

# Encountering God at the CROSSROADS

of community and mission

Volume 37 Issue 2

February 2026

## 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 about "The Stories that Shape Us," engage with art and 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.

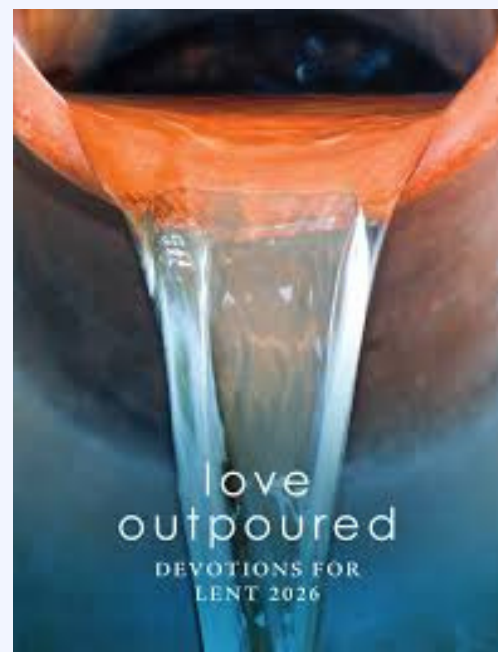
## Love Outpoured: Devotions for Lent

As in past years, during the Lenten season we are providing devotionals to everyone who would like to receive one. *Love Outpoured* focuses on portions of the apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. In words that continue to speak to us today, Paul lays out foundational beliefs for a life of faith in Christian community. The daily devotions for each day, from Ash Wednesday to Easter, begin with evocative images and brief scripture texts. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

The devotional books will be available for pickup in the church foyer or office beginning Sunday, February 1. A \$3 donation to offset the cost of the books 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.



Second Baptist Church  
4680 Walnut Grove,  
Memphis, TN 38117



## A message from the pastor

One of the earliest stories in scripture will be repeated in countless congregations around the world when the season of Lent begins.

In the creation account in the first chapters of Genesis, we learn the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil stands in the center of the garden. That tree is off limits. The first humans determine, though, that its fruit will make them more like God. But what they get when they eat from it is fear and shame, judgment and grief. So, God sends them packing, banished from the garden. And the word from God to the people in Genesis 3 is what we repeat every Ash Wednesday: "For dust you are and to dust you will return."

Ever since Adam and Eve it's been the same for us all. We know the old saw about the only two things we can be sure of in life are death and taxes. Emily Heath proposed an amendment to that. "The old line about death and taxes," she says, "really should say that there are two things you can be sure of in life: death, and the fact that while you live you are going to mess up. We are mortal, and we are fallible. These (even more than taxes) are the certainties of being a human being."

This is why the Church sets aside a special season given to getting our spiritual houses in order. Forty days given to remembering that we are broken, all of us. We confess our sins. Some of us even determine that we will do better. We give up this habit that separates us from God, take on another that draws us closer. And we kick it all off by having ashes smudged on our bodies. We speak the words spoken from near the beginning of time: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

It's certainly sobering if we dare face it. It's one thing to show up for Easter when it's all pastels and pretty, new outfits. It's quite another thing to show up for the journey that gets us there; a journey that includes going through a graveyard.

### Sermon & Worship Topics:

#### February 1:

**Title:** Blessings, Not Commandments

**Text:** Matthew 5:1-12

**OT Lesson:** Psalm 15

#### February 8:

**Title:** Not Very Appealing

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

#### February 15: Transfiguration

**Title:** The Mountain Where All Moments Meet

**Text:** Matthew 17:1-8

**OT Lesson:** Exodus 24:12-18

#### February 18: Ash Wednesday

**Title:** Feasting Before Fasting

**Text:** Isaiah 58:1-12

**NT Lesson:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

#### February 22: First Sunday in Lent / Lord's Supper

**Title:** Echoes of Eden

**Text:** Matthew 4:1-11

But these days are also an invitation to remember that, since no human in history has ever been able to become like God, God chose to become like us.

And even though in living, not even God could be spared of dying. But thanks be to God for the truth that awaits us at the end of this season. The truth that death's power over us will be defeated. God already has it lined up.

When Lent begins on Ash Wednesday we will get to hear, to touch, to know: we are dust. And to dust we will all return after living our lives that are loaded with mess-ups and mishaps, missteps and mistakes.

But we are marked. Marked with the sign of the cross. And the cross reminds us: while death will most certainly come, through Christ, by grace, there is still the promise of life. Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace,  
Stephen



Each year, the school system in New Canaan, CT has a week-long break in February, and for several years The Congregational Church uses that break to coordinate a mission experience for their youth. This year, they chose to bring their 100 youth and 20 adults to Helena and serve with Together for Hope Arkansas February 16-20. In addition to providing home repair projects for families, the team will make needed repairs on the pool building where Together for Hope Arkansas leads their Swim Camp for over 200 children each summer. But, before the team departs for Helena, they will come to Second on Sunday, February 15. The team will join us for worship, share about their mission, and then stay to have lunch with us after worship.



One of our guiding values at Second is hospitality. Here are a few ways you can help prepare to welcome this amazing group of guests.

1. As soon as the buses arrive, we want friendly faces to welcome and escort them into the church. If you would like to help in the parking lot, contact Pam Jenkins.
2. We want to make the guests feel welcome in the pews. We also want them to spread out and sit among us. We are looking for "row hosts" to welcome and sit with our guests throughout the sanctuary. If you are interested, contact Anne Bryan.
3. Because the team is flying and cannot travel with all the equipment they need, they have asked if we can help assemble tools for them to borrow. Below is the list of needed tools. These should be labeled and dropped off at the church office by Wednesday, February 11. If you have questions about the tools, contact Jacqueline Martin or Daniel Johnson.

Tools Requested: utility knives, framing squares, speed squares, crow bars, levels (2 and 4 foot), wheel barrow, sledge hammer (large and small), step ladders (5 or 6 foot)



Please mark your calendars and join us for a fun-filled Crafts Fair featuring talented local makers, unique handmade goods, and plenty of creative inspiration!

Come shop one-of-a-kind gifts, support small businesses, and enjoy a lively community atmosphere that's perfect for all ages. Bring a friend, stroll the booths, and celebrate creativity with us—we'd love to see you there!





### **Serve with Together for Hope Arkansas: Monday, February 16**

Would you like visit Helena and learn more about Together for Hope Arkansas? Would you like to help serve alongside the youth mission team from Connecticut? Would you like to help repair the pool building that will be used to teach children about Jesus and how to swim this summer? If so, you are invited to join Daniel for a one-day mission pilgrimage in Helena on Monday, February 16. You can drive individually or carpool and we'll meet at the rest area as you enter Helena before driving together to the municipal pool. Contact Daniel for more information, questions, or to confirm your participation.

## **Sunday Morning Faith Formation**

*As the Lenten season begins this month, find a place of connection, community, and growing in faith with our adult formation classes.*

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

The Journey Class is taking a walk through 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. The letter is saturated with Jesus' teachings, though, especially from the Sermon on the Mount. This group is exploring the controversies, asking questions, and considering how our faith is meant to work, according to James.

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

#### **Object Lessons**

Jesus told stories that turned some of his listeners into followers and some of his followers into people who were willing to risk their lives for the sake of what he taught. At times, these stories are not easy for us to grasp; at other times, they can be easy enough to understand but difficult to embody in our daily lives. Often, our most transformative learning happens when we struggle to understand. Many people recognize the presence of Christ, and their experience of him as the light allows them to move through dark times. What does Jesus, the light, still have to teach us?

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

Continuing through March 8, the Forever Class is studying, The Wilderness, a seven-week series developed by The Bible Project. 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, collecting 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

*Love Is in the Air*  
-at The Front Porch-  
*Celebrate February with an evening of music and community.*

**Thursday, February 12**  
**5:00-7:00 PM**  
The Front Porch Event Center

*Featuring*  
*Carissa & Estefan Perez*  
Soulful cello & violin

**Free tickets ~ Registration Required**  
**Seating is limited ~ Reserve Your Spot!**

**kwc**  
MANAGEMENT



## Generous Givers and Giving Thanks

### Chili & Dessert Cookoff Winners

Our 2BC crowd enjoyed crockpots of chili and desserts brought in by the fabulous cooks of Second Baptist! The chili flavors went from very mild to extra hot and included different ingredients. The desserts included various recipes of banana pudding, chocolate truffle, Heath bar cake, cake, brownies, and cookies! These delicious chilis and desserts along with baked potatoes, let us go home with full tummies and big smiles!



Congratulations to our Dessert Winners:  
Bonnie -Holy Moly!;  
Cheryl -Sugar Shock;  
Evie- Best Dessert

Our Chili Winners were: Anne - People's Choice; Frances -Best Traditional; Tina -Spiciest Call 911; Ken-Most Unique; and Burt-Grand Champion. Congratulations to all these winners!



Thanks to your support, we ended 2025 with a surplus of \$15,000 (receipts over expenses)! The Finance Committee voted to put that money aside to get a head start on building repairs in 2026. Because you stepped up, and the staff worked to hold expenses down, we were blessed with this overage.

The year 2026 promises to be exciting. A new committee will work diligently to evaluate the church's best use of our space, and all our normal activities that we look forward to are on the schedule. The Front Porch is up and running, PDO is expanding, and so much more. I love being part of the Second Family and watching God at work in and through you. Have a wonderful New Year!

- Patti Calvert



### IT'S TIME FOR LENTEN PREACHING

Wednesdays-  
Fridays  
at 12:05 p.m.

LIVE PODCAST RECORDING:  
WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15 P.M.

### AND WAFFLE SHOP

Wednesdays-  
Fridays  
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



### Volunteer at the Waffle Shop – Thursday, March 12

For almost 100 years, Calvary Episcopal have been running its annual Waffle Shop in conjunction with their Lenten Preaching Series and 2026 will be no different. This year, our pastor, Dr. Stephen Cook, will be the proclaimer on Thursday, March 12. The Waffle Shop is run by volunteers and Calvary has invited members of Second Baptist to volunteer on the day Stephen is preaching. Free parking and shuttle service is available at the St Mary's Cathedral for volunteers. After signing in, volunteers are trained and assigned a table of six to wait upon. Service is from 11:00 am to 1:30 p.m. but there are free waffles for volunteers at 10:15 am. Volunteers can bring their own apron or Calvary has aprons to share. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and clothes and be prepared to have fun and make friends. Volunteers will not be able to see the sermon in-person, but it will be broadcast on a tv in an adjacent room. To join the fun of that day, sign up [online](#).



thank you — thank you — thank you

## Library Staff Recognition

The Library Ladies are retiring! Theresa Jennings and Lynette Pearson have spent many years together as friends and as the librarians at 2BC. Their friendship started many years ago in the 2BC young married SS class, with Mac Bailey as their teacher. Theresa and Lynette and their husbands found they had many things in common and that they had a special bond as their families grew through the adoption of their precious children. They have been involved in many activities here at Second from working in the nursery, teaching GA's with Katharine Huffman, and teaching children's choir with Janice Woodward. Lynette remembers that she taught children how to play the recorders! After retiring from 40 years of teaching in 2009, Theresa started working in the library with Emily Flowers and Ann Denton.

After those two librarians retired, Theresa became the main library lady and then about 10 years ago, Lynette joined her. Their lifelong friendship helps them make a wonderful team working together to build a library full of reading selections for all: children of all reading levels from picture books to chapter books, wonderful read aloud books for story time for Ms. Roz's kids and for Pumpkin Patch, books for our new 2BC book club, books which encourage discussions of current events and books to help us grow closer to God. Lynette said she loved Sunday mornings and getting to know those who came by to check out a book, especially the children. We love and appreciate their dedication and celebrate Theresa and Lynette as they retire from the day-to-day business of keeping us all well-read. Thank you, both!



"The best book I have ever read on the most important thing you will ever do." —John Mark Comer

## how to hear God

a simple guide  
for normal  
people

pete greig

Author of How to Pray

## 2BC March Book Club

The 2BC book club is open to everyone anytime. Join us for a conversation on Pete Greig's book, *How to Hear God: A Simple Guide for Normal People*. We will gather Sunday, March 22 at 5:30 p.m. for a light meal and a rich discussion.

*"Before we can love God with all our hearts and souls and strength, we must learn to listen. This, then, is the prerequisite that unlocks the purpose of life itself."*

—Pete Greig



### Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 18  
at 6:00 p.m. in the  
Sanctuary  
The 40-day season of  
Lent begins on Ash  
Wednesday, February 18.  
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 5. Make plans to join us as we begin the journey to Holy Week and Easter by sharing this time of worship together.



### Winter Coats & Blankets

In frigid temperatures and winter conditions, let us not forget our unhoused and vulnerable neighbors without the resources to protect themselves adequately from the cold. To support our neighbors and the organizations that serve them, we will collect new or gently used and clean twin/full sized blankets and coats of any size and distribute during February. Blankets and coats will be donated to the warming shelter at First Baptist Church operated by the HUB and Brinkley Heights Ministries. Items can be dropped off at the church office.

**Second Baptist Church**

Join us for our annual youth-led football game full of fun, laughter, and friendly competition.

Youth arrive at 2:30 p.m. | Kickoff at 3:00 p.m.

**FEBRUARY 8 3:00 PM**

Bring a friend. play or cheer from the sidelines!

Every year brings unforgettable moments you won't want to miss it.

For information contact Rob or Miko  
youth@2ndmemphis.org



- February 3 Frankie Hromada  
February 5 Joyce Hawkins  
February 5 Steve Pilgrim  
February 7 Charles Biggers  
February 9 Theresa Jennings  
February 11 Adam Carlson  
February 12 Hart Gowen  
February 12 Dora Mullenix  
February 13 Katie Parker  
February 13 George Pearson  
February 17 Rogers Smith  
February 18 Shan Criswell  
February 20 Mason Scruggs  
February 24 Andrew Smith  
February 25 Debbie Cockrell  
February 26 Liam Hochstein  
February 28 Cheryl McKenzie  
February 29 Parker Young

Year-to-date through 1/23/26

Receipts \$76,365  
Expenses 60,338  
Net \$ 16,027

**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](http://2ndmemphis.org)
- Click "Giving" & 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).





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Youth Ministry Coordinators