

# 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 @ 9:45 AM  
Small Groups

Sunday @ 11:00 AM  
Morning Worship



## HOLY WEEK AT SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH

### **PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP: April 13th @ 11:00 AM**

We'll 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 17th @ 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 18th @ Noon**

Sardis Baptist, Sardis Presbyterian and St. Stephen UMC will partner for the annual community Good Friday worship service. Congregants will gather at noon in the labyrinth of Sardis Baptist Church. The outdoor worship experience will begin with a brief gathering in the round, followed by an invitation to visit seven stations of reflection. Each station will feature a unique piece of artwork, as well as self-guided devotion. For those unable to attend or walk the stations, email the church for materials to participate virtually.

### **SARDIS BAPTIST SUNRISE SERVICE: April 20th @ 6:30 AM**

Join us in the Sardis Baptist prayer garden on Easter morning at 6:30 AM for sunrise worship. This simple service of prayer, song, and scripture is a beautiful way to begin the Easter season.

### **EASTER BREAKFAST: April 20th @ 7:30 AM**

Worship often occurs around the table! Join Sardis friends at the Original Pancake House (4736 Sharon Road) for breakfast on Easter morning at 7:30 AM.

### **EASTER MORNING WORSHIP: April 20th @ 11:00 AM**

Sardis will host a celebratory Easter service in our sanctuary at 11 AM.



## GreenFaith @ Sardis

As the April blossoms unfold around the Sardis campus, we are reminded of the vibrant tapestry of life! This is Earth month, and April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be recognized around the world as a day to reflect on our relationship with the environment and commit to its preservation. Earth Day encourages us 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.

One way that Sardis friends will recognize Earth Day this year is with a special presentation by one of our ministry partners: GreenFaith, an international organization whose mission is to create communities that transform individuals, spiritual institutions, and society in ways that protect the planet and create a compassionate, loving, and just world. Amy Brooks Paradise, overseer of GreenFaith US, will join Sardis friends on Wednesday, April 30th for a conversation about GreenFaith and what we can do to help achieve their mission. Please join us for a delicious (and earth-friendly) dinner at 5:45 PM, followed by Amy's presentation at 6:30 PM.

## CHRIS' CORNER

Spring is here! If you are like me, you have already been itching to get outside and do more in the yard, the garden, or simply be outside in some safe space. If you did not already know, Amanda and I enjoy keeping a garden and we involve the kids as much as their interest allows. Amanda and I have kept some kind of garden since we were married and have had mid-dling success. We enjoy growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers – it is important to feed the bees and other pollinators who help to feed us after all. We have already started several seeds which we will allow to sprout before transferring them to our garden. It is an exciting time at the Hensley yard.

We do this less to sustain ourselves, because we do not have enough dedicated garden space to do that, and more to teach ourselves and our children the importance of our interconnectedness to the land. Further, gardening is great “dirty” therapy. There is something life-giving and therapeutic about plunging your hands into the clay and soil and then to nourish your body from both your work and the work of the land.

I invite you, as the seasons change, to try on some self-guided “dirty” therapy – or some other therapy – and refresh yourself. Life is busy and hard and taking care of yourself is important, and often overlooked. Take advantage of the Spring weather and reap the benefits of the created world which God has given to us by rejuvenating yourself.

~ Rev. Dr. Chris Hensley



### Sardis People:

## Sandee Landsburg

A Wordle aficionado, Sandee Landsburg begins her days with a Wordle puzzle. A New York Times game, Wordle gives a player six chances to guess a five-letter word with no clues given as to what the word of the day is. She also occasionally enjoys solving the Times crossword puzzle.



Language has been a large part of Sandee's life as her double undergraduate major was in speech (public speaking) and math. Math, of course, like language, has structure and tells a kind of story. Her degree is from Albion College, a private liberal arts college in Albion, Michigan. She earned a master's degree in computer science (another kind of language, built largely on math) from the University of Arizona. Sandee used her communicating skills to teach math and computer science, educating students from the level of junior high school to that of college freshmen.

She created HIPPO (Hearing Impaired People and Parents Organization), a support group for parents with a deaf child. In addition to supporting families, the organization did service training in schools to help inform teachers who may have had a deaf child in their classroom.

Sandee grew up in Michigan with one brother and two sisters. There was a short exception of two years when her family lived in New York. She took piano lessons as a child and was accomplished enough to accompany her junior high school choir. She was invited to play in a regional recital consisting of duets by two students not formerly acquainted with each other until they met to prepare. Imagine the grandeur of 12 grand pianos on the same stage!

Married to David, Sandee met him at Albion College where he persuaded her to join the debate team. They have two daughters and three grandchildren and divide their time between North Carolina and Arizona. One of their daughters lives in Charlotte; the other, in Tucson.

~ Rev. Tillie Duncan



JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER HONORING

*George Henkel-Lewis*

SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH AT 9:30 AM  
SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH EDUCATION BUILDING

Registered at <https://my.babylist.com/axbpjmcfc>

Baby George will have plenty of gear and gifts passed down from big brother Phillip, but some essentials are listed on their registry. At the top of their wish list are diapers from Costco (and gift cards for diapers in the future).





# **TAIZE MUSIC**

Throughout this season of Lent, we are making a conscious effort to add moments of silence and reflection into our Sunday Worship. With that in mind, we have replaced our usual refrain of “Halle, Halle, Halle” with choruses from the Taizé tradition – an intentional, ecumenical monastery in Eastern France that was founded in the 1940s and focuses heavily on their particular musical mode of prayer and meditation. If you have been coming to Sardis for a while, you may remember the Taizé services we used to hold. Taizé is known for, and purposefully writes chants that are simple, highly repetitive, and translatable into whatever language the singer is most familiar with. This allows more people to participate musically than might be able to in standard church services.

Songs in the Taizé tradition are deceptively simple – there is typically only one melody line singing short verses that are either explicitly or closely related to Biblical texts. But the beauty of Taizé is that you can take this uncomplicated vocal line and dress it up in any way you see fit. There are written instrumental parts for piano, violin, viola, cello/bass, flute, trumpet, and guitar, there are optional vocal harmonies, descants, and counter-melodies. Within the single vocal melody, there is also the option to layer the pieces into canons or rounds. A canon or a round is a style of song where there are multiple small groups of singers; one group will start singing a melody and when they get to a specified word or part of their line, another group starts the melody over, adding a layer under the initial iteration. The two groups continue their melodies, offset by a set number of beats, and then a third group might join at the specified spot, and a fourth, and so-on for as many rounds as you would like or have people to create. This style of singing is sometimes used as a musical game, often with the songs “Row Your Boat” or “Frère Jacques.”

But the true heart of Taizé is in creative improvisation. The chants are meant to be repeated over and over, until the song takes on a life of its own and ceases to be a musical act, but a prayerful, meditative one where you can engage with others and with the divine on a deeper level. We may not be repeating these choruses very many times on a given Sunday, but in singing the same text week after week, we are hopefully moving toward a place where the songs are familiar enough that we can start to transcend the basic act of singing them into a place where they become Spiritual rather than purely physical. In the coming weeks, pay close attention to how these refrains feel to you, are you becoming more familiar with them? Do you wish we had more time to learn them before we jumped into singing them? Do you not enjoy this style of music at all? All thoughts and feelings are valid, but observing them is part of the process.

~ Rev. Hilary Kearns McIntyre

## **BY NIGHT, De Noche Iremos**

*By night we hasten, in darkness, to seek for the living water,  
only our thirst lights us onwards, only our thirst lights us onwards.*

## **IN GOD ALONE, Mon Âme se Repose**

*In God alone my soul can find rest and peace,  
in God my peace and joy.  
Only in God my soul can find its rest,  
find its rest and peace.*

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*Please join your prayers with ours,  
remembering the following Sardis friends:*

- Clemmer Allison, friend of Alcie Kreutzer
- Melissa Bowlin, Sardis Baptist Church • Richard (Nick) Bowlin, uncle of Melissa • Maria Byrd, Sardis Baptist Church • Murphy Clark, relative of Robin Rowland • Tyler Criss, Sardis Baptist Church • Tracey Danley, friend of Sarah Criss • Betsy Cadle DePaul, Sardis Baptist Church • Rachael Duwall, friend of Susan & Tillie
- Amelia Eidson, Jonathan's mother • David Faircloth, extended family of the Phillips • Jeff Friar, friend of Mark Wiebke • Melissa Galloway, friend of Luther Fisher • Mary Moon Guerrant, mother of Kathryn K. • Jenna Hardister, friend of Hilary McIntyre • Ken Henderson, friend of Jim Owen • The Henkel-Lewis Family (George) • Dave Kreutzer, father of David Kreutzer • Robert Marshall, grandson of Janette Grassi • Barbara Mosley, Sardis Baptist Church • Barbara Newman, mother of Kris Hawkins • Rex and Yvonne Nordeen, cousins of Tillie
- Vadim Pateshkin and Family, relatives of Billie Hutchison • Rachel Phipps and Family, friends of Betty Gunz • Pam Poston, Sardis Baptist Church • Bob Rowland, Robin's father • John Simpson, Sardis Baptist Church • Jackson Stewart, grandson of Kristin Parker
- Amy Stirens, friend of Hilary McIntyre • Wanda Stitt, Sardis friend from Hope Chapel • Vanessa Wieland, cousin of Jonathan Eidson • Katie Wiebke, daughter of Mark and Amy • Hannah Willard, cousin of Hilary McIntyre
- Kelly Wise, friend of Melissa Bowlin

*We pray for those who continue to suffer  
from the results of natural disasters,  
including Hurricane Helene,  
recent wildfires, and earthquakes.*

*We pray for our country, for our world,  
and for the divisions that cause conflict.*

*May we seek God's peaceful kin-dom  
and do the work necessary to make it so.*



Gleaning the Wheat Field



Report from W-SBC TV Reporters:  
What's Going On At Sardis?



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AT SARDIS BAPTIST

~ AN UPDATE FROM SUSAN PHILLIPS ~

Sunday School can be many things at Sardis. For children since October, Sunday School has been a space to share about their week, to hear what's on their minds, and even to share their favorite "stuffies"!

They explored what ADVENT is and practiced swaddling cloths for a dark skinned baby doll. (They said we shouldn't use the fair skinned doll since Jesus was darker than that!) They learned what worship involves by using the worship guide and moving around the sanctuary. They discovered the baptistry, seeing the view from the choir loft and pulpit (Daniel lifted Eve to see), and sang "Halle, Halle, Halle". Each week they notice the communion table worship display (no prompting). They ask questions and share their amazing interpretations of those visual prompts to worship.

Other weeks we highlighted Hebrew Bible and Christian Testament characters: Moses, Daniel, Ruth and Timothy, (many more to come later).

That study included gleaning real grain from around the sanctuary "field", talk of using river pitch to waterproof a basket, good food choices, and how a young man weak from illness could learn from family and become a leader.

The month of March we created W-SBC TV Station. Reporters/photographers, Daniel and Eve, interviewed members around campus, microphone in hand.

Our goal was to discover what CHURCH is all about. "What do you like about Sardis?" "What does church mean to you?"

"What do you do at church?" TV interviews were a follow-up to their first Sundays here as they knocked on doors and delightfully asked "What's going on at Sardis?"

