

New Outlook

September
2025

Second Baptist Church

Open and progressive since 1833



celebration

Hey everybody,

Let's celebrate!!! Except... sometimes it's hard to celebrate, because we just don't feel like celebrating.

We may be going through a health crisis of our own or watching a family member or a friend go through a health crisis.

We may be in the midst of a personal financial catastrophe.

We may be struggling through relationship issues.

We may be grieving.

We may be concerned about the future health of our church.

We may be bewildered as we look at political situations in our nation.

We may be brokenhearted about what's happening in various hot spots around the world.

We may be afraid for friends and family who feel like they are at risk because of who they love or how they worship.

And if that is how we are feeling, celebration seems almost inappropriate.

But. . . The Apostle Paul reminds us to celebrate all our limitations, because in them God works. Paul follows up by reminding us to celebrate the good stuff, even when it is in danger of being overshadowed by the bad stuff.

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So on this Launch Sunday (September 7), we CELEBRATE . . .

we celebrate because we have each other,

we celebrate that we are privileged to experience community through Second Baptist Church,

we celebrate that we experience a connection with Jesus,

we celebrate that we are able to join God in creating a Kingdom where love is the currency, kindness is the law, and acceptance is the norm.

Sure, there may be reasons not to celebrate in this current moment of time, but then again,

there is every reason to celebrate.

As our friends from Kool and the Gang tell us,

“There's a party goin' on right here

A dedication to last throughout the years

So bring your good times and your laughter too

We gonna celebrate and party with you

Celebration

Let's all celebrate and have a good time,

Celebration

We gonna celebrate and have a good time

It's time to come together.”

Let take care of each other,

Steve (he, him, his)



LAUNCH SUNDAY schedule
Sunday, September 7

Theme: CELEBRATION

8:30 Choir Rehearsal

9:00 Breakfast

9:15 Let's celebrate!

Introduction of classes

Classes meet

10:30 Worship

11:30 Pizza Party

Pizza

Chips

Salad

Bring a dessert

Fun!!!!



September reflections

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| September 7 | Celebration | 2 Corinthians 13:8-10 |
| September 14 | Strange Fruit | Matthew 5:11-12 |
| September 21 | All You Need is Love | 1 Corinthians 13:1-6 |
| September 28 | Lean on Me | Genesis 4:8 |

Sunday School classes for every age

Children and youth

Children ages 5—10 will meet with Melanie Keeney to learn about the miracles and parables of Jesus. They meet in the classroom at the end of the hall in the education wing.

The youth class will meet with Shari Nelson in the youth room beyond the front of the sanctuary. Biblical literacy is the focus of this class. They will begin the year studying the book of Judges.

William Gurley Bible Study/Discussion Group (Adults)

The phrase, “beatitude collaborative,” came to mind as the William Gurley Bible Class concluded its study last May. “Beatitude collaborative?” Think about it. (1) To collaborate is to take action together in mutual support of one another for accomplishing shared purposes. (2) Beatitude has to do with Christ’s power to bless, and ours. Hmm! Collaborating in the power to bless! The power to bless, magnified through collaboration. Leads me to ask, Where in our life experience have we been influenced by the power to bless – as giver or receiver of blessing? How is the power to bless brought into focus, informed, and magnified in its connection with Christ?

This fall we’ll explore what it can mean to function as a “beatitude collaborative,” scoping out how such a body might operate and reinforcing the ways we already do it. It’s grounded in Jesus, so we’ll begin by discussing the materials we’ve reflected on via email this summer around the theme “Jesus as Provocateur.” Hmmm! “Provocateur of Blessing?!” Then, we’ll consider engaging with the energy of mercy, God’s mercy, and how it figures into being people who practice the power to bless.

All are welcome. If you need to be blessed and want to bless others, check it out. This Bible Study/Discussion group will begin on Launch Sunday, September 7. After the opening assembly in Fellowship Hall, it will meet in its regular location, the Community Room, for an initial introduction.

The Storytellers’ Class (Adults)

The Storytellers’ Class will begin this year by tackling the book *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently*, by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. As a class, we focus on the art of storytelling, thinking about how Jews and Christians understand the same stories in different ways will be an exercise in the art of listening to the stories we are told.

Steve Mechem

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](https://www.2ndbc.org/services).



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

Treat yourself Tuesday resumes **September 2** with chair yoga at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring lunch if you'd like to stay and eat with others.

The Next Steps Group will meet Thursdays, **September 4 and 18** in the Community Room at 6:00 p.m. See the next page for more information about this group.

Launch Sunday is **September 7**. Sunday School classes will resume, and there will be a pizza party after church. See p.3 for information about fall classes.

The Faith Support Group will meet via Zoom Monday, **September 8**, at 6:00 p.m. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521781156>. Passcode: faith.

The Book Group will meet in the Community Room Tuesday, **September 9**, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Somehow*, by Anne Lamott. Led by Mike Dixon.

The Grief Group will meet after church **August 31** and **September 14**. It will not meet on September 28 because of the Pride events. See next page for more information about this group.

Church council meets Monday, **September 15**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

The **Treat Yourself Tuesday** group will go out to eat on **September 16**. Check the bulletin for when and where.

The **deadline** for contributions to the October issue of the *New Outlook* is Saturday, **September 20**.

Game Day Tuesday, **September 23**, at 11:00 in the Community Room. Bring a sack lunch.

Tower Grove Pride is Saturday and Sunday, **September 27 and 28**. See the next page for how you can help.

The Treat Yourself Tuesday group will go to a special place to eat on **September 30**. Plans are still underway.

Looking ahead to October

Saturday, October 4 Pet blessing

Sunday, October 26 Trunk or Treat

Discerning next steps for Second Baptist

The Next Steps group meets every other Thursday for discussion. Ideas generated by the group are presented to the Church Council for consideration.

The Next Steps group recognizes that Second Baptist Church faces six primary challenges:

- 1) Defining and sharing our image
- 2) Impacting our community
- 3) Developing ministry opportunities
- 4) Creating ways of attracting people to our church
- 5) Maximizing our pool of volunteers
- 6) Addressing the church's financial challenges

Our discussions include Big Picture items concerning our future congregational health and more directed discussions about concrete ways to address the challenges mentioned above.

Meetings begin at 6:00 and last one hour. Anyone is welcome to attend. Our next meetings are September 4th and the 18th.

Supporting each other

Each of us experiences grief differently, and the goal of Second Baptist Church's Grief Group is to allow each of us to travel our journey of grief in our own way while providing lots of support and love for each other. All are welcome. We meet every other Sunday in the Community Room following the worship service. We will meet August 31 and September 14, but not September 28.

Help needed for Tower Grove Pride

Tower Grove Pride is right around the corner—Saturday and Sunday, September 27 and 28.

We will need volunteers:

To help set-up

To host our booth

To make cookies

To help assemble packets

If you can help in any of these ways, contact Steve or Krista

Stay tuned for more information.

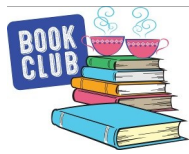
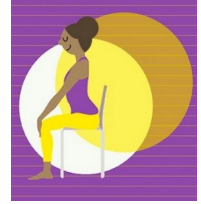
Steve Mechem

Treat Yourself Tuesdays

Last fall Linda Marks initiated Treat Yourself Tuesdays, an activity every Tuesday morning when we can get together and do something fun. While Linda recuperates, we are planning to continue this, with a few changes. We're still putting the details together for September, so check the bulletin for updates.

1st Tuesday from 11:00—11:45 a.m.: Arm Chair Yoga, Stretch and Strength Class

Sandy, the instructor we had last year, will be back. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall. There is no charge, since Sandy uses our building for other classes and wants to do this as a thank you. The class is open to both women and men. Bring a sack lunch if you'd like to stay and eat together. Meets **September 2** this month.



2nd Tuesday: Book Club 1:00—2:00 p.m.

Come join friends in discussing books chosen and led by members of the group. Meets **September 9** this month in the Community Room to discuss *Somehow*, by Anne Lamott. Mike Dixon will lead.

3rd Tuesday: Out to eat

We'll let you know whether to meet at the church or at the chosen restaurant and what time we'll meet. Check the bulletin for where we'll be eating this month on **September 16**.



4th Tuesday at 11:00 Game Day!

Card games, board games, checkers, chess—bring whatever games you like to play, and each week we'll choose one or two. Bring your lunch to eat after the games are over. Meets in the Community Room on **September 23** this month.

5th Tuesday: Somewhere special

For months that have a 5th Tuesday, we'll go somewhere special. Stay tuned for where we'll be on **September 30**.

What's going on here?

See the story on p. 8.



Second, Dayspring, and Antioch Worshipping Together



*Pastor Andrea Huffman
of Dayspring*

“100 bad days make 100 good stories.” This line, shared by Pastor Andrea Huffman, has become a personal mantra that I am using to remind myself that it’s all going to be okay.

The day of combined worship and festive cook-out (complete with ants (plastic ants, but ants) was held at Second Baptist Church as our friends from Dayspring Baptist Church and Antioch Baptist Church gathered together. Three churches who each do church just a little bit differently came together in a spirit of community and enjoyed each other immensely.

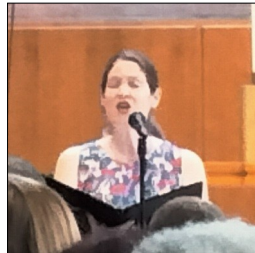
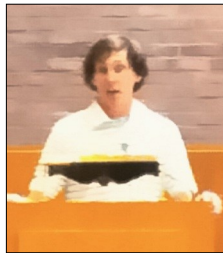
A great worship service highlighted by incredible music and Andrea’s remarkable reflection and the experience of getting to know each other better as we sat down around tables of burgers, brats, and brownies was an absolute gift.

It was a gift that came about because a lot of people did a lot of hard work to make it happen. Thank you to everybody who pitched in.

Steve Mechem



*Dr. Delano Benson of
Antioch giving the
pastoral prayer*



Each church provided a soloist. From left, Second, Dayspring, and Antioch



Greeting time during the service



An indoor picnic (with ants)

What a day (and night) for the youth!



Saturday, July 26, began with Mason, Joey, Ayla, Sawyer, Alara, and sponsors Melanie Keeney and Kathryn Nall picking blackberries and peaches at Eckert's Orchards in Belleview. When they got ready to pay for all the bounty, Melanie couldn't find her



credit card. By then it was noon and 98° out, but the intrepid youth volunteered to go back to the blackberry patch to look for it. No luck. Melanie now has a new credit card. Fortunately, there were no unauthorized charges on the lost one.



Back to the church for a lesson on the Good Samaritan and a water war. Water-filled balloons and squirt guns were the weapons.

Next came making blankets for children with cancer at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Another catastrophe: The air conditioner at the church was broken! It was blistering hot in the kitchen with the oven set to 450 to cook the pizza for dinner.



Back upstairs to the Community Room to watch the movie *Matilda*. Then to sleep.

Sunday morning they made eggs, bacon, and biscuits for breakfast. Next was making blackberry



cobblers for Coffee Fellowship. And clearing the Community Room and getting it ready to have church in there, since it was 88° in the sanctuary.

After church they offered their pickings for sale, the proceeds to go toward a new air conditioner.



Late July—August Special Music



*Lori Watrous played
"Count Your Blessings"
on the bassoon July 20*



*A cello duet by Charlie and Ken
Windler playing "Be Thou My Vision"*



*The Second Baptist Children singing
"Across the Bridge" on August 3*



*Judi Mechem, Cindy Collins, and
Shari Nelson singing "Coming Down"
on August 3*



*Gloria Barbre, Mary Winter, Lori Watrous, and
Marilyn Short playing "Ring in Triumph"
on the handbells on August 17*



*Krista Collins singing
"A Time for Everything"
on August 24*

*Note: See p. 7 For Darryl Briscoe
singing on August 10.*

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

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Website: www.2ndbc.org

Rev. Stephen Mechem, Pastor

stevemechem@gmail.com

Mary Winter, Moderator

Mary Shepardson, Newsletter editor

Backpack Sunday



This year instead of backpacks filled with school supplies, our children and youth got gift cards so they could choose their supplies themselves.