

Encountering God at the **CROSSROADS** of community and mission.

Volume 36 Issue 9

September 2025

Pumpkin Patch Opens September 27

Soon one of the most joyful and meaningful times of the year begins: Pumpkin Season! This special tradition brings our church family together in a powerful way as we serve and welcome our community with open arms. Together, we create a safe and welcoming space for children to play and families to connect. We offer genuine hospitality to everyone who visits the patch, reflecting the love, patience, kindness, and compassion we receive from Christ. Through this ministry, we also raise important funds that support our youth in service and spiritual growth. This is a community-wide effort, and **we need your help** to make it a success! Please mark your calendars now with the important upcoming dates. The Pumpkin Patch is truly a gift — one that thrives because we do it **together**. Let's get ready with excitement and anticipation for all that God will do through this year's patch!

First Pumpkin Unload: Saturday, September 27

Second Pumpkin Unload: Saturday, October 11

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch: Sunday, November 3



We need YOU to help Unload Pumpkins

September 27 and October 11

Find your Pumpkin Patch shirt, invite a friend, and be a part of the fun when we unload a tractor trailer full of pumpkins and transform our front lawn into a pumpkin paradise. Whether you can lift the biggest pumpkins, only the tiniest pumpkins – even if you can't lift any pumpkins anymore - **EVERYONE** is invited to participate. Pumpkin unloading days aren't just for work, they are a day to celebrate the power of the church working together. Invite a friend and then visit www.2ndmemphis.org/pumpkin-patch for all the volunteer sign up links. find your happy place in the Second Baptist Pumpkin Patch! ***If you're new to Second and want to learn more about the Pumpkin Patch and how to get involved, contact [Daniel Johnson](#).***

Pumpkin Patch Shifts

September 27 - October 31

We NEED volunteers to serve daily three-hour shifts in the Patch! During the shift, you'll welcome people to the patch, hand out PUMPKIN BREAD, water flowers, take payments, help people to their cars, share about our church, and so much more. Be sure to invite a friend to serve with you and wear your Pumpkin Patch shirt. Don't have a shirt? We'll provide one for you. Want to serve but you can't help the whole shift or want to serve more than three hours? No problem. Visit www.2ndmemphis.org/pumpkin-patch for all sign up links.



4680 Walnut Grove Road
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www.2ndmemphis.org



from the pastor

SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

September 7:

Title: Can I Not Do with You?

Text: Jeremiah 18:1-6

NT Lesson: Luke 14:25-33

September 14:

Title: Looking for Balms in All the Wrong Places

Text: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

NT Lesson: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

September 21:

Title: ISO Flamingoes and Childlike Faith

Text: Luke 15:1-10

OT Lesson: Psalm 51:1-10

September 28:

Title: Available to God and One Another

Text: Joshua 3:7-10a,11,13-17

Available to God and One Another

Years ago, I ran across a wonderful line about prayer that I return to, especially in times like these in the life of our church. Richard Fragomeni wrote that, in prayer, "We vow to surrender ourselves and our own identities to Christlikeness...to make an unconditional commitment of availability to God and one another."

As you read the announcements and receive the updates of all that is happening through Second Baptist this September, I hope you sense some of the goodness of what God is up to among us. I hope, too, that you find in these pages invitations to pray in both word and deed; to see that there are places where each of us can embrace the call to Christlikeness and dedicate ourselves to being available to God and one another.

By the end of the month, we will have pumpkins on the lawn, the construction of The Front Porch complete, new faith formation groups up and running, plans for ministries in the coming year taking shape, and so much more. Now, as much as ever, is a time to pray and take part. Join in the goodness of participating in the work we are privileged to share of making it a little more on earth as it is in heaven here in our little corner of the kingdom that God has entrusted to us.

Grace and peace,
Stephen



Christmas? In September?!?

Hints of Autumn mean it is time to begin preparing music for Advent and Christmas! Our big reveal for the music of our annual Lessons and Carols service will be on Wednesday, September 3 at 5:00 in the Sanctuary.

Want to sing Christmas music but not able to commit to singing in the choir each week in worship? That's ok! We devote 20-30 minutes each Wednesday to preparing our music for Christmas, so join us at 5:00 and leave by 5:30!

TAG! You're It!

Friday and Saturday, October 3-4
Join Cooperative Baptists from Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia at First Baptist Church in Chattanooga

for a groundbreaking assembly that unites CBF organizations across three states. The theme, 'TAG! You're It!', invites you to

engage in dynamic discussions and workshops with congregations from around our region. The featured speaker is Meredith Miller, author of *Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From*.



For registration information and other event details, visit www.tn.cbf.net/tag. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with fellow faith leaders.

A Special Day of Worship

On Sunday, September 28 we are going to gather in the sanctuary at 10:30 for worship, but our service that day is going to look and feel a little different! Our Dawnings leadership team that has been prayerfully discerning, listening, and seeking God's guidance is going to lead us that morning. Watch for more details about everything from the substance of the service to our seating arrangements as we get nearer the day. It's sure to be a rich and meaningful experience when we gather to worship on the first weekend of pumpkin season!



2026 Ministry Budget

2026 Ministry Budget Preparations, Discussions, and Decisions

Our church's committee leaders and staff are in the process of preparing a plan to fund our 2026 ministry budget. There has been much discussion this year about what we want our ministries to look like, so many voices are involved in our planning.

Once the Finance Committee finalizes the proposed 2026 ministry budget, we will mail a letter in mid-October to every household that will include a one-page summary of the financial plan. This also includes a comparative summary of the 2025 and 2026 ministry budgets so that everyone can see where adjustments are proposed.

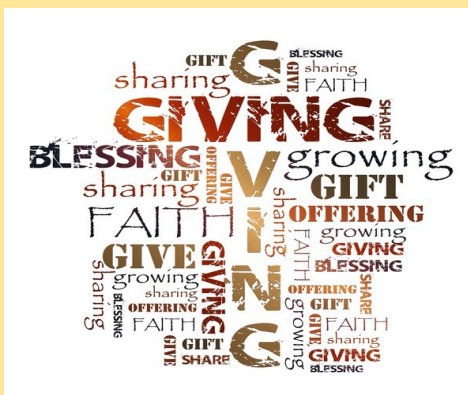
Please note that our Finance Committee will present and guide discussion around the 2026 plan during the congregational meeting on Sunday, October 26 immediately after worship. At this time, the church will be asked to vote on whether or not to approve the ministry budget.

Please pray that everyone involved in this process will be open to listening to the Holy Spirit's direction, and also prayerfully consider your commitment to support Second Baptist in 2026!

The Ministry of Giving

"I am an imperfect person loved by a perfect God." - Unknown

God doesn't want us to be perfect before we give our hearts to Him. God wants us, dirt and all. Surrender. Let God lead you. Allow God to love you to the fullest. God gives us everything we need and oftentimes much of what we want. God will work through you to be a blessing. Thank you as you share your financial blessings with Second to reach our community and the world. Help us share God's love with others!



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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

Year-to-date through 8/22/25

Receipts \$ 593,825

Expenses 614,769

Net (\$ 20,944)

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.

Sunday Morning Faith Formation

Are you participating in one of our Sunday school groups? Are you looking for a place of connection, community, and growing in your faith? Consider what two of our adult classes are sharing this month!

Young Adults (room 118) – Amy Cook, Jim and Catherine Lewis, teachers

Around the Bible in 80 Days

Scripture shares a basic story, from God's first creative act in the beginning to its final scene – the renewal of all creation as a new heaven and earth. The young adults Sunday school class invites you into that story as we read and explore "Around the Bible in 80 Days" – an accessible guide to the Bible's high points that can enrich your faith, help you better understand God's overall redemptive story, and reflect deeply on specific scriptures and what they say about God's unfolding drama.

The Journey Class (room 220) – Jacqueline Martin, teacher

A Walk Through the Gospel of John

Adults of all ages and stages of life are invited to walk together as we encounter Jesus in our Scripture readings and conversations. Bible rookies and Bible veterans are equally welcome. The idea is to begin where we are, follow Jesus, grow wiser, and encourage one another. Gathering for our Sunday morning group discussions is vital. To enhance the Sunday morning discussions, The Journey class has a weekly companion (aka weekly devotional) that is available in print or by email. The walk in John for the fall season is 12 sessions, covering John 1-10 from September 7 through November 23.

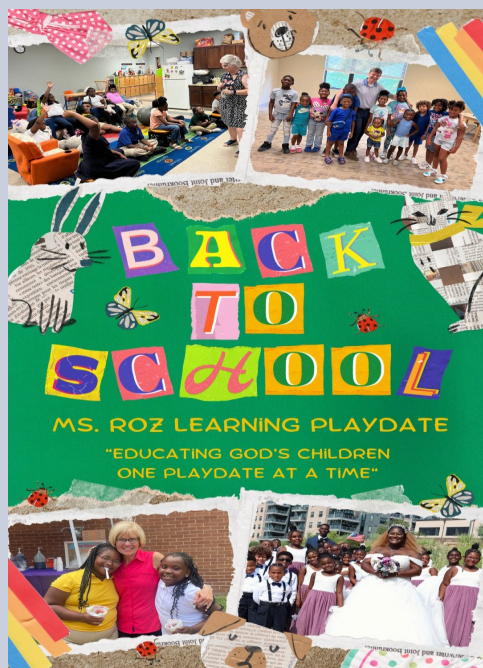
NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

THE JOURNEY



A class to explore scripture, discuss faith, and develop an identity as inquirers

For additional information, contact
Jacqueline Martin
jmartin@2ndmemphis.org.



Ms. Roz Learning Playdate

We carried a celebratory spirit into our After-School Enrichment program! On our welcome-back day, Tuesday, August 12th, all our students were surprised with snow cones, popcorn, and 2BC backpack tags. Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who has been with us every step of the way this summer. In our classroom, we're already busy supporting students with homework help, engaging activities, and nurturing their spiritual growth. And most importantly... we still need your help to make this year special! To learn more, or to volunteer, please contact Ms. Roz at 901.502.0896 or msrozlearningplaydates@gmail.com.

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

September 14, 2025

Tacos (beef and chicken)

Rice, beans, chips and salsa

RSVP by emailing the church
office at

info@2ndmemphis.org

or click [HERE](#)



SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH COMMUNITY

THE WOVEN GATHERING

Join us in reading Meredith Miller's book, Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Child Doesn't Have to Heal From.

Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
September 9, 16, 23, and 30

While You're in Class...

- Loving childcare is available for children under 4.
- Larry Denman will be leading kids ages 4 through high school in a musical ensemble.

RSVP HERE



Important Volunteer Meeting

On Sunday, September 7, there will be an **important volunteer meeting for our entire Second Baptist family** in the sanctuary immediately after worship. The meeting will focus on two important ways people can serve and be a witness to God's love and welcome here at Second: the Pumpkin Patch and The Front Porch. During the meeting, there will be a Pumpkin Patch RE-orientation with general reminders plus changes and exciting updates for this year and an overview of upcoming volunteer opportunities at The Front Porch. Please plan to attend so you can be excited and equipped to go out and serve in the patch and on the porch.



A New Designation for Second Baptist

We have always valued our trees here at Second. Thanks to Catherine Lewis spearheading an effort among a team of volunteers including two arborists, that group identified 40 species on our property. This led to certification as a Level One arboretum by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council. As the weather becomes more pleasant this month, take a stroll around our campus to learn more about the diversity of God's creation. Black metal signs are nailed about eye level on selected trees. Look for them on the north sides, where they're protected from fading by the sun. Nails are driven only half-way to accommodate tree growth. Soon we will have booklets available in the foyer with a map and facts about the trees. We look forward to notifying area teachers about this resource and giving guided tours to groups, another way Second Baptist can extend hospitality to our neighbors.



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September

4 Becky Lindsey
5 Wilkes Gowen
5 Rob Robertson
6 Bart Harris
7 Patty Kyle
11 Max Odell
12 Pat Luttrell
15 Dan Lattimore
18 Nicholas Keith
18 Miko Montgomery
20 Carolyn Davis
20 Mark Moffatt
22 Tommy Sexton
22 Bill Summons
23 Judy Brundige
25 Frank Childress
25 Elijah McBride
25 Becky Wilson
26 Belinda Hawkins
26 Carol Morse
29 Annie Gowen
29 Dani Meador
29 Jason Mullenix
30 Daniel Johnson
30 Sandy Long

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

gathered to worship

An Update from – and a Sneak Peek at – The Front Porch

It's finally happening! After months of dreaming, planning, and praying, The Front Porch Memphis is about to become a reality. At the end of this month, we'll receive the keys to this incredible new space, and we couldn't have reached this milestone without the unwavering support of our Second Baptist Church family. To celebrate, we're inviting you to be the very first to step inside. **Save the date:**

Sunday, September 28, immediately following the morning service, we'll host a special private tour just for you.

If you're unable to attend that day, don't worry! Public tours will begin **October 14** and continue every **Tuesday and Thursday** from 4:00–5:00 p.m. throughout the month. Bring your friends and help us spread the word! And be sure to mark your calendars for our **official Grand Opening celebration on Saturday, November 8** from 2:00–4:00 p.m.. We can't wait to welcome you to The Front Porch!

-Melissa Todd, Executive Director



SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH PUMPKIN PATCH

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

September 27 - October 31

MONDAY - SATURDAY
10:00 AM until SUNSET

SUNDAY
12:00 PM - SUNSET

pumpkins - hay - corn stalks - flowers
cookies - carving kits - granola - more

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT YOUTH MISSIONS & MINISTRY



The Pumpkin Patch is truly a gift — one that thrives because we do it together. Let's get ready with excitement and anticipation for all that God will do through this year's patch!

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Saturday, October 11
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch:
Sunday, November 3



Get Peace of Mind, Consider Your Legacy

Members of Second Baptist are invited to take part in a special opportunity for anyone who does not currently have a will. Utilizing resources from Freewill.com, anyone of any age is able to establish a basic will that will handle most needs. While this does not take the place of an attorney for more complex estates, anyone is welcome to create and complete a will on your own time.

However, on September 14, our finance committee is hosting a meeting after worship where we will have some experts available for any questions you might have. You are welcome to bring your computer or tablet with you if you would like to be walked through the process. And as you prepare your will, please consider a gift to the church as part of your estate. We hope this will help many of our Second family get a plan in place for their estate needs.

Consider Your Legacy

Sock Sabbath

Our annual *Sock Sabbath* begins September 1 and runs throughout the month! We'll be collecting **new socks** to support the Brinkley Heights Ministry Center. Donations may be dropped off in the church foyer or ordered directly through our Amazon wish list (link available in the *Center Your Week* email or by contacting the church office). Just as water refreshes the thirsty, a pair of clean socks provides not only comfort but also dignity—serving as a simple yet powerful reminder of God's grace to those who receive them.



Tiki Water Slide Back-to-School Party!

What a fun day to celebrate going back to school for kids from babies to high school at our Tiki Water Slide Back-to-School Party. After families and friends enjoyed a delicious pizza and salad lunch, we gathered outside for so much fun sliding down the 20-foot Tiki water slide! We had smaller kiddie pools for the younger ones. Kids and parents alike enjoyed a refreshing snow cone to finish off the fun day! A fantastic day of food, laughs and wet slides helped us all have a "cool start" back to school! Thanks to all who helped plan, set up and make this day happen!



New Bibles on Promotion Sunday

It is our tradition that each year on Promotion Sunday, our first & second graders are presented with a new Bible. So, during worship on August 10, Stephen Cook presented Charlie Ann, Elliott and Ellie with their own Celebrate Wonder Deep Blue Kids Bible. As a church family, we pray that God will guide them and their families as we use this Holy Bible in Sunday School, worship and at home.

Be A Greeter!



2BC Sunday Morning Greeters

Would you like to use your gift of hospitality? Then join this fabulous greeter group on Sunday mornings as they welcome friends who come for Sunday School or worship. You will be assigned a certain Sunday

each month to be available in the foyer to open doors, greet friends, and hand out worship bulletins. Times available are: before Sunday school (8:30a.m.-9:00 a.m.) during Sunday school (9:00 a.m.-10:10 a.m.) before worship (10:10 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) late greeter duty(10:30 a.m.-10:40 a.m.) We thank you (*and so does Jesus!*) for using your gift of hospitality for these last few spaces that need to be filled. Please contact Tanya to sign up.

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Holiday Closing Reminder

Please note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed on Monday, September 1 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. In the event of an urgent pastoral care need, please contact the minister on call at 901.604.6686.



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