

## 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

## Charlotte Wildlife Stewards

*"May the relationship between man and nature not be driven by greed, to manipulate and exploit, but may the divine harmony between beings and creation be conserved in the logic of respect and care."*  
~ Pope Francis General audience, Vatican City, April 22, 2015 ~

Charlotte is the largest city in the Carolinas and continues to grow in size and population, creating major stress on the surrounding natural resources. With supporting leadership from the Wildlife Federation, Charlotte Wildlife Stewards work tirelessly to create balance between economic growth and strong, healthy ecosystems, in support of sustainable and livable communities. They work with partners to enhance landscapes and restore habitats throughout the region so that they may become healthy, thriving ecosystems, as unique and wonderful as the wildlife they support.

The Charlotte Wildlife Stewards will join friends of Sardis Baptist Church on October 7th at 7:00 PM to share more information about what they do for our community, and to talk to us about making the beautiful Sardis Baptist grounds into a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Login details will be shared via email prior to the event.

*"Imagine a treatment that would improve your mood, make you smarter, keep you healthier and improve your relationships. How much would you invest in that therapy?"*

*Turns out, there is such a thing and best of all, it's free.*

*It's called Nature."*

~Dr. Lawrence Rosen,  
The Whole Child Center



### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

More than two thousand years ago, thousands of miles away, in an upper room, Jesus shared a simple meal with a couple dozen of his closest friends. He told them that the bread and cup were for them; he told them that he loved them; he told them that each time they gathered in the same manner, his spirit would be there. The spirit of that first table has drifted through space and time, spanning continents and generations, and sustaining the radical hospitality of Jesus.

On World Communion Sunday, we'll celebrate the global nature of this table. Christians around the world will speak the ancient words in their own tongues, partake in the bread and cup of their native diets, and somehow, somehow, we'll all be connected.

To honor this global table, our worship will include special music, a sharing of community from friends around the world (Norway, England, Russia, and Africa), and an intentional reflection on what Christianity looks, feels, and sounds like in a myriad of cultures.

Bring bread and wine (or juice and crackers) to virtual worship with you on Sunday, October 4th. We've also sent a mailing through the postal service for you to open with friends during the service.

## Sardis Baptist Church

In this age of polarization, there are very few things we can agree on, but some things transcend politics. One of those things is the right of all people, especially children, to have consistent access to food and clean water. It's not that we have a lack of these things. Instead, it's a problem of resource allocation — and not just in places far away from Charlotte. As a matter of fact, nearly one in four NC school children are food insufficient, meaning that they aren't sure where their next meal will come from. There are neighbors right here in Mecklenburg County that don't have access to clean water, nor do they have consistent access to super-markets that offer the fresh produce and clean foods that children (and adults) need to thrive.

**CROP HUNGER WALK**  
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME  
**VIRTUAL WALK**  
**OCTOBER 11th**

Again, it's not for lack of these things. Rather, it's because of an indifference to waste and resource allocation. The annual CROP Hunger Walk of Charlotte, NC (and others like it around the country) provides much needed awareness to the issues surrounding global and local hunger. Although CROP gives us a tangible way to help, the walk's success isn't just about miles covered or dollars raised. It's about sustaining intentional behavior to eradicate hunger. When we know where our food comes from, how and to whom it's distributed (or not distributed), and the effect our food practices have on our neighbors, we become more empathetic, more pro-active, and more determined to be good neighbors — neighbors who feed the world, not hoard its food.

In order to keep all participants safe, CROP Walk Charlotte 2020 will be virtual, meaning there will not be a mass gathering. Participants will be encouraged to walk on their own on October 11th, and to raise funds supporting the effort. You do not have to walk to assist our team. Consider making a donation or sharing our team webpage with friends and family via email or social media: [www.CropHungerWalk.org/CharlotteNC/SardisBaptistCharlotte](http://www.CropHungerWalk.org/CharlotteNC/SardisBaptistCharlotte).

## All Saints Sunday - November 1st

On Sunday, November 1st, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, a time to remember those people who helped shape our congregation, as well as the Church Universal. During worship, we will recognize the names of those persons in our Sardis family whom we've lost this year: Mary Jane Osborne and Don Hill.

Please let any Sardis staff member know if you would like to honor a loved one who has passed on in the last year. During worship we will read the names of Sardis saints. This will be a day of mixed emotions. We experience great joy and great grief when we remember our loved ones. But this is also a Sunday of power. When we speak the names of our saints, we hasten their spirit, and we are reminded that God's spirit resides in us too! Each time we speak their names, we are emboldened to be living saints: people who share their gifts so that others might also know God's fullest presence and widest mercies.



The Worship Development team continues to piece together plans for the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas. Their next meeting will be held virtually on Sunday, October 18th following worship. Team members, please plan to stay logged into Zoom following the service.



I confess.

Sometimes, I'm tired.  
Tired of seeing my friends on tiny screens.  
Tired of telling people they are muted.  
Tired of people telling me I am muted.  
Tired of clogged broadband.  
Tired of people being tired.  
Tired of looking for the link I misplaced.  
Tired of delays.  
Tired from a lack of touch.  
Tired from routine.  
Tired of Frozen Two.

Tired enough that I'm not Tired of Frozen One anymore.  
Especially tired that you have to put a quarter in the carts at Aldi again.

I confess.

Sometimes, I'm lacking energy.  
Energy to text.  
Energy to say, "Hello."

Energy to check in on people who matter to me.  
Energy to make more than box macaroni for dinner.  
Energy to go for a walk in this beautiful fall weather.  
Energy to clean out the garage.  
Energy to pay the bills.  
Energy to smile, to laugh, to play, to rest.  
Energy to work for the change our world so desperately needs.

## COVID CONFESSIONS

Bob Stillerman



I confess.

I'm pouting.

Pouting that we can't worship in the meetinghouse.  
Pouting that I can't walk my girls into school each morning.  
Pouting because Cam Newton plays for the Patriots.  
Pouting because I don't like the headlines.  
Pouting because I have a runny nose.  
Pouting because our favorite Lebanese restaurant went out of business.



I confess.

I am anxious.

Anxious about what our world is gonna become.  
Anxious whether my runny nose is just a runny nose.  
Anxious that I am indifferent to the needs of neighbors.  
Anxious even more that this indifference is intentional.  
Anxious that I've left the oven on, or the faucet running, or the door unlocked.  
Anxious because those things seem so trivial.  
Anxious because of fires. And hurricanes. And politics.  
And privilege. And nasty isms.  
Anxious because there is SO much to be anxious about.

I take a breath.

A Psalmist's breath.  
I remember God is present.  
Even though I am tired, and  
lack energy, and am pouting  
and am anxious. I  
remember. And I see.



I see a Zoom grid full of Halle-makers. I see the hand-written notes of friends. I see the sun shining. I see a karaoke-style choir with Hilary at the helm. I see an email with a devotion from Jonathan. I see a TV full of stories of persistence. I see kindness working to outshine meanness. I see little girls growing strong and tall. I see the frozen stuffed-cabbage soup Kathryn made me in my freezer. I see new lights in the meetinghouse. I see a text from Tillie. I see a turtle. I see a collage of artwork my daughters made. I see Jacqueline's car pull in the garage after a weekend away. I see the words of a hymn: Sometimes I get discouraged, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

I remember that this is still the Not Yet.  
But I also remember what Will Be.  
God's world is coming, y'all.  
Matter of fact it's breaking into this one right now.

It's making people who feel invisible matter  
It's making people who feel visible empathetic.  
It's making people who feel zoomed-out hopeful.  
It's making people who are unloved loved.  
It's making God's people, God's people.



## sardis people TYLER CRISS

Tyler Criss just celebrated his 11th birthday. This beginning of a new decade of his life has coincided with new things in his life. His family recently moved into a new home, in which he has a new room and a new bed. The family also has a new car: a Camaro.

His new bed is outfitted with sheets with scenes from the on-line video game, Fortnite. Playing Fortnite is one interest that keeps him busy in his leisure time. The game is interactive with other on-line players. Tyler can choose from three versions of the game. Save the World is played with 4 players who unite against zombie-like creatures. Battle Royale involves 100 opponents in which the last player standing wins. Creative allows the gamer to construct his own worlds and battle situations.

Building with Lego blocks is another favorite pastime. He particularly enjoys sets in which he can build vehicles: cars, helicopters, etc. Tyler likes to read and particularly enjoys Aliens for Breakfast, a favorite of his dad's when he was growing up.

Tyler attends Hawk Ridge Elementary School (at present, lessons are on-line with Zoom.) Math is the subject that he likes best. He is the son of Dan Criss, who is married to Sarah Bowlin Criss. Having a new mom is another new thing in his life. The Crisses recently celebrated their second anniversary.



Sarah, Tyler, Meemaw (AKA Meliss Bowlin), and Dan Criss