

Encountering God at the
CROSSROADS
of community and mission.

Volume 36 Issue 4

April 2025



Second Celebrates Holy Week

The season of Lent leads us to a very special seven days in the life of the Church when Holy Week arrives. We have a series of events on the horizon that help us celebrate this sacred season.

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday

Children of all ages will participate in the procession of the palms as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. As we move through worship, we turn our attention to the gathering shadows as Jesus moves toward his death.

Following worship everyone is invited to join in our annual intergenerational fish fry in the fellowship hall. This will be a time to celebrate the gift of community and value what comes from being one in the body of Christ.

Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday Worship

At 7:00 p.m. we come together in the sanctuary for scripture, songs, prayers, and reflection as we gather to celebrate the Lord's Supper. We remember the mandate Jesus gave his disciples: that every time we eat the bread and drink the cup, we remember his sacrificial death.

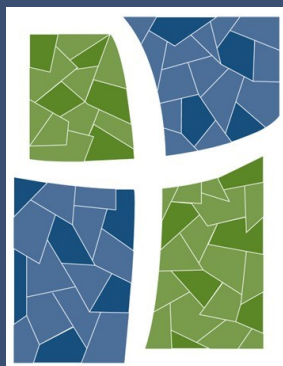
Friday, April 18: Good Friday Reflections and Prayers

At noon we come together in the sanctuary for a contemplative service of scripture readings, prayers, and music that summon us to the events of that fateful day. We remember the agony of the cross and depart into the silence that death delivers.

Sunday, April 20: Celebration of the Resurrection

On Easter morning we celebrate the resurrection through music, readings, and prayers. Join us as we recall the joy and hope we find at the discovery of the empty tomb that glorious day!

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the richness of what these sacred days have to offer as we share life together and gather for worship on each of these occasions!



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



Church Office and CFLC Closing Reminder

Please note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed for Easter Monday, April 21. We will resume regular hours on Tuesday, April 22.

from the pastor

SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

April 6: Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Title: Called to Generosity
 Text: John 12:1-8
 OT Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-21

April 13: Palm / Passion Sunday
 Title: The Compelling Call of Love
 Text: Luke 19:28-40
 OT Lesson: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

April 17: Maundy Thursday
 Title: Do You Know What This Means?
 Text: John 13:1-20
 OT Lesson: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

April 20: Easter
 Title: When It's Easter Anyway
 Text: John 20:1-18
 OT Lesson: Isaiah 65:17-25

April 27: The Second Sunday of Easter
 Title: A Call to Hope and Endurance
 Text: Revelation 1:4-8
 OT Lesson: Psalm 118:14-29

The Oddities of Easter

Church folks can be rather odd.

Take, for instance, those first followers of Jesus in the first church that was coming together in the aftermath of Easter.

They were so attuned to and captivated by Christ that they thought most everything else was rather inconsequential. The writer in Acts 4 says, "No one claimed private ownership of any possessions," and "there was not a needy person among them." People who owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds and gave it to the church.

In other words, Christ and Christ alone was the only influence under which they lived. Not their stuff, not their busy calendars full of important appointments, not their civic clubs, not their families: not one thing was going to edge out the number one spot.

If that doesn't sound sort of weird then at the very least it sounds rather idealistic. I mean, don't you think the writer was maybe fudging a little when he said that "the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul"? Really? Is that how we think of life in a congregation – whether it be our church or any other church? Don't we all know some rather ridiculous stories of churches that have come undone over trivial pursuits?

Someone has suggested we take the opening of Psalm 133 – "How good and pleasant when brothers and sisters live together in unity" – and swap "good and pleasant" with "rare and unusual." How rare and unusual when brothers and sisters live together in unity.

It sounds like a stretch to say that on the other side of Easter, in the immediate aftermath of the resurrection, everyone was of one heart and soul. Maybe this is one of those places where nostalgia kicked in and only the good stuff got put down on paper.

Or maybe not. What if this isn't just wishful remembering? What if it really was the case that, somewhere in time, there was a group of people so consumed by and so committed to the ways of the Lord Jesus Christ they really did find a way to live in unity despite all of their diversity? Is it really that big of a stretch to think that it *could* actually happen?

What if there were some people who, on the other side of Easter, remembered Jesus' call and command to be peacemakers and they took him seriously? What if there were people who heard him say, "love one another, just as I have loved you," and they did it? Wouldn't that be something?

And what if – hopefully this isn't too big of a stretch for any of us to imagine – it wasn't something confined to the past; something from then and there, once upon a time. What if you and I find ourselves so captivated by the goodness of the truth of the resurrection that we let Easter have its way with us, not just one Sunday of the year but in every part of our lives?

How odd would that make us? How pleased might God be if something like Easter were to take hold of us and never let us go?

Grace and peace,
 Stephen



Spring for a Meal!

Hunger among seniors is a growing crisis in our community. A recent study by Feeding America ranked Memphis #3 in the nation for senior hunger. MIFA Meals on Wheels has been answering this call since 1976, but today, 3,000 seniors remain on the waiting list for nutrition services.

We have an opportunity to put our faith into action!

From March 28 to April 6, local restaurants are partnering with MIFA for "Spring for a Meal." Just \$10 provides a needed meal for a senior. Visit mifa.org/spring for a list of 40 participating

restaurants. When you dine out and donate, you are helping deliver hope to our hungry neighbors!

Congregational Meeting Reminder

Sunday, April 27 at 11:30 a.m.

Make plans to take part in the second congregational meeting of 2025

immediately after worship on Sunday, April

27. We will discuss updates on staffing for our Christian Family Life Center, our first quarter financial report, and updates on ministry and mission initiatives for the spring and summer.



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.



Second Baptist Parents Day Out

The PDO admin team appreciates the love and support from our Second family during our 3rd annual Crafts Fair! We had a great turnout and a lot of fun. We hope to see everyone at next year's event on March 7, 2026!

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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



While the season of Lent is passing quickly, that means the journey to the cross is drawing ever-nearer! We hope you will make plans to attend our many worship offerings during Holy Week. From the Procession of the Palms and Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to Lord's Supper and Jesus' final meal with his disciples on Maundy Thursday, to his death and the darkness that blanketed the earth on Good Friday, all leading to the Resurrection on Easter, Holy Week truly is a journey and one we value remembering together each year.

Discovering Life at Second

At Second Baptist Church, giving is more than a donation—it's an act of faith and love that helps us serve our community, spread God's word, and support those in need. Your generosity enables us to continue our ministry, outreach programs, and worship services. Every gift, big or small, makes a difference. Thank you for being a blessing to others as we grow together in faith! Below is a fun word search highlighting key elements of Second Baptist Church. Locate the given words in the grid, running horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

Word Search

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D C P A R E N T S D A Y O U T W C E U S
S B C D F P K Q J P H A R D I N Y E S P
M D C P O T E E P U M P K I N S J A S R
E J C C A C I R S E R M O N B S B S G I
M D F R C S L T S S S Q F H V D D T R N
I J R O O B S P H O X C F I B B S E O G
S M O S M R Y P V E N O F G S Q O R V E
S C N S M I L F O E P N S L V L U V E G
I D T Q I N E E Z R P N E Q C H T W M S
O J P Q T K N L D N T C O L P H H Q U M
N E O Z T L T L A R E R T C S M A H S K
S S R P E E C O W N S O R W L I F A I F
D U C O E Y Q W N F W S U U V F R T C I
E S H G S H G S I L U S S E U A I L Q N
A Y X U Q T E H N O V R T W G U C E T A
C C R X J S A I G W L O E X Y G A Y I N
O P R E J D Y P S E O A E M H R H E C
N X U W M U V P C R V D S I S B T U K E
S I I E D R P Q V S A S T G P T O T N Z
X B E N E V O L E N C E I D X M H D Q T

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|-----------------|--------------|-------------|------|
| PARENTS DAY OUT | SOUTH AFRICA | BENEVOLENCE | MIFA |
| BRINKLEY HTS | GROVE MUSIC | FRONT PORCH | VBS |
| CROSSROADS | COMMITTEES | FELLOWSHIP | |
| PERSONNEL | DAWNINGS | MISSIONS | |
| PUMPKINS | TRUSTEES | FINANCE | |
| DEACONS | PASSPORT | HARDIN | |
| EASTER | FLOWERS | EGG HUNT | |
| TITHE | CROSS | CFLC | |
| SERMON | HATLEY | SPRING | |
| JESUS | LENT | | |

Year-to-date through 3/21/25

Receipts \$ 255,144

Expenses 215,498

Net \$ 39,646

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.

Join in Thanking Our Administrative Staff

There is no way our church could function without the dedicated service of our administrative staff members: Patti Calvert, Becca Childress, Alisa Cunningham, Jacqueline Martin, and Barry Pope. Each of these consistently cares for our members and neighbors in the community through their work and support of Second Baptist. Wednesday, April 23 is designated as Administrative Professionals' Day but any day is a good day to say thanks to these who serve and support us!



THANK YOU!

To my dear Second Baptist family,

Words cannot express my surprise in being honored for spending five years doing the sweetest job on earth! It is such a blessing to me every day to serve our Second Baptist Church as the Minister of Children and Families. This job is not done alone - especially in the last several months for me and my cancer journey - this job is not done alone! It is through the love and support of each Sunday school teacher, each nursery worker, each parent volunteer, each member of this staff, and every member of this church - as we all work alongside each other to share God's love and to teach these children about Jesus. Thank you, Carmen Anderson for your beautiful words that you shared about me. I am deeply and truly humbled. And a BIG thank you to every one of you who share your hugs and your love and your encouragement and your prayers. They are all deeply appreciated!

Peace,

Tanya

Thank You

Thank you to the people of Second Baptist Church,

Wow! That was quite the celebration! Thank you dear friends for the wonderful luncheon, the great food, the delicious cake, the lovely flowers, the beautiful book of letters, the kind and loving words of encouragement. I am still overwhelmed by all the love and encouragement shared that day.

When I felt God calling me to this service many years ago, I didn't realize what a lifetime of shared experiences with y'all would be like. Our hearts are united so beautifully as we express our highest praises, our greatest joys, and our deepest sorrows through God's gift of music.

"I thank our God every time I remember you...I always pray with joy because of the great partnership with you from the first day until now." Phil. 1: 3-5

*With love and appreciation,
Julia Pilgrim*

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April

April 2 Stephen Carney
 April 3 Patsy Boaz
 April 3 Larry Denman
 April 4 Bonnie Smith
 April 5 Sarah Breazeale
 April 6 Davis Bryan
 April 6 Carol Mathis
 April 10 Alex Mathis
 April 12 OJ Johnson
 April 14 Cathy Moore
 April 14 Amos Parker
 April 17 Faith Barcroft
 April 21 Lee Ragsdale
 April 23 Benjamin Cook
 April 25 Joel Bailey
 April 26 Ben Meador
 April 28 Madalyn Stanford
 April 30 Henry Herrod

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

Sacred Spaces, Holy Moments

Recently, our youth shared a Sunday school lesson based on Psalm 63. Drawing from that, our young people played the role of seeking God in various spots around the church building. Each group member, plus Julia and Rob, led the group to a specific room or spot in which they had seen God at some point in their lives and shared a brief explanation as to how.

The stories our youth told were inspiring and impactful. We heard about moments where they saw evidence of God on their side in confronting frightening moments. There were stories of experiencing God's presence in the older children's Sunday school room on the third floor, especially when it comes to the love and care the leaders in the room provided to all our children.

Some of the youth shared about the beauty of our church campus and the welcoming, peaceful sense that comes from being among the trees.

Others shared about experiences with the presence of God in unexpected places like the gym, as well as more "traditional" spots like the sanctuary.

We heard about encountering the spirit of God in the front office, particularly through Jacqueline Martin and all the many ways she serves our church, especially in giving support to the youth through their service at the pumpkin patch.

And, we listened to stories of experiencing God through music and the memories of sitting on the window ledge in the choir room, waiting for a parent while rehearsals were taking place and the choir was getting ready to lead the church in praising God through their songs.

Each of these is a beautiful reminder that what happens in and around our church facilities – across the ages and spanning all generations – has deep and lasting impacts that help form our spiritual lives as God's people in this sacred space.

Peace and Blessings,
Rob and Miko Montgomery

Easter Egg Hunt April 19 at 10:00 a.m.

We are I👁️👁️ king for:

plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy.

Donations can be dropped off in the church office.



FAMILY ministry

Easter Egg Hunt On Saturday, April 19, our 2BC family will host an Easter egg hunt on our church grounds! The egg hunt will begin at 10:00 a.m. with activities and crafts along with our egg hunt! We will have photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and a wonderful time to learn about Easter with friends and family! How can our 2BC family help? By praying for the event and the families that will participate and by donating plastic eggs stuffed with candy by Wednesday, April 16. Please invite your family and neighbors to come! We also need you to volunteer to work the day of the egg hunt. Jobs include: hiding eggs, crafts, snacks, Easter Bunny, photographer and more! Contact Tanya for additional information.



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PASSPORT
Empowering Students • Embracing the World • Extending Grace

PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP

June 14-20, 2025

Converse University Spartanburg, SC
Completed 6th– 12th grades

PASSPORT*kids*

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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