



# The Second Baptist Church

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THE REV. DR. RACHAEL LAWRENCE, ACTING PASTOR

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Dear Members and Friends of Second Baptist Church:

Thank you to all who pivoted with us and attended/watched this past Sunday's service, which we put in place following the rain cancellation of the Blessing of the Animals (rescheduled to 9/5/21). There were 23 people who came to the live service, and 27 who have joined us online so far this week. For summer in New England in the pandemic, that's fair. The pre-made cups and bread for the First Sunday at First Baptist arrived yesterday, so we know we have that to look forward to in the near future.

As we continue to do things in person, please encourage your unvaccinated friends (who are medically capable of being vaccinated) to go do it! According to covidactnow.org, Connecticut's current full vaccination rate has crept slightly upward to 62%. We have NOT reached researcher's minimum expectations for herd immunity, and the infection rate in Hartford County is now 1.2 (an additional 1 1/5 case from every confirmed case). When we reopened, it had fallen to around .7-.8, when meant that cases were shrinking. We need to maintain proactive behaviors to ensure we can continue to gather.

Assuming that we will all do our part, an announcement:

no auditions. everyone welcome. just for the JOY

## Great News!!

SBC Music Ministry plans to start rehearsals again in September for our Sanctuary Choir, Folk Group and Handbell Choir! But we need to know who would like to participate. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR MUSICAL FAMILY!

**Please contact Evelyne Battle at [etbattle@icloud.com](mailto:etbattle@icloud.com)** if you would like to be a member of any or all of the groups. Even if you were involved in our music ministry in the past, please contact Evelyne to confirm that you wish to come back and which groups you would like to participate in. Looking forward to seeing you in September! 🎵

## Other Announcements



**Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Garden for the Lectio Divina Meeting.** This summer, we'll be working through the book of 1 John. Come for Bible study, conversation, and for listening for meaning from these ancient words for our time. In case of inclement weather or bees, we'll move inside.

**Want to help out at Suffield on the Green?** Molly Drenzek is spearheading this effort for the Growth and Outreach team. Reach out to her with your skills and ideas!

**Are you interested in MEMBERSHIP at Second Baptist Church?** Please reach out to me, Pastor Rachael, at [copastor@secondbaptistsuffield.org](mailto:copastor@secondbaptistsuffield.org). Let's put together a new members class for the fall.

**We're still working to grow a Technology and Videography Team!** Right now, we've been blessed with the skills of David Jones, who has single-handedly run our new video system. We'd like to train a team to work alongside Dave so that we can live-stream our services every week, and rotate teams so that people can participate in the service in other ways at times, too. If this interests you, please let us know!

## Prayer Requests



- We've received word that the Das' son, Andrew (a sports editor for the NY Times) has arrived in Tokyo for the Olympic games. Please pray for all involved in this endeavor – the athletes, the press, the coaches, and those in hospitality around these games for their continued health and safety.
- Please pray for the Western European Countries affected by devastated floods, New England as we keep getting soaking, dangerous weather to which we are unaccustomed such as tornados and extreme flash floods, and the 20 million lives globally who in peril from famine.
- Continue to pray for the family of Leslie Wilkins, as they make final preparations for the funeral this week.
- Continue to hold families of Joan Meyers, George Haynes, and Jeffrey Orr in prayer as they continue in a period of mourning.
- Please pray for Dick and Mary Begin, as Dick has been experiencing increasing health challenges lately.

- Pray for Tatum LaRoche as she prepares for her mission, teaching in Haiti, a country that has experienced recent turbulence in the death of their president. Let us also pray for her parents, as it's not easy to send your child off to do work such as this. May God guide them all.
- In our extended community, we ask for prayers for Tony, a 19 year old from the First Church family; the Davis' extended family members, Brian, and Holly.
- For those with mental health concerns, including depression, anxiety, and other challenges.
- For God's peace to prevail on Earth, and that we, indeed, may become instruments of that peace.

## Words for Today

For this week's word, let's turn to pop music – inspiration from the words of Paul McCartney's song from 2016 entitled "Hope for the Future."

*Some hope for the future; some wait for the call  
To say that the days ahead will be the best of all  
We will build bridges up to the sky  
Heavenly lights surrounding you and I*

*From out of the darkness our future will come  
If we leave the past behind we'll fly beyond the sun  
We'll be together, sharing the load  
Watching in wonder as our lives unfold*

*Hope for the future. It's coming soon enough. How much can we achieve?  
Hope for the future. It will belong to us. If we believe.*

*Hope shines brightest in the dark when nothing's ever seen  
Lighting undiscovered places no one's ever been  
Some hope for the future; some wait for the call  
To say that our destiny will be the best of all*

*And we will build bridges up to the sky  
And heavenly lights surrounding you and I*

*Hope shines brightest in the dark where nothing's ever seen  
Lighting undiscovered places no-one's ever been*

May God grant you peace this day and always.

With love,

Pastor Rachael

The Rev. Dr. Rachael Lawrence

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413-221-1582 (Cell, available until 8 PM every evening)

Office Hours (from home): 9 am - 5 pm Tuesdays

Outdoor Office Hours at SBC (weather permitting) 11:00 am -1:00 pm Thursdays

*as needed for emergencies or by appointment for pastoral visits*