

# sardis signposts

baptist church

a spiritually progressive community of faith

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

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:45 AM  
 Sunday School

Sunday at 11:00 AM  
 Morning Worship

## HOLY WEEK HAPPENINGS @ SARDIS

In the middle of April, Lent transitions into Easter. Holy Week events prepare us to experience the joy of resurrection. Please make plans to join us for several special remembrances:

### PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 10th @ 11:00 AM

We remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will wave palms and process to the prayer labyrinth to complete worship on this special day.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SUPPER

April 14th @ 6:00 PM

Join us for a light supper of soups, grapes, cheese and bread followed by Communion. We will remember Jesus' last meal with the disciples (and his first Communion with each of us).

### GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY WORSHIP

April 15th @ Noon

Join us as Sardis Baptist Church hosts a shared service with neighbor churches, Sardis Presbyterian and St. Stephen UMC. See details in the sidebar.

### EASTER MORNING WORSHIP

April 17th @ 11:00 AM

Sardis will host a celebratory Easter service in our sanctuary at 11 AM. Please note, the Sunday morning book group will not meet on Easter Sunday.

### COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE

April 17th @ 7:00 AM

Sardis Baptist will not host a sunrise service on our campus this year. If early worship is your Easter tradition, we encourage you to join the annual community-wide service at Romare Bearden Park at 7:00 AM. This ecumenical service will be led by various local churches.



## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

*A Space for Reflection and Devotion  
 Friday, April 15th @ Noon*

Sardis Baptist and Presbyterian Churches will partner with St. Stephen UMC for their annual Good Friday Service. This year's gathering will offer a new way to experience Good Friday. Congregants will gather on the Sardis Baptist labyrinth for a brief time of prayer and singing. Afterwards, everyone is invited to visit seven stations of devotion/reflection located along the walking trails surrounding the labyrinth. Each station will feature a unique piece of artwork, as well as a self-guided devotion. Participants are encouraged to engage each station at their own pace. Can't make it at noon? The stations will be made available for the duration of Holy Week. Virtual and printed copies of the self-guided devotions will also be made available. For those unable to walk the course of stations, seating areas will be provided in the both the labyrinth and sanctuary. We hope you will make plans to join us either in person or virtually. Children and families are welcome. Please be sure to wear comfortable clothing and shoes.



## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman



Last Sunday, Mary Allen rode home from church with me. We had to stop for groceries on the way. She was a great helper (she always is!). We walked down an aisle devoted to Easter candy. Bunnies here, bunnies there, bunnies everywhere!!! Mary Allen is as equally astute as she is helpful, and she said, "Daddy, we need to bring home a special treat for Lucy and Mommy!" (And how could her daddy reject such a kind suggestion!?) After significant discernment, she settled on two plastic containers, one shaped like a bunny, one like a duck, and filled with knock-off M&Ms.

When we arrived home, Mary Allen presented Lucy with her new treasure, a smiling duck, filled with pastel wonders, but lazily constructed. Lucy opened the bottom of the duck, only to see half of her candies spill on the floor. Shocked by this turn of events, Lucy dropped her plastic duck, which shattered into several pieces. And all of Daddy's men would not be able to put Humpty-Ducky back together again.

Without missing a beat, Mary Allen, began collecting the scattered candies. Following her lead, I found a coffee cup to make a new reservoir of candy. And we were able to salvage the duck's smiling face from the rest of the broken plastic pieces. Mary Allen consoled her sister, and told Lucy that the two of them could share the candy rabbit. And though her world wasn't perfect, Lucy's world was a little better.

Easter is a season of resurrection. It's the claiming new life out of the brokenness in our midst. New life doesn't necessarily mean fixed or mended. And new life doesn't mean a resetting of what was. I think new life is the acknowledgement that the things of God – love, kindness, community – still remain, despite the difficulties of the present. In the days and weeks ahead, may we be a people intent on seeing and being God's presence in the present. Perhaps we will find God's sweetness hidden behind fragile structures.



## Sardis People:

### MAGAY SHEPARD



For the third consecutive year, Magay Shepard has been named to the Forbes list of America's Top Women Wealth Advisors, (2020, 2021, 2022). She was selected from approximately 33,000 nominations from across the nation. She is Senior Vice-President / Investments with Stifel Financial Corporation, a brokerage and investment banking firm. She has been an advisor with Stifel for 12 years as part of the Shepard Wealth Management Group. Previously she worked with A.G. Edwards, and has been in the investment industry for 36 years.

Ms. Shepard sponsors and hosts continuing education courses for CPAs. She has recently been on the steering committee for Women's Initiative Network, an organization designed to encourage and support women in the financial industry. In addition to the Forbes list, Magay was named as one of the Charlotte area's 50 Most Dynamic Women, an honor sponsored by Charlotte Media Group.

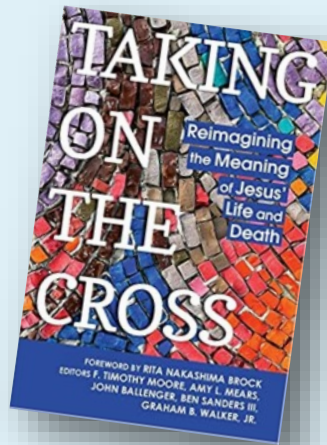
Magay's volunteer activities include: Board member of Community Link, where she is the chair of the Endowment Committee; Trustee for Mars Hill College and is on their Investment for Endowments Committee; Board of trustees for Mental Health Association of Central Carolina; former treasurer of YWCA, Charlotte; and supporter of WFAE radio. She began volunteering with Hospice, which was interrupted by Covid soon after her orientation.

Married to Rev. Dr. Tim Moore, she and he recently journeyed to Hawaii to celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and their "big O" birthdays. They have three children, recent college graduates, Hannah, Michael, and Abby. A Charlotte native, Magay graduated from Olympic High School and earned a Bachelor of Science from Mars Hill University.

## SARDIS BOOK STUDIES

### SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE: TAKING ON THE CROSS

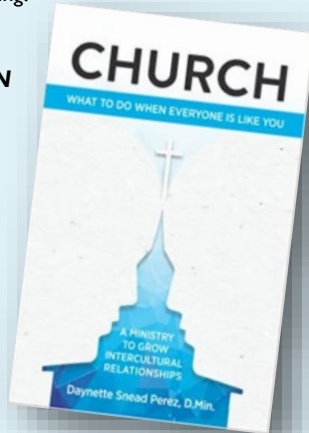
This month our Sunday School class will begin reading a newly published book whose editing team includes Writer-in-Residence, Rev. Dr. Tim Moore. **Taking on the Cross: Reimagining the Meaning of Jesus' Life and Death**, includes essays from a diverse group of Baptist pastors, writers, and theologians who critically question substitutionary atonement theology—that Jesus died on the cross for humanity's sins—and offers pathways for reimagining the meaning of Jesus' life and death. Each chapter concludes with questions that will make for interesting discussions during our Sunday morning gatherings.



The doors to our Sunday School class are open to anyone who wishes to join our discussions. We meet at 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings in the large classroom of the Education Building.

### CHURCH: WHAT TO DO WHEN EVERYONE IS LIKE YOU

This new book by Rev. Dr. Daynette Snead Perez was written to help churches break through barriers of race, gender, generation, and social class. Next month (May), Sardis Baptist will begin a study of this book accompanied by a series of gatherings led by the author to help us uncover rules hidden within our church culture that prevent us from growing into the diverse community we desire to be.



Daynette's unique experiences as a stranger (outsider) who became a neighbor (insider) have given her valuable insight into living, listening and learning with people who are not like her. She is a business woman of color who is successfully navigating the evolving dominant culture; she has broken new ground in church leadership as a missionary partner with a Burmese refugee congregation, and she leads disaster response ministry in underserved areas.

Additional details, including dates, will be shared in the coming weeks.

## Hear My Voice

### 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

Our deepest sympathies are with the following people who are grieving the loss of loved ones:

- Patty Bridges, cousin of Tillie Duncan
- Randall Lolley, friend of many Sardis folks
- Francine Morrow, extended family of Doris Waiters
- Robin Ruppe, cousin of Tillie Duncan

### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Roger & Janet Albiston, friend of Jean Lawrence • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Melissa Bowlin • Maria Byrd • Pat Chowning, friend of Marge Henderson • Sonny Cole, brother of Marge Henderson • Elzene Corbett, Janet Beltzhoover's mother • Pat Crippen, friend of Ellen Dillard • Becky Crisco, friend of Marge Henderson • Nancy Darnell • Ron Demme • Larry & Amelia Eidson, parents of Jonathan • Carter England-Cole • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer • Betty Gunz • Janie Harris • Shareen, niece of Janie Harris • Kathie & Marvin Jean • Ted Lillie, friend of Ellen Dillard • Ann Macguire, sister of Rev. Ruth Gouldbourne (Grove Lane) • Sylvia Misenheimer, friend of Susan Phillips • Kristin Parker • Rachel, Kendarius, & Mekhi Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Becky Proctor • Mala Reynolds • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Pamela Schwartz, former staff of St. Stephen UMC • John Simpson • 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 • April Wolfe, minister to Doris Waiters

### TRAVELING MERCIES

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







## MAKE WELCOME SEWING SCHOOL *In Lieu of Easter Lilies*

Traditionally during Lent, we offer the opportunity to honor or memorialize special people in our lives with Easter lilies displayed in our sanctuary as a visual reminder of the love and appreciation we feel. Names of honorees are shared during our Easter worship service. This Spring, we are honoring our loved ones through a special mission. We invite you to make donations to the *Make Welcome Sewing School* fund in lieu of purchasing Easter lilies.

Refugees have lost so much in the escape from violence, persecution, and war. Make Welcome Sewing School works to empower refugee women as they make new homes in the United States. The school helps them create their own businesses, and ultimately family sustainability, by teaching sewing skills. Funds collected for honorariums and memorials will help provide this year's graduates with sewing machines and sewing essentials kits that will allow them to begin their own businesses. Click the button below to learn more about the school.

If you'd like to participate please submit the following information along with payment. Order forms are available in the church office; you may submit through Email / PayPal; or send the information below through USPS to 5811 Sardis Rd / Charlotte, NC 28270.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#1 – Circle One:      In Memory Of...      In Honor Of...

... \_\_\_\_\_

#2 – Circle One:      In Memory Of...      In Honor Of...

... \_\_\_\_\_

#3 – Circle One:      In Memory Of...      In Honor Of...

... \_\_\_\_\_

(For reference, Easter lilies are usually \$15 apiece.)

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Sardis Grounds Update & WORKDAY

Truly the grounds of Sardis Baptist are a treasure largely hidden from the view of a busy Charlotte street! Our Board of Trustees have been busy working behind the scenes in recent months to keep our property beautiful. Recent projects include spreading pine straw around the Meetinghouse and Prayer Garden, and planting new shrubs along the northwest side of the Meetinghouse.

Joe Wall and Betty Gunz volunteered to take the lead on researching shrubs that would add to the beauty of our campus while thriving in the Southern afternoon Summer sun. They consulted with various experts, including the Charlotte Wildlife Stewards to ensure their selections support native wildlife on our campus. The chosen shrubs, *Autumn Fire Encore Azaleas* and *Vintage Jade Distylium* were installed in March. The azaleas will bloom two to three times per year with red blossoms. These beautiful plants attract butterflies and hummingbirds. The distylium is a hardy evergreen plant that is valued for its lush green foliage. Be sure to take notice of the new additions next time you are at Sardis.



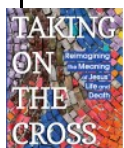








With gratitude to Jean Taylor, Jean Lawrence, and Kathryn Kreutzer, additional *Lenten Roses* have been planted to fill in gaps around the labyrinth. They also lined the side of the Education Building with *Liriope*.

**The Spring spruce up of Sardis Baptist will continue on April 2nd. Please join us for a churchwide workday beginning at 9:00 AM. Bring rakes, gloves and gardening tools if you have them. There will also be a project or two inside the meetinghouse for those who prefer. Coffee, juice, and continental breakfast items will be available as fuel for your efforts!**



# Sardis Baptist Church – Calendar

# April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 April Fool's Day 	2 9:00 AM Sardis Workday 
3 Fifth Sunday in Lent  9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross  11:00 AM Worship 	4	5	6 Noon Lunch & Learn: What Happens at a Table?  4:00 Staff Meeting  7:30 PM Chancel Choir 	7	8	9
10 Palm Sunday  9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross  11:00 AM Worship 	11	12	13 4:00 Staff Meeting  7:30 PM Chancel Choir	14 Maundy Thursday  6:00 PM Soup Supper 	15 Good Friday  Noon Community Worship at Sardis Baptist 	16
17 Easter Sunday  NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  11:00 AM Worship 	18 Tax Day	19	20 4:00 Staff Meeting  7:30 PM Chancel Choir	21 	22	23
24 Second Sunday of Easter  9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross  11:00 AM Worship 	25	26	27 4:00 Staff Meeting  7:30 PM Chancel Choir 	28	29	30





## THANK YOU!

Dear Sardis Family, What a kind and generous people you are! Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift and heartfelt words presented during the staff appreciation Sunday. We feel very loved. The Stillerman family plans to "treat ourselves," and we will think of you when we do. With love and gratitude, Bob

From the bottom of my heart, thank you! The past two years have been many things—stressful, uncertain, "unprecedented," etc.—but through it all Sardis has remained Sardis. I am so proud to be a part of this congregation where people feel free to be themselves. I love talking about Sardis to people who have never heard of us, because they are always genuinely surprised and impressed that such a Baptist Church exists. Myself and my husband both appreciate the generosity shown by this congregation and we are both so glad that I found a home at Sardis! ~ Hilary

Dear friends, I want to thank you for your meaningful words of affirmation and your generous gift during staff appreciation. It is a blessing to serve as one of your pastors and an honor to be a part of the ministry team at Sardis! Gratefully, Jonathan

Thank you Sardis, for your generosity! You are a kind and caring congregation, and I am so appreciative of the largesse shown with this year's love offering.

Your thoughtful words, along with the financial offering, are received by my grateful heart. Love, Kathryn

Words can't express my heartfelt gratitude for the love offering. You are so thoughtful, loving, kind and giving. I thank God for all of you. I'm so glad that you are a part of my life. May God supply your need for how you have sewed into my life. It shall not go unnoticed. God will send you a blessing for blessing me. Thank you again for the way you always take good care of others. Love, Doris

## COME Gather AT OUR TABLE

### APRIL 6th @ NOON – VIRTUAL:

Join us via Zoom for a Virtual Lunch & Learn session at noon on April 6th. Login details will be provided through email, or you may call Kathryn to get sign in credentials. Rev. Bob Stillerman will begin our time together by offering a short thought-starter on the topic: **What Do We Want the Table at Sardis to Be?** Our discussion will follow where the spirit leads us. If you're unable to join us live, we encourage you to watch the short video summary on our Facebook feed, and please share your thoughts and ideas in the comments.

### APRIL 14th @ 6:00 PM – IN-PERSON:

We've worked hard to reclaim Maundy Thursday as a remembrance of the First Communion rather than the Last Supper. Yes, the gathering is bitter-sweet. 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. Join us in the meetinghouse at 6:00 PM for a light supper of soups, grapes, cheese and bread followed by Communion.