

Encountering God at the

# CROSSROADS

of community and mission.

Volume 37 Issue 1

January 2026

## Deacon Ordination and Installation Service

On January 11 we will ordain three new deacons – Frances Breland, Barbara Moorman, and Cindy Wooten – while also offering a time of blessing for each person who is serving in this important ministry role.

Everyone is asked to write notes of encouragement, a prayer, or a blessing to share with these three we are setting apart to serve.

Here's how it works:

- Write a note to each deacon that offers your affirmation of their commitment to serve.
- Bring the note with you to worship on January 11. Or, if you will not be able to attend, mail or drop the notes off at the church office no later than Thursday, January 8. If you mail them, please send to:



Second Baptist Church  
c/o Deacon Ordination  
4680 Walnut Grove Road  
Memphis, TN 38117



Our deacons are servants of the church who often do their work quietly, out of the spotlight, and in the relational ministries of tending to people in ways that do not draw vast amounts of attention. Nonetheless, their care makes deep impacts on those who are served.

Make plans to take part in this sacred time of blessing those who bless so many!

Tim Bearden

Matthew Breazeale

Frances Breland

Frank Childress

Greg Cotton

Bart Harris

Theresa Jennings

Sandra Livesay

Sharon Ludwig

Mark Luttrell

Steve McCleskey

Amy Moffatt

Cathy Moore

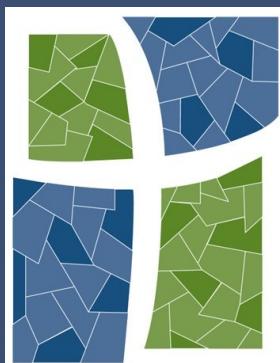
Barbara Moorman

Ginny Ramey

Bob Serino

Bill Summons

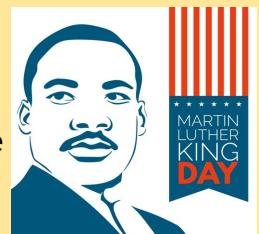
Cindy Wooten



4680 Walnut Grove Road  
Memphis, TN 38117  
[www.2ndmemphis.org](http://www.2ndmemphis.org)

## Holiday Closing Reminder

Please make note that the church office and Christian Family Life Center will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. In the event of an urgent pastoral care need when the church office is closed, you may reach the minister on-call at 901.604.6686.



# from the pastor

## SERMON & WORSHIP THEMES

January 4: Epiphany Sunday  
**Title:** Breaking and Entering  
**Text:** Isaiah 60:1-6  
**NT Lesson:** Matthew 2:1-12

January 11: Deacon Ordination & Installation  
**Title:** The Dailyness of Belovedness  
**Text:** Matthew 3:13-17

January 18:  
**Title:** Here, Now, and Whatever is at Hand  
**Text:** John 1:29-42  
**OT Lesson:** Psalm 40

January 25:  
 Daniel Johnson preaching

### Forgiven and Forgiving

At the beginning of this new year, I am remembering a hope that the late South African archbishop, Desmond Tutu, said near the end of his life.

Christian faith animated his life in a way that was remarkably inspiring. His trademark laughter and the delight he found in the joys of this world – even amid its heartbreakingly hard and horrible things – are reminders of the goodness to be found alongside so much that is so out of sorts.

In his latter days, Bishop Tutu was asked: "How would you like to be remembered when you die?"

He declared: "I want to be remembered as one who was forgiven and was forgiving."

Forgiven and forgiving. The order of those words seems especially important. One flows from the other. The latter is a product of the former.

Paul put a letter in the mail to the Ephesians. He included instructions that say:

*"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."* (4:32)

You and I may never be memorialized on a big stage beyond our family and friends' recollections as Bishop Tutu was at his passing. But what if we resolve at the start of this new year to live lives now that will – one day – be recalled for their kind, tenderhearted, forgiving ways because of Christ's kind, tenderhearted, gift of forgiveness to us?

Grace and peace,  
 Stephen

### Second's Fourth Annual Chili Cook-Off & Dessert Competition

Sunday, January 11 at 11:30 a.m.

This year our chili cook-off is a month early, but the competition is no less fierce! Who from the Second community has the tastiest, hottest, and best overall chili recipe? Come find out during our Second Sunday Lunch in January! Sign up to enter your chili or dessert as we gather for this friendly – and tasty – competition!



scattered to serve

## God is Good – All the Time!

I continue to be amazed at how the people of Second Baptist share their blessings with the church. As always, you gave generously, and we finished the year strong. We will publish final figures for 2025 in the February Crossroads but know that we appreciate your response to our challenges in 2025. A number of you are taking advantage of tax benefits from directing your IRA distributions directly to the church. Our number of online givers has increased, as well as recurring gifts. Through our payment processor, OneChurch, you can set up a gift to be sent to the church at the frequency you desire. It's a great way to support the Lord's work and also not have to remember to write a check or schedule a gift each time. We also accept gifts of stock.

Also, thank you to all who have made pledges to support Second in 2026. Many have increased their expected gifts which helps with the inflation the church feels (just as we all do in our homes). It's not too late to make a pledge if you'd like! Pick up a card in the Welcome Center or pledge online at [2ndmemphis.org/giving](http://2ndmemphis.org/giving). All pledges are confidential and are seen only by the Financial Administrator, Patti Calvert. For any assistance, please call or email me at 682.3395 or [pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:pcalvert@2ndmemphis.org).

Thank you all for being a part of this congregation's mission and ministry, as we seek To Know Christ, To Know Our Village.

-Patti Calvert

## 2BC Book Club Returns this Month!

On the last Sunday evening in January, our 2BC Book Club (which is open to everyone, anytime) will gather. We will share a light meal and time discussing Tish Harrison Warren's book *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life*.

Warren recognizes that, "In overlooked moments and routines, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred?"

To sign up or learn more, please contact Stephen Cook at [stephen.cook@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:stephen.cook@2ndmemphis.org).



**EXPLORE THE BOOK!**

**2BC BOOK CLUB**  
(OPEN TO EVERYONE)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**

**5:30 P.M.**

TO SIGN UP OR LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT STEPHEN COOK AT [STEPHEN.COOK@2NDMEMPHIS.ORG](mailto:STEPHEN.COOK@2NDMEMPHIS.ORG).



Update  
Contact Info



If any of your contact information has changed, please email updates to [info@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:info@2ndmemphis.org).

# Gathered to worship

Year-to-date through 12/23/25

Receipts \$ 897,898

Expenses 937,955

Net (\$ 40,057)

## STEWARSHIP

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](mailto: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 in the new year!

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

On January 11, The Journey Class will begin a five-week study in the letter of James. The letter of James may have been the first New Testament work that was written. However, it received so much criticism it was almost excluded from the New Testament. Be assured, the letter is saturated with Jesus' teachings, especially from the Sermon on the Mount. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 as we explore the controversies, ask questions, and consider how our faith is meant to work, according to James. There will be five "chapter-a-week" sessions: January 11- Chapter 1; January 18- Chapter 2; January 25-Chapter 3; February 1-Chapter 4; February 8- Chapter 5. For more information contact Jacqueline Martin (931)551-1769 or [jmartin@2ndmemphis.org](mailto:jmartin@2ndmemphis.org).

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

We begin this new year with a unit that follows the lectionary. The next few months will cover prophecy and praise. In session 1, Jeremiah delivers God's own words to the people, promising that they may be mourning now, but joy is coming. Session 2 includes one of Isaiah's "servant songs," poetic proclamations of a dedicated servant who will bring about God's justice. In session 3, Isaiah declares that all God's people are the covenant and are called to be God's servants, bringing about justice. Finally, in session 4, Isaiah describes the cornerstone of this change: a child who is called by remarkable names: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6). The prophets never paint a falsely rosy picture, but they also never give up hope.

### ***The Forever Class (room 113) – Burt Waller, teacher***

The Forever Class will begin January by spending two weeks, January 4 and 11, enjoying both familiar and newly popular hymns. This is always an engaging time for the group as we listen to various versions of a hymn in advance, read about the song writers' motivation and purpose, and spend time together sharing how the message and melody of the hymn have impacted us.

On January 4, we will also have a guest, Harley Wroten, the young man the group has prayed for and supported over the past six months. Harley will share his testimony and tell us about his next steps in his quest for a Naval Academy appointment.

Beginning on January 18 and continuing through March 1, we'll explore a 7-week study, The Wilderness, to guide our discussions. In the Bible, the wilderness is a place of both hardship and hope, where divine testing and provision shape humanity's faith. This study explores the Bible's wilderness theme by reading Scripture passages, considering insights, and discussing key takeaways. Each week includes the option for viewing a short on-line video from The Bible Project, designed to complement the focal scripture for the week.

# scattered to serve

## Thank You, Second Community

This year's Christmas Basket Ministry was a wonderful success made possible



through the shared generosity of Second Baptist Church and our wider Second Community. Along with the faithful financial support of our church members, we are grateful for the generous contributions from our village.

We are especially thankful for the Give Clean employees who volunteered their time to help unload supplies and assemble the Christmas Basket boxes alongside our church volunteers. Because of these gifts of time, resources, and partnership, we were able to provide food for 112 families this holiday season.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" — Psalm 133:1

## First Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 25



Our first congregational meeting of 2026 will happen on Sunday, January 25 immediately after worship in the sanctuary. In addition to hearing reports on stewardship and generosity in 2025, we will also be asked to affirm an ad-hoc team of church leaders who will be assessing the highest and best uses of our church property. Please make plans to be present and participate!



January

- 1 Gibby Carlson
- 1 Dixie Knowlton
- 3 Owen Keith
- 5 Linda Serino
- 6 Joe Livesay
- 8 Joe Wallace
- 10 Bob Vecera
- 12 Kirsten Bryan
- 12 Sandra Livesay
- 19 Regina Bodiford
- 20 Larry Breland
- 25 Pat Mabry
- 29 Marcille Gore
- 31 Catherine Denman

## We are Hiring!

### Infant Childcare Workers

- 2 day & 4 day a week options available
- Previous experience is not required

January Start

Please reach out to Becca with any questions.



901.682.3389

PDO@2ndmemphis.org



Join Our Team

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

# gathered to worship

## YOUTH GROUP News

Youth & Parents' Meeting  
Sunday, January 25

Immediately after the congregational meeting on Sunday, January 25 all youth and their parents are encouraged to share lunch and conversation as we look ahead at all our ministry will be doing in 2026. Special events, activities, and summer trips are on the agenda for this important time together.

Winter YOUTH SUMMIT

WYS JANUARY 16-18, 2026

**KNOWN**

Speaker **BEN WINDER**

Worship Leaders **MISSION HOUSE**




# scattered to serve



Christmas is a time of celebration, community, and reflection on the true meaning of the season. Throughout the month of December, we hosted a variety of events to bring people together and spread joy. We began the Advent season as our sanctuary was decorated with evergreens, candles and poinsettias provided by the youth and children. The placing of the nativity is a tradition at our church as the candlelight fills the sanctuary with warmth and peace. Our church provided once again a beautiful lunch for our Evergreen group. It was great to hear the laughter and the conversations among folks who have been friends for many years. At our church, Christmas caroling is an opportunity to spread Christmas spirit to both church members and those in need of a little extra holiday warmth as they visited Trezevant Manor and shared some favorite songs of the season. It's a simple yet powerful way to share the love of Christ with others, as carolers offer both song and, in many cases, a small gift or prayer. For everyone involved, the experience is a reminder of the joy of giving and the true meaning of Christmas: love, hope, and peace for all. Our 2BC carolers then enjoyed a time of fellowship, hot chocolate, dinner, and our annual "Charlie Brown Christmas" movie time together. We also had a time of celebrating the season and our beautiful Second Baptist staff. The month of December has been a busy and fun time for all of our groups at Second Baptist Church.



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.



## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

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Office: 901.682.3395

### STAFF

#### **Stephen Cook**

Senior Pastor

#### **Daniel Johnson**

Associate Pastor

#### **Larry Denman**

Minister of Music & Worship

#### **Tanya Mabry**

Minister of Children & Families

#### **Rob & Miko Montgomery**

Youth Ministry Coordinators