

sardis signposts

baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:45 AM
Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

Friday @ Noon
Virtual Prayer Gathering

SEASON OF LENT: WHAT'S IN YOUR BUCKET?

In this harried and crazy world, our buckets are full of expectations. We want to take on SO many endeavors and responsibilities. But what happens when our buckets are full? We find the place where we can neither take on new things, nor pour out positive life-giving energy for others. We're just bailing water to stay afloat. But God doesn't bid us to simply stay afloat. God desires for us to thrive.

If Resurrection Sunday is evidence of abundant, transformed living, perhaps the Lenten season is the act of readying ourselves to experience new life. You might say it's a chance to empty our buckets so we can fill them with what matters most.

We live in a world that wants to tell us what we're **supposed** to be. The post-Easter world creates an environment where we become who we **know ourselves to be**. In the coming season, we invite you to consider all the things the world expects you to be. Name them. And put them in a bucket. Then consider all the things you really **know yourself** to be: your identity, your calling, your gifts, your sense of purpose, your current emotional, physical, and mental state. Now empty the bucket of what is **supposed to be**, and fill it with **all that is known**. Then follow the Risen One, not as something artificial, but as something authentic.

For our part, Sardis will offer bucket-filling opportunities: Lunch and Learn and Just Coffee will provide news spaces for connection; a treasure hunt will offer adventure and fun for the curious seeker; the cross of many colors will remind us that God is present with us in more than muted tones; every Sunday is a chance to fill up on community. There's plenty of room for you in the coming season.



Upcoming Events

In addition to regular weekly gatherings, we have some special events planned during the season of Lent. See details inside. Note the dates below; our full calendar is included on page 5.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 3/2 — Ash Wednesday at Sardis Presbyterian, 7 PM
- 3/3 — Jonathan Eidson's 9-Year Sardis Anniversary
- 3/6 — Sufi Heart Podcast with Rachel, 12 PM
- 3/13 — Rock Art with Janette Grassi, 12 PM
- 3/19 — Sardis Workday, 9 AM
- 3/20 — Treasure Hunt, 10 & Noon

VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARN

Wednesdays at Noon

- 3/9 — What Happens at a Table?
- 3/16 — What Kinds of Tables?
- 3/23 — What Do We Find at Tables?
- 3/30 — How Do Tables Inspire?
- 4/6 — What About Sardis Tables?

JUST COFFEE

Tuesdays @ 2 PM

- 3/17 — St. Pat's Day Edition
- 3/24 — Coffee in the Picnic Shelter
- 3/31 — Coffee in the Picnic Shelter

HOLY WEEK

- 4/10 — Palm Sunday
- 4/14 — Maundy Thursday
- 4/15 — Good Friday
- 4/17 — Resurrection Sunday

I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

Table in a Post-Pandemic World

Our Lenten theme this year centers around emptying our buckets of those things that are draining us, and re-filling them with life-giving things. Yes, I love puns, but the table fills me up! Really, it does!!! Table, the physical, tangible, and consistent reminder of Communion at Sardis has been inhibited by pandemic. It's something I miss. It's something I need. It's something that gives me energy. It's something I want to put in my bucket in every season.

Pandemic may still be a logistical barrier to our traditional means of Communion. We can't share bread and cup with the frequency and familiarity we are used to. But there's nothing to stop us from imagining table or articulating its meaning. And there's certainly nothing to prevent us from being, doing, and living "table" in our own lives, households, and extended communities beyond Sardis.

And since we call ourselves an experiment, I want to invite you into a new table of sorts. For five Wednesdays in Lent (March 9th through April 6th), you are invited to a virtual lunch and learn entitled: Table in a Post-Pandemic World. For each session, I'll offer a quick, pre-recorded thought-starter (5 minutes) about the role of Table in our lives. And then we'll see where the conversation takes us. Can't join in real time? The thought-starters will also be posted to YouTube and Facebook, and everyone is invited to comment, and create an ongoing virtual creation.

When we gather for our next Communion, our Maundy Thursday Supper, perhaps we'll experience table in new and unique ways, not to mention being filled (there I go with the puns again!). I'll keep a seat waiting for you!

Bob

Noon, Wednesdays, March 9th – April 6th

See Sardis Happenings emails for Zoom credentials

- 3/9 – What Happens at a Table?
- 3/16 – What Kind of Tables are in Our Lives?
- 3/23 – What Do We Find at Tables?
- 3/30 – What Do Our Tables Inspire Us to Do?
- 4/6 – What Do We Want the Table at Sardis to Be?



JUST COFFEE

Sardis Picnic Pavilion • Thursdays @ 2 PM • Beginning 3/17

In keeping with our Lenten theme, opportunities for connection, especially the ones without planning, stress, or obligation, are the good kind of bucket-fillers. So...no pressure! For the last three Thursdays of March (3/17, 3/24, 3/31), you are invited to Just Coffee (or some other beverage). It's simple. Bob will set up coffee, tea, and other beverages in the picnic shelter at 2 p.m. Come hang out and take a load off. Visit with Sardis friends. Walk the grounds. Just sit and read. Play checkers or cards. Rest from the world for a moment. You decide.

As a bonus, March 17th will feature a St. Patrick's Day theme. Green cream, green cups, green tea, and of course, a reading of Green Eggs and Ham. This timeframe doesn't work for you? Fear not, future editions of Just Coffee in April and May will be offered at varying days and times.



A CROSS OF MANY COLORS

Sardis will continue a newer Lenten tradition. We seek to reclaim life in the symbol of the cross through many colors of fabric. We will place a cross on our grounds, and adorn it with a different fabric every few days during the season of Lent. The varied colors will remind us of the rich and diverse seasons of life.

Passersby can see the change daily, or follow along on Instagram for daily updates by using the hashtag #CrossOfManyColors.



Words from Worship Development



To All Sardis Folks,

As we enter Lent and get ready for Easter, the Worship Development Team has created a theme to make this time of preparation meaningful for all of us. Our metaphor is a bucket. Is your bucket filled with heavy stones weighing you down? Or solid rocks needed for your strong foundation? Through this season, we hope our worship and activities will lead you to release what makes life feel heavy and unstable and gather what brings strength and stability.

Following worship on Sunday, March 13th, we are calling on folks to stay after worship for a creative activity that will engage our community. We'll decorate smooth river rocks to represent whatever it is that you hope to gather in your bucket. Your imagination is the only limit. You can bring images from a book or magazine for inspiration or to share. We hope this exercise will bring us into alignment with Christ's journey from Life to Death to Resurrection and support our personal preparations for the season of Easter.

Come one and all to our creative table. We will supply everything necessary for a thoughtful and fun time. Following worship on Sunday, March 20th, Sardis friends of all ages are invited to a treasure hunt on our beautiful grounds to collect the painted stones to keep as reminders of what we need in our buckets.

Janette Grassi, Worship Development Team, Artist in Residence

LET US PRAY

GOD OF HOPE

Give comfort to those who suffer because of violence.
Assuage the grief of those who mourn their dead.
Provide resources to countries who welcome refugees.
Protect those who work to promote peace.
Convert the hearts of those who resort to arms.
Inspire leaders to peace and reconciliation with enemies.
Inspire compassion for all people impacted by the crisis in Ukraine.
Give us hope for a future of peace based on justice for all.

CONDOLENCES

Robin Rowell, aunt of Jonathan Eidson
James McAlhaney, father of Jim McAlhaney
Jose Mata, Sr., father of Jose Mata
Larry Harrill, charter member of Sardis Baptist Church
Idell Waiters, mother-in-law of Doris Waiters

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Melissa Bowlin
• Maria Byrd • Carol, neighbor of Tillie Duncan • Pat
Chowning, friend of Marge Henderson • Sonny Cole, brother
of Marge Henderson • Becky Crisco, friend of Marge Henderson
• Nancy Darnell • Ron Demme • Larry & Amelia Eidson, parents
of Jonathan • Carter England-Cole • Evan, relative of Tillie Duncan
• Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer • Betty
Gunz • Shareen, niece of Janie Harris • Daniel Hudgins, son of
Scott Hudgins (CBF-NC) • 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 • Sylvia Misenheimer, friend of
Susan Phillips • Kristin Parker • Rachel, Kendarius, & Melki
Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Beau Provost, friend of Jim Owen
• Becky Proctor • Cheryl Raugh, friend of Kristin Parker
• Mala Reynolds • Selin Roberts, friend of Kristin Parker • Bob
Rowland, Robin's father • Pamela Schwartz, former staff of St.
Stephen UMC • Michael Snead, Daynette's brother • Tanya
Stevensen, daughter of June Ross • Deannie Tiddy, Jo's
mother-in-law • Doris Waiters • Julie White, friend of Marge
Henderson • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

TRAVELING MERCIES

Askins Family (Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady, Samuel, Reece, Keely)
Karen, friend of Amanda Lewis
Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy

HAPPY WORKIVERSARY J SWIZ!

Time flies when you're having fun, and Pastor Jonathan makes Sardis life fun! March 3rd marks his nine year anniversary as a minister with Sardis Baptist Church, and it is hard to believe he's been with us nearly a decade! Join us in wishing Jonathan a happy workiversary. We encourage you to share a note, text, or email with some words of gratitude and affirmation for the joy Jonathan brings to our Sardis family.



Ski Retreat Reflections



Photo from Pipestem State Park, West Virginia

Nine folks from Sardis enjoyed a February retreat in West Virginia. The group enjoyed scenery at Pipestem State Park along the Bluestem River Gorge and spent their free time skiing and snowtubing at Winterplace Ski Resort. Reports are that a great time was had by all! Check out some awesome photos on the last page of this newsletter. Following are some reflections from a few of those who attended.

Jonathan Eidson: *"I had a great time on the Youthful Ski Trip with eight other thrill seekers. We had fun tubing on Friday night. Those who skied had good conditions. Just like in the old days, Tim trained our new skiers. Hilary, Kristin and I enjoyed a second round on the tubing troughs. Sunday morning brought a delightful dusting of snow and we had a deep discussion about the state of churches."*

Leon Fisher: *"I really enjoyed getting to go out to the mountains with this group. I not only got to do a lot of things in the snow I've never done before, but I got to talk about things I don't normally get to talk about in a respectful but thought-provoking way that didn't feel forced or uncomfortable. And those are things I feel should happen more often so I'm glad it did on this trip."*

Kristin Parker: *"I enjoyed reconnecting with some of the youth and the youthful! Friday night tubing was exhilarating! Saturday brought more tubing for some and skiing for others. Sunday's sit-down breakfast at the state park lodge was both delicious and thought-provoking. It is always beneficial to hear the views of religion of the next generation. Overall, a great time was had by all!"*

Madison Kreutzer: *"I had lots of fun on the 2022 ski trip. It was great to have a weekend away and spend time together. The views were beautiful and the weather ended up being perfect for a wonderful day of skiing!"*

Hilary Kearns McIntyre: *"I have so many great memories from this Youthful Ski Retreat. Friday night tubing was excellent, after a whole day of people tubing the slopes were perfectly flattened and super-fast. Saturday was filled with ski lessons, more tubing, waiting in very long lines for food, hot chocolate, the perfect burnt-out sign (ask Jonathan), swimming for some and rest for all. Sunday brought a light dusting of snow, delicious food at the lodge's restaurant, and engaging conversation on the church and religion in general. I love hearing the perspective of our youth (as well as our youthful!) and look forward to the next trip!"*

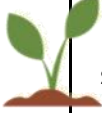












A Note from Your Deacons: Your Sardis Staff



A whole lot of green will be seen on Thursday, March 17th, as St. Patrick is celebrated. The deacons are inviting the congregation to "Share the Green" as we celebrate the Sardis staff on March 20th! One may share a love offering by sending it to the church office by March 13th. Notes of appreciation are also encouraged.

Appreciation is a two-way street at Sardis as noted by what motivates and energizes our staff members. Pastor Bob Stillerman appreciates laughing. "It's a great comfort to be around a collection of people who share a common desire to make the world a better, more loving place. We get the chance to live out love in our journey together. When we do that, there's often humor, even in the difficult times. It seems we laugh a lot and when we do, I sense God's presence and our collective purpose more clearly. That feels like good ministry to me. Kathryn Kreutzer, minister of congregational support, receives joy from her contributions: She most enjoys "producing printed materials for Sardis. Whether it's a weekly worship guide, monthly signposts, a brochure, or a bookmark in honor of a special occasion, creating something meaningful from a blank page gives me gratification." Pianist Irena Hramenkova appreciates the people of Sardis. She is happy to be a part of Sardis and is glad to work with Hilary. "My heart expands with joy at being here." Hilary McIntyre, minister of music, adds, "I love that Sardis is made of people from many religious backgrounds; it allows me to pull hymns and songs from a variety of sources. I love that I get to learn what individual's favorite hymns are and share those. Not only that, but I get to introduce new hymns to a congregation that is open and receptive!" Associate pastor, Jonathan Eidson, cites youth relationships. "The invigorating work with youth has kept me feeling young, and the creative way worship is planned and experienced at Sardis [feeds me]. I love our church which is just another way of saying I love our people." Doris Waiters, ministers through keeping our buildings clean. "The people have always been so kind to me. Their attitude is so welcoming and loving. It feels like family and not a job. Every time I've had problems or issues, they always pray for me. I feel the love."

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10:30 AM Prayer Gardening  7:30 PM Staff Meeting	2 7:00 PM Joint Ash Wednesday Service with Sardis Presbyterian at 6100 Sardis Road	3  Jonathan Eidson's Sardis Anniversary	4 Noon Friday Virtual Prayer Gathering	5
6 First Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship  Noon Podcast with Rachel Faulk	7	8	9  Noon Lunch & Learn: What Happens at a Table? 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	10	11 Noon Friday Virtual Prayer Gathering 	12  Daylight Savings Time Begins Tomorrow Spring Forward Before Bed
13 Second Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon Rock Art with Janette Grassi	14 	15  7:30 PM Staff Meeting	16 Noon Lunch & Learn: What Kind of Tables Are in Our Lives? 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	17 St. Patrick's Day 2:00 PM Just Coffee	18 Noon Friday Virtual Prayer Gathering	19 9:00 AM Sardis Workday 
20 Third Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Noon Treasure Hunt	21 	22 7:30 PM Staff Meeting	23 Noon Lunch & Learn: What Do We Find at Tables? 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 	24  2:00 PM Just Coffee	25 Noon Friday Virtual Prayer Gathering	26
27 Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 	28	29 7:30 PM Staff Meeting	30 Noon Lunch & Learn: What Do Our Tables Inspire Us To Do? 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	31 2:00 PM Just Coffee		



The Path of Radical Love

Podcast by Dr. Omid Safi, Religious Studies of Duke University
Discussion at Noon on March 6th



Rachel Faulk invites you to join her and other Sardis friends for a discussion of the first episode of a podcast hosted by Dr. Omid Safi, faculty member of the Religious Studies Department of Duke University. The podcast, [Sufi Heart](#), is hosted by the [Be Here Now Network](#), which offers a variety of mindfulness and spirituality podcasts.

The episode we'll discuss is titled [The Path of Radical Love](#). You are encouraged to listen to the podcast before our gathering. The focus of our discussion will be on the second half of the program which looks at the connections we can form with others when we pursue love from a selfless place, as well as how we must love and serve one another in order to love and serve God.

We will gather following worship on Sunday, March 6th in the large classroom of the Education Building. Bring your own lunch to enjoy with friends as we listen and discuss. Access the podcast at:
<https://beherenownetwork.com/sufi-heart-ep-1-path-of-radical-love/>

CHURCH WORKDAY

March 19th @ 9 AM

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

We invite you to join our Buildings & Grounds Team for a church workday on Saturday, March 19th beginning at 9 AM. Many hands make fast work! We have some spring cleaning to do around the Sardis meetinghouse and grounds. Bring gloves and rakes.

Plans are underway. We hope you'll join the effort!

