

New Outlook

Late January/
February 2024

Second Baptist Church

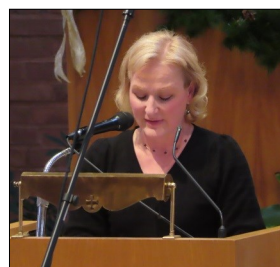
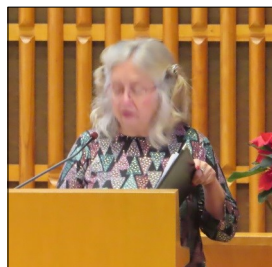
Open and progressive since 1833



Songs and Sonnets 2023



The Poets



Lent begins Wednesday, February 14, with a day of ashes and reflection. We will begin our time together with a light supper at 5:30. After food and fellowship we will have a time of worship in the sanctuary 6:15. The theme for the evening is "Discovery." We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper and share in an ashes ceremony. The festivities will be over in time for the choir to meet at 7:00.

Choir rehearsals from 7—8 p.m. on Thursdays and at 8:45 on Sunday mornings except on Ash Wednesday, when they will meet instead of Thursday that week.

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

Second Sunday Choir normally practices right after church on Sundays, but this month will next rehearse on **January 21** after church and sing on **February 11**, when 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 Church Council will meet Monday, **January 15**, at 6:30 p.m.

Congregational meeting on Sunday, **January 28** after the worship service. A light lunch will be provided.

The Faith Support Group will meet via Zoom Monday, **February 12**, at 6:00 p.m. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521781156>.
Passcode: faith.

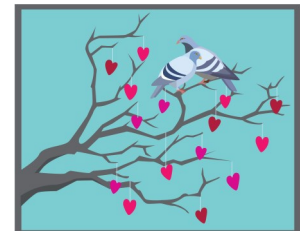
Super Bowl Party at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, **February 11**, at Mike Apple's home. Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert.

The Book Group will meet in the Community Room on Tuesday, **February 13**, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon*, by David Grann. Gloria Barbre will lead the discussion.

JANUARY



FEBRUARY



What does it mean to be a Baptist?

by Ron Barbre

After attending the installation of the Great Rivers Region executive minister and hearing an Indiana's executive minister's sermon here in St. Louis, I went home and wrote the following to give myself a sense of clarity as to what it means to be a Baptist.

Among Christian denominations, Baptists are uniquely autonomous. It's "why" we are Baptists. Every member, man or woman, rich or poor, Black or White can vote. Democracy, among Baptists, is important.

Also central to being a Baptist is the firm belief in "separation of church and state" so that neither entity exploits the other. That is not to say, however, that we believe in the separation of church and democracy. Indeed, it is democracy that "allows" Baptists to be uniquely autonomous.

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What does it mean to be a Baptist? (continued from the previous page)

Furthermore, we are more than Baptists; we are American Baptists for we are “inclusive.” We practice “open” communion. We believe women have a place in the pulpit. We do not prohibit fellow Baptist Churches from being “dually” aligned with other denominations. We are...inclusive.

We are inclusive in other ways. As American Baptists, we are ecumenical: locally, nationally and internationally, joining our fellow Christian brothers and sisters in such progressive programs as “Unity in the Community,” social justice organizations, “One Great Hour of Sharing,” and The World Council of Churches. It is in good conscience that we are inclusive and autonomous Baptists.

Late January and February reflections

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
January 14	Ubuntu	Community	Philippians 2:1-4
January 21	Kradzomai	Confidence	Psalms 3:1-6
January 28	Shalom	Peace	Philippians 1:1-2
February 4	Naz	Love	1 Corinthians 13:1-7
February 11	Pah	Living fully	John 10:7-10
February 18	Welly	Following Jesus	Luke 9:23
February 25	Fika	Chill out	Matthew 15:21-28

Explanation:

Words are verbal symbols that we use to convey concepts. We take pride in our vocabulary and our ability to choose the right word for any given situation. Most of the words we use have corresponding words in other languages. We say “bathroom” in English, “loo” in British English, “baño” in Spanish, “touaeto” in Greek, the “t” sign shaken back and forth a couple of times in American Sign Language.

Some words in some languages, however, are just untranslatable. It is hard to find a corresponding word in English to match them. So we end up describing these untranslatable concepts with story and example.

Our overall sermon theme for 2024 is “Untranslatable.” We are going to look at some fun words in other languages and build our reflections around them. I may be nuts, barmy, loco, trelós, or the index finger moved in a circular motion around the ear, but I think it will be an interesting and fun exploration.

Steve

More Christmas at Second Baptist



Thanks to Lauren and Alara Heller, Steve Comfort, Jeff Hoyt, and Shari Nelson for putting out the luminaries to decorate our church grounds for Christmas. Judy and Steve Comfort put up the rest of the outdoor lights and Christmas decorations.



Lighting the first Advent candle

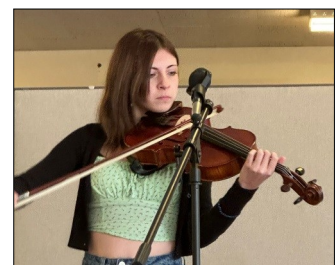
Caroling



The talent show



The kids told us how Christmas is celebrated around the world.



Skits and music



And Santa came!



From our pastor. . .

Hey Everybody,

I have an old (not really that old) green backpack that I carry with me almost everywhere I go. I am sure you have seen it draped over my shoulder at church.

When I am home, the backpack hangs on a hook. And as I am planning to go somewhere, I think through what I need to put into my pack. If I am coming to church, it usually holds my iPads, my phone, a book or two, reading glasses, pens, a notebook, and anything else I might need. If I am traveling, besides some of the things just mentioned, it usually contains clothes, medicines, toiletries, and itinerary notes. If I am taking a hike, it usually holds my phone, a water bottle, trail food, jacket, flashlight, etc. If I'm going to a conference or a workshop, my backpack is usually filled with registration items, relevant documents, an iPad, and anything else I think is useful. If I'm being totally honest, wherever I am going, there is usually a graphic novel inside my backpack as well.



The exact list of what is inside my old green backpack changes depending on where I am going and what I am doing.

We are entering 2024. We are adventuring into unexplored territory, and so it is important for us to have the right stuff with us as we explore. So what might we want to take in our emotional, our spiritual backpacks?

Here's my partial list:

- I will stuff my pack full of expectation!
- I will choose to take the aura of positivity as I travel along new paths and have new experiences.
- I will carry in my pack a penchant for laughter and joy.
- I will fill my pack to overflowing with loving kindness.
- I will make room in my pack for reflection and "chill."
- I will pack an ample supply of graciousness and generosity.

These are some of the things I plan to pack in my emotional and spiritual backpack as I set out on this new year's journey. And I recognize, of course, that packing good stuff doesn't mean anything if I don't then use that stuff along the way.

With what are you filling your backpack for this next year's adventure?

Let's take care of each other,

Steve (he, him, his) 🤙