

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



COMMUNION BRUNCH

August 18th @ 11:00 AM

The invitation to communion at Sardis is open to everyone.

Our table is not reserved for members only—or even Christians only. At God’s table, all are welcome. This sacrament represents God’s unconditional love for all of us, regardless of whether we share religious or political beliefs, no matter what we look like or where we live, and irrespective of what values we hold dear.

We’ll celebrate God’s open table at a Communion Brunch on Sunday, August 18th at 11:00 AM. We’ll transform the sanctuary into a banquet hall. As we eat we will worship around a common table, remembering that conversation and community are authentic forms of worship.

Breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, sweet breads, juice and coffee will be served. Vegan and gluten-free options will be available. Contact the church office if you would like to assist with setup, cleanup or food preparation:
704.362.0811 or info@sardisbaptistcharlotte.org.



Sardis Baptist Church affirms that every person is a beloved child of God, created in God’s image and worthy of love, respect, and inclusion. Our faith calls us to walk in love and justice, embracing each individual as a unique and precious part of God’s family, regardless of identity classifications. Historically, relations between some religious organizations and the queer community have been contentious, causing challenges for people of faith who struggle to reconcile their sexual orientation or gender identity with their beliefs. No one should have to choose between their faith and the person they love or the pronouns they use.

Each year, Charlotte Pride hosts an interfaith worship service to foster unity and build relationships between the LGBTQIA+ community and various faith groups. This year’s theme is “The Intersection of Faith and Queerness”. The service will include speakers from different traditions, and the Sacred Souls Community Choir will lead worship through song.

This year’s annual interfaith service is on Sunday, August 11th at 4 PM. Sacred Souls Community Church, located at 2127 Eastway Drive, is hosting this year’s event. Worship will last approximately one hour and will be followed by fellowship and refreshments. We hope to see you there!

Sunday, August 11th @ 4 PM
Sacred Souls Community Church
2127 Eastway Drive, Charlotte



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

Sardis Baptist Church is calling all melodious souls to come together and make a joyful noise! Whether you’re a seasoned singer or just love to hum along, there’s a place for you in our choir. No experience needed—just bring your enthusiasm and love for music. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, August 7th at 7:30 PM. Our choir is more than a music group—they are a fellowship group too! For more information, contact Hilary McIntyre, Minister of Music: SardisHilary@yahoo.com.

Sardis People: Susan Phillips



"I've been searchin', searchin' every which a'way," the Coasters sang several decades ago. The Pastor Search Team, led by Susan Phillips, has been "searchin'" as well! Searching and researching to bring a candidate for pastor to the church. The team has become a search engine, a job made a little different in a world powered by computers from those Coaster days. "We took your visioning suggestions and thoughts and went to work," says Susan.

Susan was on the team ten years ago that found and recommended Sardis's last pastor, Rev. Bob Stillerman. Before becoming a member of Sardis, she was herself a minister. A minister to children in a Charlotte church, she was also an associational and state leader in children's work, often leading workshops for other children's ministers. Since coming to Sardis, she has volunteered time, energy and expertise to our children and preschool programs among other contributions, which currently include the Worship Development Team.

The Worship Development Team collaborates with staff to create ideas for presenting and enhancing worship. In addition to sharing thought-provoking and inventive ideas with the team, she is the creative genius behind our worship displays which are designed to bring attention to how our theology applies to our culture (consider the Native American display for July), accentuate messages (salt, light, and a bushel basket for the well known passage in Matthew), or to honor important events in the lives of Sardis people (see the display for Jonathan's retirement, pictured on the back page).

Other members of the Pastor Search Team include Becky Proctor, who has communicated with prospects; Amy Wiebke, who has corralled ideas from team members into cohesive documents needed for the process; Shannon Roberts, who has kept records of team meetings; Jim Owen and Luther Fisher, who have added their own areas of expertise in finance and investigation; and Tillie Duncan, staff liaison.

"Gonna find her," sang the Coasters, intent on meeting their goal. The Pastor Search Team is positive about finding a candidate who is a good fit for Sardis. "We search for a leader/pastor to walk with us into the future. It is a daunting task but our faithful, insightful team has had productive inspiring work! That work will be culminating soon [and is being accomplished] by deep discernment and prayer," says Susan, intent on finding him/her.

Prayers of the Sardis People

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 traveling mercies for Sardis friends on the move:

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

We pray for God's peace and wellbeing for Sardis friends:

- Dale Akers, friend of the Phillips • Clemmer Allison, friend of Alcie Kreutzer • Kyra Ballentine, friend of Hilary McIntyre • Robin Bennett, friend of David Kreutzer • Melissa Bowlin • Richard & Betty Bowlin, uncle & aunt of Melissa • Maria Byrd • Dee Christman, sister of Shannon Duncan • 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 • Rachael Duvall, friend of Susan & Tillie • Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's mother • Lena Gillebo, sister of Irena Hramenkova • Mildred Gragg, mother of Billie Hutchison • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn Kreutzer • Jen Kaminska, friend of Kreutzer family • Clark Kearns, father of Hilary McIntyre • Madison Kreutzer
 - Robert Marshall, grandson of Janette Grassi
 - Pete McSwain, brother-in-law of Tillie Duncan
 - Tim Moore • Vadim Pateshkin and family, relative of Billie Hutchison • 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 • Bill Sholin • John Simpson • Ken Smith, friend of the Kreutzer's • Vanessa Wieland, cousin of Jonathan Eidson • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark & Amy • Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

Thought you
might need a little
pick-me-up
today so I prayed
for you.





The language we use to describe music is often used to describe other aspects of life as well. Think of something being described as a “prelude” to something else, or making “overtures” to someone as a lead-in to a relationship. Well, I would like to delve into something that is less commonly known, but just as important.

In daily life, we might talk about the “cadence” of someone’s voice, the ups and downs that help us understand the meaning behind their words. Music has the exact same thing. A cadence in musical terms is a progression of chords at the end of a section that leads us to understand whether the work is complete or if there is still more to come.

When you hear the first phrase of “Happy Birthday to you,” you can almost hear that comma wanting you to move on to the next “Happy Birthday to you!” These are both examples of musical cadences. The first is called a half cadence or imperfect cadence – it is incomplete; the second is a perfect cadence– it feels finished.

There are two other types as well: a deceptive cadence tries to trick you into thinking you’re heading for a perfect cadence but surprises you with a sad, minor turn; and perhaps the most useful for our purpose, the plagal or Church cadence is one we sing every Sunday – it is literally the extra “Amen” at the end of Old hymns, including the Doxology.

So when you are listening to your favorite songs, try to pick out those spots where the verse is leading to the chorus and see if you can pick out the cadence the musicians are using. Are they leading you where you expect them to? Are they trying to surprise you with something unexpected? Often the lyrics will work alongside cadences to tell you where the song is headed. Enjoy!

~ Hilary McIntyre, Minister of Music

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

~ Rev. Jonathan Eidson ~

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. ~ Luke 6:38

If you’d like to follow the pattern from my latest Spiritual Direction session, read the passage above and afterwards have a five-minute period of silence to consider what the passage is saying to you. If necessary, read it several times to yourself before pondering what it means to you.

As I pondered, one thing that stood out to me was the use of the word, “give” instead of the word we expect to find, “ask.” We usually read, “Ask and it shall be given to you.” My director called it a “generous verse.”

As I write my final signposts article, the word ‘give’ is inspiring me. It is my hope that I have been generous to all of you and fulfilled the call you extended to me 11 years ago. Our parting brings me sorrow, but I have reminisced with many of you about our journey together.

You all know by now that I love to laugh and find humor in so many different places and situations. Sometimes, I think I fainted at the end of a service because God has a sense of humor too and thought it would be funny. Do you remember when I was talking about the window during the symbols of our faith but accidentally said “windur?”

Remembering our journey makes me smile because it brings to mind the many, many times we have chuckled together, belly laughed together and even laughed until we cried. I believe good-natured laughter is a part of the abundant life Jesus promises.

When I reflect upon, “Give and it will be given to you,” I think about the smiles we’ve offered and returned to one another, the uplifting stories we’ve shared with one another, the hugs we’ve exchanged and the encouraging pats on the back we’ve given and received in support of each other.

Sardis has been home for me. I must have been giving because the remainder of the verse from Luke 6:38 rings true to me: “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” I have received the generous love, support, friendship and acceptance that displays the best of Christian community at Sardis and will remember our season together with gratitude, always.





CELEBRATING
J SWIZZ



Happy Retirement! Sunday, July 28th, 2024



MARY MAGDALENE

During the month of August, Rev. Tillie Duncan will lead the Sunday Study Group in a series of discussions about Mary Magdalene. Recent forensic and scholarly research on ancient texts from New Testament expert, Elizabeth Schrader Polczer, indicates that our Biblical texts were altered to suppress her importance to the budding Christian faith when it was being formed. For two thousand years, the story has been filtered through a lens that minimizes Mary's significance as a disciple.

We'll use articles and sermons from Diana Butler Bass as inspiration for our discussion. Specific details will be shared in our weekly email update, Sardis Happenings. For an overview of Polczer's research, read "Mary the Tower" on The Cottage (substack site for DBB): dianabutlerbass.substack.com/p/mary-the-tower

Everyone is welcome in the Study Group. We meet at 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings in the large classroom of the Education Building.



AUGUST Dates to Remember

8/4 @ 12:00 PM

Church Conference

Stay after worship for an update from the Pastor Search Team and a Ministry Plan presentation from the Board of Trustees.

8/7 @ 7:30 PM

Sardis Choir Rehearsals Resume

Make a joyful noise with Sardis friends!

8/11 @ 4:00 PM

Charlotte Pride Interfaith Service

Gather for worship to hear speakers from different faith traditions and music from the Sacred Souls Community Choir:
2127 Eastway Drive, Charlotte.

8/18 @ 11:00 AM

Communion Brunch

Worship with friends, food, and fellowship around God's open table, remembering that conversation and community are authentic forms of worship.