

# 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

## All Things Sardis - Continued

We spent the first week of our *All Things Sardis* series talking about who we are – specifically, where we've been in our first 34 years. Rev. Tillie Duncan offered an overview of our church history that included information about who shaped us, what we've stood for through the years, and what that has looked like in the community we call Sardis. The second week, we shifted our focus to the staff that serves Sardis. We reintroduced the congregation to our ministers during a panel discussion where the staff shared a little bit about who they are and how they came to serve at Sardis.



The series will continue for two additional Wednesdays in October when our conversations will shift from "who we are" to "what are we going to do in the year ahead." On Wednesday, October 12th, we will present a partial ministry plan for 2022-2023. Note the word partial. The initial presentation will include some major themes and initiatives – those things that help Sardis articulate and manifest our collective congregational calling. But you will also notice some gaps. We'll want your feedback. The second session, Wednesday, October 19th, will center around your input – what does the congregation hunger for? What kinds of activities, programs, liturgies, etc. are needed to supplement the work we're already doing? What will make Sardis feel even more Sardis for you? The hope is that this process will offer a transparent and collective effort to be and do church. We hope you'll join us on the journey of discovering where we've been and where we'll go.

OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup> - DINNER SERVED AT 5:45 PM; PROGRAM BEGINS AT 6:30



## You're Invited! Picnic and Pumpkin Carving

Saturday, October 29th  
 5:00 PM  
 Sardis Baptist Picnic Shelter



Hotdog Dinner Will Be Provided!

Please bring a pumpkin and your favorite carving tools.



## CHARLOTTE CROP WALK 2022

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/sardis-baptist-church-3>

There are 144,318 people living at or below the Federal Poverty Level in Mecklenburg County, including 46,259 children. Poverty is the number one cause of hunger, and Sardis Baptist Church is joining the effort to alleviate it.

The Charlotte event has consistently been one of the largest CROP Walks in the country in both the number of funds raised and the number of walkers who participate. Sardis Baptist has created a team and we invite you to be a part of it. The walk will take place on Sunday, October 16th at 1:30 PM,

but you do not have to walk to be a member of our team! Those who want to walk will walk; others can stay back and support them in spirit. Click the button above, enter the URL address, or scan the QR code below to join the Sardis team of walkers or to make a donation. WE also encourage you to support our efforts through prayer and helping to raise awareness about hunger in our community.





## I LIFT UP MINE EYES...

Rev. Bob Stillerman

I have a nightly routine – it's part monastic work, part stress reliever. Each night, after supper and putting our kids to bed, I stand at the kitchen sink washing dishes and watching the nightly news. This past Sunday it was *60 Minutes*, and I was fascinated by a story out of Florida.

Scientists from the University of Miami are harvesting coral farms off the Florida Keys. Coral reefs are the largest living organisms on our planet. Millions of tiny coral polyps bind together to create hard, calcified formations. These formations are essential in preventing coastal erosion – they create friction that slows down waves in strong storms. They are also essential in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

As sea temperatures rise, coral reefs are not only in decline, but face near certain extinction. Enter superhero scientists! They've discovered a way to clone coral colonies and plant them in deep water. They are also fusing coral to concrete and metal sea walls. Over time, the coral will repair and expand these barriers.

It's a slow drip, of course. It takes decades, sometimes even centuries, for the reefs to develop into significant structures. Planting one baby coral in the ocean has a very small effect – it's akin to using a tea kettle to warm an entire sea. Scientists will have to plant millions of coral starters just to begin noticing minimal impact.

The scientists know that their efforts alone won't save the coral reefs. The world must change destructive policies that lead to pollution. It must. But the scientists hope that their work will buy needed time. Perhaps their actions will slow the process AND encourage humanity to live in more empathetic ways.

It seems a fitting metaphor for addressing systemic issues, not to mention the work of Gospel. How do we create change? One act of kindness at a time. When we share a little something of ourselves with our neighbors, we affect one moment in time. If we live each moment with presence, we invite those around us to do the same.

Someone in Florida who I've never met planted coral in the ocean, and my life has changed. I see the world differently than I did a week ago. Perhaps I've got a half a lifetime of thoughtful purchase decisions ahead of me that will add exponential umph to a tiny coral sprout growing in the sea.

In the month ahead, what acts of kindness, generosity, and hospitality might we offer to our neighbors to create our own coral reef of love in Charlotte? I plan to give it thought, and I've got plenty of dishes to wash while I think!

### Sardis Ministries

## HOPE CHAPEL

*"A Holy Chaos Where EVERYONE Is Welcome"*

Hope Chapel was formed in 1987 when the United Baptist Association purchased the parcel of land adjacent to what was then called the George Shinn Men's Shelter (now Roof Above). It was formed to be a church that welcomed folks who didn't feel comfortable in other churches – the homeless, those released from prison, people with substance abuse disorder and other mental illnesses. Hope Chapel continues meeting the spiritual needs of the down-trodden today, celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. For many visitors, Hope Chapel provides their first introduction to spiritual life. There are long-time members today who have forged their way from homelessness to housing, but they return weekly for worship and fellowship at the chapel that welcomed them during their hardest times.

Sardis Baptist Church supports the important work this ministry provides to the Charlotte community. Hope Chapel is run completely by volunteers which include an overseer, preachers, a piano player, a bookkeeper, and others who serve weekly meals. The small annual budget, approximately \$5,500 is funded completely by the United Baptist Association (UBA) which is made up of Sardis Baptist Church, St. John's Baptist Church, Park Road Baptist Church, and Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. This summer, they incurred an unexpected expense. The HVAC system went out of commission, and the \$5,800 replacement cost could not be absorbed by their meager budget. Sardis Baptist, in partnership with sister churches, is raising funds to cover the cost. If you'd like to donate to this effort, please notate "Hope Chapel" when you submit your payment.

Sardis provides more than financial subsidies for Hope Chapel.

We are included in a monthly rotation of UBA churches that preach during worship services on Sunday

mornings. Also, Rev. Bob Stillerman serves on the leadership board for

the church. The doors to Hope Chapel are open to anyone,

and you are welcome to attend their 8 AM Sunday service any time. A minister

from Sardis Baptist will offer a homily during worship on

Sunday, October 16th. Other opportunities for volunteer service are also available.

Speak to a member of our ministry team for more information.







# We Will Be Bread For A Hungering World

# Sardis Baptist Church



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>2</p> <p>World Communion Sunday</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> 	<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p> <p>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>4:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Charlotte Wildlife Stewards Leadership Team</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Clergy Group Meeting</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School: Taking on the Cross</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>Noon Flag Decorating Date</p> <p>2:00—5:00 PM KIND Day @ Reedy Creek</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p> <p>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples Day</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 PM Charlotte Wildlife Stewards The Environment and Politics</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner</p> <p>6:30 PM Sardis Academy</p> <p>7:45 PM Choir Practice</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Clergy Group Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship at HOPE Chapel</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> <p>1:30 PM CROP Walk</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p> <p>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>4:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner</p> <p>6:30 PM Sardis Academy</p> <p>7:45 PM Choir Practice</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Clergy Group Meeting</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School: Love Is the Way</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p> <p>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>4:00 PM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>5:00 PM Pumpkin Carving and Picnic</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School: Love Is the Way</p> <p>11:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>31</p> <p>The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM</p> <p>Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM</p> 				<p>30</p>	



## Celebrating Our Saints ~ MEMORIAL PRAYER FLAGS

November 7th is the Sunday following All Saints Day, 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!

This year the Worship Development Team invites you to honor Sardis saints with memorial flags that we'll decorate and display on All Saints Sunday. The idea is borrowed from the Tibetan tradition of hanging colorful flags as a tangible way to send prayers of peace, compassion, and strength into the world as the wind blows the messages through the air. Traditionally flags are decorated with prayers, mantras, and symbols that are intended to benefit and bless all beings. You are invited to gather with the Worship Development Team following our service on Sunday, October 9th to decorate our memorial flags. Supplies will be provided.

May our All Saints celebration embolden us to be living saints: people who share their gifts so that others might also know God's fullest presence and widest mercies. Names of deceased loved ones from our prayer lists for the last year will be included. Please let a Sardis staff member know if there are others you'd like to honor during our All Saints celebration. All names provided will be included in our flag display and listed on our worship guide.



### WORSHIP CARE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Worship care volunteers for the months of October and November are listed below. Please contact Pastor Jonathan if you have questions or would like to join this rotation.

October 2nd.....	Kate Mata
October 9th.....	Luther Fisher
October 16th.....	Rachel Faulk
October 23rd.....	Kristin Parker
October 30th.....	Kate Mata
November 6th.....	Tammy Taylor
November 13th.....	Jacqueline Stillerman
November 20th.....	Luther Fisher
November 27th.....	Rachel Faulk

Please contact another volunteer from the Worship Care rotation to switch dates if you are unable to be with our church buddies on your scheduled day. If you're unable to find a replacement, please let a member of our staff know as soon as you are able. We are grateful for your service to this important ministry!

### Stories That Inform Our Faith

Songs, poems, novels, essays, articles, movies, artwork, nature, friendships, experiences... Our theology is shaped by so much more than our sacred text! There are countless resources that help inform us about the nature and character of our creator. God speaks to each of us in ways that haven't been canonized, but perhaps they should.



We have added an element to our worship service called "Stories That Inform Our Faith", but the offerings included won't be limited to stories. During this time, we'll invite Sardis friends to share something during worship that has had a formative impact on their understanding of the divine. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Please let any member of our ministry staff know if you are interested in sharing and we will work together to schedule a date.



Pastor Jonathan is planning a winter retreat for Sardis church buddies of all ages. Friends of all ages and levels of skiing expertise will be encouraged to join the fun! Stay tuned for details.



**Welcome to Worship Class ~ September 2022**

# Charlotte Wildlife Stewards

The Charlotte Wildlife Stewards is our local chapter of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation. Their mission is "to create, preserve, and protect wildlife habitat through education, engagement, and enjoyment." The group is hosting two events during the month of October that we think Sardis friends may be interested in:

## **KIND (Kids in Nature Day) - Sunday, October 9th from 2 to 5 PM**

KIND will take place at Reedy Creek Park (2900 Rocky River Road in Charlotte). This free, fun, family-friendly day of nature exploration will include stations for Arts & Crafts, Nature Yoga, Reptiles, Pollinators, Raptors, and much more! Every station will have an experienced leader, but additional volunteers are needed to make this annual event a success. No experience is required, only a love of nature and the desire to share that love with kids and their families. Click here or visit this url if you would like to help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4fadaf2ea2ffc52-kids1>.

## **The Environment and Politics – Tuesday, October 11th from 7 to 8:20 PM**

Charlotte Wildlife Stewards will host Representative John Autry (Charlotte District #100) for **The Environment and Politics** on Tuesday, October 11th from 7–8:30 PM at Sardis Baptist Church. The environment has become a political issue, and he will offer some history, influences, observations, and more on this somewhat recent development in our nation's political scene, adding some insight to North Carolina's status.

More information on these events can be found on the CWS website at [CharlotteWildlife.org](http://CharlotteWildlife.org), or on their Facebook page ([facebook.com/charlottewildlife](https://facebook.com/charlottewildlife)).