



The Visitor

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

No. 22 December 4, 2017 Vol. 60

Dear Friends:

Who needs Christmas? Well, certainly the retailers do as they live on fumes all year long waiting and hoping to turn a profit and move into the black after Thanksgiving. Their enthusiasm and happiness is almost palpable.

Who else needs Christmas? Well, educators certainly look forward to the rest offered by a greatly needed break. Meanwhile their students hope for little homework and much time to forget whatever they were learning. We all count on at least a few days off.

Who needs Christmas? The question creeps into the margins of our thoughts as we stand in long lines, push through crowds, finding ourselves with too many things to do around the kitchen and home. Who needs it?

Who needs Christmas? Standing in long TSA lines, missing flights, sitting in seats provided without legroom, lost luggage, the whole idea of going to grandmother's house loses something of its allure.

Who needs Christmas? Put all the above observations aside. This is a most serious question. We dare not say, "I don't need it. I'll skip it this year!"

Who needs Christmas? A profound answer is gradually uncovered during the weeks of the advent season. Bit by bit, if we are attentive to our world and to ourselves, the answer is given us. The answer is both personal and cosmic.

Who needs Christmas? Scripture tells a cosmic story. It is the entire world which needs Christmas because the entire world needs saving. We need read no further than the first chapter of Luke when Mary sings of her discovery of God's plan—to scatter the arrogant and proud, filling the hungry with good things, remembering the divine mercy. Jesus comes with rescuing strength to set the world straight, lifting the deep valleys in which too many dwell and making low the lofty mountains from which the few look down on the many. Even "rocks, hills, and plains" along with all God's creation celebrate the creator's birth.

Who needs Christmas? Each one of us, in relation to ourselves and others, find we face problems our minds can't "solve," challenges our strength can't "conquer," past regrets we cannot "erase," and a future which is certain in the long term while uncertain in the near term. Simply put, we need saving.

Who needs Christmas? Certainly, the world does and we do too. The days of advent give us cause to gradually know more and more how much we and our world need that rescuing energy of heaven's love to be born to us again. Ponder the question well. "Why do you need Christmas?"

In peace,

Rev. Mark

***The Visitor* Publication Schedule**

December 18, 2017

January 8, 2017

**Article deadline is 9 a.m.
on day of publication.**

Email to: fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Worship With Us

December 10, 2017

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for All Ages

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

11:00 a.m. – Common Table Worship Service,
Fellowship Hall, Tyler Heggestad

December 17, 2017

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for All Ages

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: fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Web Page: www.firstbaptistmadison.org

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: Beverly St. Clair; 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

Christmas Eve Worship

Our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve worship will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. This year we will be blessed by our sister church, the Hispanic Missionary Church, joining with us in this occasion of welcoming our savior.

Tube Steak Roast on Picnic Point

Everyone is invited to attend the annual Tube Steak Roast on Picnic Point on December 31 at 5:30 p.m. A New Year's Eve party will be held after the roast at the Emmert home. For more information contact Gil or Nancy Emmert at 608-467-6064 or email Gil at gaemmert@wisc.edu.

Christmas Letters

There are recent letters from Ruth Mooney and Daniel and Sharon Buttry, International Ministries (ABC), on the credenza in the Gathering Space. Please take a few minutes to read the news from these FBC friends.

Come, Join Your Friends in a Christmas Celebration – Third Tuesday Lunch

We will gather for a delicious potluck meal at noon in Fellowship Hall and then a Christmas musical program led by Ted Reinke at 1 p.m. The main dish will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Reservations can be made by signing the pew pad or by calling the church office, 233-1880. This should be a wonderful way to share Christmas joy with friends so plan to join us on Tuesday, December 19, at noon.

Warm Stomachs and Hearts this Season of Christ!

Each December the people of First Baptist have a tradition of delivering "Meals on Wheels" to the many disabled and home-bound people in our community who look forward to a friendly visitor bringing them a warm noon meal. Can you spare a couple of hours on one of the upcoming December weekends to be one of those "friendly visitors?" You would pick up the meals for approximately 11 home-bound persons insulated containers at Oakwood West on Mineral Point Road at 11:00 a.m. and be done within two hours. Please contact Wynn Davies at lorwyn@sbcglobal.net or phone 608-238-1817.

Free Hockey Tickets for Homeless Shelter Volunteers

Again, this year, UW Madison is giving Porchlight free men's hockey tickets to say thank you to staff, volunteers and Board members who do so much for the community

- UW men's hockey vs Notre Dame Saturday December 9, 7 p.m.
- Email Linda Lindley at the church office at fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org to request tickets.
- There are no free concession cards this year.
- Tickets will be given out first come-first served.
- The deadline to email Linda for tickets is Tuesday, December 5.
- If you receive tickets you must go or give them to someone else who will go. Last year, Porchlight gave out 100 tickets and maybe they had 50 in attendance.

Thank you. Email the church office if you have questions.

Get your Christmas Shopping Done at the Porchlight Products Holiday Store!

Open noon to 6:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 1704 Thierer Road, Madison. Making and selling these products provides employment and job training for homeless persons in our community. Here is what's available:

Jams and Jellies



- Apple Butter (8 oz.)
- Apple Sauce (16 oz.)
- Rhubarb Jam (8 oz.)
- Strawberry Jam (8 oz.)
- Strawberry-Rhubarb Jam (8 oz.)

Pickled Products



- Curtido (12 oz.)
- Dilly Beans (12 oz.)
- Sauerkraut (16 oz.)

Pancakes and Scones



- Multi-Grain Pancake Mix (16 oz.)
- Blueberry Scones (17.2 oz.)
- Cherry Scones (17.2 oz.)
- Cranberry Scones (17.2 oz.)

COMMUNITY OLD TIME HYMN SING

Asbury United Methodist Church
Chapel (located in center of building)
6101 University Avenue, Madison, WI
December 17, 2017
2:15 p.m.
Everyone is welcome
For information call 608-836-6532

Reminders

2017 Financial Commitments and 2018 Pledges

The end of the year is rapidly approaching and many people are not up-to-date on their 2017 pledge. If possible, please do so soon so that FBC can meet all its financial obligations.

It is also very important for you to fill out your 2018 pledge card and submit it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. This is critical to preparing a budget for 2018. Thank you.



Doing the Most Good

Bell Ringers 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.





One Solitary Life

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

This essay was adapted from a sermon by Dr. James Allan Francis in "The Real Jesus and Other Sermons" © 1926 by the Judson Press of Philadelphia (pp 123-124 titled "Arise Sir Knight!").

- 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
- 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.

The Visitor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699

(608-233-1880)

(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

<p>Worship Schedule</p> <p>11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. - Contemporary "Common Table" Worship</p>
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE: DATED MATERIAL -

MAILED - 12/4/17