

New Outlook

September
2026

Second Baptist Church

Open and progressive since 1833



Ready to Launch!

It is so exciting to enter this autumn season when our Sunday School classes resume. This new Sunday School year begins on Sunday, September 13. The sanctuary choir will rehearse at 8:30 a.m. Then comes a continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Following breakfast there we will hear a description of the classes for children, youth, and adults. Then we will attend the classes for a short session before the church service.



Following an inspiring church service with our choir back after its summer hiatus, we will return to Fellowship Hall for a delicious lunch. Mark your calendar for this great beginning to our Sunday School classes and worship together.

See you there,

Linda Marks, Spiritual Growth Chair

An invitation from Sarah Southards, our office manager



I am having a Fall Open House for the office on Friday, September 18th, from 12-2 p.m. to give members a chance to come say hi who haven't had the opportunity to meet us yet. I am about to reach my six-month mark here (time flies!) and wanted to formally introduce myself to anyone who wishes to stop by.

I would like to know who is planning on stopping by as I will have goodies out and need to make sure I have enough, so please RSVP on the sign up sheet at the Welcome Center.

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 will be offered in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, **September 1**. Bring a sack lunch if you'd like to stay and eat with others.

The Sanctuary Choir will resume Thursday evening 7 p.m. rehearsals on **September 3**. They will rehearse at 8:30 a.m. on **September 13** and resume 8:45 a.m. rehearsals on **September 20**.

The Next Steps Group will meet Thursdays, **September 3rd and 24th** at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

The Grief Group will meet after church on Sundays, **September 6th and 20th**.

The Book Group will meet in the Community Room Tuesday, **September 8**, at 1:00 p.m. to discuss *The Names*, by Florence Knapp. Joy Neal will lead the discussion.

The Faith Support Group meets on Zoom the second Monday of each month (that's **September 14** this month) at 7:00 p.m. to support each other and discuss spiritual readings supplied by members of the group. All are welcome. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81521781156>. Passcode: faith. Contact Brooke Justis for more information.

The Treat Yourself Tuesday Group will meet for lunch at 11:30 on Tuesday, **September 15**, at The Piccadilly at Manhattan. The address is 7201 Piccadilly Avenue. Please sign up at the Welcome Center in the narthex or let Marilyn Short know by Friday, September 11, if you plan to come.

Fall Open House on Friday, September 18, from 12-2 p.m. to give members a chance to meet Sarah Southards, our office manager. See p. 1 for details.

A council meeting will be held after church on Sunday, **September 20**. Only officers need to attend.

The **Second Sunday Choir** will resume after-church rehearsals on **September 20**.

Game Day is Tuesday, **September 22**. Bring a sack lunch and join us at 11:00 in the Community Room for table games.

Tower Grove Pride is Saturday and Sunday, **September 26 and 27**. See next page for details.

The **Treat Yourself Tuesday Group** will have a special outing on Tuesday, **September 29**, at **Grant's Farm**. See next page for details.

Tower Grove Pride

Tower Grove Pride is Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27. We are combining with Dayspring Baptist Church this year, so we will have twice the space and, hopefully, twice the number of volunteers.

We need volunteers:

- To help set up on Friday and tear down on Sunday
- To make cookies and write love notes
- To host the booth
- To help assemble materials

If you can help in any way, please contact Steve or Krista. Thanks.



A trip to Grant's Farm



Since there is a 5th Tuesday in September, the **Treat Yourself Tuesday Group** will have a special outing on Tuesday, **September 29**, at **Grant's Farm**. We can carpool there, since there is a fee per car for parking but no fee for entrance to the park. We will ride the tram throughout the park, and then enjoy the walk to the famous Beer Garden for lunch. After lunch we'll get back on the tram, finish the ride through the park, and then go back to our cars. Let Linda Marks know if you are interested in coming.

September reflections

September 6	Bohemian Rhapsody	Genesis 1:1
September 13	Won't You Be My Neighbor?	Luke 10:25-37
September 20	Broken Halos	Matthew 5:1-10
September 27	My Oh My	Ephesians 4:1-3

Looking ahead to October:

Pet Blessing will be Saturday, **October 3**, at 1:00 p.m. in the upper parking lot.

Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, **October 25**, from 4-6 p.m.

July and August Special Music



Darryl Briscoe, Julie Briscoe, and Kara Windler performed "Precious Lord" with "You've Got a Friend" on July 5.



Krista Collins sang "Devotion," arr by John Ness Beck on July 12.



Olivia Htoo sang "You Are My All in All" on July 12.



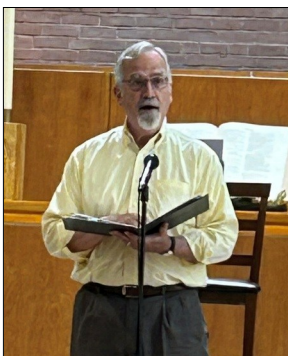
Jeff and Rick Hoyt played a piano duet of "Ode to Joy" on July 19.



Jack Lersaw sang a solo on July 19.



Rick Rardin sang "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" on August 2.



Brad Short sang "In His Presence" and "Lullaby Prayer" on August 9.



Allen Neal sang "Come, Jesus Come" on August 16.



Charlie and Ken Windler played a cello duet of "Minuet No. 2" by J.S. Bach on August 23.

Joint Service with Antioch and Dayspring July 26, 2026



A combined choir from Antioch, Dayspring, and Second Baptist Churches sang "Amazing Grace" and "I Love You, Lord," directed by Brad Short.



Rev. Andrea Huffman, Dayspring's pastor, read Scripture and gave the benediction.



Rev. Dr. Delano Benson, Antioch's pastor, read Scripture.



Rev. Steve Mechem offered the pastoral prayer.

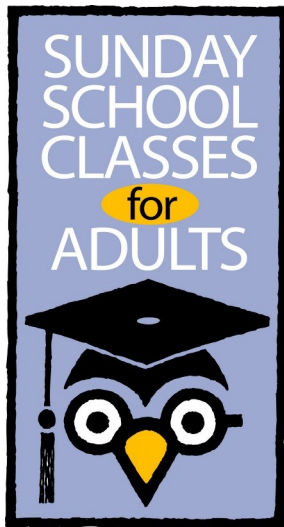


Rev. Desiree Davis, Antioch's assistant pastor, preached on "God Has Not Forgotten."



Greeting each other

Hey Everybody,



It's Steve. I have asked Jerry Keeney to share this space with me this month so that we could introduce our respective adult classes for the fall.

Jerry, take it away.

WHO OR WHAT RULES TODAY'S AMERICAN CHURCH(ES)?

Can the Bible answer this question and those that follow here? Who or what is really ruling this world? Ruling our nation? My civic community? My family? My church? Our economy? Who is ruling my self? And how? The question of power and authority to rule is age-old.

Isaiah came to a spiritual crisis around questions like these. He unfolds this crisis throughout his writings. Take a look at Isaiah 6:1-8 to see a telling glimpse of the pivotal moment that changed his life by transforming his understanding of who rules and how. His witness begins, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I *saw* . . ." Saw what? Was it just a "king" who had died or something larger – a *paradigm* of kingship, of "rule"?

The Wm. Gurley Bible Class will begin here this fall. We'll study and pray and share to discern what it was that Isaiah saw and how it changed him. This is critical because what he "saw" also "ruled" in Jesus's life. Hint: Isaiah saw something he described as "Suffering Servant" (Isaiah 42, 49, 50, 52-53). Jesus directly alluded often to this figure. It was central in his own witness to the presence and "rule" of God. Jesus also depicted this "rule," this "kingdom," in parables, portraying an entirely new mode of Kingdom and King.

Now we face the same questions Isaiah faced and Jesus answered: Who rules us and how, toward what end, and what role does the "Suffering Servant" call today's "church" to enact as Christ's visible presence in this world?

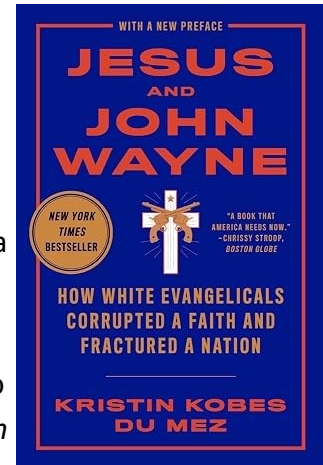
If you don't have another Sunday School Hour involvement, come and help us find answers to these questions.

Jerry Keeney

Hi, it's Steve again. Jerry's class, will, as always, be profoundly significant and meaningful.

As for my class: Have you ever wondered why – why the modern church is the way it is? How has the Church evolved to be what it is in this day and age? Have you ever wondered why Jesus is depicted in some churches more as He-Man from the popular cartoon series than the Jesus portrayed in the scripture? Have you ever wondered why the largest Baptist denomination in the world is banning women from serving as pastors and teaching leaders?

Have you ever wondered why many churches teach a macho militarism in the name of the one who taught us to turn the other cheek? Have you ever wondered why so many people come away from churches describing them toxic? Have you ever wondered why some church leaders preach ideas more closely associated with hate than love? Have you ever wondered why the worship hour in America is the most segregated hour of the week? Have you wondered why some churches seem to be cheering for Armageddon to come? The Living Faith Class (we call ourselves the Storyteller Class) is planning to address these kind of questions as we take on the book *Jesus and John Wayne*. Should be interesting!

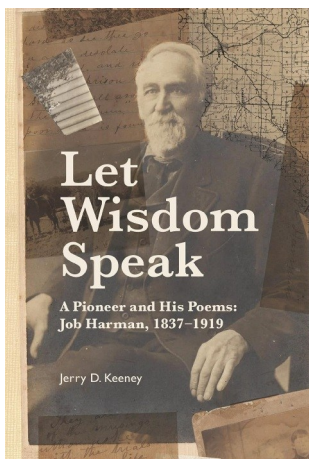


Congratulations, Jerry!

Jerry Keeney has published his long-awaited book!

It centers in thirty-nine original poems authored by his great-great grandfather, Job Harman, early Crawford County, Missouri pioneer (arrived 1859). The poems come from his life, with a range from dramatic tales of personal and family experience to contemplative reflection, plus a bit of wry humor. The book's title is derived from one of the key poems, "Let Wisdom Speak."

Here's a taste:



*Let wisdom speak she is a guide
Through all the varied scenes of life
Be still ambition, passion, pride
Be still contention, war, and strife

Be still and listen to her voice
Which teaches us the living way
And helps us make the better choice
And guides our feet from day to day*

A book signing is being arranged for later in September or October. You can find detailed information about the book and even read a few pages by copying and pasting this link into your browser: <https://store.bookbaby.com/book/let-wisdom-speak>. You can also order a copy of the book from that website if you'd like to have one inscribed at the book signing.

Second Baptist Church of Greater St. Louis

An American Baptist Church
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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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Rev. Stephen Mechem, Pastor

stevemechem@gmail.com

Krista Collins, Moderator

Sarah Southards, Office manager

Mary Shepardson, Newsletter editor

The youth made blankets for St. Louis Children's Hospital.

