a unique opportunity to witness and be part of their spiritual journey, and

your encouragement can make all the difference. We hope to see you there!

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Crafts Fair
Benefitting Second Baptist PDO
MARCH 1, 2025
10AM - 3PM
Second Baptist Church - Christian Family Life Center
4680 Walnut Grove Rd - Memphis, TN 38117
Your support is greatly appreciated



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