

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
Study Group

Sunday at 11:00 AM
Morning Worship

MAKE EVERYDAY EARTH DAY

As the April blossoms unfold around the Sardis campus, we are reminded of the vibrant tapestry of life! This is Earth month, and April 22nd will be recognized around the world as a day to reflect on our relationship with the environment and commit to its preservation. It's a day to remember our spiritual connection to the earth, recognizing nature as a sanctuary for encountering the divine; and it's a reminder of our call to be stewards of creation.



For people of faith, Earth Day holds profound significance. We recognize that our creator has entrusted us with the well-being of our planet. We are responsible for safeguarding its intricate ecosystems and sustaining its abundance for future generations. To fulfil this call, we must foster compassionate and reverent relationships with land, sea, atmosphere, and all of God's creatures.

Climate change, deforestation, pollution, and loss of biodiversity negatively impact life for all species of plants and animals, including humans. These concerns are not just environmental. They are interconnected with social and economic injustices, disproportionately impacting marginalized communities worldwide. As Christians, we are called to stand in solidarity with the oppressed, and one way we can do so is to advocate for environmental justice.

We aspire to follow the way of life demonstrated by Jesus, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." We receive abundantly from Mother Earth every day, and often take her for granted! Earth Day reminds us to give back to her. It's a day to commit to environmental stewardship and explore ways to nurture the planet: eat low on the food chain; avoid "fast fashion"; examine your shopping habits and make adjustments; complete an energy audit of your home or business; change your transportation habits and consider a hybrid or electric vehicle; get politically active and let your government representative know you want them to support climate action. There is no shortage of avenues for engagement!

For Sardis Baptist Church, Earth Day is more than a single day of observance; it is ongoing action. We believe every day is Earth Day, and we continuously evaluate ways our church family can be better environmental stewards. Here are a few ways we support this effort: we have upgraded the lighting in our sanctuary to be more energy efficient; we only buy cleaning products and janitorial supplies that are ecofriendly; we purchase recycled paper for office use; we use fellowship supplies (plates, napkins, cups) that are compostable; we've intentionally selected shrubs for planting that are native to our area; we worked with Charlotte Wildlife Stewards to have our grounds certified as a wildlife habitat; we have engaged environmental community leaders to speak to our congregation about caring for the earth (Don Gordon – C3, Christians Caring for Creation and Amy Brooks Paradise – Green-Faith); and we encourage friends of Sardis to honor the Earth as a precious gift entrusted to our care. This Earth Day, may we embrace our role as stewards of creation with reverence, being mindful of the needs of our planet.



SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH 9 AM until Noon

Springtime highlights the beauty of our campus, and we want to spruce up a few things to keep it beautiful!

Friends of Sardis Baptist Church and The Garden Preschool will convene for a Buildings & Grounds Workday on Saturday, April 20th beginning at 9:00 AM. Tasks on our to-do list include those for nature lovers as well as some for those who prefer to work indoors. Outside jobs will include spreading mulch, picking up fallen sticks, gathering garbage along our Sardis Road border, and weeding the labyrinth and walking trails. Inside jobs will include cleaning windows and sills, re-vamping the bulletin boards in both buildings, and organizing our closets. Please let Kathryn know if there is a specific task that you would like to lead.

This will be a great opportunity for friends from Sardis to meet some of The Garden Preschool families. Students will give what is sure to be an adorable performance in the picnic shelter at 11:30-ish. We hope you will join us.

Sardis People - In Gratitude

~ Rev. Tillie Duncan

This spring there will be a shift in the population of the church which meets at Sardis. Two families will move from the Charlotte area to other parts of the country for their retirement years. They can still be near in communication, but their energetic presence will be missed. The congregation is grateful for the years that they have spent in community with us.

Howell Peterson

Howell will be moving to Pompano Beach, FL in mid April, having been an integral part of Sardis for 23 years. We are thankful for his visible contributions such as being a member of the Trustee Board, continuing to serve through the confusion of Covid. He has been a good teacher through his public expressions of faith, his prayers and his contributions to conversations in small groups. Not always so visible is the time that he has given to the upkeep of the meetinghouse and the grounds which surround it and being on call for the unexpected. A skillful woodworker, one of his first contributions was a couple of collapsible tables for use by an earlier children's bell-ringing choir.



Rick and Rev. Becky Proctor

Rick and Becky Proctor's move to Rock Fish, VA will be sometime in the near future. They have contributed to the functions of Sardis for the past twenty years, having been recruited for the choir almost as soon as they came in the front door. Rick has been a valuable leader in the tenor section, and Becky has contributed to the soprano section. As a music minister, Becky often lent her talent to directing the choir or playing the piano and at one time served as interim music minister. She has participated in other areas of worship development, too, participating in workshops and bringing the information back to Sardis. Rick has contributed to the visual side of worship by providing the Pentecost flame and other artistic articles. The church offices have benefitted from his donations of furniture.



Thank you, Becky, Rick and Howell!



G3 @ Romeo's Vegan Burgers

This month, the G3 gathering will be at an Earth-friendly vegan restaurant. Do the burgers in these photos look vegan to you? Join the group for lunch to learn that they taste as good as they look! Those who would like to carpool will meet in the Sardis parking lot at 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 25th. Otherwise, please plan to be at the restaurant at 11:30. Romeo's Vegan Burgers is located at 5518 South Boulevard.



ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS 2024 Annual Gathering

The 2024 Annual Gathering for the Alliance of Baptists will take place this month in our own city from April 12th to 14th. Several members of our Ministry Team will attend. The theme for this year's gathering is "Decolonizing the Great Commission," which will encourage participants to look at a foundational principle of the Alliance of Baptists: partnership in ministry. True partnership cannot be built when we hear Jesus' call in Matthew 28 to go and make disciples with colonizing ears. Speakers and workshops during the gathering will help us discern how we can hear Jesus' sending words with new ears for a new day!



The Great Commission—Matthew 28:16-20—NRSV

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

CHANGES IN THE LAND: Environmental History

The Charlotte Wildlife Stewards will host a program for the greater Charlotte Community at Sardis Baptist Church on Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00 PM. Participants will take a journey through time with local historian, Nolan Dahm. He will introduce the concept of "environmental history" and its importance for addressing some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. The discussion will emphasize the role of the Catawba people, the changes brought by colonialism and slave-based plantation agriculture, and the challenge of the modern "Anthropocene." In addition, Nolan will challenge participants to take a deep dive into the nuances of words like "nature", "environment", and "wilderness" and how these terms are used in activism.



Although there is no cost to attend, registration is required. Programs such as this one are funded thanks to partnership and kind investments made by friends of the Charlotte Wildlife Stewards. You will have the option to make a donation when you register at charlottewildlife.org/upcoming-programs-and-events/.

Hear My Voice

CONDOLENCES

May the family and friends of Marvin Jean feel comforted by the love and support of friends and family as they grieve his death.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Ken Abbott, friend of June Ross • Rita Akers, friend of the Phillips • Clemmer Allison, friend of Alcie Kreutzer • Charles Almond, grandfather of Jacqueline Stillerman • Holly Almond, aunt of Jacqueline Stillerman • Melissa Bowlin • Maria Byrd • Chris Clark, son of Becky Proctor • Murphy Clark, relative of Robin Rowland • Tracey Danley, friend of Sarah Criss • Rae Deicke, friend of Jean Lawrence • Nela Demme, Ron's dog • Betsy Cadle DePaul • Dusty Detterman, daughter of June Ross • Linda Duncan, sister-in-law of Shannon • Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's mother • Ed Gash • Mildred Gragg, mother of Billie Hutchison • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer • Homeless Neighbors • Jen Kaminska, friend of the Kreutzer family • Robert Marshall, grandson of Janette Grassi • Tim Moore • Rachel, Kendarius, and Mekhi Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • Planet Earth • Pam Poston • Bill Reynolds, son of Mala • Mala Reynolds • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • Pamela Schwartz, former staff of St. Stephen UMC • Ken Smith, friend of the Kreutzer's • Nancy Steavenson, friend of Jean Lawrence • Tanya Stevensen, daughter of June Ross • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy • Mark Wiebke • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

TRAVELING MERCIES

• Askins Family (Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady, Samuel, Reece, Keely)
• Leon Fisher • Karen, friend of Amanda Lewis

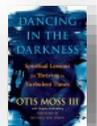


thank you

One of the strengths of the Sardis Baptist Church community is the way we support one another during transitions and difficult times, of which a number of Sardis friends are in the midst of. Please take notice of the thank you notes added to our vestibule bulletin board. They were written with gratitude from the Proctor, Phillips, Floren, Jean, and Kreutzer families.

Sardis Baptist Church

April

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Potluck Honoring Howell, Rick & Becky 7:45 PM Choir Practice	4 CWS Leadership Team	5 Clergy Group Meeting 	6
7 Second Sunday of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study: Dancing in the Darkness  11:00 AM Worship Dr. Daynette	8 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	9 10:30 AM Structures & Systems 7:00 PM Charlotte Wildlife Stewards: Environmental History 	10 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	11	12 Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering  Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering	13 Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering 
14 Third Sunday of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday Book Study: Dancing in the Darkness 11:00 AM Worship Dr. Daynette	15 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	16	17 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice 	18	19 Clergy Group Meeting 	20 9:00 AM Building & Grounds Workday — Friends of Sardis Baptist and The Garden Preschool Noon-ish Preschool Performance Picnic Shelter
21 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday Discussion Group: Who Rules the World? 11:00 AM Worship Dr. Daynette	22 The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM Earth Day 	23	24 4:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	25 11:00 (Carpool) 11:30 (Restaurant) G3 Romeo's Vegan Burgers 	26	27
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:45 AM Sunday Discussion Group: The Holy Thursday Revolution 11:00 AM Worship Dr. Daynette	29 Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM	30	 <p>SAVE THE DATE: WORLD LABYRINTH DAY Saturday, May 4th, 2024 1:00 PM @ the Prayer Garden <i>Walk as One for the World!</i></p>			

Hymnody: Metrical Index

8.8.8.8: Did You Ever Notice Those Numbers at the Bottom of the Hymn?

Here at Sardis, we try to be very intentional in our choice of words and symbols. Ask any two people here and it is almost certain that each of them will have a different idea of the nature of God, what images that nature evokes, and how they choose to address God in prayer and conversation. With that in mind, we have also made an effort to incorporate many styles of hymns in worship. For some, the old standards can feel problematic because they use heavily gendered language as well as more fundamentalist beliefs on atonement and sin; for others, those old standards bring back happy memories of childhood and youth when they would sit in church, surrounded by family and friends, many of whom may no longer be with us, and sing these songs every Sunday. One of my jobs, as Minister of Music, is to attempt to reconcile these two extremes. One way I go about that is called *contrafactum*—substituting new text in existing songs.

If you remember from studying poetry in English class, poems, and by extension lyrics, tend to follow a specific syllabic structure and rhyme scheme. In hymnody, we count syllables per line, then separate each line with a period when we are classifying texts. “Amazing Grace” is considered 8.6.8.6—that means that, if I wanted to, I could take the words from “Amazing Grace” and sing them to the tune “O God Our Help in Ages Past” or vice versa.

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

that saved a wretch like me!

1 2 3 4 5 6

O God, our Help in ages past,

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

our Hope for years to come.

1 2 3 4 5 6



When I am selecting hymns for Sunday, I first start with the Biblical text we are planning to study. I search for familiar hymns first, but if I come across a text that I think is ideal for what we are studying and it is set to a tune we aren't familiar with or it isn't in our hymnal, I have the option to have Kathryn print the lyrics in the worship guide and have Irena play a more familiar tune. Take, for example, the song the choir sang in March that I wrote with the help of ChatGPT. I found a tune that I liked, Beach Spring, and then wrote a poem to match that meter, 8.7.8.7. From there, it was simple to make the words and rhyme scheme work within those confines. (The lyrics, which were written to support our Lenten theme of Embracing Doubt, are printed on the back page of this newsletter.)

So, if you find a poem or hymn that you like the words for but don't know how to sing it, take a look at the meter and see if there is another hymn tune that shares that meter and substitute your new words! And share it with me, because I love learning new songs and sharing them in worship!

~ Hilary Kearns McIntyre, Minister of Music

SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

~ Rev. Jonathan Eidson ~

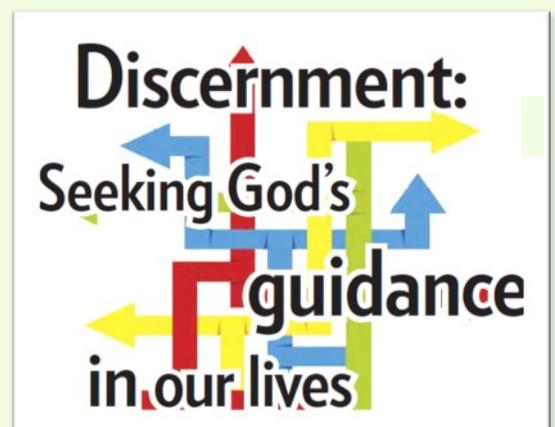
In February, I mentioned that discern means to perceive, recognize, or detect with the senses. This month, I thought I'd delve a little deeper into the topic of discernment. According to Merriam-Webster, discernment is the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure.

In case that gave you the 'huh' face, I have my own definition/example that I hope will provide clarity. If you've ever changed the radio station using the tuning knob, you'll remember the sound of static until you close in on the station which gets clearer as the static fades away. I think discernment is like that. You listen for the voice of the Lord or the Holy Spirit which may sound staticky at first but becomes clearer as you close in on the voice.

There are many schools of thought regarding discernment. Doug Leonhardt writes that Ignatian discernment involves prayer and weighing facts and feelings about the several good choices which ultimately leads to a choice about what is the best fit for an individual. In the traditional language of Christianity, Christians try to find the will of God for their lives.

While recovering from wounds sustained during war, Saint Ignatius read of the lives of saints and the life of Christ and began to 'daydream' about the direction of his life. It is this daydreaming that led to his discernment. Leonhardt believes that anyone who daydreams can understand Ignatian discernment.

If my elementary school teachers are to be believed, I have the daydreaming part down. I invite you to do some daydreaming. Listen for the voice of God today.





HAPPY
Easter!



In the Depths of Doubt, We Wander

Minister of Music, Hilary McIntyre, wrote this hymn to support our Lenten theme (Embracing Doubt) with a little help from Chat GPT.

1

In the depths of doubt, we wander,
Questions swirling through the night.
Seeking truth with hearts that ponder,
Yearning for the guiding light.
O Lord, grant us grace to wonder,
In the shadowed paths we trod.
May our doubts ignite the lightning,
Of a brighter faith in God.

2

Like the ancients in their searching,
Through the scriptures, line by line,
Let our doubts be ever lurching,
Toward a faith that's genuine.
O Lord, grant us grace to wonder,
In the shadowed paths we trod.
May our doubts induce the thunder,
Of a deeper faith in God

3

As we journey through the pages,
Of your word, both old and new,
May our doubts become the stages,
Where our faith is born anew.
O Lord, grant us grace to wonder,
In the shadowed paths we trod.
May our doubts inspire Ruach,
For a deeper faith in God.

4

So, with open minds, we'll wander,
Through the myst'ries of your plan.
In our doubts, may faith grow stronger,
Alleluia, Amen.
O Lord, grant us grace to wonder,
In the shadowed paths we trod.
May our doubts incite the deluge
That sustains our faith in God.

SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

April's Reading Schedule



The Sunday morning discussion group meets at 9:45 AM in the Education Building. All are welcome to join our thought provoking and formative discussions. Our study of *Dancing in the Darkness*, by Otis Moss III, will conclude in April; then we will spend some time discussing articles before we delve into a new book, yet to be determined. Our April schedule, listed below, includes two articles by Diana Butler Bass that are available online at the URLs listed. Please let Kathryn or Tillie know if you would like us to provide you with printed copies.

April 7th — Chapter 8, *Dance in the Darkness: Face Your Fears with Love*

April 14th — Epilogue, *America and Amazing Grace: White Rage and the Colors of Hope*

April 21st — *Who Rules This World: Satan or Caesar?* (dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/Sunday-musings-647)

April 28th — *The Holy Thursday Revolution: Pull Up a Chair* (dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/the-holy-Thursday-revolution-pull)