

New Outlook

March 2024

Second Baptist Church

Open and progressive since 1833



As we continue our journey through Lent, we will soon arrive at Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday (March 24) and culminating in the celebration of RESURRECTION (March 31).

While the process of Discovery happens throughout the Lenten Season, it is accelerated through Holy Week as Jesus spends his days in Jerusalem teaching lessons of love and commitment, confronting the powers that be, healing the hurting, and empowering common folks to embrace their uncommonness.

We join Jesus in this week of discovery and surprise as we sing hosanna and wave the palms just as his followers did on Palm Sunday.

Many of us will spend the rest of the week reading the gospels and reflecting on who Jesus is in our lives:

Monday is named Holy Monday

Tuesday is named Holy Tuesday (I call it "Set a trap Tuesday.")

Wednesday is named Spy Wednesday

Thursday is named Maundy Thursday

(I will send out email readings for each of these days.)

On Friday (March 29), we will meet together in the evening to commemorate Jesus' death.

And on Sunday (March 31) we come back together to encounter the good news that Jesus, who was crucified and entombed is yet alive and present in our lives.

On the Journey of Discovery,
Steve



Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:30 - Wave the branches with us on Palm Sunday.

Good Friday SPECIAL MUSIC, March 29, 7:30 - Join us in a time of worship as the choir leads us in a meaningful service. The choir will be singing the passionate "O Love" by George Matheson and Elaine Hagenberg, the hopeful "Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul" arr. by Shelton Ridge Love, and the haunting "Wait With Me" by Pamela Stewart and Victor C. Johnson. The service will be accompanied by cello and piano and should be really special. Please plan to attend and bring friends and family.

Easter RESURRECTION Sunday, March 31, 10:30 - Highlights will include a glorious anthem by the choir titled "Rise Up!," a reflection titled "Gökkota," (it is a Swedish word—look it up) and a rousing all-church performance of the Hallelujah Chorus to bring the service to a climax.

The kids will enjoy an EASTER EGG HUNT immediately following the service!!

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, March 31.

Unity in the Community Lenten worship and lunch

Every Wednesday during Lent, the congregations of Richmond Heights will meet for worship and lunch. The services begin at 11:30 and last 20-25 minutes. Afterward, a simple lunch will be served by the host church. This is an opportunity to visit nearby churches and to meet members of their congregations.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 6 | St. Mary's Hospital (Chapel), 6420 Clayton Road (off lobby) |
| March 13 | Immacolata Catholic Church, 8900 Clayton Road |
| March 20 | Second Baptist Church, 9030 Clayton Road |
| March 27 | Church of the Living God Community Church, 8016 Dale Avenue |



If you would like to provide a lily for the Easter service in memory, in appreciation, or in celebration of someone, please fill out the form in the Sunday bulletin and put in the offering plate or call/email the church office by March 24. Lilies are \$12 each. Please make your check payable to Second Baptist Church and write "Lilies" in the memo section.

We collected \$857 for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Fund! Thanks for your generosity!

Sunday School for all ages at 9:15 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 Club will meet in the Community Room on Tuesday, March 12, at 1 p.m.

The Church Council will meet Monday, **March 18**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Contact Richard Heller if attending by Zoom.

March choir rehearsal schedule

Choir rehearses Sundays at 8:45 a.m. and on Thursdays from 6:30—8 p.m. Exceptions: Rehearsals Good Friday, March 29, with cello from 6:30-7:15 pm; Easter Sunday, March 31, from 9:30—10:10 am. No rehearsal March 10. Rehearsal Thursday, April 4 from 7-8 pm.

Second Sunday choir will rehearse Sunday, March 10 at 10:10 a.m. and sing in worship that day. On the other three Sundays in March, we'll rehearse right after church.

The Kingsbury Ensemble performs March 20

The Kingsbury Ensemble, one of the Midwest's premier early music ensembles, will have a concert at Second Baptist on Wednesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. *Bach at the Café* will include music from Bach's favorite café Zimmerman in Leipzig, including the Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, and the spirited Coffee Cantata. Coffee and pastries for a perfect café ambience! Tickets are generally \$20 each. The ensemble's mission is to stage authentic performances from the Renaissance to the early Romantic period, so that listeners may experience this timeless music.

March reflections

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
March 3	Komorebi	Reflecting God's Love	Matthew 5:14-16
March 10	Throwing a Wobbly	Cleansing the Temple	John 2:13-16
March 17	Wabi-Sabi	Embracing Life	Matthew 6:25-34
March 24	Hosanna	Palm Sunday	Luke 19:37-43
March 31	Gökkota	Easter	Luke 24:1-2

Metropolitan Churches United Coordinator visits worship service

On Sunday, February 18, Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker visited our congregation to get to know us a little better. Rev. Baker is serving as the Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) cluster leader for the mid-county area, which includes our church. Rev. Baker is also an associate professor at Eden Seminary. After the service, Rev. Baker joined us in the community room to answer questions about MCU and the new emphasis on having congregations join together to address local needs.



Social Justice Team update

The Social Justice group is in the process of modifying its focus and activities. To date we have largely concentrated on encouraging systemic change through legislation. While we will still keep an eye on legislation that impacts social justice for individuals and groups, we are planning to provide more emphasis on opportunities that address local needs. To that end we are (1) meeting with the social services coordinator of Maplewood/Richmond Heights and other organizations to discuss how local needs can be addressed, (2) working with other churches in the mid-county MCU cluster, (3) networking with other churches in Richmond Heights to see if there are opportunities to work together for social justice, and (4) continuing to dialogue with representatives of Antioch and Dayspring to look for joint venture opportunities. Many of these initiatives are in the early stages, so please keep tuned for further information.

Larry Marks, Social Justice Team Chair

Photo by Karen Fields Johnson who also attended.



Looking for photographers

Contact Judy Comfort
if you'd like to take
pictures for the
New Outlook.



From our pastor. . .

Hey Everybody,

We are in the process of journeying through Lent and moving toward its culmination in Holy Week and Easter. I hope that it is a season of reflection and renewal for you and yours!

What does Easter mean to you? For some it is just another day on the calendar; for others it is a major family get-together day; there are those who see it as a day they have to go to church; for many it is a day to show off new clothes; some see it as the day they can finally dispense with their Lenten commitments; still others consider it the holiest, most meaningful day of the year.



This Easter will be the 50th Easter I have celebrated as a Christian. And in the ongoing seasons of my faith, the impact and the meaning of Easter has evolved over the years.

When I was a young believer, Easter was all about the drama of RESURRECTION, and what that meant to me personally as a follower of Jesus.

When I was a youth minister, the holiday lead me to strive to develop creative ways of presenting the RESURRECTION so that the kids in my youth group could experience the power and majesty of it themselves.

As a young parent, Easter became a whole new thing as I turned my attention to culturally influenced activities like Easter egg hunts and Easter baskets filled with candy and presents. While not diminishing my celebration of the RESURRECTION, it did cause me to focus on elements of the Easter holiday that had never meant anything to me before.

As a senior pastor, I sometimes got caught up in the hype and the most recent church fads and glitz-ified Easter so that it became more of a production than a celebration. The glitz and glamour of Easter productions never quite felt right to me, but they created a buzz, and that seemed important at the time.

Through the years, my thought process about Easter has moved from the august and vibrant celebration of Jesus breaking forth from the tomb to a more reflective time of contemplating how the resurrected Jesus serves as both vindication and affirmation of all that Jesus said and did in his ministry.

Now, in my 50th year as a Christian and my 45th year in professional ministry, Easter serves as a sublime moment in time to reflect on who Jesus really was (cutting through the hype) and who Jesus really is. I celebrate the RESURRECTION not so much as a triumphant victory over the grave (which is certainly a valid way to celebrate it), but as an affirmation that God continues to work in our midst to usher in the Kingdom of God.

Happy Easter,

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

Judy Comfort, New Outlook Editor

Easter Egg Hunt



There will be an Easter egg hunt for the children! ***The hunt will start 15 minutes after the service,*** when children and parents will gather in the upper parking lot for instructions and to pick up bags to collect eggs; or, children are welcome to use their own bags. The hunt will take place in the front yard of the church, with a safety boundary to keep away from the road. The younger children are invited to search to the side of the parking lot, while older children will search in the larger yard. At the instruction time, we will give a number of eggs to collect. After everyone has an ample number, there will be time to keep looking. Adaptations will be made for weather as needed. A big thank you to our youth for filling and hiding the eggs.