

sardis signposts baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

5811 Sardis Road / Charlotte, NC 28270 / 704.362.0811
SardisBaptistCharlotte.org

VIRTUAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:45 AM
Virtual Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM
Virtual Morning Worship

Wednesday at 7:00 PM
Virtual Sardis Academy

SAFE SPACE FOR SMALL GATHERINGS

The Sardis Baptist Picnic Shelter offers sanctuary from isolation during our efforts to stay safe during this pandemic. We have arranged the six picnic tables to create one large rectangle. This allows for a small group, six to eight people, to gather around the table while maintaining safe social distancing rules. Beneath the breeze from the ceiling fans, the space is surprisingly comfortable in the summer heat. A number of small groups have used this space in the last month: MeckMin held a board meeting, Sardis staff met for planning, an Interfaith Youth Group gathered for an activity, and families have used the shelter to allow children and grandparents a safe space to see each other. Next month, Charlotte Wildlife Stewards will use this space to host a planning meeting.

Our Picnic Shelter is available to all friends of Sardis Baptist Church. Would you like to gather a small group of friends or family? Do you need a space for associates to meet face-to-face? If you wish to make a reservation, please email or text the church to make arrangements, info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org, 704.241.6927.



SARDIS BAPTIST PICNIC SHELTER

Community Conversations: SYSTEMIC RACISM

Thursdays Evenings

August 13th and 20th

Zoom Chat @ 7:30 PM

We hope you will make plans to join us in August for the first two in a series of small group, informal, brief conversations to continue an ongoing dialogue about issues of systemic racism.

Each week, the staff will select a video, article, meme, or other resource with relevance to the topic of race in America. Our goal will be to provide a thought-starter that takes 3-5 minutes to review.

Sardis friends will be invited to a Zoom chat. At the beginning of the chat, the host will share the prompt, and then participants will be divided into breakout rooms of about 4 people per room.

The groups will be provided with guiding questions, but participants are encouraged to let the spirit of the moment move their conversations. Authenticity and a safe space for sharing should take precedent over formality.

Breakout sessions will last for 20 minutes (2 10-minute sessions with a hard stop!). At the conclusion of the breakout session, a spokesperson from each group will have 1-2 minutes to share their group's thoughts with other participants. Then our host will offer brief closing words and a benediction for the coming days.

After the preliminary sessions in August, the staff will make needed adjustments to the format for September.

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



In early June, the Sardis staff provided a list of anti-racism resources for the congregation's consideration as we begin the long, hard work of understanding and reconciliation. The topics we are engaging are weighty, and they require an endurance of the heart, mind, and soul.

Any skilled musician, linguist, or mathematician will tell you that you can't master music, French, or Calculus in one evening of study. Instead, one must engage these topics daily, in shorter, but more intense sessions. The repetition builds, and the mind and body respond.

We will never fully explore systemic racism in one book study or prayer meeting, nor can we express its contents in one soundbite. We need to hear multiple perspectives, have lots of conversations, and maintain our focus and energy for years to come. Then, and only then, will we begin to peel back the many layers of racial injustice, and discover ways to help transform our world.

And this is to say nothing of the obstacles that Covid-19 are presenting to our regular gatherings. While Zoom is great, it is less practical for activities of length, as well as for facilitating dialogue among large groups. Not to mention the fact that many of us spend all day on Zoom meetings, and suffer from a real fatigue after working hours.

With all of this in mind, the staff wants to invite the congregation to consider four ways in which we will intentionally engage issues of race in the coming months. It is our hope that this intentionality will influence our missional focus, inform our personal and communal faith practices, and expand our love, respect, and recognition for all of God's children.

Prayer: We do believe in the power of prayer. It's one way to express our deepest joys and anxieties to God. As a community, we lift one another up, and listen for God's call on our lives. Fridays, if we're open to it, can be an opportunity to ask God's guidance and God's empowerment in dismantling racism. You can join us every Friday via Zoom at Noon (we usually gather for 30-45 minutes).

Worship: Our worship is an expression of the God who fashions us. When we express God's diversity, creativity, and abundant love in words, song, prayers, and gathered souls, we see more clearly God's intentions for the world. We invite you to pay close attention to a living liturgy that prioritizes our status as God's children over manufactured social constructions. All are welcome every Sunday via Zoom at 11:00 a.m. (worship usually lasts about 40 minutes).

Sunday School: This regular gathering provides a more formal and structured opportunity for Sardis community members to engage books about systemic racism and other social issues. The gathering usually pre-reads one chapter of a selected book per week, and shares in a dialogue led by Tillie Duncan. All are welcome every Sunday via Zoom at 9:45 a.m. (the session lasts for one hour).

Thursday Evening Conversations: Beginning in August, Sardis will offer small group "burst" conversations around newsworthy events relating to race and systemic injustice. The aim of these meetings is to provide informal, brief, and safe spaces for dialogue. The first conversations will occur on August 13th and 20th via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. (the sessions will last for a maximum of 45 minutes). See the front page for more information.

Sardis People... MOVIE REVIEWS



David Garrison & Donna Barger have adopted a new hobby during recent months:

we have aspiring film critics in residence at Sardis Baptist! So far, during pandemic days, they have watched more than 100 films! Names of films they'd like to see have been placed in a movie jar, and they pull one out whenever they have an opportunity to watch.

Donna has compiled a list of some of their favorites that includes star ratings, comments, and links to trailers. Only films with five stars are listed below. **Click here to for a spreadsheet that includes three and four stars as well.** If interested, ask David or Donna about movies rated with one and two stars so you will know what NOT to watch!

- ★★★★★ **Tokyo Story**—1953, Foreign Film
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zEKw4VQleY>
- ★★★★★ **The Downfall**—2005, Foreign Film
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htvYfe6wz_8
- ★★★★★ **A Hidden Life**—2019, Foreign Film
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJXmdY4IVR0>
- ★★★★★ **An Elephant Sitting Still**—2018, Foreign Film
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om6xGJ4S3LY>
- ★★★★★ **Roma**—2018, Foreign Film
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6BS27ngZtxg>
- ★★★★★ **Searching for Sugar Man**—2012, Documentary
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QL5Tff0OQ7g>
- ★★★★★ **Ida**—2013, Foreign Film
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JlXxo8qUn0
- ★★★★★ **African Queen**—1952, Beautifully Remixed
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88jytHOsDos>
- ★★★★★ **Once Upon a Time in Hollywood**—2019, 3 X's Love!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELeMaP8EPAA>
- ★★★★★ **Jojo Rabbit**—2019, Beautiful, Funny, Heartbreaking
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tL4McUzXfFI>
- ★★★★★ **The Wind Will Carry Us**—1999, Foreign Film
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xq1gXC3119A>
- ★★★★★ **Inside Llewyn Davis**—2013, Cohen Brothers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXMuR-Nsylv>
- ★★★★★ **Lars and the Real Girl**—2017, A Constant Favorite
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNcs9DrKYRU>



Our condolences are with the following Sardis friends. May they be surrounded by love and peace during their time of mourning:

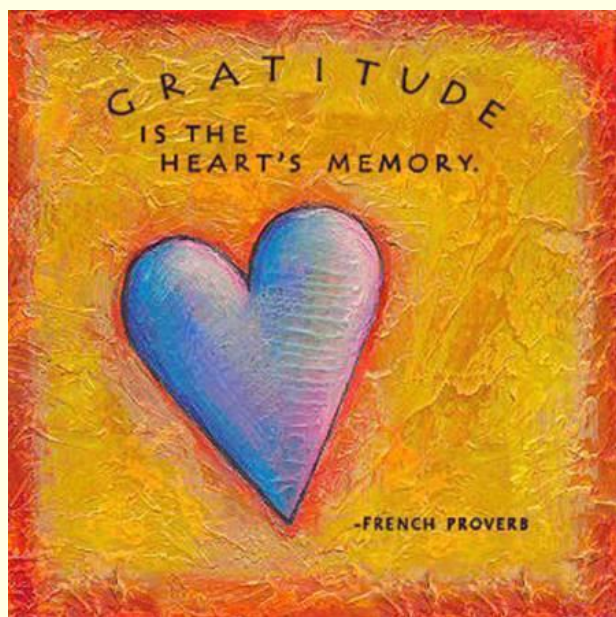
- Becky & Rick Proctor for the loss of Catherine (Kitty) Tate
- Jim & Becky Owen for the loss of Jean Miller Briggs
- Janie Harris for the loss of her nephew Ted

Fay Alderman ▪ Gaye Booth, friend of Ellen Dillard and Marge Fowler ▪ Jim Bowlin, Melissa's father ▪ Melissa Bowlin ▪ Sarah Bowlin Criss ▪ Margaret Branton, Amanda Lewis' grandmother ▪ Don Brunton, father of Mark ▪ Maria Byrd ▪ Matthew Clark, grandson of Becky & Rick Proctor ▪ "Coach", friend of Marge Fowler ▪ Sonny Cole, Marge Fowler's brother ▪ Ben Cooley, Ruthye's husband ▪ Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother ▪ Larry & Amelia Eidson, parents of Jonathan ▪ Mike Eidson, cousin of Jonathan's ▪ Nancy Darnell ▪ Mollie Gilmore, granddaughter of Jim & Becky Owen ▪ Gennelle Hall, Mother of Jessica Wallace (Bullies 2 the Rescue) ▪ Larry & Donna Harrill ▪ Eric and Peyton, nephews of Janie Harris ▪ Joanne Henkel, Bennett's grandmother ▪ Don Hill ▪ Eugene Hill, Don's son ▪ Harvie Hill, Kathryn Kreutzer's father ▪ Kathie & Marvin Jean ▪ Karen—CBF North Africa Field Personnel ▪ Bob & Shirley Lewis, Amanda's parents ▪ Vicki Lewis, Amanda's aunt ▪ Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother ▪ Pete McSwain, cousin of Tillie Duncan ▪ Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz ▪ Cheryl Raugh, friend of Kristin Parker ▪ Mala Reynolds ▪ Bob Rowland, Robin's father ▪ Linda & Cameron Thomas ▪ Andy Tripp, brother-in-law of Melissa Bowlin ▪ Heather Robinson Weir, friend of Susan Phillips ▪ Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy

THANKS FRIENDS!

Thank you Sardis friends for your efforts to help keep us connected to one another. We know there are many unknown/unseen ways you are reaching out to Sardis folks. Many thanks have been left unsaid in the list below. Know that we are grateful for each of you!

- We appreciate Melissa Bowlin and her efforts in collecting and sharing fun facts for Sardis folks!
- We are always grateful to our trivia night emcees: Bennett Henkel and Amanda Lewis!
- The youngest Sardis friends have enjoyed StoryTime! Thank you for reading to them: Jonathan Eidson, Hilary McIntyre, Susan & Danny Phillips.
- We are grateful to Susan Phillips for her continued care of our sanctuary plants and worship displays.
- Thank you to our Board of Trustees for the work they are doing to make our sanctuary lighting more efficient and earth-friendly: Howell Peterson, Danny Phillips, and Robin Rowland.
- We appreciate Chris Mair and Jim Owen for the behind-the-scenes work they do for Sardis Baptist.
- A couple of roosters and hens visited Sardis for several days last month. We are grateful to the church neighbors on Livingston for finding them safe homes.



We received lots of positive feedback from last month's Fun Facts activity, so we've decided to do it again! Melissa Bowlin is collecting interesting facts about your lives to share anonymously with Sardis folks. We will give you a list of names of participants, and encourage you to try and match facts with the friends. Answers will be shared at a later date.

[Click here to see what we learned about Sardis friends last month.](#)

Send facts and info about your life and history to Melissa Bowlin:
Text her at 704.458.9773 or email melbowlin315@gmail.com.

Did You Know?



Introducing the latest visitors to Sardis Baptist Church, July 2020



zoom TIP SHEET

Zoom has become a household name among Sardis folks. Slowly but surely we are adapting to virtual worship and social gatherings, but there are still days we experience frustration and technical difficulties. Hilary McIntyre has created a Zoom reference document with tips and tricks to make use of Zoom a bit easier.

Is there a way to react silently to content shared during a Zoom meeting? Can I set a profile picture to be displayed in my stead if I choose to turn my video camera off? Hilary answers these questions and covers muting/unmuting your microphone, what to do if your screen freezes, use of headphones, creating a virtual background, using Zoom chat, and more. If you would like a printed copy to keep on hand as a quick reference, just email the church and we will send one via snail mail. Click the button below to open an e-version.

SARDIS ZOOM TIP SHEET

www.dropbox.com/s/e6qm2us8x1oc5nj/Zoom%20tips.pdf?dl=0

TREASURE HUNT

The trustees of Sardis Baptist recently granted permission to David Abramovitz, a neighbor of our church, to do some exploring and metal detecting on the grounds of our property, specifically the area where the home of the Miller family used to stand. David is interested in Charlotte history and stays on the lookout for old homesites to unearth relics from years past. He did indeed dig up some interesting items, and took the time to prepare a slideshow with photos of his findings: old toys, belt buckles, historic promotional items, collector coins, and even some jewelry, including a class ring from 1967! Access the presentation by clicking here, or entering the following URL in your internet browser: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/17BBU2YOvjyTviUlkLT_So1rKnuPeyv32NW2DoiU5mL8/edit?usp=sharing. David has reached out to Miller family members to offer the return of any items of interest to them.

