

Encountering God at the

CROSSROADS

of community and mission.

Volume 36 Issue 3

March 2025

The Season of Lent at Second

During the 40 days leading to Easter, our weekly worship services will feature specific elements for prayer and reflection. While in Advent we light a candle each week in



anticipation of Christ's birth, during the Lenten season we will extinguish a candle each week as we mark the gathering shadows that lead us to the cross. Additionally, we will hear from different members who share faith stories of their own experiences with God's call on their lives, engage scripture through different prayer practices, and share in singing songs that remind us of the significance of these days.

Everything we do during these weeks is there to remind us that our celebration of the resurrection is made richer when we recall the depths of God's love and our desperate need for God's saving grace.

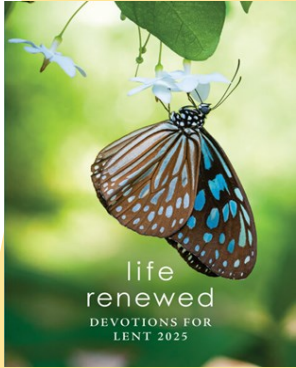
Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, March 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The 40-day season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Our congregation marks the start of this sacred time through a service of worship at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary that includes prayer, reflection, and the opportunity to receive ashes and other symbols that help us prepare the way for our Easter celebration on April 20. Make plans to join us as we begin the journey to Holy Week and Easter by sharing this time of worship together.

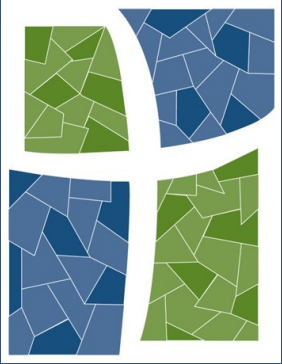


Life Renewed: Devotions for Lent



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 devotional books are available for pickup in the church foyer or office. A \$3 donation to offset the costs 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.



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

from the pastor

SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

March 2: Transfiguration
 Title: They'll Be Coming Down the Mountain
 Text: Luke 9:28-36
 OT Lesson: Exodus 34:29-35

March 5 – Ash Wednesday
 Title: From the Outside In
 Text: Leviticus 1:1; Numbers 1:1
 NT Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

March 9: First Sunday in Lent / Lord's Supper
 Title: Called to Obedience
 Text: Luke 4:1-13

March 16: Second Sunday in Lent
 Title: Called to Lament
 Text: Luke 13:31-35
 OT Lesson: Psalm 27

March 23: Third Sunday in Lent
 Title: Called to a Different Way
 Text: Isaiah 55:1-9
 NT Lesson: Luke 13:1-9

March 30: Fourth Sunday in Lent
 Title: Called to Expand Our "We"
 Text: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 OT Lesson: Psalm 32

A Place for Purple People

Our neighbors in some Christian traditions who wear robes and stoles when they worship use particular colors for certain seasons of the year. With Lent's arrival on March 5 this year it will be time to pull out the purple vestments. Purple, you likely know, is regarded as a color for penitence and preparation. These are elements at the heart of the Christian spiritual journey during this time of lengthening days and anticipation of Easter.

While our ministers do not wear liturgical garb as part of our regular worship life at Second (though you might take note of the color of my ties during the season), I think it's especially important that we pay attention to purple these days.

I say that because we live in such a deeply divided country and culture right now. We have become all too accustomed to the language of so-called "red states" and "blue states." Often it seems there is more "us and them" language than there is "we the people."

One of the things that is both beautiful and, quite frankly, challenging about being in a congregation like ours is that we are neither red nor blue. We are a blend of these colors; colors that combined together make purple. Some ministers wish for either an all red church or an all blue church. Not me, though. I prefer the privilege of what Jim Kitchens has called "preaching from the purple pulpit."

Amid the unsettling unrest of recent days, Lent is a good time for us to take stock of how things are with our souls. If what we have seen played out on the airwaves and social media feeds these past several months is any indication, we would do well to take heed of how we are. There is beauty to be found in the blend of diverse perspectives, cultures, communities, and personalities that make up this rich tapestry that is the family of God here at Second.

I encourage you to pull out a little purple these days. Put some on. Practice neighborliness. Settle down from the divisive rhetoric all around us. Be still. Know that God is God and the gift of God's self to this world in the person of Jesus Christ is a gift for any and for all.

Grace and peace,
 Stephen





Dawnings Bible Studies Get Underway in March

Last month, a team of lay leaders and our ministry staff shared a Dawnings retreat together where particular attention was given to two important prayers: "Lord, who are you calling us to be now?" and "Lord, what are you calling us to do now?"

As that team continues to go about its work, our adult and youth Sunday school classes will be engaging Bible study and spiritual formation resources focused on God's call. Using stories from scripture, alongside stories from within our own congregation and community, these sessions will help all of us learn more of what it means to be formed by the Spirit of the living God who calls us into faith and service.



Daylight Saving Time
SPRING FORWARD

Spring Forward on Sunday, March 9

Don't forget to set your clocks *forward* one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 8 so you can be on time for Sunday school and worship as Daylight Saving Time begins.

Intergenerational Fish Fry Sunday, April 13

Prayer, fasting, acts of service, and sacrificing sweets are just some of the long-standing traditions of Lent designed to help us understand the sacrifice made by Jesus. Another Lenten tradition, celebrated by our Catholic neighbors, is the fish fry. For several years, we have copied that tradition with an annual fish fry lunch at Second Baptist and will do so again in 2025 on Sunday, April 13. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for a time of great food and intergenerational fellowship immediately following worship. RSVP [HERE](#), by calling the church office, or emailing info@2ndmemphis.org.



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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

Welcome

Welcome Our Newest Staff Members

During February our church welcomed three new members to our staff team.

First, as was shared and affirmed in our first congregational meeting of the year, Rob and Miko Montgomery are taking on the role of Youth Ministry Coordinators. Working alongside our Youth Ministry Intern, Julia Cunningham, the Montgomerys are giving leadership to youth spiritual formation, weekly youth gatherings, mission experiences, and more.

Rob and Miko joined Second Baptist two years ago and have endeared themselves to our youth and the wider church family during that time. Each brings their own unique skills and sense of calling to this work. Both have backgrounds in education and a passion for serving the Church and community. We are thrilled to have them join the ministry team here at Second.

As the Montgomerys move into this role we also owe a deep debt of gratitude to Daniel Johnson for the last five years of leadership in our youth ministry. He stepped in to what was supposed to be a short-term, temporary role at the beginning of March in 2020. Two weeks later, COVID arrived and well, you know the rest!

Also, at the end of February our church welcomed Aniya Bonds. She is serving as our part-time Athletics and Operations Coordinator for the Christian Family Life Center.

Aniya is originally from the Chicago area and came to Memphis to pursue her degree in public health. After she graduates from the University of Memphis School of Public Health in May, she will begin her master's work in that same field beginning in the fall.

Bringing her education and experience in health-related fields along with her passion for faith-based service, Aniya is a welcome addition to our team. Make sure to introduce yourself to Aniya and welcome her warmly to our Second family!

Undies Sundays

In our local community, some of our neighbors struggle to obtain even the most basic clothing 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. Second Baptist takes one month to collect *NEW* underwear to stock the Brinkley Heights clothes closet. Undies will be collected and can be dropped off in the church foyer or purchased through our Amazon Wish List. Please have donations in by Sunday, March 30.



Year-to-date through 2/18/25

Receipts \$ 56,356

Expenses 38,364

Net \$ 17,992

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 Derman

Throughout February, we experienced music in the rich tradition of African-American spirituals—songs born of deep faith and hope. These songs remind us that even in struggle, God is near. As one beloved spiritual proclaims:

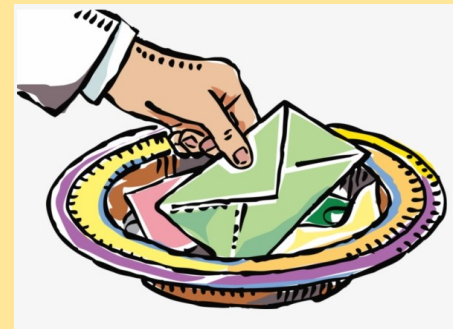
*"I want Jesus to walk with me,
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me."*

As we enter Lent, this prayer remains our own. Like those who sang these songs through trials, we, too, are called to trust God in the wilderness. Lent is a time to listen—to step away from the noise and, like Jesus in the desert, hear God's call for our lives.

May our worship and music in this season guide us closer to Him, walking with Jesus toward the hope of Easter.

Sacrifice and Worship

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us when He died on the cross. Any one of our sins are enough to buckle His knees, but can you imagine ALL of our sins piled on Him at



once? But He died because He loves us, so we can join Him in Heaven when we leave this earth. What an amazing thing to hope for. Abiding with, praising and worshipping Him for eternity!

Some think giving to your church is a sacrifice. Think of "what we could do" with that money instead of supporting Second Baptist. But it really isn't a sacrifice - it's worship! It's gratefully

acknowledging *His* sacrifice. He looks on our church with love as we reach out and serve those inside and outside our walls. He loves a cheerful giver - and *every gift matters*. Thank you for loving our Lord and showing it by contributing to Second!

- Patti Calvert Financial Administrator

Share the Love of PDO

PDO is currently hiring teachers and subs. If you are looking for a fulfilling part-time job, we would love to talk to you about joining our team!

PDO is now enrolling for Summer and Fall/Spring. Do you know someone looking for part-time childcare? Send them our way!



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March

- March 1 Evie Boaz
- March 1 Lenore Rae
- March 2 Amy Cook
- March 2 Lynn Reed
- March 4 Tim Bearden
- March 7 Caroline Davis
- March 7 Barbara Moorman
- March 15 Theodore Boggan
- March 17 Davarrien Currie
- March 29 Harrison Moffatt
- March 31 Janet Avis

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

gathered to worship

Chili & Dessert Cookoff Winners

Our 2BC crowd enjoyed 15 crockpots of chili and at least that many desserts brought in by the fabulous cooks of Second Baptist! The chili flavors went from very mild to extra hot and included different recipes that included chicken, sausages, ground beef or turkey, assorted beans, cheeses, chilis, and many spices! The desserts included various recipes of brownies, caramel pie, chocolate truffle, coconut cake, cheesecake, carrot cake and many others! These delicious chilis and desserts along with baked potatoes, let us go home for a nap with full tummies! Congratulations to our

Dessert Winners: 1st Place: Catherine

Denman, carrot cake; 2nd Place: Sandra Waller: brownies; and 3rd Place: Cathy Bickerstaff-caramel pie. Our Chili Winners were: Amy Cook-Best Traditional; Whitney Hochstein-People's Choice; Matthew Breazeale: Spiciest Call 911; Burt Waller- Most Unique; and Catherine Denman-Grand Champion. Congratulations to all these winners!



Celebrating Julia Pilgrim 45 years of Ministry through Music

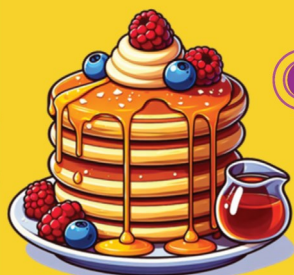
On Sunday, February 23, we celebrated Julia Pilgrim and her 45 years of Ministry through Music at Second Baptist Church. We gathered with hearts full of gratitude and joy to celebrate a remarkable milestone by our beloved church pianist. During worship, Julia was honored with a gorgeous flower arrangement in the sanctuary, a beautiful presentation by Carmen Anderson, chair of our personnel committee, and cards and hugs and a prayer by our children. It was a joy to see so many friends

return to celebrate the day with her; from piano students and their families to former Minister of Music, Dennis McDuffie and his wife, Debbie. The festivities continued after church at a beautiful luncheon to honor Julia. The fellowship hall was decorated with beautiful flowers and shimmering colors as we enjoyed a delicious lunch together. Following lunch, additional presentations were shared by Larry Denman, Minister of Music, Beth Chandler, Julia's sister, who made a surprise visit from Louisiana to share the weekend with her sister. Stephen Cook also shared words on behalf of Wayne Randolph, former Minister of Music who was unable to attend due to weather. Stephen closed the event with a presentation of letters to honor Julia on behalf of her church family. It was a delightful day to celebrate Julia and the ministry that she shares with all of us through her music.



FAMILY ministry

PANCAKES & TRIVIA



TRIVIA

SUNDAY, MARCH 2
5:00 P.M.
SIGN UP HERE



Pancakes and Trivia : New Format, Always Fun!
Sunday, March 2 at 5:00 p.m.

In New Orleans, Mardi Gras is the final celebration before the sacrificial season of Lent. In Rio de Janeiro, Carnival. And at Second Baptist, it is Pancakes & Trivia, a night where our Second family gathers for a delicious pancake supper followed by a friendly intergenerational trivia competition. Whether you love trivia, pancakes, or just laughing with the Second community, Pancakes & Trivia is a wonderful time for all generations to "Laissez les bons temps rouler." The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. with pancakes followed by trivia. To sign up, call or email the church office.

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PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP
June 14-20, 2025
Converse University Spartanburg, SC
Completed 6th– 12th grades



PASSPORT KIDS CAMP
July 12-16, 2025
Rock Eagle 4H Center Eatonton, GA
Completed 3rd-5th grades
Before Camp Adventure included





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