

The Visitor

A newsletter for members and friends
of First Baptist Church, Madison, Wisconsin

No. 21 November 20, 2017 Vol. 60

Give Thanks for Blessings Every Day



Two-time Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington is best known for his roles in *Glory*, *The Preacher's Wife*, *Remember the Titans*, and *Training Day*. But the Hollywood A-lister has sounded more like a pastor when he has spoken at recent events. Washington has publicly stated that he reads his Bible every day and that he strives to consistently "get up and speak of what God has done for him."

At a November 2015 church banquet he urged his listeners to live in a constant attitude of gratitude for God's goodness:

Give thanks for blessings every day. Every day. Embrace gratitude. Encourage others. It is impossible to be grateful and hateful at the same time. I pray that you put your slippers way under your bed at night, so that when you wake in the morning you have to start on your knees to find them. And while you're down there, say "thank you." A bad attitude is like a flat tire. Until you change it, you're not going anywhere.

Jeannie Law, "Denzel Washington: God Has 'Faith in Me,'"



Thanksgiving Quotes

- "Gratitude can transform common days into Thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." - William Arthur Ward
- "Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." - Oprah Winfrey
- "I am grateful for what I am and have. My Thanksgiving is perpetual." -Henry David Thoreau
- "If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share." -W. Clement Stone
- "Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow." - Melody Beattie
- "Give thanks for a little and you will find a lot." - Anonymous
- "A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues." -Cicero
- "Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds." -Theodore Roosevelt
- "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -John F. Kennedy
- "I give thanks to my Creator for this wonderful life where each of us has the opportunity to learn lessons we could not fully comprehend by any other means." -Joseph B. Wirthlin
- "Dear Lord; we beg but one boon more: Peace in the hearts of all men living, peace in the whole world this Thanksgiving." – Joseph Auslander
- "God gave you the gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say 'thank you?'" – William A. Ward

***The Visitor* Publication Schedule**

December 4, 2017

December 18, 2017

Article deadline is 9 a.m.

on day of publication.

Email to: fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Worship With Us

November 26, 2017

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service,
Sanctuary, Rev. Mark Clinger

11:00 a.m. – Common Table Worship Service,
Fellowship Hall, Rev. Jason Mack

December 3, 2017

9:30 a.m. – Intergenerational Breakfast/
Alternative Giving Fair

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service,
Sanctuary, Rev. Mark Clinger

11:00 a.m. – Common Table Worship Service,
Fellowship Hall, Rev. Jason Mack

*If you would like to make a confession of faith in Christ
and be baptized into his body, to become a member of
this congregation, or renew your Christian commitment,
you are warmly invited to call*

Rev. Mark Clinger or Rev. Jason Mack (233-1880).

Phone (608) 233-1880 * FAX (608) 233-2814

E-mail: fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Web Page: www.firstbaptistmadison.org

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: Julie Blankenburg; Wynn Davies & family; Jan Arneson; Joanne Berg; Kathryn Hill; James & Karen Evans family; Wayne Bischel's father, Jack; Bob & Lynette Miller family; Ann Nelson & family; John Hebblewhite (Art's brother); Art Hebblewhite family; Bill Lutter; Paul Brynelson; Katy Marty; Atlee Wilson; Lance Dockter; Jeff & Jeanette Kersten & family, and Jeanette's father; Ruth L. Parfrey; Paul Husting's friend, David Baer; Sheila Donald; and Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman.

Our Shut-ins: Connie Smith, Pat Young; Phyllis Reisdorf; Jeanne Maruska; Linda Olson; and Joyce Tardrew.

Expecting Parents: Renally & Joab Dorea and Andy & Nikki Borchardt (May 2).

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.



Fresh News

October Financial Report

The budget deficit roughly doubled this month, from \$3,899.45 at the end of September to \$7,831.96 at the end of October. At 10 months through the year, we should be at 83.33% of budgeted income and expenses. Income was 78.03% of budget (pledge income at 75.96% of budget) and expenses were at 79.90% of budget. Only 5 budget expenses have exceeded their annual budget so far, all of them Contracted Services, but they have exceeded their budget by less than \$625 total. Copies of the financial reports and a short overview of FBC financial system may be found posted outside the church office.

Julia (Mueller) Voss Preaching

In Pastor Mark's absence (vacation), FBC's own Julia Voss, Youth Leader, will be leading worship and preaching on November 26. The focus of her sermon will be on the summer's past youth trip. The youth ministry is such an important part of our legacy of ministry and we are blessed to have someone of Julia's competence and faith working with our current generation of youth.

Can You Help?

Last spring our church voted to join with other churches in Dane County to form Dane Sanctuary Coalition with the purpose of providing sanctuary to undocumented immigrants facing deportation. There are presently 15 churches and other non-profit organizations that have joined the coalition. Six congregations at three different sites have voted to provide physical sanctuary, while the other congregations (First Baptist included) have agreed to provide assistance.

There are over thirty people in sanctuary nationwide and the number is increasing. So far, no immigrant in danger of deportation has requested sanctuary here, but when that time comes, we need to be able to respond quickly. The congregations at the sanctuary sites are preparing their facilities. In the meantime, supporting congregations are preparing lists of people who are willing to be contacted about providing support services when an immigrant goes into sanctuary here. Examples of volunteer assistance we foresee needing are providing meals and transportation, staffing the sanctuary sites, shopping and running errands. There is also a need for pro bono medical, counseling, and legal assistance.

Information about volunteer opportunities will be available in the Gathering Space and Fellowship Hall starting November 19. Contact Dennis Ray or Gil Emmert for further information.

World Mission Offering Initiatives for Peace and Justice

The Board of Outreach is asking the congregation to give as you can the World Mission Offering. Our gifts and prayers for the global outreach of this international ministry will make it possible for God's global servants to do the following: resolve conflicts through the study and ministry of God's word; provide the training and resources to needy communities of faith; and empower individuals who yearn for the healing arts of worship and education. Specifically, for 2017-2018, the World Mission Offering will support these three (3) basic areas of need: 1) the initiative for peace and justice throughout the global community; 2) the abolishment of global slavery, especially in developing countries; and 3) the support of these communities' economic investment systems.

Thank you for your financial support and your prayers.
The FBC Board of Outreach

Mark Your Calendars for the First Baptist Advent Kickoff Weekend!

Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3

Saturday December 2 – Annual Hanging of the Greens Festivities

Come help decorate the church for the holiday season. And while you do so, enjoy some hot food and beverages as well as holiday treats! At the end, we will gather around the bonfire and sing Christmas Carols as we light up the big tree out front. **4 – 7 p.m.**

Sunday, December 3 – Intergenerational Breakfast & Alternative Giving Fair

Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour before church, we will join as a church family to enjoy a meal together. We will enjoy a hot cooked breakfast, have an opportunity to learn more about each other, and sing Christmas carols together. In addition, we will have the opportunity to purchase alternative gifts from Church World Service. **9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

Thanks to Family Shelter Volunteers

Our thanks go to the following volunteers who were of service to the homeless families in emergency shelter at Covenant Presbyterian earlier this month: Chris Blythe, Geneva Moore, John Mueller, Dennis Ray, Claire Rider, Vern and Dori Seay, and Jill Thomas. Our next time to help will be on January 14 and 15. Let Dennis Ray know if you would like to volunteer to fix a dinner or breakfast, stay overnight, or lead activities for the children.

Cookie Time Just Around the Corner

The Women's Circle will be assembling Christmas goodies to deliver to church members on Monday, November 27, at 1:00 in the church gathering space. Please have enough for 10-12 packages. They should be wrapped or placed in individual snack bags. Long-lasting fruit like clementines or apples are also good.

Chinese Orphans Project Sale Sunday, December 3

Think Christmas, and help us send our more than 90 orphans in poor areas of rural China to school. We have new items – acrylic paintings by Lorretta Anderson and water colors by Mary Ray, plus Vance Nelson's unique hangers (limited supply!), hats, scarves, blankets, and many other handmade items. Come see what we have and bid on a donation of an in-home physical fitness session valued at \$100. And, buy some baked goodies from Susan Donahoe's Sunday School class to help them send 6th grader Kejia to school again next year. We'll be on the downstairs landing before the service and in the Gathering Space upstairs after church. One hundred percent goes to the Chinese Orphans Project.



Water Colors by Mary Ray



**Christmas Tea &
Silent Auction Fundraiser
December 1, 2017**

Madison Ecumenical Choir

10:00 am: Christmas Tea and Carol Sing

**Memorial United Church of Christ,
5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg**

December Forum

On the first day of December, fum, fum, fum, we will gather at Memorial United Church of Christ, 5705 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, to ring in the festive month of December. We will begin at 10 a.m. with tea and carol singing, and our own women's ecumenical choir will add special music of the season. We will also be conducting a silent auction as a fundraiser for our CWU-Madison unit.

And what will we auction? What you bring as your contribution to the fun. An item, with a sheet of paper with the item heading, for people to offer bids. There are lots of choices of what item to bring.

Potential Christmas gifts, and they can range from small objects either Christmasy or useful, baked goods, a basket of goodies, art, that unused gift that doesn't fit your decor. The range is quite large.

This fundraiser should be a lot of fun, and we will make merry with tea and crumpets while initiating the season of carol singing. This will also be a fun event to invite fellow church members or friends to come to a CWU meeting as well as to enjoy our fellowship as members of this ecumenical movement.

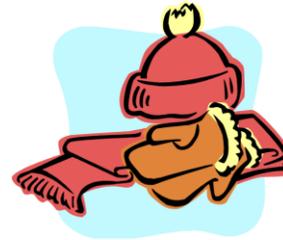


Reminders



Adult Sunday School Schedule Available

An updated adult Sunday school schedule handout is on the gathering space credenza. It also posted on the Outreach Board.



**Help Keep Adults Warm Too
with New Hats & Mittens**

Now through December 3

Winter Is Coming!!!

It's getting to be that time of year ago. It's time to break out the winter gear. For many this may be a struggle. With budgets stretched to the breaking point, the expense can be overwhelming. To help make sure everybody stays warm this winter this year, we are having a dual collection drive of sorts.

Wynn Davies is collecting new or lightly used **winter gear (including boots) for the children** of the Allied drive neighborhood and Katy Marty is collecting **new adult hats and mittens** for the Triangle neighborhood. Donations can be dropped off in the appropriately marked bins in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your help at keeping everybody warm and toasty throughout our forecasted snowy winter season. Feel free to give Katy a call with any questions at 230-5922, Wynn's phone number is 238-1817.

**Collecting Christmas Cards
and Calendars**

I am collecting new Christmas cards and calendars for the residents at The Triangle where I live. I think many residents would like to engage in the tradition of giving Christmas cards but can't afford to etc. Help by recycling those "unsolicited" cards/calendars from charities. Donations of postage stamps are always welcome as well. They can be put with the adult hats and mittens basket.

Katy Marty



1 Jeanne Maruska
4 Kyle Arneson
4 Bernie Long
7 Sue Lutter
8 Kathryn Ray
10 Jacki Barnes
11 Linda Conohan
11 James Mulder
13 Rainge Dockter
15 Ryan Blythe
15 Beverly Davison
15 Jeff Miller
17 Anna Chotlos
18 Christopher Hill
18 Linda Stamm
21 Jamie Kolden
22 Julie Blankenburg
23 Laurel Finn
24 Marcia Frazier
24 Geneva Moore
25 Mercile Lee
27 Robb Lee
28 Kacia Ferguson
28 Willa Vy McAbee
29 Amira Castillo
29 Charlotte Lipham
30 Lydia Haynes
30 Dianne Hopkins
30 Carl Siddell
31 Kathryn Holden
31 Joyce Laugen
31 Troy Zimmerman

If any additions, deletions, or corrections need to be made to the birthday lists, please notify Linda in the church office at fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org or call 233-1880.



Doing the Most Good

Bellringers Needed?

Are you looking for an easy, fun and rewarding way to volunteer as a family this Christmas season? The Salvation Army of Dane County has an opportunity for you! By ringing bells for only two hours, you will raise over \$90 to help house the homeless, feed the hungry, and provide mentoring and education to at-risk children. The Christmas Red Kettle campaign runs from now through December 23, with many locations and shifts available. Please go to ringbells.org to sign up or call 250-2235 for more information.

Turkey Jokes

Q: Why did the turkey cross the road twice?

A: To prove he wasn't a chicken!

Q: What happened when the turkey got into a fight?

A: He got the stuffing knocked out of him!

Q: What kind of weather does a turkey like?

A: Fowl weather!

Q: Who is not hungry at Thanksgiving?

A: The turkey because he's already stuffed!

Q: Why should you never set the turkey next to the dessert?

A: Because he will gobble, gobble it up!

Q: What sound does a turkey's phone make?

A: Wing, Wing! Wing, Wing!

Q: What's the most musical part of a drumstick?

A: A drumstick!

Q: Why can't you take a turkey to church?

A: They use fowl language!

Q: What is it called when a turkey fumbles in football?

A: A fowl play

Jokes taken from the *Reader's Digest*

The Visitor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699

(608-233-1880)

(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

Worship Schedule

11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. - Contemporary "Common
Table" Worship

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE: DATED MATERIAL -

MAILED - 11/20/17