

New Outlook

May 2026

Second Baptist Church

Open and progressive since 1833



Welcome, Sarah Southards!



We welcome Sarah Southards as our new office manager!

Sarah has many talents. She plays the piano and loves to cook and bake. She has had her own company for 16 years, Heritage Consulting STL, which offers preconception through postpartum doula support and parental education with a focus on high risk, trauma, and bereavement.

Hospitals refer patients to her who could benefit from her company's services. She offers support to parents, siblings, and grandparents in the case of pregnancy loss or infant death up to the age of 1. She also offers numerous classes in childbirth education and infant care. And she offers a certification program in bereavement supportive care for doulas, doctors, nurses, and midwives.

She is the president of Doulas of Greater St. Louis, a local nonprofit with 29 members who service the metro community in many aspects of perinatal care. For more details about Sarah's company, check out its website at <https://heritageconsultingstl.com/>

Sarah and her husband, Brenden, homeschool their children: Genevieve, 10, Junior, 7, Finn, 6, and Eva, 3. Brenden is a Marine Corps veteran, currently working for Charter Spectrum.

Sarah was born in Illinois. She moved with her family 30 times before she was 18, since her father worked on construction for churches and homes, and the family moved wherever his current job was. She has lived in Illinois, Iowa, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina. Sarah and her family attend First Baptist Church of Arnold, where she sings in the choir.

Her church office hours will be Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Welcome, Sarah! We're glad you're here.

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.

The Sanctuary Choir will rehearse on Sundays, **May 3** and **May 17**, from 8:45—9:15 a.m. They will be off Sunday, May 10. May 17 is Choir Appreciation Day. Then they are off for the summer.

The Second Sunday Choir will rehearse right after church on **May 3**. On **May 10** they will rehearse at 10:10 a.m. and then sing in worship. Then they will go on summer break.

New member inquiry meeting Sunday, May 3, at 9:15 a.m. in the library. See p. 7 For details.

The Grief Group will meet after church in the Community Room on Sundays, **May 3 and 17**.

Chair Yoga will be offered in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, **May 5**. Bring a sack lunch if you'd like to stay and eat with others.

The Next Steps Group will meet Thursdays, **May 14 and 28**, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Men's breakfast will be Saturday, **May 9**, at 8:00 a.m. Topic to be announced. Women are invited too.

The Faith Support Group will meet via Zoom Monday, **May 11**, 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, **May 12**, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *And Then We Hit a Rock: A family of 5, a dog, and a cat move onto a sailboat*. Gloria Barbre will lead the discussion.

May 17 is Choir Appreciation Day and Teacher Appreciation Day.

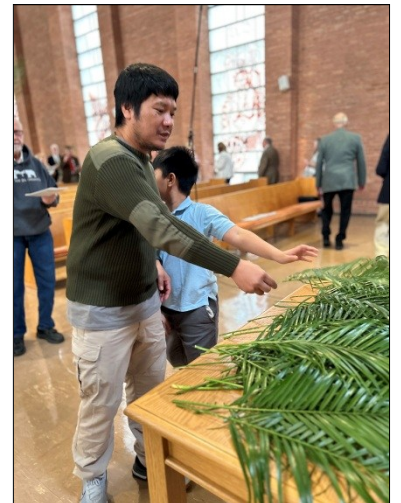
The **council** will meet Monday, **May 18**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

The **Treat Yourself Tuesday Group** will meet for lunch at 11:30 on Tuesday, **May 19**, location to be determined. Please sign up at the Welcome Center in the narthex or let Linda Marks know you will be coming.

The **deadline** for contributions to the June issue of the *New Outlook* is Wednesday, **May 20**.

Game Day is Tuesday, **May 26**. Bring a sack lunch and join us at 11:00 in the Community Room for table games.

Hosanna!



Easter Sunday



Singing the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter Sunday



Our kids on Easter

Fun times with Treat Yourself Tuesday



At the St. Louis History Museum



Mill Creek was a thriving predominately African American neighborhood in St. Louis. In the 1950s over 93% of it was destroyed to make way for commercial development and Interstate 64. Over 20,000 residents were displaced.



Larry and Linda looking at a model of the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis



Hari Smith at the History Museum



Lunch at Café Provençal in Kirkwood

Hey Everybody,

I am privileged to be the pastor of this congregation. That means it is kinda my job to be a member of this church.

But what if I weren't the pastor? Would I still be a member of this congregation? My simple answer to that is "yes." I have found in this community of faith that which I need to explore my faith and grow my faith.



So I will ask the question, why would I be a member of Second Baptist Church?

10 quick reasons:

- 1) The people. The people of Second Baptist are beautiful, friendly, and compassionate. I feel fortunate to have stumbled into this wonderful collection of human beings.
- 2) Second Baptist truly is a space where folks are invited to explore faith, even if that exploration leads them in different directions.
- 3) We are community where encouragement, support, and joy abound. The apostle's admonition to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep is a part of our DNA.
- 4) Well, I would be a member of this congregation regardless of where we were physically located, but I gotta say, I love the Sanctuary of the Beatitudes. It is such an amazing space for worship, reflection and the gathering of community.
- 5) The fruit of the spirit is in abundant supply here. Everywhere you look: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and decency.
- 6) I love that we celebrate true inclusion here.
- 7) It feels like this group of people has made the choice to walk alongside each other.
- 8) Simply put, I have fun at Second Baptist. It meets my laughter quotient.
- 9) I am amazed at the authentic and non-judgy conversations that take place in Sunday school, in the hallway, and around the snack table.
- 10) I love that we practice a spirituality based in love and kindness. Honestly, it is refreshing.

These are some of the reasons that I would be here as a member if I were not the pastor.

Question: Have you ever thought about joining the church?

We will have a New Member Inquiry Meeting on Sunday, May 3, at 9:15 in the church library. We will talk about what it means to be a member, and how you become one. Come with your questions.

The Inquiry Meeting is for people of all ages, so come join us.

Let's take care of each other,
Steve

Reflections for May

May 3	Landslide	Psalm 71:1-8
May 10	Simple Man	2 Timothy 1:5-7
May 17	Good with God	Ephesians 2:8-9
May 24	Driver's License	Proverbs 13:12
May 31	Tiny Dancer	Luke 22:19



A presentation on Alzheimer's Disease

Twenty-three attended the April Men's Breakfast. Jay and Joan Jensen presented an up-to-date report on dementia/Alzheimer's that they called "Alzheimer's from the Inside Out" to emphasize both the roles of the person who has it and the caregiver. Members from both Second and Dayspring shared experiences and suggestions on a sensitive topic regarding their experiences with loved ones. Second Baptist members chipped in both the kitchen and program to make an ideal gathering worth the effort. Thanks to all!

The next Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, May 9.

Ron Barbre

Congratulations, Joy and Allen!



Joy's brother walked her down the aisle



Mr. and Mrs. Allen Neal with the ringbearer and flower girls



Jacob Brooks, son of Elizabeth and Matt, will graduate from Montana State University in Bozeman on May 8th.

A Metro St Louis High School '22 graduate, he chose going to Montana to major in geology and to live in such a beautiful mountain environment. While there, he met a very special woman, Emma Wickham (also graduating this May), whom we're happy he married a year ago (March 21, 2025).

Jacob hopes to go to graduate school to further study geochemistry, which looks at core formation of the earth rather than geophysics, which deals primarily with oil extraction. Even though he was accepted (and had a grant) at the University of Alaska, he and Emma will instead take a "gap year" in St. Louis to work, explore the city, and both apply for graduate schools.

The best thing about college, Jacob said, was getting to explore himself as a person, meeting Emma (whose family lives in Montana), living where he could learn so much as well as go camping, fishing and "rock hounding." Getting to know so many amazing people in the four years he was there was an added benefit.

We congratulate Jacob and Emma on their graduation and marriage!

—by Karen Fields (Jacob's grandmother)

Dayspring, Antioch, and Second Baptist meet together



Host pastor Andrea Huffman



Antioch's pastor Delano Benson preached



A choir made up of members of all three churches



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

Krista Collins, Moderator

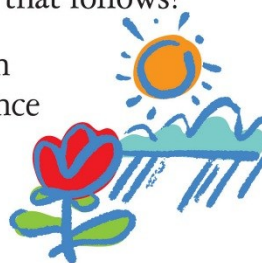
Sarah Southards, Office manager

Mary Shepardson, Newsletter editor

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

- A. a time to teach, and a time to learn
- B. a time to mourn, and a time to dance
- C. a time to fast, and a time to eat
- D. a time to work, and a time to rest



The answer is the first letter of our new office manager's husband's name. See p. 1.