

## FROM THE PASTOR

This week begins a new year in the life of Second Baptist Church. While we are still firmly stuck in the midst of “2020”, it is a time of new beginnings. My prayer life has shifted over the previous weeks toward seeing the benefit of this pandemic. I truly believe that the church will never return to what it was prior to this season of crisis, but, that is not necessarily a bad thing. By nature, we hate and fight against change. Yet, change is exactly what the church needs. We have lamented for years the statistical truths of church attendance, passive service and more. I am truly convinced that while difficult, this season is an opportunity for realignment and recommitment.

Let me challenge you for a moment today to consider recommitting yourself to the Lord and His work at Second Baptist Church. Regardless of what the world looks like six months from now, the Lord will still be on His throne. The mission of the church will continue to move forward. This is not a time to retreat to the comfort of home or onto the sidelines to become an observing worshipper. Jesus said in John 4:23, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.” Yes, we must worship in spirit and in truth. If you are physically able, but not committed to corporate worship, then let me challenge you to recommit yourself to that biblical call.

Secondly, I want to challenge you to prayerfully consider how such a fresh commitment to Christ will change you and our church. Throughout scripture, commitment to the Lord always demands change. Habits, traditions, investments and more are all effected by our pursuit of Christ. What does that mean for you? In what areas and ways will God call you to realign your life with His? Also, in what ways and ministries will God call us to realign our church life with His? I will be sharing with you on Sunday, September 13 some of the ways we believe God is leading us to realign for the sake of His kingdom work.

Finally, I want to give you an update on our service and ministry schedule. The last few weeks have seen the Covid numbers for our community stabilize and begin a gradual reduction. While we must maintain safety protocols, the time for the next step of our return is close. Beginning Wednesday, September 9, children’s ministry opportunities will resume. RA’s, GA’s, Mission Friends and nursery will be available to all. Student worship will continue on Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM. Brad will be updating you on activities and options for students on Wednesday nights. Life Groups will continue meeting at the current schedule until further notice.

For His glory,  
Justin Hiens

## EDUCATION

Our summer curriculum series on Proverbs has come to a close. I always enjoy writing curriculum and this time was no different. As I reflect back on the last thirteen weeks, I’m drawn to the first week and the very first verse we studied. Proverbs 1:7 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” When I was growing up, fear of the Lord was described as a healthy respect for God’s authority. However, as I’ve studied the Scriptures, I’ve learned that to fear the Lord is exactly what it says: fear of the Lord. When we see encounters in the Bible between man and the presence of God, fear is always the first response. Think of how many times the angels had to start their messages with “Fear not!” Fearing God comes by understanding who God is and who we are in comparison to Him. Knowing how holy He is and how unholy we are is truly humbling. Only when we have an honest assessment of God’s character and our character can we start to grow in wisdom and understanding. Do you have that understanding? Do you fear God?

Firmly in His Hands,  
Bro. Sam

## THANK YOU

Thank you so much for all the cards, calls and for the donation to The Seed Company in Edwin’s name. You are always so gracious and loving to us and we love you all so much. You are our special church family and have been for over 40 years!

Sam & Judy Stephens

Thank you for your prayers, cards and visit by Bro. Russell and Mark Ward. You brightened my day and lifted my spirits. I can’t wait until I can be there in person to worship in God’s house.

Kathy Pritchard

I want to thank everyone for the calls, texts, cards, messages and for the gift to The Seed Company in my sister, Roxanne Anderson’s, memory. I am blessed with such a caring and loving church family.

Norma Fowler

## SYMPATHY

Kathy Hayes and her family on the death of her niece.

The family of Linda Young on her death.

The family of Richard Arnold on his death.

*The family asks that memorials be designated to the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Home.*

## FROM THE COUNSELOR’S DESK

Suffering comes in many forms, shapes, and sizes. A debilitating illness that leads to death, having to live with the consequences of someone else’s sinful behavior, experiencing the effects of an aging body that will not do what it once could, coping with the realities of a COVID-19 world, persecution from those who deny the faith rejecting Christ. Suffering, generally speaking, is a result of living in a world tainted by sin. Jesus predicted the difficult reality of tribulation when He said, “*In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world*” (John 16:33). As I was studying this past week in my daily time with the Lord, I came across a verse that gives us insight on how we are to respond to trials. To the persecuted Christians, the Apostle Peter through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit writes, “***Let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.***” (1 Peter 4:19). Being careful not to be too simplistic, Peter gives 2 responses to our suffering: entrust your life to the faithful Creator whose promises are all fulfilled in Jesus Christ and continue to make an impact for the kingdom by doing good. If these two responses remain our focus, the result the Apostle Paul aimed for will be Christlike character which will produce hope during a trial and challenging season.

Because of Him,  
Bro. Russell

## YOUTH

- **Sunday, September 6 at 5:00 PM:** Dismissed due to Labor Day holiday.
- **Back 2 School Blowout:** Sunday, September 13 from 5:00-7:00 PM at the church pavilion with meal, worship, games and a lot of great prizes. Rain date is set for Sunday, September 20.
- **College Student Prayer List:** Call the church at 885-5223 and give name, school and address.

## DECISIONS



**Logan Ross**  
By Profession of Faith/Baptism

## BIBLE READING PLAN

Mon.	August 31	Ezekiel 3 & Psalm 39
Tues.	September 1	Ezekiel 4 & Psalm 40-41
Wed.	September 2	Ezekiel 5 & Psalm 42-43
Thurs.	September 3	Ezekiel 6 & Psalm 44
Fri.	September 4	Ezekiel 7 & Psalm 45
Sat.	September 5	Ezekiel 8 & Psalm 46-47
Sun.	September 6	Ezekiel 9 & Psalm 48

## FINANCIALS

### Week of August 23, 2020

Budget Actual	\$	22,558.60
Budget Goal	\$	32,830.29
Journey of Faith	\$	805.00
Children's Home	\$	50.00
Designated Offering	\$	420.69

### Year-To-Date

Budget Actual	\$	1,677,752.20
Budget Goal	\$	1,707,175.08
Journey of Faith	\$	89,249.80
Children's Home	\$	4,318.21
Golden State	\$	6,439.56

Please note: When making your contributions online, please choose the option to use your routing number and account number, instead of using your debit card. The fees for debit card use are on the rise and we want to use as much of your contribution as possible for the Kingdom.

## WATCH THE SERVICES

Stay connected by viewing our Sunday morning and evening services through these avenues:

Television: Sundays • 8:00 PM on CH 8 or 26

Radio: Sundays • 10:15 AM on FM 104.9

Facebook: Second Baptist Church-Union City Official

YouTube: Search Second Baptist UC (live Sunday AM)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY**

*A Worship Encounter* EVENING

**Second Baptist Church**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 6:30 PM**

General admission is FREE or Gold Circle tickets are \$45. Must have ticket to attend! Tickets are available at [ITICKETS.COM](http://ITICKETS.COM) or you may go to our Facebook page: Second Baptist Church-Union City Official and click on the link.

- **Food Giveaway at The Second Mile:** Thursday, September 10 from 9:00-11:00 AM or 5:00-7:00 PM. \*Food will be available for all qualifying households who DID NOT participate in the Mobile Pantry on August 20. **Volunteers are needed!**

- **Rededication & Open House of the Fellowship Hall Renovation:** Sunday, September 13 from 2:00-4:00 PM.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020



**SECOND BAPTIST**  
 GATHER • GROW • GO • GIVE

831 Everett Boulevard  
 Union City, TN 38261

Return Services Requested

