

# New Outlook

February  
2026

Second Baptist Church

*Open and progressive since 1833*



The annual congregational meeting to elect a moderator and vice moderator and to vote on the 2026 budget will be Sunday, February 1, after the worship service. Pizza and salad will be served. The cost is \$10 per person. The meeting was postponed from Sunday, January 25, because of cold and snowy weather.

The nominating committee, consisting of Melissa Banks, Ron Barbre, and Mary Shepardson, is proposing that Krista Collins be elected as moderator for the rest of this program year and the next full program year, ending June 30, 2027. They are recommending Rick Hoyt as vice moderator for the same time period.

## Joan Jensen to speak at Men's Breakfast

You won't want to miss the February Men's Breakfast on the 14th. The program will be led by Joan Jensen in recognition of her father, the Rev. Edwin Tuller. Dr. Tuller was General Secretary of the American Baptist Convention, USA. Expect some interesting stories and details. Bring a friend. First timers are our guests. Suggested donations are \$10.00 to regular attendees. The breakfast is served at 8:00 a.m. If you can help before (frying bacon/sausage) or after (cleaning up) the breakfast, let me or Gloria know.



Ron Barbre



Lent begins Wednesday, February 18, 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 proceed to the Sanctuary of the Beatitudes at 6:15 for a time of worship. 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.

## Meet Krista Collins



Krista has served as our vice moderator since July 2025. On February 1, at the annual meeting, we will vote to confirm her as moderator. She will complete the current term and continue on to a full term ending June 30, 2027.

Since her dad was in the military, Krista grew up in a number of places. She moved from the Northeast to the Washington D.C. area to Southern California to Ohio, where she graduated from high school.

From there she went to Auburn University in Alabama, majoring in chemical engineering.

She spent the first half of her career running chemical plants in Louisiana, West Virginia, and Alabama before transitioning into information technology here in St Louis.

She has two adult daughters, both “amazing,” according to their mom.

Asked what drew her to Second Baptist, she said, “I came to see my youngest perform in a concert and saw the table for the Love Chapter. I decided to come back to a service and kept coming.”

Krista is an active member of the Second Baptist choir and the Next Steps group.

About her vision for Second Baptist going forward, Krista said, “To continue to reach out to the community and grow the church. I don't feel like we have completed our mission yet.”



*A birthday cake for everyone with a January birthday*

**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://2ndbc.org/services).



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

**The Sanctuary Choir** rehearses on Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m., except on February 26, when they rehearse from 6:30—8:00 p.m., and on Sundays from 8:45—9:15 a.m., except the second Sunday of each month, when they are off. Note: Because of the Ash Wednesday service, the choir will rehearse on Wednesday, February 18, at 7:00 instead of Thursday that week.

**The Second Sunday Choir** rehearses right after church every Sunday in the front of the sanctuary except the second Sunday of the month, when they sing in the worship service.

**The annual congregational meeting and luncheon** will be held after the worship service on Sunday, **February 1**, to vote on the proposed budget for 2026. There will also be an election for moderator and vice moderator. See p. 1 for details.

There will be **no chair yoga** on Monday, February 2.

**The Next Steps Group** will meet Thursdays, **February 5 and 19**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

**The Grief Group** will meet after church in the Community Room on Sundays, **February 8 and 22**.

**The Faith Support Group** will meet via Zoom Monday, **February 9**, 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, **February 10**, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *Chariots of the Gods*, by Erich von Daniken. Led by Rick Rardin.

**Men's breakfast** will be Saturday, **February 14**, at 8:00 a.m. Women are invited too. Joan Jensen will speak about her father's experiences as General Secretary of our denomination during the civil rights era. See p. 1 for details.

The **Treat Yourself Tuesday Group** will meet for lunch at 11:30 on Tuesday, **February 17**. The place is to be determined. Check the bulletin. All are welcome. Let Steve know if you plan to attend.

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

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

**Game Day** is Tuesday, **February 24**. Bring a sack lunch and join us at 11:00 in the Community Room for table games.

*Back in October, Jeff Hoyt spoke to Men's Breakfast on the topic, "Time: A brief introduction to special relativity up the point where I get completely confused." Below is his summary of what he said.*

## **The Speed of Light and Relativism An Inspiration for Cole Porter?**

(A very brief Introduction to Special Relativity)

When Albert Einstein in 1905, along with many others, discovered that everything is relative, many people thought that meant "Anything Goes."

What is one of the components for the nature of universal relativity? Imagine yourself on a train traveling at a constant 80 mph and one of the train cars is at least 60' 6" long.

Surprise! Adam Wainright happens to be traveling on the same train (make sure to get his autograph). As a demonstration of his Hall of Fame prowess, he throws a 95 mile per hour fast ball down the length of the train in the direction of motion. To you, as an observer on the train, that un-hittable fast ball is going 95 mph.

However: Someone standing on a non-moving platform next to the track watching this demonstration unfold would see the fast ball speeding by at 175 mph! It would be really difficult to get a base hit in that frame of reference.

Now, imagine the same train going at say, eight tenths of the speed of light (0.8 times 186,000 miles per second). Instead of a baseball, Adam has a laser pointer and sends out a beam of light in the direction of travel. To you, traveling with Adam, that beam of light is traveling away from you at the speed of light. However, the observer on the platform next to the track, in the stationary frame of reference watching this demonstration unfold, sees the beam of light traveling away from Adam at (wait for it): the speed of light!

These are two of the main precepts of relativity: the speed of light is a constant, un-variant in any frame of reference, and absolute motion is undetectable. Motion is relative. Without going into any detail, the consequences of this phenomenon mean clocks in relative motion are slower, and objects obtain more mass. That is only special relativity. General relativity includes the results of the relative nature of acceleration. Since we are all on a rotating planet, we are constantly accelerating. For us on a daily basis, if relativity isn't taken into account, GPS calculations guiding us to our next destination could put us several miles from our intended location.

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So...was Cole Porter right? Is it true "Anything Goes"? Maybe, maybe not, but he sure wrote some great songs. Do the physics of special and general relativity help define the precepts of moral relativism? I'll leave that discussion for the theologians and philosophers.

For those better versed in the natural physical laws, please correct any unintentional errors I made in the next Outlook.

Jeff Hoyt

## February reflections

February 1	Sunday Bloody Sunday	John 16:31
February 8	Harvest Moon	Ecclesiastes 12:1-8
February 15	Shallow	Luke 11:9
February 22	Thunder Road	Psalm 23:4

The World Mission Offering was another success with \$1121 given for the expansion of the word of God throughout the world.

Next up will be the Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering starting in February.

Giving to this special offering allows for that little extra financial help for these great servants who guided us through the years. Let's remember them.

Thanks for your support.  
Rick Rardin, World Mission Chair.



From the February 2025 Outlook:

### A Prayer by Howard Thurman

Holy God, open unto me light in my darkness,  
Courage for my fear, hope for my despair.  
O loving God, open unto me wisdom for my confusion,  
Forgiveness for my sins, love for my hate.  
O God of hope, open unto me peace for my turmoil,  
Joy for my sorrow, strength for my weakness.  
O generous God, open my heart to receive all your gifts.



*Howard Thurman (1899-1981) was a Baptist minister, founder of The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, in San Francisco, college professor, and Dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University. One of his doctoral students was Martin Luther King, Jr. Thurman was influential in King's adoption of a non-violent approach to change.*

## **From our pastor. . .**

Hey Everybody,

When I was younger, my religion would not have allowed me to read books written by practitioners of other faiths, but my present understanding of faith compels me to read anything and everything that I think might be helpful in my journey. And one of my favorite authors for many years has been the Buddhist monk from Vietnam named Thich Nhat Hanh. I especially love his little “How to” books: *How to Sit*, *How to Walk*, *How to Eat*, *How to Relax*, *How to Connect*, *How to Smile*, *How to Love*, and more.



In *How to Love* he writes, “True love is made of four elements: loving kindness, compassion, joy, and equanimity. If your love contains these elements, it will be healing and transforming, and it will have the element of holiness in it. True love has the power to heal and transform any situation and bring deep meaning to our lives.

“The essence of loving kindness is being able to offer happiness. You can be the sunshine for others, but you can’t offer happiness until you have it for yourself. So build a home inside by accepting yourself and learning to love and heal yourself.

“The second element of true love is compassion. Compassion is the capacity to understand the suffering in oneself and in others. You can transform your own suffering, and help transform the suffering of others, with the practices of mindfulness and looking deeply at others.

“The third element of true love is the capacity to offer joy. When you know how to generate joy, it nourishes you and nourishes others. Your presence is an offering, like fresh air, or spring flowers, or the bright blue sky.

“The fourth element of true love is equanimity. We can also call it inclusiveness or non-discrimination. In a deep relationship there is no longer a boundary between you and other people. What happens to others happens to you. What happens to you happens to the people you love.”

Wonderful thoughts as we head into February, the “love” month.

The Apostle Paul’s final word on love spills over from the love chapter of 1 Corinthians 13 to the first two words of chapter 14 which simply read, “Pursue love.”

Happy pursuits!

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: (314) 991-3424

E-mail: [office@2ndbc.org](mailto:office@2ndbc.org)

Website: [www.2ndbc.org](http://www.2ndbc.org)

Rev. Stephen Mechem, Pastor  
[stevemechem@gmail.com](mailto:stevemechem@gmail.com)

## **Fire trucks at Second Baptist**



The Book Group had a startling end to their meeting on January 13. Just as they were winding up their discussion of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, fire trucks roared into the church parking lot. No sirens, fortunately. Kara thinks they were there to change out an emergency access box.