



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
A community for all people

The Visitor

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

No. 4 February 19, 2018 Vol. 61

Dear Friends:

Sunday's sermon on Genesis 9:8-17 was quite well received and elicited great interest. The text is about God's promise (covenant) with humanity, every living creature, birds, domestic animals and every animal of the earth. God's promise is to never again destroy both human life and lives of animals.

As this text was our first lesson for Lent, I concluded by offering some suggestions for the observance of Lent. They were:

1. Don't give anything up for Lent but figure out how you can reconnect with creation in a way which is sustaining to all.
2. Do give up something for Lent. Give up something which is made of fossil fuel.
3. Get outside each day and notice that you ARE outside. See the outdoors, smell the outdoors, listen to its sounds, and touch it, feeling its texture.
4. Connect with creation. Pick something, like a tree, and spend time observing it each day. Discover more and more about that particular tree. Notice how it is unique from other trees of the same species. Offer daily prayers both of gratitude and for the tree's well-being.
5. Find a child. Your own, your grandchild, a neighbor's child. Then go for a walk in the woods. Show them nature. Also, notice their fascination in everything they notice.

For those of you with further interest, let me point you in several directions.

In terms of suggestion one and five, you may take interest in The Nature Principle by Richard Louv. Here he writes of our "nature-deficit" disorder. We are created to be outdoors. Humanity has, in recent times, lost its essential connection with creation at a great loss to ourselves and the planet. Both our mental and physical well-being is degraded.

For an interest in number five there is a great and fun book entitled How to Raise a Wild Child: The Art and Science of Falling in Love with Nature. This book is a

compendium of ideas and activities to do with children from their earliest years through adolescence. As we have moved indoors and sat before our computer screens, we have lost the wisdom of how we can engage with the world which surrounds and sustains us. This book by Scott Sampson shows us the way back.

For numbers three and four, pick up any one of the excellent books on mindfulness. Their key point is that we are often not really experiencing our own lives. We walk through the world with many thoughts going through our minds. But, caught up in thought, we are not where we are. We aren't experiencing OUR life. If we can stop thinking thoughts involving other times and other places, we come to where we are. We are present to the present moment and all which is present there. One author has even suggested we can only find the presence of God in the present moment.

I mentioned the book by Kathleen Dean Moore entitled Great Tide Rising: Towards Clarity and Moral Courage in a Time of Planetary Change. After quoting Aldo Leopold who said "that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts," she then proceeds to say "If we are on the verge of understanding that deeply, then we are on the verge of a new ethic and we are on the verge of inventing new forms of human goodness." If discovering new ways to be good sounds intriguing, this is for you.

Finally, in reflecting on the text, I said "Our time is best spent on reconnecting to the rest of God's good creation . . . getting over ourselves so to join God in the keeping of a divine promise to never destroy a single creature."

By who we are and by what we do, we show all creation who God is and what God is doing to sustain us all. During this Lenten season, may we bear God's promise to all the life surrounding us.

In peace,

Mark

***The Visitor* Publication Schedule**

March 5, 2018

March 19, 2018

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

Email to: fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

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

E-mail: fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Web Page: www.firstbaptistmadison.org

Worship With Us

February 25, 2018

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

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

March 4, 2018

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,*

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: The family of Diane Hopkins, the family of Jeanne Maruska; the family of Barbara Mendel Henderson; Virginia Henderson; Jim Siddell, Carl's father; James Evans; Brenna Kersten's friend; Beverly St. Clair; Julie Blankenburg; Wynn Davies & family; Ken & Jan Arneson; Joanne Berg; Kathryn Hill; James & Karen Evans family; Wayne Bischel's father, Jack; Ann Nelson & family; 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: Mercile Lee; Connie Smith; Pat Young; Phyllis Reisdorf; Linda Olson; and Joyce Tardrew

Expecting Parents: Renally & Joab Dorea and Andy & Nikki Borchardt (May 3)

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken

Fresh News



Lempps Welcome New Grandson

Congratulations to new parents Alex and Kiki Fahrenbach on the birth of Theodor Alexander on January 9 in Hackensack, New Jersey. He weighed 10 lbs. 3.5 oz. and was 22 in. Proud grandparents are Brenda and Steffen Lempp.

Music TA Wins Campus-Wide Teaching Award

We congratulate choral conducting graduate student **Chris Boveroux** (and FBC's Choir Director) one of only 15 UW-Madison teaching assistants (out of 2,000 total) to win a Graduate School Campus-Wide Teaching Award. Not only has Chris TA'd in music, but also in mathematics, political science, and integrated liberal studies.



World Day of Prayer March 2, 2018

ALL God's Creation Is Very Good!
9:00 a.m. Gathering and Coffee
9:30 a.m. Welcome and Announcements
10:00 a.m. Worship Celebration

First Baptist Church
518 North Franklin Avenue, Madison

All Are Welcome!

On March 2, we will gather at First Baptist Church, 518 North Franklin Avenue, to celebrate World Day of Prayer. This year's celebration was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname. Our theme, *ALL God's Creation Is Very Good!* should lead to a joyful celebration of the good that is in this world and our unity with people all around the globe who join us in this worship service. Remember, our invitation to all includes men.



Adult Sunday School Schedule in March

Time: 9:30 a.m.

The Reformation and Baptist Freedom

This three-session class will be led by Beverly Davison in Room 302

March 4 Martin Luther and the Reformation

The class will view a fascinating Public Television Special by Rick Steves on Luther, the complexities of the Reformation, and the Renaissance. Your historical memories will be refreshed, you will learn new things, and even see things that might apply to us as Baptists today.

March 11 Radical Reformers and Baptist Beginnings

This class will meet the Anabaptists; the Mennonites; and Baptists in England, the Netherlands, and America. We will hear from Thomas Helwys, John Bunyan, and Roger Williams.

March 18 Religious Liberty in America

Hear more on Roger Williams and Thomas Jefferson on the "Wall of Separation." Learn how Baptists influenced the writing of our Constitution. How do we protect Baptist Freedom today?

Hourglass Bible Study

For the rest of the spring semester, the Hourglass Bible study will be discussing two topics: "The Formation of the New Testament Canon" and "What the Bible Says--and Doesn't Say--about Work." James Evans will lead classes on the Canon as his treatments permit and Mary Ray will lead classes on Work Scriptures in the weeks when James is recovering from treatments. Both topics offer some surprising information; join us to find out what it is. The Hourglass Bible Study schedule will follow this timetable:

February 25-March 11

James Evans will share how the New Testament cannon was developed, including discussions of books that were rejected as well as those chosen.

March 18-April 15

Mary Ray will lead the discussion in an exploration of what the Bible says about work.

March 25 & April 1

No Hourglass Bible Study due to Palm Sunday and Easter.



January Attendance Numbers

Date	Traditional Worship	Common Table Worship
1/7/18	53	30
1/14/18	51	34
1/21/18	57	24
1/28/18	53	33

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Is Ready to Ease Your Spring Cleanout

The groundhog said just a few weeks 'til spring! If you have spring cleanout on your list of not-too-fun tasks, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul can help you finish the job with seven convenient and staffed drop-off locations or a free home pick-up!

St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores accept gently-used clothing, furniture, household goods, linens, art, craft supplies, toys, books and games and much more. Donated items are sold in the stores to support the food pantry, free pharmacy, and housing programs for Dane County residents. Clothing, furniture, beds and household goods are given out for free through the voucher program that supplies people living with very low incomes with life's basics.

When you donate to "St. Vinny's," you're doing three important things: de-cluttering your home for a fresh spring start, keeping useful things out of the landfill and helping someone else build a better life.

Drive-through and drop off at any of the seven St. Vinny's stores in Dane County or call for a free home pickup: 608-278-2920. Check the website for more info: www.svdpmadison.org



White Cross - More Than Bandages

This month the Women's Circle at First Baptist has dedicated Mondays in February to work on White Cross requests. We meet at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall and encourage all women to join us.

We receive many requests from Milwaukee Christian Center, our state White Cross project. We have made quilts under the guidance of Gladys Carlson and we will do that again this year. Women also purchase a variety of requested items including sports equipment, toys, clothing, craft supplies, health needs as gifts or using our budgeted money.

National American Baptist Women suggest monetary ways to support **International** Mission projects through "Opportunities for Giving to White Cross." This list will be on the Mission side of the kiosk on blue paper so you can see the variety of projects supported by International Ministries and White Cross.

National ABW also continues to ask for handmade items such as doctors' masks, caps and wrappers for surgical gloves and sterile goods; baby blankets and gowns; and roller bandages in various sizes for Congo. American Baptists have seven missionary couples who serve in the Congo. Three of these couples work in the health field: Ann and Bill Clemmer, Katherine and Wayne Niles, and Kathy and Tim Rice. Here is a letter Katherine Niles wrote about "Unpacking White Cross" donations last July.

"Not long ago we received the 2017 White Cross shipment. There were loads of rolled bandages, gloves, suture, gauze, uniforms and infant blankets. Someone had fun selecting those flannel prints! Stars, trains, teddy bears, clowns, and bugs adorned blankets carefully hemmed and folded for infants in our 11 hospitals. How grateful we are in the Congo for White Cross!

"The arrival of the container is a much-anticipated event, and if it's a 40-foot container (this one was!), we mobilize all the willing workers on the Baptist compound. Wayne is conscripted to make dozens of trips in his pickup truck moving boxes from the container in the road to the storerooms in the compound.... There were 131 boxes of rolled bandages each weighing 260 pounds. It takes four men and brute force to unload them from the container.... Every time I go on supervision visits to the Baptist hospitals in Vanga, Sala, Kikongo, Boko, Moanza, Kipata, Nselo, Sona Bata, Nsonga Mpangu, Mulolo or Bandunduville, I visit the room where white Cross supplies are stored. Usually the shelves are mostly

empty, and the staff plead for more supplies. They will soon all be full.

"Why is there so much meaning for us in sutures, gloves, and rolled bandages? Packed into those boxes is the fragrance of the prayers that follow this shipment and the distinct reminder to our doctors, nurses, and patients, that they are being remembered. For servants of God working in far flung and difficult corners of God's Congo world, that's a feeling money cannot buy. All of us say THANK YOU for the gift of White Cross."

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*

Sympathies to the Hopkins Family

Our deepest sympathies are with Dianne Hopkins on the death of her mother, Valda McAfee, last week in Texas. She was a few days' shy of her 98th birthday and had enjoyed a deeply loving marriage of 75 years to her husband who passed away 3 years ago. Services will be held this coming week in Texas.

Sympathies to the Henderson Family

We hold in prayer the family of Barbara Mendel Henderson (daughter of the late Doris and Phil Mendel), She died suddenly overnight the weekend of February 10. Her husband, Dave, has returned to Madison and there will be a private family committal on Thursday, February 22.

Memorial Service for Jeanne Maruska

The memorial service for Jeanne will be held at the Oakwood Chapel on March 10 at 11:00 a.m. The service will be followed by a time of fellowship.



Baptism!

Mark and Janet hosted a supper for those persons considering baptism. After supper, we reviewed together the path to baptism, the scheduled classes, and they were given their book and notebook within which they are to record their questions and discoveries. Then with time remaining, we broke out into a rousing game of Crokinole! The first class will be this coming Sunday, February 25, during the 9:30 hour.

Reminders

A red, distressed-style stamp with the words "ACT NOW" in white, bold, capital letters. The stamp is tilted slightly upwards to the right and has a rough, ink-like texture.

It was fifty years ago this coming April 4 that The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated while standing outside of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. It is an event to be remembered for he was a national treasure, transforming our nation. Yet while we remember Dr. King, we cannot simply look back. We must look forward. In so many of his writings and speeches, it is clear the forward was Dr. King's favored direction. Dr. King once said "Justice too long delayed is justice denied." Fifty years later, that justice is still delayed and denied. It is unfinished business, not only for Dr. King but for this nation.

"Unite to End Racism" is a national rally planned by the National Council of Churches, in partnership with the National African American Clergy Network, Conference of National Black Churches, Sojourners, Franciscan Action Network, Churches Uniting in Christ, and Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and its member congregation.

This will be both a rally and a call to action on April 4 at the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall, in Washington DC. There is also an option for those attending to extend their stay and participate on April 5 in a Lobby Day on Capitol Hill for legislative advocacy.

Buses are already chartered to leave in the afternoon of April 3, returning the morning of April 5. The cost of bus fare and attendance is \$250 with individuals providing their own meals.

For those wishing to attend Lobby Day on April 5, departure times remain the same. However, buses will return on the morning of April 6. The cost of this extended stay is \$450 including hotel lodging with individuals again providing their own meals.

The DEADLINE for RESERVATIONS is MARCH 1. Bus reservations are already filling up so your own registration is urgent as seats are assigned on a first come basis.

If you would like to attend but find the cost prohibitive, there are persons within our congregations

who will generously sponsor you as needed. Contact Mark Clinger.

Register through wcoc@wichurches.org. For additional information go to #Rally2EndRacism.

Our church was represented in the original March on Washington lead by Dr. King in 1963. We must be represented again. Act Now! Make your bus reservations and contact Mark Clinger to let him know of your planned representation of our church.

Rev. Mark Clinger

A red, distressed-style stamp with the words "PART-TIME" in white, bold, capital letters. The stamp is tilted slightly upwards to the right and has a rough, ink-like texture.

LTE Part-Time Administrative Secretary Position Opening at FBC

Linda Lindley, FBC's Administrative Secretary will be on medical leave starting Monday, April 2. FBC is looking for a limited-term, part-time office support staff person to work approximately 20 hours/week. The start date would be March 26 (training week) through June 30 (employment could possibly be extended after that date). Excellent part-time pay is offered.

Skills needed include telephone answering, computer savvy, experience in preparing church bulletins and informational materials. Send resume and letter of interest to: personnel@firstbaptistmadison.org or call 233-1880 for more information, no later than February 27, 2018.



Men/Women's Breakfast Meet at Pancake Café

On March 7, at 8:30 a.m., we will meet at the Pancake Café, 724 South Gammon Road (south of Watts Road) in Madison. Call Gene Dewey at (230-3373) with any questions.



Scholarship Money Anyone? (Well, females only)

The American Baptist Women's ministries of Wisconsin offer a youth scholarship to a female, graduating from high school this year and who is enrolling as an under graduate in a secondary school, college or University. They must have been active in an American Baptist church for the preceding 12 months, and have references from her pastor and another church leader. They should be willing to meet with the Scholarship Committee. Preferences are given to those attending institutions affiliated with ABC/USA. For more information contact Mark Clinger. **Deadline is March 31.**



The Spiritual Sharing Group

Some members and attendees of First Baptist are launching a new prayer/support group to meet on Wednesday nights at the church. The group is called The Spiritual Sharing Group and we will be meeting once a week in the Gathering Space at 6:30 p.m., starting on Wednesday, February 7.

The format and tone will be informal and fun but the gathering will normally be comprised of the following activities:

- We will often have some stimulating, spiritual discussions.
- Every week, we will share our highs and lows for the week and our God-sightings.
- We will share our joys, concerns and prayer requests during every meeting.
- Then we will always conclude by praying for one another.

The group is starting out with a core of about eight or nine people, but we would love to see this weekly gathering grow. So, please pass the word on, and check us out. Contact Rhiannon Tibbetts with questions. Email: rhian.nah@live.com



brunch

PLEASE JOIN PORCHLIGHT BOARD AND STAFF FOR BRUNCH ON APRIL 28, 2018.

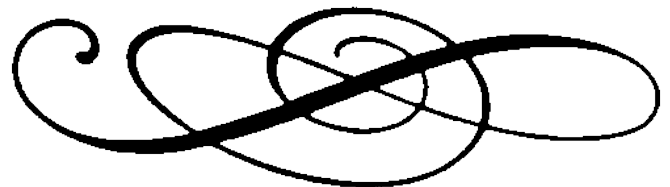
WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR DROP-IN SHELTER VOLUNTEERS AT GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN GUILD HALL.

Please RSVP to Mary Ann Cook at macook@charter.net or (608) 217-7505 by April 15, 2018.

Thank You

Dear Friends and church family of First Baptist Church, I want to thank you all for your prayers, calls, and cards during my illness and to Pastor Mark for your calls and prayers. It helped me through the hospital stay, 6 weeks at rehab and now my recovery at Senior Living with Ken in Sun Prairie. I'm still doing therapy and feeling better each week. Hoping for Spring to come soon! Love and prayers,

Jan & Ken Arneson





February Birthdays

- 2 Amy McAbee
- 2 Shirley Morelock
- 2 Monica Jo Vlasak
- 2 Fred Robinson
- 5 Nathaniel Chotlos
- 5 Mark Werner
- 6 Scott Mack
- 6 Lynette Miller
- 7 Debbie Erwin
- 7 Paul Husting, Jr.
- 7 Evan Ziegler
- 8 Diane Blythe
- 9 Barbara Eggleston
- 14 JungJa Haynes Lee
- 14 Vanessa Kersten
- 19 Susan Dean
- 19 Virginia Henderson
- 19 Harley Young
- 21 Robert Nelson
- 21 Marilyn Hurst
- 22 Katie Dean
- 23 Lenore Coberly
- 23 Joyce Tardrew
- 25 Marianne Daggett
- 26 John Mueller
- 27 Glenn Fuguitt
- 27 Kristin Hegley
- 27 Ellie Miller
- 27 Suzanne Vlasak



“I Can Only Imagine”

Opening in theatres March 16, 2018.

The inspiring and unknown true story behind MercyMe's beloved, chart-topping song that brings ultimate hope to so many is a gripping reminder of the power of true forgiveness.

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>
--

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE: DATED MATERIAL -

MAILED - 2/19/18