

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

WALK AS ONE FOR PEACE

May 4th @ 1:00 PM in the Sardis Prayer Garden



Saturday, May 4th is World Labyrinth Day and thousands of people will participate in the sixteenth annual recognition. Participants worldwide will "Walk as One at 1" by walking a labyrinth at 1:00 PM their local time to create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next around the globe.

We invite you to join Sardis friend and certified labyrinth facilitator, Ed Gash, at the Sardis Baptist Church prayer garden for a guided labyrinth meditation on this special day. The walk will begin at 1:00 PM.

We believe that world peace begins within each of us, and our individual pathways to peace will look different. Peace has many facets; you may feel compelled to cultivate peace by nurturing mindfulness, engaging in antiracist efforts, addressing food insecurity, supporting victims of domestic violence, influencing government representatives, or one of many other methods. We hope our walk for peace inspires you to take conscious action toward solving systemic issues that create conflict. (See page 2 for some recommended resources to get started.)

Labyrinths have been used for spiritual purposes as far back as 5,000 years. Archeological digs have found them among ancient Cretans, Etruscans, Normans, Hindus and Native Americans. One labyrinth pattern found on a figurine in the Ukraine was dated to 15,000 B.C.

Labyrinths became popular among Christians during the Middle Ages, though the oldest existing labyrinth was placed in the Church of Reparatus in Algeria in the 4th century.

Walking a labyrinth became an alternative prayer pilgrimage when the Crusades made visits to the Holy Land too dangerous.

Unlike mazes, in which there are multiple pathways and unforeseen dead ends, a labyrinth has a single path leading to the center. You cannot get lost in a labyrinth. It always leads you home. This is a great metaphor for a life of faith. Somehow, despite all the twists and turns of life, God is always there to be found, waiting to embrace us in times of joy, or sorrow, or sheer bewilderment, and ready to guide us forward.

WALK AS ONE FOR PEACE



MAY SARDIS ACADEMY

Israeli - Palestinian War

News and social media make it difficult for us to grasp an unbiased understanding of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian territories. We hope May's Sardis Academy series will provide some clarity. Our sessions will provide attendees with a unique opportunity to hear from both sides of the conflict and engage in meaningful dialogue. We hope to foster empathy for all those impacted and offer understanding of what Jewish and Palestinian people are experiencing.

May 15th — Obaida Mohammad

Our first speaker will be Obaida Mohammad, who will share his perspective as a Palestinian American. He lives and works in Charlotte, but spent five formative years living in the occupied West Bank, where his family has roots. He is a husband, father, human rights advocate, and youth mentor at the Muslim Community Center.

May 22nd — Rabbi Lexi Erdheim

Our second speaker will be Lexi Erdheim who will share her perspective as a Jewish American. She is a rabbi, wife, dog mom, and energetic advocate for social justice issues. She is Associate Rabbi at Temple Beth El with a wide range of responsibilities.

Sessions will take place on two Wednesday evenings in May (5/15 and 5/22). Please plan to come and break bread with Sardis friends before the sessions. Dinners will be served at 5:45 PM, and Sardis Academy sessions will begin at 6:30 PM.



Sardis People - Nell Barnes

Nell Barnes has the distinction of being the first woman rural mail carrier in Alabama. She began her career with the post office in 1979 first as a substitute rural mail carrier and then moved into positions of city carrier and of clerk in the post office. Her rural route consisted of 110 miles of road – often dirt. City duties included parking the P.O. vehicle and walking, carrying the mail bag as she delivered to homes within a particular street or area. Her last years of providing mail service were as a clerk.

Nell moved to Charlotte after the death of her husband and lives in a mother-in-law house next to her son. She is mother of two sons, one of whom died in an accident when he was 20. Three grandchildren make her a proud grandmother. Joe often attends worship with her. Her other grandson just secured and is living out his dream job as assistant park ranger at Kodiak Island, Alaska. Her granddaughter will graduate from Clark University (Massachusetts) in May and plans to continue her education by pursuing a master's degree.

Born in Georgia, Nell grew up with one brother and one sister. She moved to Alabama upon her marriage. After retiring from the post office, she volunteered in a local thrift store, helping to create and organize it. At present she volunteers at Zab's in Matthews. Nell has been an avid crafter and once enjoyed sharing her wares at craft shows.

Nell's son and daughter-in-law are the owners of First-Light Home Care, a personal home care organization which offers senior care and respite care for those coming out of hospital, etc. They have 100 employees.



Nell joined Sardis friends for our G3 outing at Romeo's.



Peace begins within, and your pathway to peace will look different than your neighbor's. Peace has many faces, and you may feel compelled to cultivate peace by addressing emotional wellness, engaging with local organizations that support social justice issues, becoming a political advocate, or one of many other methods. We hope the resources listed below will inspire you to take conscious action toward solving issues that create conflict.

Share Charlotte — sharecharlotte.org

ShareCharlotte is a resource for finding and supporting nonprofits in our area, exploring volunteer opportunities, and learning about events for causes. Their mission is to build a better Charlotte by empowering nonprofits and helping people invest in their communities in ways that matter most to them.

Charlotte Center for Mindfulness — ccmindful.org

The Charlotte Mindfulness Center empowers individuals and our diverse communities through mindfulness to create a more intentionally compassionate and engaged city. The center is rooted in community where ALL come together to cultivate a more mindful life and bring healing to ourselves and each other.

MeckMin — meckmin.org

MeckMin, our local interfaith network, provides a wide variety of opportunities to create peaceful relationships with people of many faiths. MeckMin's network includes individuals and congregations from nine faith traditions. All events are open to people of all faiths and no faith.

Religions for Peace — rfp.org

Religions for Peace envisions effective interfaith cooperation on global, regional, national, and local events — ensuring that diverse religious leaders, communities, and institutions work together in harmony. Initiatives are guided by six key priorities — 1: Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies, 2: Gender Equality, 3: The Environment, 4: Freedom of Thought, Conscience, and Religion, 5: Interreligious Education, and 6: Global Partnerships.

Baptist Peace Fellowship — bpfna.org

The Baptist Peace Fellowship is a network of Baptist peacemakers, inclusive of other denominational faiths, non-confessional groups and individuals. Their mission is to witness to God's peace, rooted in justice, working together until it comes.

Fellowship of Reconciliation — forusa.org

Fellowship of Reconciliation is composed of people who recognize the essential unity of all creation and have joined together to explore the power of love and truth for resolving human conflict. Their efforts are based on a commitment to peace, justice, and non-violence in a world with dignity and freedom for every human being. The Fellowship of Reconciliation is the umbrella organization for all of the various Peace Fellowships.

Center for International Policy — internationalpolicy.org

CIP aims to advance a peaceful, just and sustainable world supported by US foreign policy that puts people and the planet first. Programs offer solutions to address the most urgent threats to our planet: war, corruption, inequity, and the climate crisis.



MAY'S LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The liturgical calendar is a one-year cycle of church observances made up of seasons that recognize the stages of the life of Jesus. The most well known and understood seasons are those of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, but there are many other observances that we recognize at Sardis. This month, there are several special observances on the liturgical calendar.

Ascension Day is Thursday, May 9th—forty days after the resurrection. Few of us, if any, view the ascension as did people hundreds, even thousands of years ago. Today we have a much greater understanding of the cosmos than existed during the 1st century—a three-tiered universe of earth, heaven and hell. So what does the ascension symbolize? Maybe the better question to ask is, “Where is Jesus now?” Not up in the clouds, but right here with us—in our hearts, entwined in our relationships with one another, among us when we gather, around the table with us when we break bread, and even present in places we may not recognize or acknowledge. The ascension story is not about the physical body of Jesus, but a story about his spiritual whereabouts—right here with us. “...and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” *Matthew 28:20*

Sunday, May 19th is Pentecost—the day on which we celebrate the birth of the Church. Prior to this day, there were followers of Jesus, but no organized movement. This was the beginning of the grassroots effort that became known as Christianity. It's the day, as shared in Acts, that the followers of Jesus were metaphorically filled with the holy spirit. Supernatural phenomena filled the house where the followers had gathered: a strong wind from heaven, flames of fire and the sudden ability to speak in languages other than their own. Symbolically, the multilingual miracle of Pentecost calls us to be in community with all people—those who look and speak like us and those who don't. It challenges us to examine our own biases against those who do not share our culture or language. “*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*” *Galatians 3:28*

Sunday, May 26th is Trinity Sunday. This is the day the Christian church celebrates the doctrine of the trinity—that is the three-in-one theology of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, or perhaps God Beyond Us, God Among Us and God Within Us. The idea of a trinitarian God did not come explicitly from the Bible, but instead was eventually adopted many years after being accepted by Roman Emperor Constantine during the Council of Nicaea, and he adopted it primarily for political rather than theological reasons! The Council of Nicaea did not end the debate over the nature of God. Specifically, disagreement over the nature of the Holy Spirit led to the Council of Constantinople where the Nicene Creed was adopted. This became the official belief and teaching of the Christian church. Certainly debate over the nature of God continues today! “*For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.*” *John 5:7*

PRAYER

changes things

We pray for families, friends, and colleagues of the officers killed and injured in the line of duty. With gratitude for the service of all officers and first responders, we pray for their safety as they work towards our safety.

We pray for all those impacted by wars in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and African countries—and we pray for God's peace.

We pray for the health and wellbeing of Mother Earth, and for all those who rely on her generosity to reciprocate her care.

We pray for hungry and homeless human beings, and for all of us to recognize the basic human rights of all of God's children.












We pray for teachers, students, and graduates as they approach end-of-year transitions, and for all those in the world who do not have access to opportunities for formal education.

We pray traveling mercies for Sardis friends on the move:
• Askins Family (Rebecca, Jourdan, Joey, Brady, Samuel, Reece, Keely) • Leon Fisher • Karen, friend of Amanda Lewis • Howell Peterson

We pray for the health and wellbeing of Sardis friends:
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 • Jen Kaminska, friend of the Kreutzer family • David Kreutzer • Robert Marshall, grandson of Janette Grassi • Michael Shepard-Moore • Tim Moore • Jim Owen • Rachel Kendarius, and Mekhi Phipps, friends of Betty Gunz • 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 • Lenka Warner, cousin of Jonathan Eidson • Vanessa Wieland, cousin of Jonathan Eidson • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

Sardis Baptist Church



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
	The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM				Clergy Group Meeting	World Labyrinth Day
	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM			7:30 AM MeckMin Community Awards Breakfast		1:00 PM Peace Walk
			4:00 PM Staff Meeting	7:00 PM Charlotte Wildlife Stewards Leadership Team		
			7:30 PM Choir Practice			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sixth Sunday of Easter	The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM					
9:45 AM Study Group: Gratitude, Diana Butler Bass	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM					
11:00 AM Worship			4:00 PM Staff Meeting			
			7:30 PM Choir Practice			
						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Ascension Sunday	The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM				Clergy Group Meeting	
 Mother's Day	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM					
9:45 AM Study Group			4:00 PM Staff Meeting			
11:00 AM Worship		7:00 PM Charlotte Wildlife Stewards: Gardening for Wildlife	5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner			
			6:30 PM Sardis Academy			
			7:45 PM Choir Practice			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
 Pentecost	The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM					
9:45 AM Study Group	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM					
11:00 AM Worship	10:00 AM Philips Academy Nature Walk		4:00 PM Staff Meeting			
			5:45 PM Fellowship Dinner			
			6:30 PM Sardis Academy			
			7:45 PM Choir Practice			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Trinity Sunday	The Garden Preschool — 9:15 AM to 1:15 PM					
9:45 AM Study Group	Sardis Piano Academy — 3:15 PM to 8:45 PM					
11:00 AM Worship			4:00 PM Staff Meeting	11:00 / 11:30 AM Carpool / Restaurant G3 Lunch		
			7:30 PM Choir Practice	East Frank Superette Monroe, NC		

Ancient Sounds in Modern Music: THE PENTATONIC SCALE

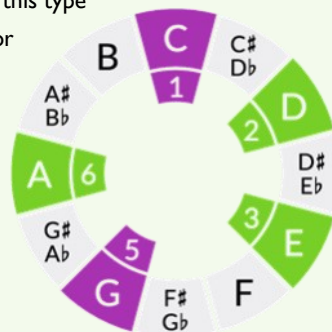
A few weeks ago during Sunday School, our conversation turned to “Amazing Grace.” Many of you may know that the words to this hymn were composed by John Newton, an Anglican cleric and abolitionist who was formerly the captain of a slave ship on the Atlantic. The words reflect Newton’s own storied past but are universal in their themes. What most of us did not know was that the tune we use for this hymn, called “New Britain,” has its roots in Appalachian folk music, which is tied to ancient music by way of something called the Pentatonic scale.

Even if you have not heard the phrase “pentatonic scale” before, you are familiar with the sound. The scale, or series of notes, is made up of five distinct pitches, hence the prefix penta-. These five pitches are spaced in such a way that no matter what order you play them in, there will be some sort of consonance, or pleasant sound. In fact, most wind chimes are tuned to a pentatonic scale for this exact reason. In the hymn “Amazing Grace,” the tune consists of C-D-E-G-A. But why?

The tune “New Britain” first appeared paired with the text “Amazing Grace” in *Southern Harmony* (1847), a shape note tune book. The combination was a creation of American composer William Walker, first presented in 1835. Shape notes have their roots in colonial American singing schools, being a simpler way to teach and read music. The fact that the melody in this tune only uses five notes would be a major plus in teaching and learning to sing it. Not only that, but these particular five notes have a musical lineage that seemingly spans human history.

Bone flutes, possibly between 40,000 and 60,000 years old, were discovered in southwestern Germany and these were tuned to a pentatonic scale. Cultures as far-ranging as China, India, Peru, Sudan, Eastern and Western Europe all have musical traditions that include pentatonic scales, with India and China basing much of their music theory on this type of scale. With that kind of global reach, it is no wonder that we continue to recognize and respond to this type of sound. So the next time you hear, or sing “Amazing Grace,” notice the way the music hits your ear, how it makes you feel, and let yourself imagine the connection that this simple tune has to music from around the world and throughout time.

~ Hilary McInyre, Minister of Music



Spiritual Direction

My most recent spiritual direction began, as always, with a scripture reading. This time it was Acts 20:35:

“In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

After the reading, we had a five-minute period of silence to consider what the passage might be saying to us. You probably won’t be surprised that my insights are often humorous. For example, I shared that while it might be more blessed to give than to receive, sometimes, receiving is fun too.

One of the questions we considered in this session was, “How are we at inviting Jesus in, every day, to all of our life, the serious and the trivial, the exciting and the mundane, the busy and the inactive, the restless and the restful?”

Sometimes we must stop and think about how we go about inviting Jesus into our lives. We invite and Jesus responds. When we invite Jesus in, the part of the process we control is the invitation.

If you’ve ever tried to float in a pool of water, you know from experience that the more rigid your body is, the more you try to make yourself float, the more likely you are to sink. It’s only when we relax into it that we begin to float. We can’t control both our body and the water. It’s like that with inviting Jesus into our lives. We invite, relax and float.

A prayer that may be helpful when inviting Jesus in every day is: *Lord, may I be aware of the moments you appear on my path this day.*

Have you ever thought about following Jesus this way? Becoming intentional about looking for him during the day? Have you ever wondered if it’s even possible? Many don’t live a faith of expectancy, believing they will see Jesus during the day, probably because so many experienced a religion as children that was focused heavily on salvation with little focus given to living beyond salvation.

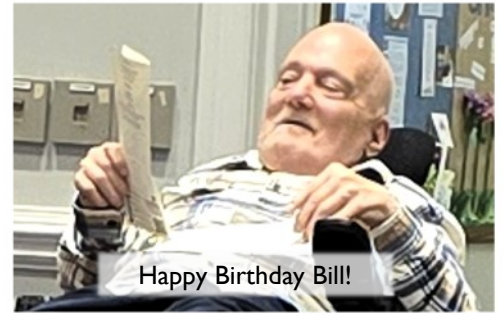
I believe we can and do see Jesus regularly. Is it that far-fetched to believe this? Many think so but often, some of these same people see a black cat and when something bad happens later in the day, they say, “I should have known this could happen. I saw a black cat earlier.” How much more difficult is it to imagine seeing something good happen and saying, “I should have expected this after I saw God in that beautiful sunrise earlier.” That’s just a thought. What do you think?

~ Rev. Jonathan Eidson ~

Sardis Baptist Church



Trustees at Work



Happy Birthday Bill!



Sardis Deer Enjoying the Workday



Cheers After a Hard Day's Work!

G3 - EAST FRANK

G3 (Gals, Grub, and Gab) will gather for lunch on Thursday, May 30th.

We'll eat at East Frank Superette and Kitchen. Those who would like to carpool will gather in the meetinghouse parking lot at 11:00 AM. Others will meet at the restaurant at 11:30. East Frank is located at 209 East Franklin Street in Monroe, NC. It is approximately 35 minutes from Sardis Baptist. Learn more about events hosted at East Frank and view their menu on their website: eastfranksuperetteandkitchen.com

Please let Ellen Dillard know if you are planning to join the group, and whether you plan to carpool from Sardis. We want to make sure we don't leave anyone behind! She can be reached via email or text: ejdcharlotte@gmail.com or (704) 301.4330.



Pastor SEARCH

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

Your Pastor Search Team has met regularly since January. What a great group of thinking, intuitive folks! We listened to you as congregation, David Brown as consultant, our staff and other trusted professionals as to what Sardis needs in a leader/pastor. We have studied, viewed sermons, researched, discussed and prayed for God's guidance. As of Sunday we have narrowed our field of candidates to several with whom we will soon do introductory Zoom interviews. We covet your active thoughts and prayers. Thank you for your trust in us.

"For such a time as this!"

Susan Phillips, Chair

Team Members:

Tillie Duncan, Luther Fisher, Jim Owen,
Becky Proctor, Shannon Roberts,
and Amy Wiebke

BACKYARK HABITATS



Join the Charlotte Wildlife Stewards and NCWF (North Carolina Wildlife Federation) Conservation Coordinator, Alden Picard, for an engaging presentation on creating backyard habitats. By providing food, water, cover, and places for wildlife to raise young, you can help restore and enhance wildlife habitat in your community. With the heat of summer quickly approaching, now is the perfect time to identify steps you can take, and to begin planning your garden with wildlife in mind!

This presentation is free and open to the public. You may attend online or in-person at:

Sardis Baptist Church.
Tuesday, May 14th
7:00 PM

Please register online through the Charlotte Wildlife Stewards website: charlottewildlife.org