

New Outlook

October
2026

Second Baptist Church

Open and progressive since 1833



It's October!

Every October we offer two special events for our congregation and our community. Bring your pet to the yard by the upper parking lot for a blessing by our pastor on October 3. And bring your kids and grandkids for treats and fellowship on October 25.

We need cars from which candy will be dispensed, and we need a whole lot of candy. A collection box for candy will be placed in the narthex. Sign up in the narthex if you can provide a car for dispensing the candy.



A flyer for a Pet Blessing event. It features a QR code in the top left corner. In the center, there are four yellow circles, each containing a black and white line drawing of a different pet: a bird, a cat, a rabbit, and a dog. To the right of these circles is a black paw print with the word "LOVE" written in a stylized font. Below the circles, the text reads: "You're Invited to a Pet Blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assisi". Below this, it says "Second Baptist Church" and "9030 Clayton Road, St. Louis Mo 63117". The date and time are "Saturday, October 3, 2026" and "1:00 p.m.". At the bottom right, there is a small yellow circle with the text: "Please make sure all pets are up to date on required vaccines and properly crated and leashed." The entire flyer is decorated with small black star-like symbols along the top and bottom edges.

You're Invited to a
Pet Blessing
in honor of St. Francis
of Assisi

Second Baptist Church
9030 Clayton Road, St. Louis Mo 63117
Saturday, October 3, 2026
1:00 p.m.

Please make sure all
pets are up to date
on required vaccines
and properly crated
and leashed.



A flyer for a Trunk or Treat event. It features a QR code in the top left corner. In the top right, it says "YOU'RE INVITED". The main title "TRUNK OR TREAT" is written in large, bold, orange letters with a black outline. Below this, it says "SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH" and "9030 CLAYTON ROAD ST. LOUIS, MO 63117". The date and time are "SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25" and "4:00 - 6:00 P.M.". The flyer is decorated with various Halloween-themed illustrations, including a spider on a web in the top left, a jack-o'-lantern in the bottom right, and several pieces of candy and lollipops scattered around the bottom and right sides. The background is white with small black star-like symbols.

YOU'RE INVITED

**TRUNK
OR TREAT**

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
9030 CLAYTON ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63117

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

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 Fellowship Hall after the Sunday worship service.

Pet Blessing will be Saturday, **October 3**, at 1:00 p.m. in the upper parking lot.

The **Saint Louis Chamber Chorus** will present a concert entitled "A Consuming Fire" at our church on Sunday, **October 4** at 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$40 for general admission and \$10 for students.

The Grief Group will meet after church on Sundays, **October 4 and 18**.

The Next Steps Group will meet Thursdays, **October 1, 15, 29**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

Chair Yoga will be offered in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, **October 6**. Bring a sack lunch if you'd like to stay and eat with others.

The Sanctuary Choir practices every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. and at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Bob Swarm will speak on pain management at the first program for the new season of **Men's Breakfasts** on Saturday, **October 10**, at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome. The suggested offering is \$10.00.

Celebrating Brad and Marilyn Short at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, October 11. See p. 7 for more details about the Shorts' music ministry at Second Baptist.

The Faith Support Group will meet on Zoom Monday, **October 12**, 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, **October 13**, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *The Kitchen Front*, by Jennifer Ryan. Marilyn Short will lead the discussion.

The **Treat Yourself Tuesday Group** will meet for lunch at 11:30 on Tuesday, **October 20**, at The Main House in St. Charles, 500 Main Street. 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 November issue of the *New Outlook* is Tuesday, **October 20**.

A book signing for Jerry Keeney's book, "Let Wisdom Speak: A Pioneer and His Poems" will be held on October 25 after the worship service. See the next page for details.

Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, **October 25**, from 4-6 p.m. See p. 1 for details.

Game Day is Tuesday, **October 27**. Bring a sack lunch and join friends at 11:00 in the Community Room for table games.



Dr. Bob Swarm to Speak at Men's Breakfast

The first Men's Breakfast of the year will feature Dr. Bob Swarm speaking on "What is Pain and How Can It Be Managed?" on Saturday, October 10, at 8:00 a.m.

Bob was the Director of the Pain Management Center at Washington University School of Medicine. He has recently retired.

Book Signing by Author Jerry Keeney

Second Baptist will host a book signing event on October 25 following worship featuring Jerry's recently released book *Let Wisdom Speak – A Pioneer and His Poems: Job Harman, 1837-1919*. The reception-style fellowship event will be held in Fellowship Hall with brief remarks, refreshments, and a signing opportunity. Books will be available on site.

Jerry Keeney is Second Baptist's Pastor Emeritus.



*Game Day on September 22
Bring a sandwich and join us the 4th
Tuesday of every month at 11:00 in the
Community Room.*



The St. Louis Chamber Chorus will present a concert entitled "A Consuming Fire" at Second Baptist on Sunday, October 4, at 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$40 for general admission and \$10 for students.

The Saint Louis Chamber Chorus is a not-for-profit organization committed to presenting the finest *a cappella* choral works, seeking to entertain, educate, and inspire audiences through its unique programs in St. Louis's finest public buildings. Now enjoying its seventieth season, the Chorus has established a reputation as the Midwest's premier *a cappella* ensemble.

More Summer Special Music



A tenor/bass ensemble singing "Like a River in My Soul" on August 30



*Mirian and Carey San sang
"Don't Worry" on September 6*



Happy birthday, Marilyn and Allen!

From the World Missions Team:

October is that time again to remember our special servants around the world. When we give to the World Mission Offering, we are helping supply our International Ministries with the necessary tools to accomplish God's plan. These ministers and missionaries are on the front lines educating the unchurched in the ways of Jesus! Let's continue our generous giving.

An update on our last special offering, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: We had \$800 from the congregation and \$1000 from the Elsie Pyle Fund. Another remarkable total. Thanks from the World Mission Desk.

Rick Rardin, Chair

Launch Sunday September 13, 2026

Launch Sunday began with breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Next came a craft led by Kathryn Nall. Everyone made flowers out of pipe cleaners. Baskets of these flowers will be taken to our homebound members and friends.

Next came introductions to the Sunday School classes. Everyone went to their classes for a brief introduction to the year's program. Then came the worship service followed by lunch and fellowship. It was a great day!



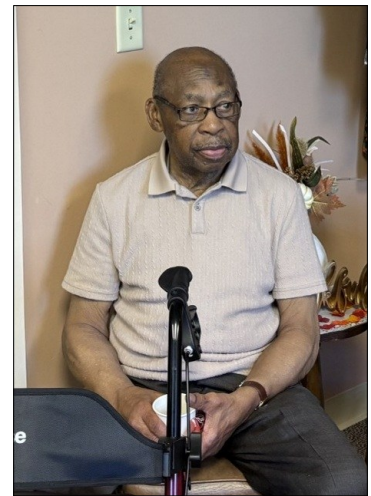
The William Gurley Bible Class, taught by Jerry Keeney, is immersing itself in Isaiah to see how we might access the Holy, as Isaiah did (Chapter 6, for example). The goal is to enhance our practice as agents of the Holy One's healing Grace in a world where systems of human support and nurture seem caught in a debilitating vortex of disorienting moral and spiritual vertigo.

Isaiah was caught in a similar vortex. The lifelong course of his response – confession, repentance, and rededication to God's vision for his human family – culminated in his composing four "Suffering Servant Poems" (found in Isaiah chapters 40-55). Jesus then embraced these as core to his vocation for redeeming the world.

Someone has urged, regarding the plight of the church in our time, that the only way the church can recover and thrive is to undergo an encounter with the Holy similar to Isaiah's.

The Storyteller's Class, led by Steve Mechem, will explore how the modern church became the way it is, often depicting Jesus as more he-man than the Jesus portrayed in Scripture. And why so many people experience churches as toxic and leave them. And why some church leaders preach ideas more closely associated with hate than love. The class will address these issues by studying the book *Jesus and John Wayne*, by Calvin College professor Kristin Kobes Du Mez.

Many thanks to Sarah Southards, our office manager, for hosting an event at the church office so we could meet her and her family. Lots of goodies and conversation! Thank you!



From our pastor. . .

Hey everybody,

I have been most fortunate in my ministry in that I have been blessed with incredible staff members in every church I've served. With very few exceptions, the staff members with whom I worked have not only been coworkers, we have become friends and confidants. They are people who have added value not only to the ministry, but to my life, and I am grateful for each and every one of them.

And I would put Brad Short and Marilyn Short at the very top of the list of incredible staff with whom I have worked.

We are into our 15th year of working together. I share with Brad and Marilyn my themes and my thoughts about worship services and they manage to make everything fit together incredibly well.

Marilyn and Brad have been a part of the membership of Second Baptist Church since 1994. As the Church needed an accompanist (both piano and organ) heading into 1999, Marilyn was recruited to take on that role, even though she had never played the organ in her life. She has been leading worship ever since.

Brad officially became the choir director in 2006 and has led the choir for the last twenty years.

There is so much to be said about Marilyn and Brad's leadership in the area of music in our church, but their influence and leadership go far beyond the realm of music ministry.

Beyond being church staff, both Marilyn and Brad are ideal Church members. They are willing to help with anything and everything. From websites to audio visual tasks to making cookies to visiting to helping folks move to hauling tables to coordinating activities to attending community services to providing transportation. If it needs to be done, Brad and/or Marilyn are always ready to serve.

For me, their friendship means everything. I so appreciate their wise counsel, and I love just shooting the breeze with them. They have been wonderful friends to Judi and me, and we hang out together, not as staff, but as friends. In fact, sometimes when we're together, we make a rule that we won't talk about church stuff.

I cherish their friendship. And I cherish their leadership in this congregation. And because of their skill sets, Second Baptist Church has a music program that would be envied by congregations that are much larger.

We are planning to celebrate Brad and Marilyn and their ministries among us on Sunday, October 11 at 10:30. I hope you can make it; it'll be a fun day.

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.

Telephone: (314) 991-3424

E-mail: office@2ndbc.org

Website: www.2ndbc.org

Office hours 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.- Fri.

Rev. Stephen Mechem, Pastor

stevemechem@gmail.com

Krista Collins, Moderator

Sarah Southards, Office manager