New Outlook
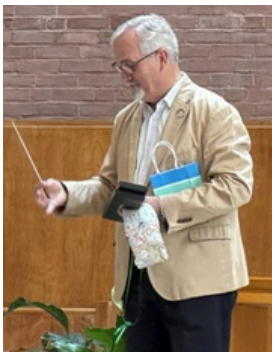


November 2026

Second Baptist Church

Open and progressive since 1833

Honoring Brad and Marilyn Short





During the service Linda Marks presented Marilyn with a necklace with a treble clef on it and Brad a baton.





Rick Hoyt and Kara Windler gave tributes.



Brad and Marilyn were presented with a mural signed by church members.

Marilyn Short has been Second Baptist's music director and church organist for 25 years, and Brad has been the choir director for 20 years.

They choose the hymns for each service, coordinating the hymns with the sermon. Each week Marilyn plays a prelude, an interlude, an offertory, and a postlude, as well as providing the accompaniment for congregational hymns and the choir anthem.

Brad directs the choir. He also initiated a Second Sunday choir for people who can't attend weekly evening practices. They practice after church and sing monthly.

In addition to directing the choir and providing the music for the worship services, Brad and Marilyn provide music for weddings, funerals, and other special events. Marilyn gets a workout every Sunday as she moves between the organ upstairs and the piano downstairs.

Cindy Collins created a little ditty sung (and shouted) by the choir:

In a speaking and robust voice say: Brad and Marilyn!!!

(Now, singing)
We love you, and want to honor you
We're blessed, to have you lead us
And to share your talents too

(Shout speaking)
Brad and Marilyn!!!

(Back to singing)
Your music
has inspired so many of us
We want to take this moment
To say thanks and make a fuss

We really want to thank you
from one and all of us!!!

From Kara Windler: *

Marilyn and Brad have dedicated themselves to making the resources we have on hand shine as brightly as possible: whether the choir roster is robust or slim, fostering a nurturing environment for budding musicians young and old, and allowing this space the chance to realize its acoustic brilliance.

Marilyn and Brad, you have served through good times and bad, health and sickness, weddings and funerals, the Good Friday tornado warning, two settled pastors, two seasons of interims, and many other changes.

You have filled this space with music and been faithful stewards of the resources you've had at hand. You've encouraged folks to use their talents and gently pushed them to be better. You've done it with love, and humor, with professionalism and grace. This church is better for having you in it. Thank you for all you do!

From Steve Mechem as part of his sermon:

Thank you for your spirit, your talent, your energy. Thank you for your penchant to explore diverse styles and expressions. Thank you for your commitment, your insight, your sense of humor, your inclusivity. Thank you for your willingness to go a second mile, for your wisdom, your patience, your grace. Thank you for your kindness, your joy, your spontaneity, your openness, for your ability to improvise. Most importantly, thank you for your friendship.

From Rick Hoyt: *

Music is communication through translation – translation of what is on the printed page, translation of the emotion of a moment, translation of what is experienced, translation of what is felt.

We are so very fortunate and grateful to Marilyn and Brad for their talents and their dedication to communicating in this way through music. As this congregation rightly understood some 20 years ago, to express emotions through music requires that it be done by those who are talented and dedicated – Marilyn and Brad each week, you have moved us with music to understand faith, love, and hope in ways that we can't explain. For this, and for you we are so very thankful.



Thank you so much to the entire church for a beautiful Appreciation Sunday in our honor on October 11. The remarks, gifts, fun choir moment, and lavish coffee time made the whole day very special for us. We really treasure your friendship, encouragement, and support.
- Brad and Marilyn

* These are snippets from longer tributes. You can find the complete tributes by going to Second Baptist's website (https://2ndbc.org/), click "Services" and then click on the October 11 service. Go to the 38 minute mark for Kara and 52 minute mark for Rick.



Worship service Sundays at 10:30 a.m. In person or live on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/155120191289/live/ or later at 2ndbc.org/services.

A service in the Karen Language is held in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday worship service.

There will be a **business meeting** after church on **November 1** to vote on hiring a part-time facilities manager.

The **Sanctuary Choir** will rehearse at 8:45 a.m. on **November 1, 22, and 29.** They will rehearse **November 5** at 7:00 p.m., and on **November 12, 19, and 24** at 6:30 p.m.

Second Sunday Choir will rehearse after church on **November 1, 22, and 29.** They will rehearse at 10:10 a.m. on **November 8** and then sing in worship.

Chair Yoga will be offered in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, **November 3.**
Bring a sack lunch if you'd like to stay and eat with others.

The Grief Group will meet after church on Sunday, **November 8**.

The **Faith Support Group** will meet on Zoom Monday, **November 9**, at 7:00 p.m. to support each other and discuss spiritual readings supplied by members of the group. All are welcome. The link is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521781156. Passcode: faith. Contact Brooke Justis for more information.

The Book Group will meet in the Community Room Tuesday, **November 10**, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Keeper of Lost Children*, by Sadeqa Johnson. Gloria Barbre will lead the discussion.

The Next Steps Group will meet Thursday, **November 12**, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Men's Breakfast is Saturday, **November 14,** at 8:00 a.m. It will be a video presentation on "Separation of Church and State."

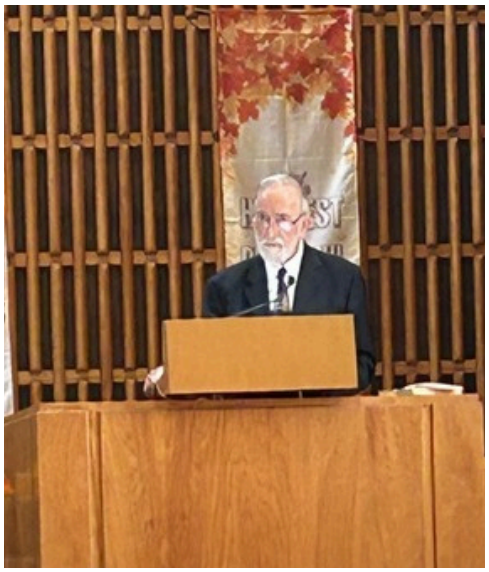
Sunday, **November 15**, we will join Dayspring and Antioch Baptist Churches for a worship service and lunch at Antioch Baptist.

The Treat Yourself Tuesday Group will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, **November 17**, at Maggiano Restaurant, 2 The Boulevard St. Louis, Richmond Heights. (The Boulevard is across from the Galleria.) Please sign up at the Welcome Center in the narthex or let Linda Marks know if you plan to come.

The deadline for contributions to the December issue of the New Outlook is Friday, **November 20.**

Game Day is Tuesday, **November 24**. Bring a sack lunch and join friends at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Room for table games.

Jerry Keeney book signing



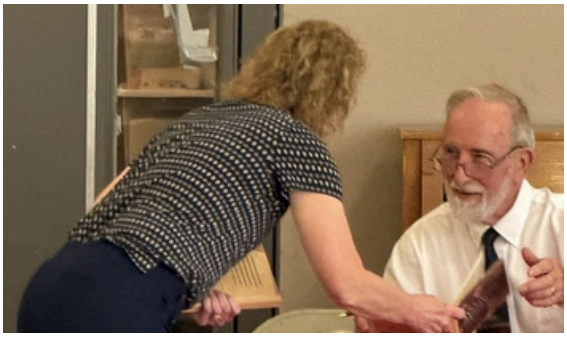
"Let Wisdom Speak" came about through several surprising discoveries in an unanticipated trove of family memorabilia entrusted to me in 2019. First, a ledger book that turned out to contain not numerical records of financial accounting, but instead, a spiritual accounting for a life in thirty-nine original and artful poems. Second surprise: the poems' author is my pioneer great-great grandfather, Job Harman, who migrated from Virginia to Missouri in 1859.

The third surprise was the first photo of Job I'd ever seen, and it felt like I was peering into a slightly faded 120-year-old portrait of . . . myself! Same eyes, same beard, same straight nose. I felt an instantaneous confirmation of kinship so intense that it ignited a spirit of communion rather than mere kinship.

The stunning title of the ledger's first poem was more shock than surprise: "Lula Harman Driven into Insanity." The poem's opening lines drew me instantly into a father's anguishing struggle with the descent of his youngest child into mental illness. Opening lines of the poem read like this –



Where is our Lula gone
Who was so bright and gay
What evil powers
Have driven her away
. . . . . .
Doomed to a prison life
With Strangers all around
In the "Asylum"
Our poor Lula is found



Job inscribed forty-four more lines to unfold Lula's tragic story. She spent her entire adult life in Farmington's State Hospital #4. Lines from one of Job's nature poems yields a balancing balm:

Joys of Solitude
Oh for a stroll in the lovely wood
A ramble across the hills and dales
A taste of the joys of Solitude
A breath of the fresh autumnal gales



The book's title poem, **Let Wisdom Speak**, begins like this:
Let wisdom speak she is a guide
Through all the varied scenes of life
Be still ambition, passion, pride
Be still contention war and strife
Be still and listen to her voice
Which teaches us the living way

It turns out that our Creator has planted Wisdom in the structure of things as the shared heritage of being human, including in a simple pioneer farmer. Here are some titles that suggest the range of topics in these poems –

Jesse Harman (aged 21) Killed While Out Playing Christmas Tricks
The Pistol
Lights of the World (possibly about Abraham Lincoln)
The Drifting Boy (a self-portrait?)
I Write of My Two Brothers (killed in the Civil War)
The Old Deer Lick
Mowing in My Father's Meadow
The Trains of Time
December 1894
The Wood Chopper
Killed for a Turkey
After Heavy Shower in June, Do You See
Rise in the Early Morning



I'd like to thank our church family from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful book signing event on Sunday, October 25, and especially my Keeney and Gurley family who provided the classy and tasty luncheon, plus Linda and Joy for publicity and program order. Eric's poems-to-songs added a special touch. May we all let Wisdom's wellsprings flow fresh and free within us and through us for the blessing of our lives, our families, our congregation, and our world.

- Gratefully, Jerry Keeney

To order the book, go here: https://store.bookbaby.com/book/let-wisdom-speak

November reflections

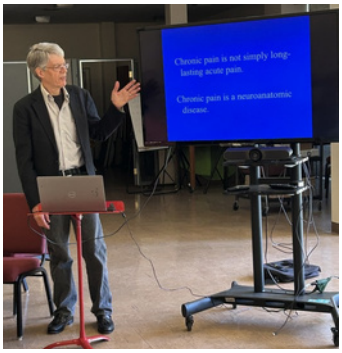
November 1	Great American Novel	1 Peter 2:11-12
November 8	God's Eye	Revelation 3:12-17
November 15	Combined service with Antioch	
November 22	You Need to Calm Down	Matthew 11:28-30
November 29	Kara Preaching	

Helping our neighbors

We are again helping Antioch provide Thanksgiving food baskets for needy families in north St. Louis. As in the past couple of years, we can best help by providing financial resources for Antioch to purchase food. This will be a difficult year, since more families are in need, and a number of Antioch's funding grants have been reduced or eliminated. If you can contribute, please provide your check or cash donation by Sunday, November 8, with a notation of "Antioch Thanksgiving".

We will also help assemble the food baskets at Antioch on Friday, November 20. Please let Larry Marks know if you would like to help in this activity.

Men's breakfast: Learning about pain



A total of 18 men and women gathered for Dr. Bob Swarm's presentation on pain management for the first of the new season of Men's Breakfasts. Bob recently retired as the Division Chief of Pain Management in Washington University's Department of Anesthesiology and as Director of the Pain Management Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. It was an informative presentation with many, many questions from the audience. We learned what pain is and that it has both physical and emotional components.

Guests and members from both Second and Dayspring were present. Thanks to Rick Hoyt, Joy, Allen, and Gloria for cooking, Pastor San for setting up tables and chairs, and Jerry for the table blessing and dismissal.

Next month's topic is slated to be a video presentation on "Separation of Church and State." Mark it on your calendar. It's the second week in November. As always, first timers are free, with a $10.00 suggested donation for regulars. Ron Barbre

Youth car wash







Treat yourself Tuesday goes to Grant's Farm







On Friday, October 2, a group of ten church friends enjoyed a fun visit to Grant's Farm. We rode the tram through the animal reserve and saw bison, elk, ostriches, long horn steers, deer, and many birds. After the tram ride we saw a cute animal show, and some rode the merry-go-round. Then we walked to the Beer Garden for a very German style lunch. Fun was had by all.

From our pastor...

Hey everybody,

The world lost one of the good ones in August. Farmer, poet, essayist, environmental advocate and cultural critic Wendell Berry passed away at the age of 92. Berry has been writing about the world, nature, and common sense since the 1960's.

My favorite poems that Wendell Berry wrote were the ones he labeled Sabbath Poems. These addressed the world in which we live with an understanding that things could be different.

While I don't know of a specific Thanksgiving poem that Wendell wrote, the poem I am about to share is one of his Sabbath Poems. The poem addresses the world as we find it at the end of November - trees without leaves, grasses dormant, and flowers and the critters that use them on vacation. And the poem promises that things will change.

Enjoy:

Now comes the overflow
not to be imagined but in time,
in season, in presence. This is
the splurge of beauty, transcending
every need we know. In her
greater knowing, great dame Nature
has called them, and they come,
the flowers in their thousands
under the still-bare trees, over
the dead leaves rising, moving
lightly as the air moves:
twinleaf, bloodroot, anemone,
violets purple and yellow and white,
bellwart. And the bluebells, whose perfume
cannot be recalled until
they are called back again. Who
would refuse this joy, this gift,
because in time it cannot last?

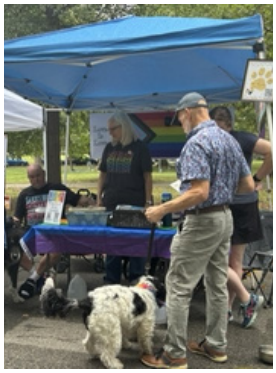
Happy Thanksgiving.
Let's take care of each other,
Steve (he, him, his)

Tower Grove Pride

September 26-27, 2026











Over the weekend at Pride, we encountered literally thousands of people, offering a homemade cookie, a sweet love note, and the opportunity for conversation.

Second Baptist Church of Greater St. Louis

An American Baptist Church
9030 Clayton Road at McKnight
St. Louis, Missouri 63117-1094

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School for all ages at 9:15 a.m.
Worship service 10:30 a.m.
Worship in the Karen Language 11:30 a.m.

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Website: www.2ndbc.org
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Mary Shepardson, Newsletter editor

Trunk or Treat





