

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



REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

The last Sunday in the calendar of church seasons, called the liturgical calendar, falls on November 21st this year. This is Reign of Christ Sunday, and it is a day to celebrate God's reign over the universe as both the cosmic Christ and the human being known as Jesus. Also known as Christ the King Sunday, this church holiday was established less than 100 years ago in response to political movements (fascism, nationalism, Nazism) that valued power over peace and justice. The church year begins anew the following Sunday as we enter the season of Advent with the anticipation of heaven on earth that is available to all of humanity if we follow the way of the Prince of Peace. Reign of Christ Sunday reminds us that Jesus wants us to build a kingdom ruled by love, where peace and justice reign supreme, rather than a kingdom built on power, ruled by privilege and greed. In recognition of Reign of Christ Sunday, the Sardis Baptist Choir will perform a concert in the Sardis picnic shelter with music to evoke feelings that will inspire us to do the work to build just such a kingdom. Look for more details from Hilary McIntyre, Minister of Music, on page 2.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 7th is All Saints Sunday, when we will remember those who have helped shape us as individuals, have helped shape our congregation, and have helped shape the Church Universal. During worship we will read the names of Sardis' saints as well as loved ones who have died during the last year. We will experience joy and grief when we remember them, but this is a Sunday of power. When we speak their names, we hasten their spirits and are reminded that God's spirit resides in us too! May this embolden us to be living saints: people who share their gifts so that others might also know God's fullest presence and widest mercies.



MECKMIN COMMUNITY-WIDE INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

THE ART OF GRATITUDE & THE HEART OF HEALING

The Annual MeckMIN Community-Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, to be held virtually on Tuesday November 23 at 7 p.m., will be a beautiful, energetic celebration of the power of art, gratitude and healing in the midst of challenge and struggle. This annual celebration welcomes people of all faiths and backgrounds to come together in gratitude, to celebrate diversity and to pray for unity. The service includes a food drive coordinated through Loaves & Fishes and an offering that supports MeckMIN and Crisis Assistance. We hope you'll join us at this energizing celebration of community.

www.meckmin.org/meckmin-interfaith-thanksgiving

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



Prayers of Thanksgiving:

It's a season of thanksgiving, but we started early this year. During October's Story Sunday, we reminded ourselves that prayer is a way of inviting God into our own lives. In the month of November, we encourage you to use the following prompt (originally used in our 10/24 worship service) as an intentional expression of thanksgiving. Here's to great and grateful stories!

Question 1: What's something you see in nature?

Question 2: How do you feel today?

Question 3: What's something you are thankful for?

Question 4: Is there something that's worrying you?

Dear God,

Once upon a time, well actually, this morning, there were some church buddies who were all sitting together outside. It was such a beautiful day. They saw all sorts of things you made: _____. (Insert answers from #1).

Your creation made all these church buddies feel so thankful for what was around them. Some of them in the circle felt _____ (insert answers from question 2) because they were so thankful for _____ (insert answers from question 3).

The church buddies were also thankful, because they had a place to gather, and tell God about some of the things that were making them feel worried and scared: _____. (Insert answers from question 4).

When the church buddies spoke their concerns aloud, they felt safe. They realized that they were around people who loved them. And they realized that God was listening to them, telling them it was okay to feel how they felt, and share what they shared. Because God likes to listen to us. God's holds us. And God hugs us. And God loves us.

God helps us catch our breath, and move forward. God helps us become aware of people who are willing to help us and support us: people like our parents, and our teachers, and our friends, and our family, and our neighbors, and our church buddies.

God promises to sit next to us, tuck us in, and read the story with us each night. So...we say, "Amen," which means "true," because we'll come back together, God and church buddies, to pray again next week.

Sardis Traveler: ABBY SHEPARD MOORE

I am sure that if each of us were to sit down and think, we'd find that we learned something important about ourselves and what we want for our lives through this pandemic experience. For me, one of those revelations was that the plans I make for my life aren't guaranteed - that it's worth the risk to do what makes my heart sing in the moment because I never know when that opportunity could be taken away in unpredictable ways.

So when I graduated, and I knew my plans to do international development field work to prepare for my career would be on an indeterminate hold, I did something a little nuts and went to live in the south of France on a small family farm to work and travel in my off-time. For two months, I helped care for chickens, a horse, and a donkey; tend to the large vegetable garden; and fix up the 200 year-old farmhouse of my hosts. I traveled to lovely towns in the area like Saint-Émilion and Bergerac with friends I made in the area. For my last month in France, I stayed with two friends in Paris and even reconnected with some old high school pals as well. I finally got to experience the city and the people I missed out on when the start of COVID uprooted me from my study abroad program last year.

I hope I've come away from this experience a more flexible person, able to take more leaps like this one throughout my life. It wasn't all smooth sailing, and being alone in a foreign country can certainly be a little scary, but I made lasting friendships and lifelong memories that make me beyond grateful for this incredible experience.





NOVEMBER PRAYER LIST

Pray for the health and wellbeing of those who are sick or managing challenging medical conditions:

• Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Maria Byrd • Carol, neighbor of Tillie Duncan • Pat Chowning, friend of Marge Henderson • Sonny Cole, Marge Henderson's brother • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Becky Crisco, friend of Marge Henderson • Nancy Darnell • Larry & Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's parents • Carter England-Cole • Larry & Donna Harrill • Shareen, niece of Janie Harris • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Charlie King, friend of Mark Wiebke • Lela, relative of Tillie Duncan • Ann Macguire, sister of Rev. Ruth Gouldbourne (Grove Lane) • John McKinney, friend of Donna Barger • Kendarius, Mekhi, and Rachael Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Beau Prevost, friend of Jim Owen • Cheryl Rough, friend of Kristin Parker • Mala Reynolds • Rolando, father of Tamara Prieyemski • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Linda & Cameron Thomas • Deannie Tiddy, Jo's mother-in-law • Julie White, friend of Marge Henderson • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

Pray for those planning for and recovering from surgeries and injuries:

• Melissa Bowlin • Linda Cook • Tyler Criss • Jo Croom, aunt of Jonathan Eidson • Ron Demme • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer • Billie Hutchison • Kristin Parker • Becky Proctor • Tanya Stevenson, daughter of June Ross • Doris Waiters

Pray for the health and well-being of beloved newborns:

• Jack Holliday, newborn grandnephew of John Simpson
• Elise Marie, newborn great-granddaughter of Janette Grassi
• Matthew, newborn nephew of Amanda Lewis
• Jack, newborn grandson of John Simpson
• Eleanor "Ellie", newborn granddaughter of John Simpson

Give thanksgiving to God for celebrations:

• Mr. & Mrs. Josh & Maggie (Knight) Eidson, just married
• Lindsay Jackson & Connor Steward, engaged to be married
• Safe homecoming of Abby Shepard-Moore
• Safe homecoming of Amy Wiebke

Pray for the safety of those traveling:

• The Askins Family (Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady, Samuel, Reese, and Keely) recently relocated to Japan
• Karen, friend of Amanda Lewis, working overseas for CBF
• Vadim, Veronica, and Kira Pateshkin, chosen family of Billie Hutchison, from Belarus awaiting paperwork from American Embassy for move to the United States
• Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy, traveling and working in South America

REIGN OF CHRIST CONCERT ~ Hilary McIntyre



We've been in this pandemic for a long time. A lot of things have had to change—social distance has had to be observed, face masks have become a part of everyday fashion, and if your hands aren't dry and cracked from washing them once every hour then they are greased up with lotion for the same reason. One of the things that has changed the most for me personally as well as for Sardis is the lack of live music. For the first year of the pandemic, March 2020 to March 2021, there was virtually no way to safely come together in person to make music, or do much of anything else for that matter!

Between March and July of this year, we dipped in a toe—we had choir members come in small groups to pre-record songs—and in mid-July we started in-person worship. It is not the same as it was, we still can't sing together as a congregation, but it's getting a little better.

The thing I've missed, and I have a feeling a lot of you would agree, is hearing the choir sing on a weekly basis unhindered by masks. In order to get just a sense of what that used to feel like, we are planning a Reign of Christ concert on Sunday, November 21, 2021. We will meet in the picnic shelter (weather permitting of course) and have a music-forward worship service where the choir will share some choral anthems that demonstrate feelings of peace, love and joy!

Please join us on November 21 for a morning of rest, entertainment, and hopefully escape from the tedium and stress that have existed as a secondary plague to this pandemic. Let music transport and comfort you as it so often does for me.

PARABLES OF JESUS with Rev. Dr. Tim Moore

You are invited to join a study of parables with Rev. Dr. Tim Moore. Each Sunday morning until the beginning of Advent, we will look at elements of a parable that include setting, characters, and conflict in order to discern new perspectives on faithful living to apply to our lives. The group meets in the large classroom of the Education Building on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM.

The Rich Fool—Luke 12:13-21

The Dishonest Manager—Luke 16:1-13

The Unforgiving Servant—Matthew 18:15-35

Great Banquet—Luke 14:15-24 and Matthew 22:1-14

Good Samaritan—Luke 10:25-37



CHARLOTTE CROP WALK 2021

Sardis Baptist Church will participate in the 2021 Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, November 7th, 2021. For more than three decades, Sardis has joined with other faith communities throughout the Charlotte Region in walking to raise awareness about and funding to prevent local and global hunger.



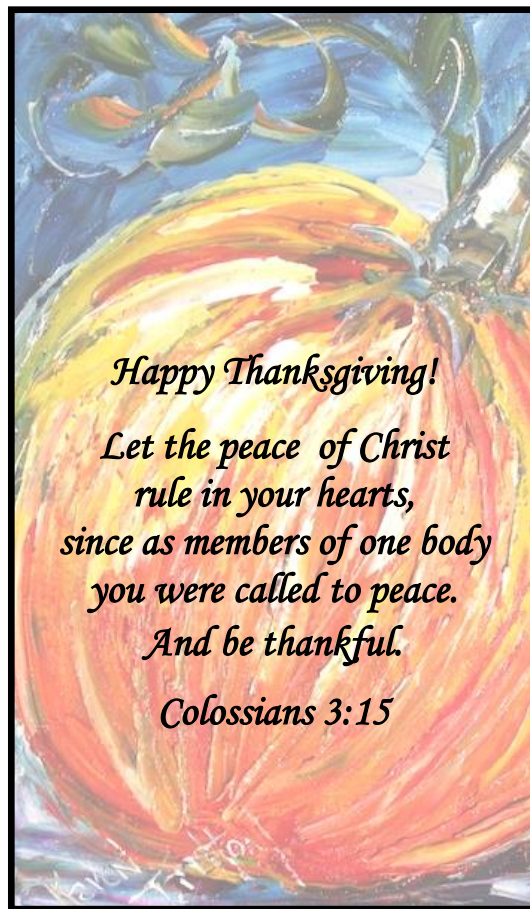
This year, Sardis will host its own independent walk on the Four Mile Creek Greenway in Matthews. The Stillerman and Parker families will host Sardis walkers. Walkers should plan to meet at the Stillerman home at 3:00 p.m., and we anticipate the walk will take about an hour. The walk will also include a water stop at the Parker home.

Unable to walk, but still want to support Sardis efforts? Come cheer us on. The Stillermans will set up a viewing area in their backyard for anyone who wants to visit while we walk. Yes, the Panthers game will be on. And we have a firepit to keep you warm, and plenty of chairs to keep you comfortable. Can't come in person? Consider donating to our efforts, or being intentional in praying about issues related to hunger and homelessness.

All persons who walk with, donate to, or support the 2021 Sardis team will receive a complimentary t-shirt, which we encourage you to wear in worship on November 7th. T-shirts are available for pickup from the church office.

Click the button below (or visit the listed webpage) to register as a walker, or donate to the Sardis team. Email the church office with any questions, including walk-day directions at info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/sardis-baptist-church-3>



Happy Thanksgiving!

*Let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body
you were called to peace.
And be thankful.*

Colossians 3:15