

# New Outlook

January  
2026

Second Baptist Church  
*Open and progressive since 1833*



## A wonderful Advent season!

Hey Everybody,

Thank you for a wonderful Advent season!

From the Hanging of the Greens to our participation in the Antioch Christmas gift program to the caroling party to our children and youth's Christmas program to our Christmas dinner to Songs and Sonnets to our cookie fellowship to our Christmas Eve worship experience, you have participated energetically and joyfully. From hallway conversations to the giving of gifts to prayers for the hurting to inspired worship, you have blessed us with your presence (both physical and emotional).

I am so proud to call myself the pastor of this glorious church.

Steve



*Carolers from Second Baptist sang at the homes of Carole Hanna, the Cursons, and the Jensens*

## Hanging of the Greens



Thanks to Joy and Allen for livening up the front of our church. Brad Short said he wishes he could have his name in lights in front of his house like Joy can.

**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](http://2ndbc.org/services).

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

**Church council** meets after church **Sunday, January 11**, in the Community Room.

**The Faith Support Group** will meet via Zoom Monday, **January 12**, 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, **January 13**, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury. Led by Gloria Barbre.

**The Second Sunday Choir** will not sing in worship in January. They will resume their after-service rehearsals on **January 18**.

**The Sanctuary Choir** will rehearse Tuesday, **January 13**, from 7—8:00 instead of Thursday. They will rehearse on Thursdays for the rest of the month as well as Sundays from 8:45—9:15 a.m.

**The Grief Group** will meet after church in the Community Room on Sunday, **January 18**.

**Martin Luther King Day** is January 19.

**The Treat Yourself Tuesday Group** will meet for lunch at 11:30 on Tuesday, **January 20**. The place is to be determined. Check the bulletin. All are welcome. Let Steve know if you plan to attend.

The **deadline** for contributions to the February issue of the *New Outlook* is Tuesday, **January 20**.

**The Next Steps Group** will meet Thursday, **January 22**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

The **annual meeting and luncheon** will be held after church on Sunday, **January 25**, in Fellowship Hall. We will vote on the 2026 budget and approve Krista Collins as the new moderator and present a candidate for the vice moderator position (we hope).

**Game Day** is **January 27**. Bring a sack lunch and join us for table games in the Community Room.

**Looking ahead to February**

A light supper and service will be held on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, at 5:30 p.m. You can sign up to bring soup, salad, or a dessert when the date gets closer.



## Songs and Sonnets



## The Poets



Darryl Briscoe reading  
"Ready or Not, Here I Come,"  
by Rev. Hari Smith



Cindy Collins:  
"Birthday Gifts/WWJW"



Melissa Bancks  
"In a Quiet Moment"



Jerry Keeney:  
"Waking Wisdom Now"



Ron Barbre:  
"A Christmas Primer"



Marilyn Short  
Accompanist and organizer



## Christmas Eve



## From our pastor. . .

Hey Everybody,

I love this piece that Frederick Buechner shared in his book of meditations and reflections titled *The Faces of Jesus*. It is a beautiful sentiment as we move beyond the Advent Season. (Sorry the text is not gender neutral; I am quoting verbatim.)

“WHETHER HE WAS born in 4 B.C. or A.D. 6, in Bethlehem or Nazareth, whether there were multitudes of the heavenly host to hymn the glory of it or just Mary and her husband—when the child was born, the whole course of human history was changed. That is a truth as unassailable as any truth. Art, music, literature, Western culture itself with all its institutions, and Western man's whole understanding of himself and his world—it is impossible to conceive how differently things would have turned out if that birth had not happened whenever, wherever, however it did. And there is a truth beyond that: for millions of people who have lived since, the birth of Jesus made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living it.



Frederick Buechner  
1926-2022

For better or worse, it is a truth that, for twenty centuries, there have been untold numbers of men and women who, in untold numbers of ways, have been so grasped by the child who was born, so caught up in the message he taught and the life he lived, that they have found themselves profoundly changed by their relationship with him. And they have gone on proclaiming, as the writers of the Gospels proclaimed before them, that through the birth of Jesus a life-giving power was released into the world which to their minds could have been no less than the power of God himself. This is the central truth that Matthew and Luke are trying to convey in their accounts of the Nativity. And it was a truth which no language or legend seemed too extravagant to convey. What the birth meant—meant to them, to the world—was the truth that mattered to them most and, when all is said and done, perhaps the only truth that matters to anyone.”

Let's take care of each other,  
Steve (he, him, his)

We so much want to thank you for your incredibly generous gift. It is an honor to serve you as your church staff.

Steve, Marilyn, Brad, Mary W, and Carey

## **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.

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Krista Collins, Moderator

Mary Shepardson, Newsletter editor

### **Reliving Jesus's birth**

