

New Outlook

July/August
2026

Second Baptist Church

Open and progressive since 1833



Welcome, Antioch and Dayspring!



We welcome our fellow American Baptists from Dayspring and Antioch Baptist Churches for a joint service and luncheon on Sunday, July 26, at Second Baptist. Members of the choirs of all three churches will join together to sing the anthems that day. If you'd like to join them, come to Second Baptist at 9:00 a.m. to practice.

The luncheon will be catered, except for the desserts. Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you can bring a dessert. Cash donations to help pay for the meal would be appreciated.



Rev. Desiree Davis, Antioch's assistant pastor, will preach.

We always come away from these get-togethers invigorated and thankful for the insights and enthusiasm of the people we meet. "As iron sharpens iron, one person sharpens the wits of another." (Proverbs 27:17)

From Frederick Buechner: "There is no chance thing through which God cannot speak—even the walk from the house to the garage that you have walked ten thousand times before, even the moments when you cannot believe there is a God who speaks at all anywhere. He speaks, I believe, and the words he speaks are incarnate in the flesh and blood of our selves and of our own footsore and sacred journeys."



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**. There will be **no Sunday School** in July or August.

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

The Sanctuary choir and the Second Sunday choir are on summer break. See July 12 and July 26 below for exceptions.

The grief group will meet after church on Sundays, **July 5 and 19**, in the Community Room.

Chair Yoga will be offered in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, **July 7**. Bring a sack lunch if you'd like to stay and eat with others.



The Next Steps Group will meet Thursdays, **July 9 and 23**, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Sunday, **July 12**, all **singers are invited to stay after church** for a brief rehearsal on the pieces the combined choir with Antioch and Dayspring will sing on July 26.

The **Treat Yourself Tuesday Group** will meet for lunch at 11:30 on Tuesday, **July 21**, location to be determined. Please sign up at the Welcome Center in the narthex or let Linda Marks know you will be coming.

On Sunday, **July 26**, **all singers**, as well as singers from Dayspring and Antioch, will meet at church at 9 a.m. to put together the pieces they will sing later that morning in worship as a combined choir.

Sunday, **July 26**, Second Baptist, Dayspring, and Antioch will have a joint worship service at Second Baptist. Rev. Desiree Davis, Antioch Baptist's assistant pastor, will preach. A luncheon will be served after the service.

Game Day is Tuesday, **July 28**. Bring a sack lunch and join us at 11:00 in the Community Room for table games.

Council meeting dates will be announced later.



These groups are off for the summer: Men's Breakfast, Book Group, Faith Support, Sunday School, and Sanctuary and Second Sunday choirs, except for July 12 and 26.

The Grief Group will meet after church in the Community Room on Sundays, **August 2, 16, and 30.**



Chair Yoga will be offered in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, **August 4.** Bring a sack lunch if you'd like to stay and eat with others.

The Next Steps Group will meet Thursdays, **August 6 and 20,** at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

The **Treat Yourself Tuesday Group** will meet for lunch at 11:30 on Tuesday, **August 18,** 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 September issue of the *New Outlook* is Thursday, **August 20.**

Council meeting dates will be announced later.

Game Day is Tuesday, **August 25.** Bring a sack lunch and join us at 11:00 in the Community Room for table games.

July and August reflections

July 5	This Land Is Your Land	Matthew 6:33-34
July 12	Always Look on the Bright Side of Life	Romans 8:28
July 19	The Peanuts Theme	Psalms 9:1-4
July 26	Desiree Davis from Antioch Baptist will preach.	
August 2	Safe and Sound	Acts 2:42
August 9	Put a Little Love in Your Heart	I Corinthians 14:1
August 16	It Ain't You Babe	Luke 22:55-60
August 23	Starman	Genesis 1:1
August 30	Somewhere over the Rainbow	Matthew 6:30-34

One Great Hour

It's that time again to remember those people in the world affected by the devastation of earthquakes, hurricanes, war, or any other calamity. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is considered a Love Offering to the world. This year's promotion will begin in July. I look forward to your generous giving.

Thanks for your support,
Rick Rardin, World Missions Chair

Summer Music

Many thanks to the those who are providing music for the worship service
while the choirs are on summer break!



*Zippora Monhar, singing
"Mother's Love"
May 24*



*Carey and Mirian San singing
"Lead Me Lord"
May 31*



*Lori Watrous, playing
Adagio from Sextet, Op.71,
by Ludwig van Beethoven
June 7*



*Second Baptist kids singing "Jesus Loves me"
June 7*



*Cindy Collins singing
"Lord, Listen to Your Children
Praying" on June 14*



*Jason Ler Saw singing
"That Someone,"
accompanied by
his brother Joey
June 21*



The Karen children and youth singing at the Karen service on Sunday, June 14. In the Karen tradition, the Sunday before Father's Day is Children's Day. All of the children get a gift. The kids do the singing and preaching.



Wearing orange on June 7 to remember the victims and honor the survivors of gun violence



Second Baptist sent a plant for the recent memorial service of Debbie Albu, secretary of Second Baptist Church from 2002-2009. She was an enthusiastic, helpful addition to our church staff as well as a friend. Marilyn Short and Mary Shepardson attended the service.

From our pastor. . .

Hey Everybody,

Happy July 4th!! We celebrate 250 years as a nation. As you celebrate, please be aware of the stress that loud noises can have on your pets. Around the Fourth of July, more dogs run away from home than at any other time of the year. So have fun, but be kind to your four-legged friends.

One of the terms that has become prevalent in our culture recently is “Christian Nationalism.” While I don’t have space to address the topic in detail in this article, I would like to share just a few thoughts on the topic.

Christian Nationalism is defined as a political ideology that seeks to merge Christian identity with national identity (it should be noted that while we usually refer to Christian Nationalism as a conservative ideology, progressive/liberal Christians have sometimes adopted their own brand of Christian Nationalism). Christian Nationalism operates on the belief that our nation was founded on and should be governed by Christian values *and* that the government should actively promote and privilege this faith in public policies.

At the core of Christian Nationalism in America is the understanding that our country has a special divinely chosen status over other countries. Further, as divinely chosen, we should enact civil laws and practice societal values and public policy that reflect a certain type of “Christian” perspective. According to Christian nationalists, Christianity (a specific brand of Christianity) and only Christianity should occupy the dominant place in the public square.

American Baptist Churches-USA historical polity stands in stark contrast to the ideology of Christian Nationalism. Our essential doctrines of “soul liberty,” “religious liberty,” and the “separation of church and state” are diametrically opposed to Christian Nationalism in all its different expressions.

When we hear the term “Christian Nationalism,” it behooves us to recognize that it is not synonymous with Christianity. Some people may confuse Christian Nationalism and Christianity because they both use the symbols and language of church. But, Christian Nationalism is a political ideology that seeks to merge Church and State in what many (including myself) consider an unholy and dangerous alliance that dilutes authentic Christianity and diminishes Jesus’s teachings.

Tony Campolo used to say, “Mixing religion and politics is like mixing ice cream and manure. It doesn’t do much for the manure, but it sure does ruin the ice cream.”

As a Christian, you can certainly be patriotic, and, as a patriot, you can certainly identify as a Christian. But it is imperative that we not be fooled into thinking patriotism and faith in Jesus are synonymous.

Happy holiday!

Let’s take care of each other,
Steve

Second Baptist Church of Greater St. Louis

An American Baptist Church
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St. Louis, Missouri 63117-1094

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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



Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."

Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.

Answer: The first letter of both the first and last names of the person who sang in church on June 14. (See p.4)
Or Matthew 5:16.