



# Third Base

Vol 89, Issue 4 · April 2025



## From the Pastor

Father Merrin, played by Max Von Sydow, prepared for a pivotal scene during filming of *The Exorcist*.

The confrontation with an ancient Mesopotamian demon (Pazuzu) called for Merrin to proclaim with authority: “I cast you out unclean spirit, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!”—exorcising demon from a 12-year-old girl.

Max Von Sydow, the great Swedish actor, was unconvincing in his delivery. After several takes William Friedkin was at his wits end—and approached Sydow in his trailer—“Max, what is it?” Sydow admitted, “William, I just don’t believe in God.”

Friedkin was stunned, “Max, you played Jesus Christ in *The Greatest Story Ever Told*.”

He replied, “Yes, but I played Jesus as a man, not the Son of God”.

Max von Sydow was comfortable playing a man but invoking the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with passion was a difficult challenge as an atheist.

Friedkin suggested playing Merrin as just a man, attempting to help a very sick girl—30 minutes later he walked out of trailer and delivered an iconic performance, “The power of Christ compels you!”

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The Bible contains several verses proclaiming Jesus is God and Jesus proclaiming unity with God the Father.

Do you remember townspeople’s response to Jesus after casting out multiple demons of man possessed by Legion?

They were amazed—the man was now clothed and calm. He once ran among the tombs, gnashing his flesh with cut stones and howling night and day. Any attempt to restrain with chains and shackles was futile. But they did have one request:

Jesus, leave...

*continued on page two*

Jesus as another prophet and moral teacher assassinated by the State is the “agreeable Jesus.”

His sayings receive similar weight as Gandhi, Buddha, and other teachers offering “enlightenment” or “direction to healthy living.”

But once you cross the rubicon—Jesus is LORD—Jesus is Sovereign—Jesus took on the sins of the world and died on the cross for you—and proved claim of Divinity by rising from the dead—this is a bridge too far for many.

Rembrandt’s painting, *The Raising of Lazarus* (page 1) challenges your world view—only God can raise someone from the dead—Jesus said, “I and the Father are One” and “Before Abraham was...I am...”

The familiar summation by C.S. Lewis: Jesus is either lunatic, liar, or LORD rings true.

Jesus prayed:  
*I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.*”

Beloved, open yourself up to the revelation of Jesus Christ—and by faith embrace Jesus’ authority over death—“and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11)

He is Risen.  
Jesus is LORD  
Grace and Peace, Tommy



**Sunday, April 13, 11 a.m.**  
Palm Sunday Worship

**Wednesday, April 16, 5:45 p.m.**  
Seder Service  
Email [tsimons@third-baptist.org](mailto:tsimons@third-baptist.org)  
and reserve meal

**Friday, April 18, 7 p.m.**  
Good Friday Service

**Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m.**  
Community Food Pantry

**Sunday, April 20**  
Easter Celebration for children and youth  
Strauss Park **10 a.m.**  
Easter Worship **11 a.m.**

◆—————◆  
Welcome New Members!

Tukhuza Tembo



Rakshanna Mannava

# Family Ministries

Drew Phillips, Minister to Families

**SAVE THE DATES!** Lake Springfield Baptist Summer Camps – signup links now available below.

May 14-17: College Student Camp

<https://www.jotform.com/250405952389160>

June 18-21: Everyone 6-12 grades: Summer Surge (a mini-camp directed by Natalie Thiems)

<https://form.jotform.com/250406489356160>

July 6-12: Junior High Summer Camp for Grades 6-8

<https://form.jotform.com/242066892795168>

July 13-19: Senior High Camp. Grades 9-12

<https://form.jotform.com/250374907188162>

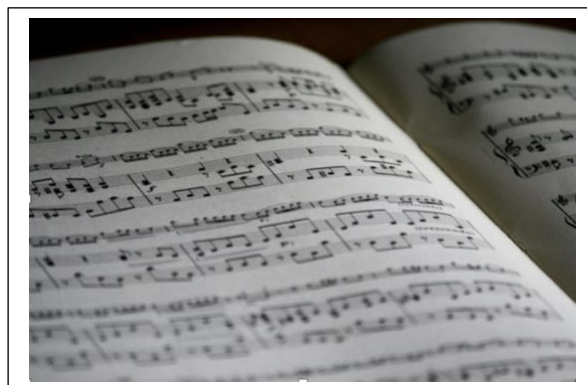
Other upcoming highlights:

APRIL 18, 2025

Youth: after the Good Friday service, stay for a lock-in at church. We'll have an off-campus outing, return to sleep, and get up early to help serve breakfast to our food pantry community! Bring questions and RSVPs to Drew.

MONTHLY MUSIC "LAB" COMING!

Beginning Wednesday, April 2nd, our own Stephen Schermitzler will be leading a once-monthly music "lab" for the junior high and high school-age youth. We expect it to be more of an open learning environment rather than a formal class; kids will be free to pursue music in whatever way they like (sheet music or rote, sacred or secular, any instrument of their choosing) and use the hour for their own musical engagement, with Drew's guidance. We'll meet during the regular youth group time on Wednesday nights, once a month.



ANNUAL CAROL FLEMING  
PILLSBURY TEA  
April 5, 2025  
See Connie Vohsen to get your ticket!



Wedding Shower for Tukhuza  
Tembo and Chidi Okafor  
April 27, 2025, in the Pillsbury  
Threshold, after worship.



Registry link:

<https://www.amazon.com/wedding/registry/1IYVOHEH4FOS9>

You are cordially invited to the wedding of  
Tukhuza & Chidi on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.



THE  
Wayfarers

When Wayfarers began nearly a year ago, we chose the name because it portrayed who we are--wayfarers on a journey--and the fact that we are in a dynamic relationship with God, therefore, moving ahead for His sake.

That continues to be our modus operandi. None of us has arrived as followers of Jesus. All of us are journeying together.

Lent may provide one of the clearest pictures of what this means. We are journeying toward Holy Week and Easter. We are asking what new things God expects of us and in what ways we can be more like Jesus.

In the gathering of Wayfarers we try to ask those questions. In fact, our questions may be a more important part of what we do than the answers.

If all this sounds like somewhere and something that might benefit your life, we would gladly welcome you.

Steve & Dawn

# How Does Giving to Missions Work at Third Baptist Church?

Giving to missions at TBC may seem complex, but here's a straightforward breakdown of how it works:

## 1. Unified Budget Funds

Each November, members pledge money to support the church for the following year. Ten percent (10%) of all pledged funds are designated for **missions**, and the Missions Team allocates these funds as follows:

- **51%** – Direct missionary support, helping sustain long-term partnerships with specific missionaries.
- **33%** – Support for broader mission efforts through American Baptist Churches International Ministries (ABCIM) and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) at the state and national levels.
- **16%** – Undesignated funds, distributed at the end of the year as Christmas gifts to our missionaries to provide additional support during the holiday season.

Note: The total available for missions depends on the final pledged contributions, which may fluctuate each year.

## 2. World Mission Offering

This fund is **separate from the Unified Budget** and does not expire at year-end. Instead, it accumulates over time and is used for mission projects at the discretion of the Missions Team. Unlike budgeted mission funds, donations to this offering provide flexibility to respond to urgent needs throughout the year. Recent contributions supported:

- Christian Activity Center: Adopt a Child Christmas Project
- Kihomi & Nzunga (ABCIM) and the Cap Haitian Eye Clinic
- Hurricane Helene relief through CBF and Samaritan's Purse
- Scarlett Jasper's ministry (CBF) serving low-income communities in Kentucky
- The Chettis' ministry (ABCIM), assisting displaced persons in Lebanon & Syria
- Ukrainian displaced persons (ABCIM)
- TBC Food Bank for Christmas Baskets, ensuring local families in need receive food assistance

We encourage members to contribute to this fund to support ongoing and emergency mission efforts locally and worldwide.

Use this envelope to pledge to the World Mission Offering fund

|                            |          |                               |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Pledge/Budget              | \$ _____ | Third Baptist Church          |
| Sasser Relief Fund         | \$ _____ |                               |
| World Mission Offering     | \$ _____ |                               |
| Christmas Mission Offering | \$ _____ |                               |
| Christmas Baskets          | \$ _____ |                               |
| Food Pantry                | \$ _____ | Name _____ Env. # _____       |
| TBC Foundation             | \$ _____ | Address _____                 |
| Other                      | \$ _____ | City _____ St _____ Zip _____ |
| Total                      | \$ _____ | Phone _____                   |

## 3. Special Offerings

- **Christmas Offering (2024):** A total of **\$12,122** was raised for ABCIM's **World Mission Offering**, directly supporting international mission work. Thank you for your generosity! See more information here: [World Mission Offering](#).
- **Easter Offering (2025):** Designated for **CBF's Offering for World Missions**, which provides financial support for missionary salaries, housing, healthcare, and children's education. These special offering envelopes are available with Sunday worship guides.

Your faithful giving makes a difference, helping missionaries stay on the field and continue God's work.

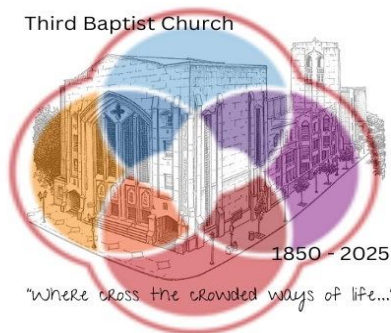
Thank you for your generosity and support.

**Peggy Pittenger**  
Chair, Missions Committee

CBF Easter offering envelopes



Third Baptist Church



## 2025 Anniversary Celebration Calendar

### **Sunday, May 4, 2025: 1900-1950**

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest Speaker: Rev Adam Banks, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Springfield, Ohio, and son of Ira and Ella Banks, members of TBC since 1991

CHURCH OUTING! Cardinals-Mets Baseball Game, 1:15 p.m. **Tickets will go on sale Sunday, April 6th, at the reduced price of \$10.00.** Upper deck, right of home plate.

### **Sunday, August 17, 2025**

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Special guest, Mark Gifford, former TBC church organist (currently Director of Music and Organist for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Illinois).  
CONCERT 1 P.M.

### **Sunday, September 7, 2025: 1950-2000**

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest speaker: Dr. John F. Anderson, Senior Pastor from 1990-2000  
All church picnic in Johnson Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

### **Saturday, December 6, 2025**

Special 175th Anniversary Celebration Gala Luncheon, details to come

### **Sunday, December 7, 2025: 2000-2025**

WORSHIP 11 A.M. Guest speaker: Dr. Warren J. Hoffman, TBC Senior Pastor from 2005- 2013

## Adult Discipleship

April 2, 9, 23, and 30

5:15 p.m. Dinner

5:45 p.m. Discussion and Spiritual application of Michael Card's  
*John: The Gospel of Wisdom*

sign up for dinner reservations with Tommy at  
[tsimons@third-baptist.org](mailto:tsimons@third-baptist.org)





The Lively Table is Third's Podcast found at:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1750498>

You are invited to journey three paths:

- *At the Movies with Ashley and Aaron*
- *Justice and Mercy with Jerry Bryan*
- *The Baptists Story continued, with the Pastor*

## Third's Food Pantry needs you!

Donations of food, toiletries, funds, and your time are always welcome.

Contact Rev. Drew Phillips or Monica McDaniel-Collins for more information, or to donate any of the above.

Find volunteers serving our community on the third Saturday of every month, starting at 8 a.m.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

*Happy Birthday to...*

- 03 🎁 Sue Haverman  
& Alexis Fay  
& Caren Wright-Simons
- 04 🎁 Jaden Jacobs
- 07 🎁 Sylvia Barnes
- 17 🎁 Brandon Brooks  
& David Jolly
- 20 🎁 Colton Simons
- 22 🎁 Ella Banks
- 30 🎁 Dona Turpin



Third Baptist Church

**Grant opportunity for service in the city**

↓ APPLY NOW ↓

Des Peres Baptist Church  
Endowment Fund

Do you or your organization serve in Saint Louis City and have a funding need for an initiative or project?

- Simple Application Process
- Opportunity to tell your organization's mission/story
- Explain your specific need and hopes for the grant
- Grants that meet criteria will be awarded based on available funds during the cycle
- Applications will be reviewed by the Urban Ministries Board to assess financial need and alignment with the mission of Third Baptist Church and Des Peres Baptist Church Endowment Fund

**Spring 2025 Grant Cycle**

**Begins- April 1, 2025**

**Applications Due- April 30, 2025**

To request an application e-mail Dani Phillips, at [phillipsdanielle@gmail.com](mailto:phillipsdanielle@gmail.com).



# Third Baptist Church

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**St. Louis, MO 63103**

**Office: 314-533-7340**

**Third-baptist.org**

We'd love to connect with you!



[third-baptist.org/guest](http://third-baptist.org/guest)

## Third Baptist Church Staff

**Dr. Philip Barnes**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Lansin Lim Kimler**  
PIANIST

**Brent Johnson**  
ORGANIST

**Dr. Tommy Simons**  
PASTOR

**Rev. Drew Phillips**  
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

**Sally Stevenson**  
PARISH NURSE

**Ella Banks**  
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ASST.

**Tom Kurtz**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**Christine McCarthy**  
FINANCE

**Ronnie Winthrop**  
FACILITIES MANAGER