

New Outlook

September
2023

Second Baptist Church

Open and progressive since 1833



Launch Sunday is almost here!

Sunday, September 10, is the day we launch our fall program. We will welcome the choir back to sing in the worship service, and church school classes will start up again. Here's the schedule:

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| 8:30 a.m. | Choir rehearses |
| 9:00 a.m. | Gathering in Fellowship Hall for breakfast |
| 9:20 a.m. | Introduction of classes and an inter-generational activity |
| 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School classes (see next page for descriptions) |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship service |
| 11:45ish | Barbeque luncheon in Fellowship Hall with the assistance of head chef Tim Keeney. You can sign up by filling out the insert in the bulletin, signing up on the poster in the narthex, or calling the church office. Choose a hamburger, hot dog, or brat for your meat, and indicate whether you'd like to bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert. You can also sign up to help with cleanup. |



Pastor Steve presented
Jerry Keeney with
a proclamation
recognizing him as
Second Baptist's
Pastor Emeritus



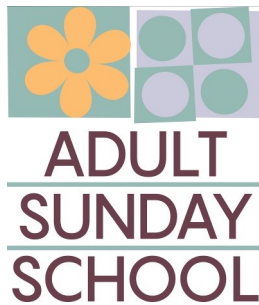


Kids in Grades K-5 will begin the year learning about Creation with their teacher, Melanie Keeney. Later on they will study Jesus's life and possibly his parables. They meet in the classroom across from the upstairs kitchen.

Second Hour continues the activities begun in Sunday School and also includes snacks, games, and playing outside when the weather is nice.

Youth in Grades 6-12 will study the Acts of the Apostles by way of interactive games. They meet in the Youth Room beyond the front of the sanctuary with their teacher, Shari Nelson.

The youth recently completed a fundraising campaign for the St. Louis/St. Charles Crisis Nursery as well as making blankets for the nursery themselves. The cash and donated items have been delivered, and the folks at the nursery were very glad to get them. In October the youth will visit the nursery and play with the kids there. Youth sponsors are Melanie and Tim Keeney.



The last issue to arise in the **William Gurley Bible Class** discussions at the end of the 22/23 program year was this question: Is suffering necessary? The class will begin September 10 with this question, looking in the Bible for what we may be able to discover in answer to it.

Pastor Steve's sermon of August 20 was a masterful interpretive treatment about the healing of the Gerasene demoniac (Mark 5). While the man was healed of his mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering, the pig farmer suffered grievous economic loss. The pigs themselves suffered apparent destruction. The community -- far from feeling "saved" by Jesus's act of healing -- suffered disorienting fear that issued in outrage and the expulsion of the agent of good.

How many forms of suffering can you identify already in this story? You're invited to explore the Bible around the question of suffering, if you don't already have another commitment on Sunday mornings, from 9:15 – 10:15. We meet in the Community Room.

Jerry Keeney

The Living Faith Class focused on "story-telling" last spring. It was so much fun, we decided to keep on thinking about how great stories are told. We will begin the year with the book *Story Telling Animals*, by Jonathan Gattschall. (Thank you, Kara Windler, for bringing it to our attention.)

Beyond discussing the book, we will listen to more stories and practice telling some of our own!!! So Much Fun. We will even play some games, but with this crew you have to be very specific with rules, 'cause they like to bend 'em.

Steve Mechem

Choir rehearsals from 7—8 p.m. on Thursdays and at 8:45 on Sunday mornings

Sunday School for all ages at 9:15 a.m.

Second Sunday Choir will resume practicing right after church on Sunday, September 17. This group will sing in worship for the first time on Sunday, October 8. That morning they will rehearse at 10:10 a.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/sermons.

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

The Book Group will meet in the Community Room on Tuesday, **September 12**, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Haunted St. Louis: History and Hauntings Along the Mississippi*, by Troy Taylor. Jane Mahan and Gloria Barbre will lead.

A memorial service for Betty Briscoe will be held at Second Baptist on Saturday, **September 16**, at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Operation Smile, The St. Louis Area Food Bank, or another charity.

The Social Justice Group will meet via Zoom Tuesday, **September 19**, at 7:00 p.m. Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84904265696?pwd=ajB3czZFaHU3M3ZOWDNCQmRlOSStwQT09> Passcode: justice. See the next page for more information.

The Faith Support Group will meet via Zoom Wednesday, **September 20**, at 6:00 p.m. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521781156>. Passcode: faith. More information about this group is on the next page.

Tower Grove Pride September 23-24. Second Baptist will have a booth. See p. 5 for how you can help.

Looking ahead to October:

We will be honored to have a **special speaker** with us on Sunday, **October 1**. Rev. Dr. Marc Kirchhoff serves as Senior Donor Advisor for International Ministries for the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.

Marc and Pastor Steve go back a long way, as they met during Steve's youth ministry in Rushville, Indiana in 1981.

Marc is engaging and witty and is a life-long Cardinals fan (sigh). You will enjoy meeting him and hearing what he has to say.

Pet Blessing will be Saturday, **October 7** at 1:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, **October 29**, from 4:00—6:00 p.m.

Let's get together!

Join friends at Second Baptist in one or more of our small groups. Daytime, evening, in person, or on Zoom, find a group that's right for you.

Choir

During the program year, the Second Baptist Choir meets most Thursday nights and Sunday mornings for rehearsal. It feels great to join our voices together in song to praise God and provide beauty and inspiration in worship. We have a lot of fun and pride in doing it together as a group, and it feels wonderful to experience the feeling when the whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts. We always end our Thursday night rehearsals by sharing our joys and concerns together in prayer. We are truly a support group as well as a choir. And we are always delighted to have new singers. Come join us! Contact: Marilyn or Brad Short

The Book Group

Love to read? Join your fellow book lovers in the Community Room the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. for a lively discussion. Upcoming books include *Haunted St. Louis: History and Hauntings Along the Mississippi*, by Troy Taylor, on September 12 and *The Good Lord Bird*, by James McBride on October 10. Contact: Jane Mahan

The Faith Support Group meets on Zoom the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 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.

The Social Justice Group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 via Zoom. The passcode is justice, and the link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84904265696?pwd=ajB3czZFaHU3M3ZOWDNCQmRlOSStwQT09>

The group is focusing on promoting systemic social justice change in five areas: Voting rights protection, economic justice, preserving education opportunities, justice for minority communities, and reducing gun violence.

In addition, the group is seeking to partner with other congregations that are interested in addressing social justice issues. Contact: Larry Marks



One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.

Psalm 27:4

Second Baptist to host Tower Grove Pride booth

Tower Grove Pride is upon us.

The event takes place on Saturday and Sunday, September 23 -24. We have had a booth at the event the last couple years and plan to have one there again this year. We are signed up and ready to go.

You can help in several ways:

- 1) Volunteer to help us set up. We set up a tent-thingy and a table and chairs for the Pride event. We have to tear it down on Saturday evening, so things have to be set up twice.
- 2) Volunteer to spend some time at the booth. It is great fun.
- 3) Bake some cookies for us. Last year we passed out over 1,200.
- 4) Write some love notes the next Sunday you are at church.

Again, we passed out over 1,200 last year. The response to the notes was overwhelming.

Steve Mechem



Second Baptist's Pride booth in 2022



There is divine beauty in learning. ... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps.

The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you.

—Elie Wiesel

September reflections

September 3 Disrespected
Mark 6:1-4

September 17 Dreamers
Luke 10:38-42

September 10 Gezellig
Philippians 4:4-5

September 24 Workers
Luke 10:38-42

From our pastor. . .

Hey Everybody,

Do you know the term “sweet spot?”

In sports terminology, there is a spot on the racket strings, on the barrel of the bat, on the head of the driver that is considered the most optimal. It is called the “sweet spot.” When a ball comes into contact with that particular surface, it rebounds in the purest, cleanest, most powerful way.



In business, the “sweet spot” is when circumstances + skill sets intersect in such a way that progress is made (the kind of progress would depend on the business).

In music performance, the point between two speakers where a listener is fully able to hear the audio mix the way it was intended is called the “sweet spot.”

A cafe in St. Charles County that specializes in pastries and desserts is named “Sweet Spot Cafe.” ‘Nuff said.

Dictionary.com defines “sweet spot” as a point, range, or particular set of conditions that will achieve the most desirable or effective outcome.

I believe each of us has a sweet spot. When we are in it, life works well, our eyes are clear, and our minds are productive.

And I believe churches have a sweet spot—a sense of being wherein people work together, worship together, serve together and truly enjoy each other.

What is Second Baptist Church’s sweet spot?

“Finding Our Sweet Spot” is the church theme that we will be introducing on Launch Sunday. We will examine what it means to discover our “sweet spot” in the months ahead as we gather to worship and hang out with each other.

Paul writes in Ephesians 4 that the aim of church life is to create a community wherein “we’re all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God’s Son, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.”

Finding our sweet spot means connecting with God and with each other.

I am super excited for the journey ahead as we “find our sweet spot together.”

Let’s take care of each other, 🤙

Steve (he, him, his)

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 & fax (314) 991-3424

E-mail: office@2ndbc.org

Website: www.2ndbc.org

Rev. Stephen Mechem, Pastor

stevemechem@gmail.com

Richard Heller, Moderator

Backpack Sunday



Each child was given a bag of supplies needed for their grade and school. They chose a backpack to put them in.