



December
2025

Second Baptist Church
Open and Progressive since 1833



Christmas at Second Baptist

Christmas caroling

Christmas caroling will be on Saturday, **December 6!** All those interested will meet at the church at 2:00 to organize carpools. We will travel around that afternoon to sing at the homes of folks who aren't able to come to church easily anymore. Addresses and lyric sheets will be provided, and all are welcome.

—Marilyn Short



Songs and Sonnets service



We eagerly await this year's Songs and Sonnets service! It will be December 21 at 10:30 a.m., featuring original Christmas poetry written by our own congregants, as well as excerpts from the much-beloved Christmas portion of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*. Composed in 1741, this English-language oratorio has become one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music. We plan to include the famous choruses "And the Glory of the Lord," "O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion," "For Unto Us a Child is Born," and "Glory to God," as well as solo and duet work by guest vocalists Kelly Daniel-Decker and Stephanie Ruggles.

The service will be accompanied by cello and piano. It will be a thrilling morning of celebration and worship. Please plan to come join us, and bring friends and family.

—Marilyn Short

Christmas Eve service



We are looking forward to the church's annual Christmas Eve service, which will be held Wednesday, December 24, at 5 p.m. The choir's anthem that evening will be an enchanting setting of "Dear Little Stranger," by Charles H. Gabriel (words) and Victor C. Johnson (music).

The congregation will sing several Christmas carols and then close with the traditional candle lighting and singing of "Silent Night." Please plan to join us for this memorable, family-friendly evening of worship and warmth and homecoming!

—Marilyn Short



Don't miss the Christmas luncheon and program put on by the youth after church on December 14. Check upcoming bulletins for details.

Bring the kids! Our friendly visitor from the North Pole has us on his calendar!



We will once again have live poinsettias in the sanctuary during Advent. You may donate a poinsettia "in honor of," "in appreciation for," or "in memory of" a special person in your life by filling out the form in the bulletin or by calling the office by December 7th. The cost is \$15.00.



Poinsettias will be displayed on the chancel from December 15 through Christmas Eve. You may take yours home after that.

December reflections

December 7	Brutal Planet	Matthew 5:1-10
December 14	Boy Like Me	Luke 2:1-6
December 21	Songs and Sonnets 2000 miles	Philippians 2:5-7
December 28	"Lullay Lullay (Coventry Carol)" by Annie Lennox Rev. Kara Windler preaching	Matthew 2:13-23

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.

Chair yoga meets at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, **December 2**, in Fellowship Hall. Bring a lunch if you'd like to stay and eat with others.

Second Sunday Choir will rehearse after church **December 7**. **On December 14**, they will rehearse at 10:10 a.m., and then sing in worship that day. Then they will take a break for the rest of the month.

The Sanctuary Choir will rehearse from 6:30—8 p.m. on Thursdays, **December 4, 11, and 18**, from 8:45—9:15 on Sunday, **December 7**, be off **December 14**, rehearse from 9:00—10:15 on Sunday, **December 21**, and from 4:30 - 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, **December 24**, and sing in the service that evening. Then they get a break for the rest of the year. Thank you, choir!

The Next Steps Group will meet Thursday, **December 4**, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Christmas caroling Saturday, **December 6**. Meet at 2 p.m. at the church parking lot.

The Grief Group will meet in the Community Room after church on **December 7**.

The Faith Support Group will not meet this month.

The Book Group will meet in the Community Room Tuesday, **December 9**, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Letters from Father Christmas*, J.R.R. Tolkien. Led by Kara Windler.

The **youth Christmas program and dinner** will be Sunday, **December 14**, after church.

Men's breakfast will not meet in December.

Cooking with Joy at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, **December 16**, at Joy Gardner's home. Let Joy know if you plan to attend.

Songs and Sonnets will be **December 21** at 10:30 a.m. See p. 1 for details.

A **Christmas Eve service** will be held Wednesday, **December 24**, at 5:00 p.m. See p. 2 for details.

The **deadline** for contributions to the January issue of the *New Outlook* is Tuesday, **December 30**.

Looking ahead to January:

Church council meets Sunday, **January 11** after church instead of its usual meeting date.

The **annual meeting** to vote on the church budget will be Sunday, **January 25**, after church.

New office hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m.—4 p.m.
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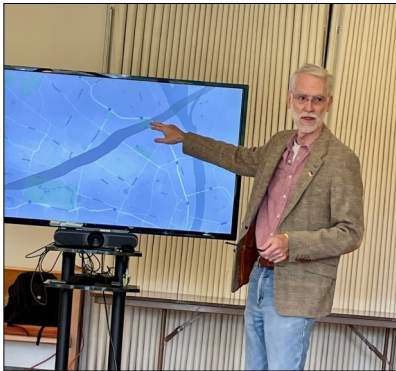
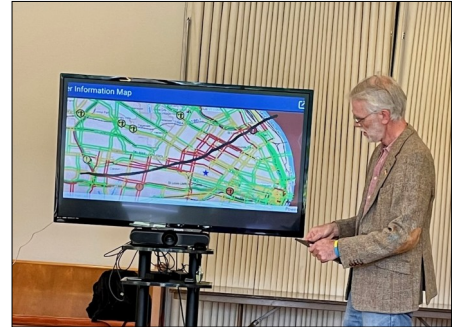
A rainy Halloween

The rain sent the Trunk or Treat festivities inside this year.



Dave Menninger speaks about tornado damage

It is said that "a picture is worth a thousand words." Dave Menninger's presentation at the November Men's Breakfast graphically demonstrated the widespread destruction from last May's tornado in central St. Louis. His work and the work of many volunteers was appreciated by those impacted by the storm.



It was good to see Mike Apple back behind the stove along with Jay Jensen.

As is normally the case, there will be no December breakfast. Richard Truex from Dayspring will make a presentation at the January breakfast. A program on Joan Jensen's father is in the works for the February breakfast.

Come and "pig out" with us.

Ron Barbre

Photos by Karen Fields

Packing Thanksgiving bags at Antioch Baptist



A great day at Antioch Baptist



November 2 was a great Sunday at Antioch Baptist, with Second Baptist joining the Antioch and Dayspring churches for a worship service. Lively congregational singing, accompanied by piano, organ, and drums, a joint choir made up of members of all three churches, and two girls dancing were highlights, as well as Pastor Steve's sermon.

Pastor Delano Bensen from Antioch welcomed everyone. Pastor Andrea Huffman from Dayspring led the call to worship, and Pastor Steve Mecham preached a sermon entitled "Shelter from the Storm." After the service we had a meal together. It was a day of enthusiasm and connection.

From our pastor. . .

Hey Everybody,

Growing up in the evangelical church, I often heard preachers and teachers say, especially during the Advent Season, that Jesus was born so that he could die (an obvious nod to the doctrine of Substitutionary Atonement).

Honestly, I was always troubled by the notion that Jesus was born to die. It just did not sit right with me. If Jesus came only to die, what was the point of his living?

As I matured in my faith, my understanding of what it means to follow Jesus became more centered on Jesus' teaching and less on other voices. And, many years ago, I came to the conclusion that Jesus' purpose in coming was to teach us how to live, and to set an example of what that kind of life looks like. His teaching formed the essential framework for a new realm (kingdom) where love reigns and people take seriously the idea that we are to love one another as Jesus loved us.

Jesus' death, in my view, showed us how far God is willing to go to manifest this incredible love for us, and the resurrection becomes the verification and vindication of everything Jesus taught and did.

With that in mind, I would like to share with you this beautiful poem written by Andrew Pratt. It is simply titled, "Christmas Poem."

Human child of human mother,
see the Christ has come to birth,
demonstrating now in living
every person's human worth.
God has chosen, in this moment,
such a messy, mucky start,
choosing risky, earthly living,
God immersed in human art.

Mary holds the God of heaven,
Joseph marvels at his child,
then imagination wonders,
fears are running free and wild.

Certainly a new beginning,
for these youngsters, for the world,
all, as yet, is veiled, in waiting
for God's grace to be unfurled.

So we wait, we know the story,
lose the sense of shock and awe,
heard each year the well-worn carols,
that we sang in years before.

But for now a new song beckons,
asks that we might join the scene
watch the couple hold the Godhead,
guessing what this gift might mean.

Happy Holidays my friends!

Let's take care of each other, in and out of this Advent Season,

Steve

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

Rev. Stephen Mechem, Pastor

stevemechem@gmail.com

Mary Winter, Moderator

Mary Shepardson, Newsletter editor

Oh, London!



The "Treat Yourself Tuesday" group tried out some British food at Oh, London! on Olive on November 18.

This group gets together every Tuesday. The first Tuesday of each month is Chair Yoga at church. The second Tuesday is Book Club. The third is either cooking in someone's home or going out to eat. The fourth is Game Day at church. If there's fifth Tuesday, we go out to eat. Join us for whatever events interest you. All are welcome!