

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

Volume 36 Issue 10

October 2025

Pumpkin Patch Shifts

Today - 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 or in upcoming Pumpkin Patch Press emails.



World Communion Sunday Celebration is October 5

Each year the first Sunday in October finds Christians around the globe gathering at the Lord's Table for the celebration of World Communion Sunday. As is our custom at Second Baptist Church, whenever we share this sacred



meal, we also collect a special offering to support the benevolence ministries of our deacon body. Plan now to share – both at the table and in this collection – as we remember the depths of God's love for the world.

Congregational Meeting Scheduled for October 26

Please note that on Sunday, October 26 immediately after worship we will gather in the sanctuary for our fourth quarterly meeting of the year. This is the time each year when we elect deacons to serve three-year terms beginning in January, vote on recommendations from the nominating committee for ministry area coordinators and committee leaders, and review a plan for funding our ministry and mission initiatives in the coming year. We will also present updated building use, financial, and personnel procedures that different teams in the church have been developing over the last several months.



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www.2ndmemphis.org

from the pastor

SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

October 5: World
Communion Sunday
Title: Hearts Outpoured
Text: Lamentations 1:1-6

October 12:
Title: For the Living of These Days
Text: 2 Timothy 2:8-15
OT Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15

October 19:
Title: A Hopeful Horizon
Text: Jeremiah 31:27-34
NT Lesson: Galatians 5:22-23

October 26:
Title: Toxic Piety
Text: Luke 18:9-14
OT Lesson: Psalm 84:1-7

To Know Christ, To Know Our Village

The seven words headlining this article are a succinct statement that summarizes what our Dawnings Leadership Team shared on the last Sunday in September. Through months of prayerful discerning and faithfully asking, "Lord, who are you calling us to be now" and "Lord, what are you calling us to do now?" we sense this is the direction God is calling Second in the year to come.

Of course, on some level, this sounds so basic that a cynic might scoff, "Isn't that what the Church ought to always be doing?" Honesty compels us to say, "Yes. That is absolutely the case."

And yet, on a deeper level, we all can attest to the truth that there are times we discover we are "treading water." We keep doing much of the same, much of the time, and getting nowhere. We owe it to ourselves – not to mention the God who dreams more for us than many of us usually realize – that there is still so much more for us yet.

Thus, to move past "treading water" and get out into deeper, more open water, we need to swim in some different directions.

In the months and the year to come, every member in the Second family will have opportunities to focus on the two big initiatives in the seven-word headline of this article. We are being called to renewal together. That renewal finds us being called "To Know Christ, To Know Our Village."

Everyone in our Second family will have opportunities to practice deeper, personal spiritual formation. Everyone will have occasions to create, cultivate, and keep relationships with the different groups and individuals who are part of our "village" here along Walnut Grove.

There is much, much more to be said and shared in the days ahead. For now, though, I simply ask you to consider if you are at a place where you feel like you are treading water in your life of faith and connection with others. If so, could it be that God is calling you to something more?

And if God is calling, how will you answer?

Grace and peace,
Stephen



The Weight of the Plate

During the offering time at our church, the offering plates are passed from the ushers to the people and from the people to one another. People put in cash, checks, envelopes, or notes. Most put in nothing at all.



After the plates have finished their rounds, they are stacked and brought forward and offered to God with a prayer of blessing. Then the plates are taken by the offering counters, who tally the gifts and prepare a bank deposit. What we learn later about the offering is that we always have enough to pay the costs of ministry. We are a giving church.

In most churches, weekly offering plate contributions have been replaced by monthly gifts, online giving, and bank drafts. Some congregations receive gifts through a phone app. What's in the plate on Sundays does not reflect all the gifts a church will receive. For many though, the weight of the plate seems less when compared to years past.

Except...what if the weight of the plate is significant regardless of what is in it? When the plate makes its way from person to person in our church, many people take the plate and hold it for a moment, and remember. Whether they put anything in the plate or not, people pause, feel the size and weight of the plate. And they are reminded and remember.

The plate, like the cross and the communion meal, can remind us of the God who called us into being. The plate suggests that there is an abundance available. The plate is strong enough to hold our sorrows and our fears. The plate holds hope that there is meaning and purpose for every life. The plate connects us to one another. The plate reminds us that God is enough.

Holding the plate for just a moment reminds us of what is important and real.

The plate is more than what is in it. The plate is like a symbol that, when held and pondered, becomes a spiritual portal to transformation.

Sunday, when the plates move down the pews in your church, regardless of what you see in them, feel the weight of the plate, be reminded, and remember, there's more in the plate than you see.

- Ruben Swint

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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 9/26/25

Receipts \$ 662,667

Expenses 725,409

Net (\$ 62,742)

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 our adult classes are sharing this month!

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

A Walk Through the Gospel of John

This class is for adults of any age. October classes will be in John's Gospel, chapters 6-8. The Journey offers a weekly devotional guide to accompany the reading plan. You do not have to attend the class to use the devotional. Copies are available in the church foyer, by mail, or email. Contact class leader Jacqueline Martin to request a devotional: jmartin@2ndmemphis.org or text/call 931-551-1769.

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 continue reading and exploring "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 Pumpkins Are Here, Christmas is Coming

With pumpkins filling our front lawn this month, we are already looking ahead toward Advent and Christmas.

The last Sunday of November is the first Sunday of Advent. This is when we decorate our Second Family Christmas Tree and share in the hanging of the green. ***If you would like to contribute an ornament to include on the tree, please bring that to the church by Sunday, November 23.*** Your ornament might show something about your family (hobbies, interests, etc.) or simply express your joy during the season.

Also, if you would like to ***purchase a poinsettia*** for the season in honor or in memory of someone, please contact Alisa Cunningham in the church office at 901.682.3395 or by email at acunningham@2ndmemphis.org



2nd
SUNDAY
luncheon

\$12 per adult
\$ 8 per child
\$32 family max

All meals come with chips and a drink

*Mojo Burger (hand rolled patty, topped with mustard, pickle and onion)

*Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla (on the side: pico, sour cream and lettuce)

*Mojo Cheeseburger (hand rolled patty, topped with mustard, pickle and onion)

*Veggie Option

*Kids Meal: Sliders



October Lunch

Second Sunday Lunch Moves Outdoors

October 12, 2025

Join us on Sunday, October 12 for our monthly Second Sunday lunch!

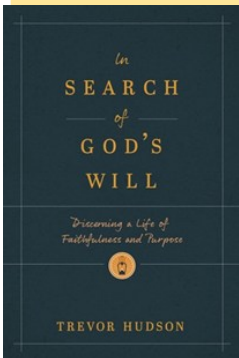
After worship everyone in the Second family is invited outdoors to enjoy a delicious meal from

Memphis Mojo Cafe. Please use the

link [here](#) to sign up, or email info@2ndmemphis.org to add

your name to the list. Cost for the meal is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children ages 8 and under, and \$32 maximum for families.

2BC Book Club Begins in November



Next month we are beginning a book club that will read four books between now and the end of the school year in May.

The first of these is *In Search of God's Will: Discerning a Life of Faithfulness and Purpose* by Trevor Hudson. The book can be purchased from several different retailers. We will have our discussion

of it on Thursday evening, November 6. If you are interested in learning more or taking part, please contact Stephen Cook at stephen.cook@2ndmemphis.org.



A note from Larry Denman

On Tuesday evenings throughout September, some of our 2BC children gathered for choir, filling the church with joyful voices and laughter. That midweek hour became a special time of fellowship, fun, and music-making for children ages 4–10. What a gift it has been to watch them learn, sing, and grow together! We look forward to the next opportunity to lift our voices in song!



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October

- 1 Carol Densford
- 2 Tommy Young
- 3 Judd Lindsey
- 4 Greg Cotton
- 5 Peggy Michel
- 6 Amanda Gowen
- 10 Anne Bryan
- 11 Ron Anderson
- 13 Diane Wadlington
- 16 Cindy Wooten
- 18 Brian Turnbow
- 18 Wilson Young
- 19 Addison Meador
- 21 Brandon Ramey
- 27 Brian Mallory
- 28 Cathy Bickerstaff
- 29 Pam Jenkins
- 31 River Montgomery

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

gathered to worship

An Update from The Front Porch
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



Pumpkin Patch is Open

Each fall, our pumpkin patch becomes the holy space where we can reflect the love, kindness, and generosity of Christ to thousands of our neighbors. And although most of these guests may never visit or join our church, we know God can use the moments they have in the patch for a larger purpose. Through our patch, people can find a quiet space to escape the world for a moment, a safe place for children to play, a convenient place to meet friends, and the chance to create memories. In our patch, kindness flows and glimpses of the kingdom of God abound. Guests may arrive to purchase a pumpkin, but they depart receiving much more. So, let the excitement begin and be sure to find your happy place in the Second Baptist Pumpkin Patch!

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!

Second Pumpkin Unload:
Saturday, October 11
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch:
Sunday, November 3



Second Pumpkin Unload October 11

We need your help to unload our second tractor trailer full of pumpkins. 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 are a day to celebrate the power of the church and community working together. Visit 2ndmemphis.org/pumpkin-patch-volunteers/ to sign up.



Second Baptist Parents' Day Out

PDO was excited to welcome the local Police K-9 Unit to interact with our students and teachers. Our children were provided the opportunity to meet an officer, love on the only Memphis bloodhound currently in rotation, and learn more about how they serve and protect our community. We are grateful for their partnership and look forward to seeing them each year to kick off our Community Helpers unit.



2BC Families and 2BC Partners "Party in the Patch!"

On Saturday, October 25, join our 2BC Partners and our 2BC families for a fun time in the pumpkin patch for Monster Mash music, trunk or treat, games, hot dogs, s'mores and a movie or two! Bring your lawn chair and invite friends and family! The fun will start at 4:30 p.m.! We hope you come and make some fun memories this pumpkin season!



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CROSSROADS (USPS 0005-206) is published monthly by
Second Baptist Church, 4680 Walnut Grove Rd,
Memphis, TN 38117-2599. Periodical Postage Paid at
Memphis, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
CROSSROADS 4680 Walnut Grove Rd, Memphis, TN 38117.



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