

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
Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

Friday @ Noon
Virtual Prayer Gathering

WE WANT OUR CAKE AND TO EAT IT TOO!

The staff of Sardis Baptist recently sent a survey to Sardis friends to help us understand how you feel Sardis is adjusting to our pandemic-changed world. Your responses confirmed what we already knew: Sardis Baptist thrives on social connections! Following the way of Jesus requires us to be in relationships with others. Such relationships help define who we are as a Christian community. Approximately 80% of our survey responders indicated that relationships with other Sardis folks bring them energy.

Bob shared an interesting fact about flamingos in a recent sermon: they are social creatures who flock together. Their behaviors are dysfunctional when isolated, so zookeepers often house sick flamingos in mirrored rooms to increase their comfort levels. Many of us also fail to thrive in isolation. Covid-19 has continued to make gathering together as a large group difficult, so Bob has challenged us to consider how we can develop our relationships with one another beyond traditional ways. Be creative in your efforts to help us sustain the health of our flock! Phone calls, video chats, text threads, and old-fashioned greeting cards are a few ways to stay in touch with those who haven't returned to the Sardis nest.

Your responses to our recent survey also indicated that anxiety surrounding Covid-19 continues to drain energy for many of you. About 60% of responders mentioned the Delta variant in their open-ended answers. Our church leaders have had countless conversations in recent months about balancing the desire for social connection with the need for safety protocols. Our grandmothers might tell us we want our cake and to eat it too!

The level of humidity and outside temperatures prevented us from utilizing our picnic shelter last month, but fall is coming soon! Stay tuned to Sardis Happenings emails for an announcement of an upcoming Wednesday night picnic in the shelter. We really can have our cake and eat it too!



CWS NEEDS HELP WITH KIND DAY

What would our lives be like if our days and nights were as immersed in nature as they are in technology? ~ Richard Louv

KIND (Kids in Nature Day) is a free, hands-on event presented by our community partner, Charlotte Wildlife Stewards. This is a fun, family-friendly event where kids explore all things nature. Sardis friends are invited to help. Volunteers are needed to assist with planned activities such as making seed balls and bird treats, relaxing with animal yoga, creating art with items found in nature, fishing, and going on nature walks.

This KIND event will be after church on Sunday, September 19th at Reedy Creek Park (Shelter #4), located at 2900 Rocky River Road. There are volunteer time slots available from noon until 6PM. [Click here to volunteer \(or enter the URL in your web browser:](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4fadaf2ea2ffc52-kids)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4fadaf2ea2ffc52-kids>).



Sardis Church Buddies immersed in nature at the CWS I-Spy Event, November 2020

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



I haven't watched as many Braves games as I do in a usual summer, but I've managed to see a few on TV. What's remarkable, is that twice this year, I've seen a game with a controversial call at home plate. In a game in April, a Braves player was clearly tagged out at home, but called safe. This month, a Braves player was clearly safe when he slid into home, but called out. In both instances, even with clear video evidence on instant replay, the "wrong" calls were upheld. It seems the umpire's initial judgement on the field (even if it's not a good one!), carries significant weight in upholding or reversing a decision.

This pattern is indicative of our world. Whether it's a ballgame, or vaccines, or elections, we're living in an age where different conclusions are drawn from the same evidence. And people are SO entrenched in their original thinking that they can never be open to a different outcome. In other words, we all bring our biases into the world we interpret. What a hard place to be!

As our children (of all ages!) begin a new school year, they'll balance bias and knowledge. How they understand their neighbors now will affect their ability to embrace how past generations have shaped them. How they desire to treat their neighbors now will inform the choices they make in learning the skills to serve their neighbors in the future. How much energy they put into obtaining knowledge now will affect how much knowledge they can retain in adulthood and beyond.

As a church, I believe the best way we can help our children is to model practiced empathy. There will always be something to disagree about. That's just human nature. But there's never a time when we can't be open to considering how our neighbors arrive at different conclusions. We might discover that even though our process of thinking is different, we still share commonalities: anxiety about an uncertain future; hope for our children; a desire to do what God is calling us to do; a mutual disdain for instant replay!

The practiced empathy of Jesus revealed that Samaritans are neighbors, too; that God's love can ooze from friend and foe alike; that both Maries and Marthas are doing needed work; that Torah's application can take all sorts of forms, as long as its rooted in God's spirit.

In the year ahead, may we help our children to learn those things necessary to building convictions that are tempered with compassion. And may their goodness rub off on us!



Sardis People: Leon Fisher



Leon Fisher, also known by some as Liliana, is an enthusiastic student of language. Her favorite subject at Butler High School is English, in which she is an honors student. When she graduates from Butler next spring, she plans to go to Japan for a year to become better acquainted with the Japanese language and to experience the culture. Her uncle and cousins who live there will be a major component of her immersion experience. She will also be attending a Japanese school. Japanese is not entirely new to her as she regularly has conversations with her maternal grandparents in that language. Watching Japanese movies in her leisure time also gives her experience in her quest for learning the speech of her grandparents' native land.

Another favorite leisure time activity Leon enjoys is reading – not unusual for an English honors student! Fantasy is a favorite genre. It is great fun to read fantasy, tales of experience that can't happen in real life. It is built on other worldly dimensions and the supernatural of folklore and myth. Literary examples include the classic series of Narnia (C.S. Lewis), The Lord of the Rings (J.R.R. Tolkien), and the more recent Harry Potter books (J.K. Rowling).

A late summer fun time will include the CBF youth beach retreat with other Sardis teens.

Leon is the child of Luther and Natalie Fisher and the sibling of Nathan. Grandparents Kenji and Yoshiko Takami complete their household.

SEPTEMBER PRAYER LIST



• Our Country, Our Citizens, Our Leaders • Afghanistan and Haiti • Gulf states suffering from hurricanes and Southern states recovering from flooding • Western states suffering from wildfires • Students and teachers beginning a new school year • Migrants and Advocates, including Eastside Advocacy Group and Migrant Assistance Project • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Annie, sister of Amanda Lewis • Askins Family: Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady, Samuel, Reese & Keely • Melissa Bowlin • Maria Byrd • Carol, friend of Tillie Duncan • Pat Chowning, friend of Marge Henderson • Sonny Cole, brother of Marge Henderson • Linda Cook • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Becky Crisco, friend of Marge Henderson • Tyler Criss • Nancy Darnell • Ron Demme • Pat Dukar, friend of Marge Henderson • Eric Duncan, son of Tillie • Josh Eidson and his fiancé Maggie Knight • Larry and Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's parents • Newborn Jack Holliday, grandnephew of John Simpson • Joe Gragg, brother of Billie Hutchison • Janette Grassi • Gennelle Hall, Jessica Wallace's mother (Bullies 2 the Rescue) • Larry & Donna Harrill • Shareen, niece of Janie Harris • Eugene Hill • Billie Hutchison • Lindsay Jackson and fiancé Connor Steward, daughter of Kristin Parker • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Friends and family of Philip Journey, son of Jane Journey • Karen, CBF Field Personnel and friend of Amanda Lewis • Charlie King, friend of Mark Wiebke • Cheryl Landers, friend of Susan Phillips and Tillie Duncan • Lela, relative of Tillie Duncan • Robert & Catherine Marshall, family of Janette Grassi • John McKinney, friend of Donna Barger • Rachael Phipps, friend of Betty Gunz • Becky Proctor • Cheryl Raugh, friend of Kristin Parker • Mala Reynolds • Rolando, father of Tamara Prieyemski • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Tanya Stevensen, daughter of June Ross • Newborn Eleanor "Ellie" Simpson, granddaughter of John • Barbara Simpson, daughter-in-law of John • Linda & Cameron Thomas • Deannie Tiddy, Jo's mother-in-law • Julie White, friend of Marge Henderson • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

MUSIC NOTES FROM HILARY



It's that time of year again—the exciting time when schools are newly back in-session and our choir begins having rehearsals again. Unfortunately, we are still in the midst of a global pandemic with no obvious end in sight.

So, how will the Sardis Choir respond? According to the CDC, "Singing (and instrumental music produced by woodwind or brass instruments) are thought to be higher-risk activities for COVID-19 spread due to the aggressive expelling of respiratory droplets. This can result in aerosols that can hang in the air for hours. It is important to take extra precautions when participating in musical activities, especially if they involve vocalists and wind instrument musicians who are not yet vaccinated." Lucky for us, all of our choir members have been vaccinated, but we are still going to be taking precautions.

As you may have noticed during worship, the choir is remaining masked while singing, and as we begin rehearsals, we will be masking and social distancing. In an abundance of caution we will also be limiting anthems and special music to soloists and small groups. We have also been doing some research into "Singing Masks" which will make things more comfortable for the choir.

With all of that said, we have an exciting compromise to announce! Instead of weekly anthems performed by the choir, we will be preparing for an outdoor concert to be performed in the late fall. Being outdoors will help to dissipate the droplets produced more quickly and we are hoping that by October or early November the weather will have cooled down enough to be comfortable without being frigid. Keep watching your email and listening to church announcements for more details as we get closer to this event.



CBFNC YOUTH BEACH RETREAT

Several Sardis youth will be accompanied by Jonathan and Hilary at this year's CBFNC Youth Beach Retreat. The group will depart from Sardis Baptist on the afternoon of Friday, September 25th for Fort Caswell. They'll return on Sunday afternoon. Their weekend will include worship and Bible study, along with lots of free time to play on the beach and some friendly competition during the annual sand sculpture contest. The theme for this year's retreat is "Restore Life" based on Nehemiah 8:10, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."



Celebration of Christian Dedication for Julian, August 15th, 2021

SAVE THE DATE

October 3rd @ 11:00 AM

World Communion Worship

Annual communion service celebrating unity around the world and across denominations

October 12th @ 7:00 PM

Charlotte Wildlife Stewards

Educational program open to the whole community held in the Sardis Baptist sanctuary

October 17th @ 4:00 PM

Charlotte Pride Interfaith Service

Charlotte's Annual Pride Interfaith Service at St. Luke's Missionary Baptist Church

All scheduled events are subject to change based on Covid-19 safety protocols. Please read emails from Sardis Baptist Church for the most up-to-date information regarding in-person gatherings.

VIRTUAL WEDDING SHOWER

Maggie & Josh

Sardis tradition is to celebrate marriages in our church families with a wedding shower, and we won't allow circumstances to stand in our way! Although the celebration will not be in-person, we will still share best wishes with Maggie and Josh (son of Jonathan and Anne Eidson) by showering them with gifts virtually.

If you wish to join the virtual celebration, click here to visit their wedding website which provides a simple way to view and purchase the wish list of registry items they would like to outfit their home together. You may also enter the following URL in your web browser:

<https://www.zola.com/wedding/maggieandjosh/october16/registry>

