

# sardis signposts baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

5811 Sardis Road / Charlotte, NC 28270 / 704.362.0811  
[SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](http://SardisBaptistCharlotte.org)

## VIRTUAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:45 AM  
Virtual Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM  
Virtual Morning Worship

Friday @ Noon  
Virtual Prayer Gathering



## SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH - HOLY WEEK HAPPENINGS

**Palm Sunday Worship, March 28th @ 11:00 AM:** We will commemorate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem virtually on Palm Sunday. We encourage you to bring a leafy branch from your yard, or get creative and make homemade palm fronds! We will wave them onscreen as we call to mind how Jesus' followers welcomed him into their holy city. Worship will take place in a Sardis Baptist zoom room. You may also follow along live on Facebook or watch the recorded video later at your convenience.

**Maundy Thursday Tailgate, April 1st @ 5:30 PM:** Wow! Here are three words you don't hear together often. But unusual times call for unusual solutions. Safety, community, efficiency, and liturgy will intersect in the parking lot of Sardis Baptist Church on Maundy Thursday. Gathering begins at 5:30; worship begins at 6:00. We will share a socially distant meal as we remember the first communion supper. Sardis staff will provide soup and bread in individually packaged containers, or bring your own if you prefer.

**Good Friday, April 2nd @ Noon:** We continue our annual ecumenical tradition of worshipping with friends from St. Stephen UMC and Sardis Presbyterian. This year the service will be hosted by Sardis Presbyterian and livestreamed on their Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/sardispres](http://www.facebook.com/sardispres)).

**Easter Morning Sunrise Worship, April 4th @ 6:45 AM:** As the sun rises and revitalizes our spirits we will remember the resurrection. Join us early on Easter morning for a sacred, yet short and simple sunrise worship celebration. The service will be livestreamed on the Sardis Baptist Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SardisBaptistCharlotte](http://www.facebook.com/SardisBaptistCharlotte)).

**Easter Morning Worship, April 4th @ 11:00 AM:** Celebrate with Sardis Baptist for a virtual Easter service. Worship will include special features, including the Hallelujah Chorus, performed by our chancel choir. We will watch live as guest artist, Amber Simpson, finishes painting the piece she's been working on for Sardis Baptist Church. We hope you will Zoom in (login details shared via email) or tune in on Facebook live.



**Maundy Thursday Tailgate  
Sardis BAPTIST Parking Lot  
April 1st @ 5:30 PM**

One of the highlights of our liturgical year at Sardis is our Maundy Thursday Communion supper. We've worked hard to reclaim this day as a remembrance of the First Communion. Yes, the gathering is bittersweet. But it's the love, laughter, and radical hospitality of this table that steel us for Friday, and empower us to both believe and embrace the joy of Sunday.

We are working to bring life and vitality to our meetinghouse while we are away. We've already adorned our cross with colorful fabrics, and we'd also like to adorn our parking lot and sidewalks with the bright pastels of sidewalk-chalk crosses. And frankly, we need some people power! Hence, the Maundy Thursday Tailgate is born. Safety, community, efficiency, and liturgy will intersect on a spring evening.

Come to the Sardis Parking Lot at 5:30. Our service will begin promptly at 6:00. Bring masks and chairs for your family, and setup shop in your designated parking area.

Sardis will provide soup and bread in individually packaged containers which will be distributed safely. (A vegan option will be available.) You are welcome to bring your own meal if you prefer.



## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

**A New Easter Greeting:** This year, when you send your Easter greetings to friends and family, consider this salutation: "Happy Easter..." Yes, the ellipsis and exclamation points are intentional!

God's is a story of resurrection. Throughout history, God transforms those things that appear final and certain into things with limitless possibilities. The boggy, watery chaos of the primordial years, when combined with God's parenting breath, creates a beautiful, life-sustaining universe. 400 hundred years of servitude to an intolerable Pharoah lead to an exodus, and eventually, a land of milk and honey. In the midst of the journey to freedom, a wilderness bears manna. Several hundred years later, the gloom of exile eventually gives way to a people reunited in their temple, singing the songs of old.

And hundreds of years after that, the ministry of Jesus eviscerates the certainty of marginalization for common Galileans and even Samaritans: a controversial woman at the well finds community; a tax collector named Zacchaeus finds new purpose; lawyers rediscover neighborliness; whole communities turn toward God and embrace the hope of God's possibilities.

And best of all...Rome's domination will not be the final word. The stone is rolled back, revealing God's potential to offer life beyond death.

Here's what I'm getting at, Sardis: Easter isn't just a day to watch the sun come up, enjoy our eggs at the K&W, wear pastels, and check off the boxes by singing our Hallelujahs and saying our Amens. Nor is Easter the one time of year to consider the mystery of resurrection, or to wrestle with the implications of the cross for our theology.

I think Easter is a season for being aware of, embracing, even daring to roll away the stones of finality. This is a season of resurrection: nature is shaking off the winter, and new buds are blooming; yesterday's leftovers are being transformed into tonight's tasty casseroles; a shift to post-pandemic life is revealing the possibility for life-work balance, and maybe even a form of corporate empathy that didn't exist a year ago; and new ideas are percolating, perhaps into transformative solutions of healing for our world.

Easter, it seems to me, asks us to reflect on God's mystery throughout the ages, and to imagine how God's mystery might resurrect the present. So for me, the ellipsis represents all of the resurrection and transformation I cannot begin to explain nor even imagine, and the exclamation point represents my great joy and anticipation for how that mystery will envelop our community.

Happy Easter...!

## Sardis People: Where Are They Now? THE WILLIAMS FAMILY



Joanie and Jason Williams have connected to several neighborhoods since they married and graduated from seminary. They were a part of the Sardis neighborhood several years ago when Joanie was minister of music and Jason helped in our planning process when we were in an interim period between pastors. Now they are connected to the neighborhood of Hood Memorial Christian Church in Dunn, NC, where they are co-pastors.

Their connection with Hood started when they moved from Charlotte to the Raleigh area. The strings of connection began weaving together when Joanie became interim music minister. Succeeding strands: Jason became interim pastor. The church went through a visioning process. Jason and Joanie became co-pastors. They live in the neighboring town of Angier, having bought Jason's grandmother's house.

The Williams daughters are weaving their own strands of connection. Middle-schooler Joy Kate enjoys dance, especially tap, and is adding some gymnastics strands into her routines. Nora is the drama queen of the family, having participated in several productions of the Harnett County Regional Theater. Lacey dreams of horses and wants to be a horse-rider when she grows up. She will be celebrating a birthday this month (April) and will enter kindergarten this fall.

Church and school threads have been an interweaving of on-line, outside, and in-person gatherings. (The norm, these days.) In addition to these connections, Jason is still collaborating with Dr. Rodney Sadler doing reconciliation training. Joanie teaches piano and voice at the Dunn School of Music.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School class has been rereading Bible stories with open eyes, open minds, and open hearts. Discussions have led us to deeper meaning of scriptures, and we've gleaned knowledge that has strengthened our relationships with God.

We invite you to join us as we continue study and discernment of ancient stories in April:

April 5th	Deobrah	Judges 4
April 12th	Rahab	Joshua 2
April 16th	Jezebel	1 Kings 21
April 22nd	Dinah	Genesis 34

## GOODNESS GROCERIES CONTINUES

Sardis Baptist Church has been stocking a school food pantry for more than a year now. Your support of this effort has allowed us to provide more than \$7,000 worth of groceries and household supplies for food-insecure families. If you wish to support this effort, please notate "Goodness Groceries" on your offering.



## ROOF ABOVE

In 2020, the Men's Shelter of Charlotte and Urban Ministry Center merged to form Roof Above, a comprehensive service provider working to end homelessness. Efforts include street outreach, housing assistance, emergency shelter, soup kitchens, and basic services such as laundry, mail, identification, and medication. This year, in lieu of Easter lilies, you may purchase Easter honorariums by making donations to the Sardis Baptist Roof Above fund. All funds collected will be donated to support their resources and programs.

Honorees will be recognized on Easter Sunday as well as during our weekly email the week after Easter. If you wish to purchase an honorarium, please provide the following details to the church:

- 1—Your Name
- 2—Is this an honorarium or memorial?
- 3—List the full name(s) of the person(s) to be recognized.
- 4—Amount of donation

Send details and payment through USPS or Email/PayPal:

- **USPS:** Sardis Baptist Church / 5811 Sardis Rd / Charlotte, NC 28270.
- **Email / PayPal:** [info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org](mailto:info@SardisBaptistCharlotte.org). Our PayPal page is located at <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/>



**We offer condolences for family and friends of loved ones recently lost:**

Becky Klein, cousin of Tillie Duncan

Pauline Wright, friend of Tillie Duncan

**Please remember the following people in your prayers:**

Our Country, Our Citizens, Our Leaders • Migrants and Advocates, including Eastside Advocacy Group and Migrant Assistance Project • Students, Teachers and School Staff • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Askins Family: Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady, Samuel, Reese & Keely • Jim Bowlin, father of Melissa • Melissa Bowlin • Ollie Bowlin • Maria Byrd • Sonny Cole, brother of Marge Henderson • Ben Cooley, Ruthie's husband • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Roddy Craft, friend of June Ross • Nancy Darnell • Dukar Family, friends of Marge Fowler • Larry and Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's parents • Maria, daughter of Janette Grassi • Gennelle Hall, Jessica Wallace's mother (Bullies 2 the Rescue) • Larry & Donna Harrill • Sharin, niece of Janie Harris • Danny Harthan, friend of Kreutzer's • Joanne Henkel, grandmother of Bennett • Eugene Hill • Billie Hutchison • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Karen, CBF Field Personnel and friend of Amanda Lewis • Vicki Lewis, aunt of Amanda Lewis • Bobbie, Katie Mata's grandmother • John McKinney, friend of Donna Barger • Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz • Cheryl Rough, friend of Kristin Parker • Mala Reynolds • Rolando, father of Tamara Prieyemski • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Michael Shepard-Moore • Linda & Cameron Thomas • Deannie Tiddy, Jo's mother-in-law • Heather Robinson Weir, friend of Susan & Danny Phillips • Linda Robinson, friend of Susan and Danny Phillips • Jack Wall, brother of Joe • Lenka Warner, Jonathan's cousin • Ken Washburn, cousin of Tillie Duncan • Susie Washburn, cousin of Tillie Duncan • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin



Joy Kate



Lacey



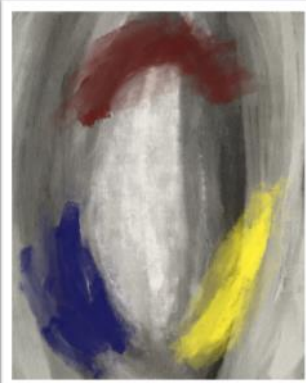
Joy Kate at the Lake



Summer 2020



Nora in Elf, Jr.



## AMBER SIMPSON ~ PAINTING LIVE ON EASTER MORNING

Amber Simpson, artist and minister, has joined us for worship throughout this season of Lent. She is designing a piece of art for Sardis Baptist Church that has evolved through the season. Each Sunday morning she unveils the progress of the week along with her ponderings about how the changes represent her relationship to the divine. Amber's work with us will culminate on Easter Sunday, when she will complete her painting live during worship. Join us for the service at 11:00 AM via Zoom (login details will be emailed during Holy Week), or watch from the Sardis Baptist Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SardisBaptistCharlotte](http://www.facebook.com/SardisBaptistCharlotte)).