



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
A community for all people

The Visitor

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

No. 6 March 19, 2018 Vol. 61

Dear Friends:

In a few days, we will follow Jesus into Holy Week, those most sacred days of our faith. Already, Jesus is in Jericho—the lowest town in the world, 846' below sea level. Until now, the impression we receive from the Gospels is that Jesus, his disciples and many followers (including women), have been ambling about the beautiful countryside of the Galilee.

In the oasis of Jericho, a dramatic change occurs. There is a fork in the road, one road leads back to Galilee and all that would mean. The crowds so eager to learn, many people waiting to be healed. Those nights by the fire when Jesus and the twelve had deep discussions about God and the human soul. Surely, the road back takes Jesus to a long and rich ministry.

But there is another road, steep and serpentine, leading to Jerusalem. In a manner of fifteen miles, the traveler climbs 3400'. Yet the fact of the physical climb is a mere suggestion of another climb—the upward ascent of the soul. The life of faith is not always a pleasant stroll. There is a climb to be made to gain faith's higher ground.

At the fork in the road, Jesus faces what is perhaps the most profound decision of his life. Galilee or Jerusalem? Knowing full well all it will entail, Jesus sets his face to Jerusalem.

Before coming to Jerusalem, the road takes Jesus through Bethany with a view overlooking the entire city. People gasp when they first glimpse this spectacle of beauty. Yet Jesus has set his face toward Jerusalem for reasons other than aesthetic. We can only guess at what transpired in Jesus' soul when he spied the city. From this vantage point, he could view the entire week to come laid out before him.

He could see the path down the hill and through the city gate which would soon be filled with the raucous excitement of the crowds. A glance in a different direction gave him a view of the square where the most infamous vote in history was held—Barabbas or Jesus?

The temple loomed large as a bastion of corruption, graft, and religious degradation. Next to the temple there stood the Roman fortress where he would be mocked and beaten. On the opposite end of the temple compound was the High Priest's home, complete with jail cells in the basement (Think on that one—clergy with their own jail).

Following Jesus was so easy in Galilee. The coming days are going to be hard. The fact that Jesus did not dismiss the disciples is telling. He understood the human soul is capable of great heights. The climb is to gain faith's highest ground. With Jesus before us, we gain faith's courage. We can look at both the beauty of life and the ugliness within it without being overwhelmed. We can look and know this is where we belong because this is where Jesus has taken us. With Jesus before us, we enter into the city with all its scandal. With him at our side, we watch all the wrong in the world gathering around. This is where the road to Holy Week takes us. And there we find the end of the road, or so we imagine!

In peace,

Rev. Mark Clinger

Worship With Us

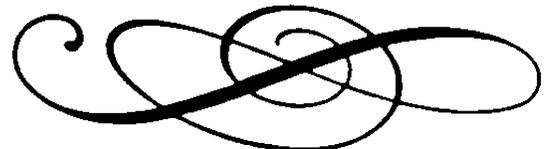
March 25, 2018 (Palm Sunday)

11:00 a.m. – Shared Worship Service, Sanctuary,
Rev. Jason Mack

April 1, 2018 (Easter)

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

*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).*



The Visitor Publication Schedule

April 2, 2018

April 16, 2018

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

Email to: fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Work:

It May Not Be What You Think It Is

Beginning April 8, the Sunday after Easter, we'll be exploring what the Bible says, and doesn't say, about work. Is our Puritan work ethic biblical? Is work a gift or a curse? Does the Bible say we should choose work that uses our gifts? Compare scriptures from the Old and New Testament and form your own opinions, whether others agree or not, in the safe, exploring, and sometimes humorous atmosphere of the Hourglass Bible study. The class runs for seven Sundays, ending the week before Memorial Day.

Phone (608) 233-1880 * FAX (608) 233-2814
E-mail: fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org Web Page:
www.firstbaptistmadison.org

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: Church Family: The family of Carl Hillner; 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; Kathryn Hill; James & Karen Evans family; 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

Deployed to Afghanistan: Art Hebblewhite

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)

Baptismal Candidates: Beni Lara, Robbie Gunshor

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken

Fresh News

Palm Sunday Breakfast Theater!

"The Last Week with Jesus: A Radio Story"

Our Palm Sunday Intergenerational offering this year is a special Breakfast Theater presentation focusing on the last week of Jesus life. Come watch as your friends from First Baptist Church embody the rolls of those people who were touched by Jesus during his final week. And enjoy a delicious breakfast together as well! Sunday, March 25, at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Generous Congregations!

That's the theme of this year's Retired Ministers and Missionaries (RMMO) offering. This offering, sponsored by our American Baptist Denomination, says "Thank You" to these retired men and women who have given so much to tell and model the story of God's love for all the world and its people. Unfortunately, for many of these people their service was not matched by an adequate level of financial support for their retirement years.

Here are the words of some of those who have served. *"For over 40 years I've been promoting the annual RMMO offering, and now to be on the receiving end is gratifying to say the least"* – Retired pastor in West Virginia

"The Thank You check is more than a check; it sends love. This year the check arrived at a time when I was faced with many bills, and I applied the check to those expenses. Thank you for remembering me." – Retired widow from New York

"All the years that our church participated I never thought that one year I would be a recipient. I feel very happy, blessed, and grateful for the unassuming behind-the-scenes work of MMBB"
- Retired pastor from Massachusetts

Retired ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses often have limited resources to adequately plan for the future. RMMO recipients have used their funds to pay for unexpected expenses or medical costs. The death of a spouse or relocation can also cause retirees to find themselves far from the church family that once supported them.

First Baptist has a tradition of responding generously to this appeal. We encourage you to again give in generous appreciation to so many who have done so much in the name of Jesus Christ –like our own Carolyn Cross, Beverly Davison, Bob Martens, Jim Davison, and former pastors, Paul Gillespie, Jim Pike, and Tom Bayes.

Your Board of Outreach



Talent Show

Talent Show, Friday, May 11!!!

Mark your calendar for the First Baptist all-church talent show on the evening of Friday, May 11! And share your talents! Contact Pastor Jason or Julia Voss to sign up for a time slot. Music, acting, comedy, dance, performance art – It's all good!

An Invitation to American Baptist Women's Ministry at Camp Tamarack

You are invited to help celebrate 140 years of American Baptist Women's Ministry in Wisconsin at Camp Tamarack the weekend of June 1-3. First time ABWM Retreat guests will receive a gift certificate of \$25. RSVP by April 2. For more information contact Lynette Miller 238-4155.

Welcome: Blanca S. James

The personnel committee and your pastors are deeply pleased to introduce to you our new Administrative Secretary. Blanca S. James has already begun her training in anticipation of commencing her full duties at the beginning of April. She brings over sixteen years of experience as an Executive Administrator working with vice presidents, executive secretaries, school administrative consultants and more. To say that she is fully qualified to exercise the skills required in this position is to state the obvious. As a Roman Catholic, she is also alert to the many dynamics of faith which distinguish the church's life.

When you meet her, you will find her a warm, personable, kind soul with a positive attitude. With this personality, we will continue our long-standing tradition of an office run with both genuine care for persons and skilled attention to the many responsibilities at hand.

Another gift Blanca brings is that she is bilingual—fluid in Spanish which is an increasing asset in our rapidly changing world. A final fact which commends her to us—she lives in the same neighborhood as Paul and Deb Chotlos as well as Jason and Tara Mack! At your first opportunity, let our life together begin by introducing yourself.

Again, the hiring committee looks forward to your meeting her as well as the fine service she will bring to her duties here.



Camp Tamarack

The 2018 schedule for church camp (Camp Tamarack) is now out and a copy of the schedule can be found on the bulletin board at the kiosk in the Gathering Space. There are camping opportunities for first and second graders (a shorter schedule), middle schoolers (3rd and 4th), juniors (5th and 6th) Junior High (7th and 8th) and Senior High students. There is also a family or grandparents camp from July 1 to the 4. If you are considering sending your son/daughter/children please contact Jason for the details of our generous "campership" funding.



The Exciting Things Happening at Milwaukee Christian Center

Join a First Baptist group on Saturday, May 12, for a visit to Milwaukee Christian Center. American Baptist Women's Ministries of Wisconsin is inviting men and women to see:

- Updated MCC Facilities.
- Youth Build Homes (training high school students).
- Programs offered in individual high schools to help encourage and retrain students in areas of attendance, studies and stress management.

Contact Lynette Miller 238-4155 if you are interested in going. We will plan group transportation.

Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It

By Shelly Tochluk (<http://witnessingwhiteness.com/>)

Book Workshop Series Facilitated by Laurel Finn and Laurie O'Donnell

10-week, sequential series designed for white people to forward anti-racism work. We connect the book with dialog and experiential activities, by exploring the white experience.

Time: 5:30-7:45 p.m.

Location: Dane County UW-Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison, WI 53718

Dates

Monday, April 16
Monday, April 23
Monday, April 30

Tuesday, May 8
Monday, May 14
Monday, May 21
Wednesday, May 30

Wednesday, June 6
Wednesday, June 13
Wednesday June 20

Attendance: To understand and ultimately address how whiteness affects racism, a strong commitment to attendance is required. Sessions 1 and 10 are mandatory. We ask that any absences are pre-planned; maximum number of absences is 2. At Session 1, we will ask you to let us know the dates you plan to miss (if any).

The series is free and is limited to 25 participants. **To register, please email Laurel at lafinn@wisc.edu by April 2.**

Goals of the Series

- Build a community with a shared understanding of privilege, whiteness, and racism
- Increase your ability to begin, support, and progress racial justice work
- Develop leadership capacity around issues of diversity, inclusion, and race

Testimonials from past group members:

"I was impressed with both the course content and with the way that Laurel and Laurie facilitated. Laurel and Laurie brought honesty, knowledge, and humanity to our meetings. I'd taken other racial justice classes, but this one felt different. I appreciated the specific focus on whiteness and privilege, and that there were opportunities each week to practice 'walking the talk.' There was lots of learning, sure, but each piece also had an element of doing. That seems essential for those who want to not just understand racism but who also want to affect change."



"The Witnessing Whiteness class has truly been a life-changing and humbling experience! I have always thought of myself as a "good white person." And while I do try to do good in my community, I cannot discount or ignore the role my white privilege has played and continues to play in my interactions with friends, neighbors, and community members of color. Frankly, my privilege has allowed me not to even think about it. I honestly believe that every white person in Madison needs to take this class before attempting to step up and interrupt racism in our community. Laurel and Laurie facilitate the class with compassion, honesty, and thoughtful insight. I cannot recommend the class highly enough!"



The Playing Field Tour and Talk

Abbi Kruse, Executive Director

9:00 a.m. Gathering and Coffee

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Announcements

10:00 a.m. Program

Bethany United Methodist Church
3910 Mineral Point Road, Madison

CWU April Forum

On Friday morning, April 6, we will gather at Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Road, for a program on The Playing Field, an early education program housed at Bethany Methodist Church. Abbi Kruse founded this program with the aim of minimizing the disparity that exists in Madison between white and minority children, based on her belief that all children deserve access to the highest quality of early care and education. They take children from 6 weeks to 6 years old.

In January, we presented the CWU Human Rights Award to Abbi for this endeavor begun in 2015. The Playing Field serves children experiencing homelessness right alongside those from far more advantaged families. The program intentionally addresses the barriers children from low income homes face in accessing high quality early education. A grant from Early Head Start funds children experiencing homelessness and provides transportation. The school raises scholarships so no low-income family is asked to pay fees. It provides a safe, nurturing space for children. So, come to Bethany on April 6. Abbi Kruse, founder and director, will give us a close-up look at this exciting program. We will tour this facility and see what dedicated child care workers can achieve with church and community support.



The Growing Risk of Nuclear War and What We Can Do About It An Evening with Dr. Ira Helfand

Tuesday April 10, 2018

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Sanctuary, First Baptist, 518 N Franklin Ave

Ira Helfand, MD, is a member of the Steering Committee for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Co-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), and Past-president of Physicians for Social Responsibility. He has published articles and lectured widely on the medical and long-term environmental consequences of nuclear war. He played a crucial role in the negotiation of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in the summer of 2017. Dr. Helfand was educated at Harvard College and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He currently practices as an internist and urgent care physician.

Seating is first-come, first-served. Parking is available in the church lot and on the street.

Contact info:

Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin
Wisconsin

(608) 232-9945, 608-577- 1721

info@psrwisconsin.org

Outrider Foundation

(608) 237-3489

hello@outriderfoundation.org

Sponsors

Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin, Outrider Foundation, the Ecumenical Peace Working Group of Wisconsin, the Friends Meeting of Madison, the Madison Institute

Reminders

Holy Week Worship

With Holy Week (March 25th through April 1st) fast approaching, please put the following worship events on your calendars:

March 25th. Palm Sunday (A shared service which will include our procession into the sanctuary.)

March 29th. Maundy Thursday. This service will include both a traditional foot washing as well as our service of communion for the upcoming month. If you would like to participate in the foot washing, please dress accordingly with easily removable shoes, socks, etc.

April 1st. Easter Sunday (Again a shared worship experience with choir, Common Table musicians, organ and outside musicians). Mark has often suggested Easter is better sung than spoken and our music holds just that promise.

Milwaukee Christian Center Discusses Future Programming and Plans at Third Tuesday Lunch

Third Tuesday Lunch will meet Tuesday, March 20, at noon for a potluck. The main dish will be provided. Bring a salad, bread, vegetable or desert to share. Karen Higgins, Director of the Milwaukee Christian Center, will discuss the programming at the Center and their plans for the near future. Milwaukee Christian Center is supported by Wisconsin American Baptist Churches and First Baptist is an active member of their support network. This program will begin at 1:00 p.m.

During our Third Tuesday Lunch (and prior to the scheduled program) we will take time to say our farewells, express our deep appreciation, and wish our best to Linda Lindley. Linda has resigned from the position of Administrative Secretary and will serve her last day on March 30. Beyond all her fine skills and competence-- her kindness, hospitality, patience and concern for each of us contributed enormously to our sense of community.

Reservations may be made by signing the pew pad or by calling the church office, 233-1880. Everyone is invited to join us for a delicious meal, exciting program and sharing our best wishes with Linda.

An Appeal from Your Moderator

I am making a special appeal to all my fellow First Baptist congregants to be prepared to step-in, if you are able, to help the Nominating Committee. When and if approached by the committee, please give their request thoughtful consideration before dismissing their appeal. Even if you are only able to commit for a year at a time that commitment will be welcomed by the committee. Involvement from a broader base of our community will bring broader insight to our future together.

The nominating committee is chaired by Tom Kersten and has a membership elected at the February congregational meeting which includes: Mary Fiore, Carolyn Cross, Wynn Davies, Bessie Woodward and Coral Bishop.

Do You Know Someone Who Can Use a Beautiful New Flute?

Can you or someone you know use a beautiful new flute made and donated by the premier flute manufacturer Wm. S. Haynes? Here's your opportunity to buy one at the best price ever and send 5 or 6 Chinese orphans to school for a year. Details below.

And, don't forget our annual Chinese Orphans Concert on Sunday, April 22, 2018, and 2:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our featured solo flutist is the internationally known Teresa Beaman, flute professor at University of California, Fresno.

Linda M. Mintener

**Your opportunity to own a high quality Haynes flute!
And benefit needy orphans.**

Specifications:

Haynes Amadeus AF780-BO flute

Serial No. 13790385

Haynes Amadeus sterling silver headjoint

Sterling silver body and footjoint

Silver plated mechanism

Open hole, French pointed arms

Offset G, B footjoint

French style case with plush-lined case cover

Warranty 5 years on flute against defects in materials or workmanship
1 year on case and cover

Retail Price: \$2,540

Orphans Project price \$2,199



The Crossing Campus Ministry Spring Gala Is April 27!

The Spring Gala is the primary fundraiser for The Crossing Campus Ministry, an ecumenical and mission-focused ministry for UW students. The Gala starts with social time and building tours at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner and program at 6:00 p.m. We are excited to again host the event at our "home" this year: 1127 University Ave., Madison. Crossing students will share transformational stories from their experiences in Madison and on the recent Quest trip to Costa Rica. You will also be invited to donate items, time, or funds to The Crossing "Registry" of ministry and facility projects and improvements.

Tickets are \$50 per person, and you can also choose to "Sponsor a Student" for the same amount. Please join other members of our church for an evening of joy, hope, inspirational stories, and good fellowship. Half of the ticket cost (\$25) is tax deductible for attendees; the full cost is tax deductible for student ticket sponsorships. **For questions or tickets, please contact: Pastor Jason, Gil Emmert or Bill & Mary Fiore.**

You can also contact The Crossing at office@crossingministries.org or call directly and speak to Immer Valle (608-257-1039 x2). For more information about The Crossing and its mission, visit the website (www.crossingministries.org). The Crossing celebrates and affirms students of every identity as they explore their spirituality in an ever-changing world.

The Crossing Vesper Meal Volunteers Needed for Next Year

Karla Schmidt, The Crossing pastor, has sent out the dates for next year's vesper meals. If you would like to gather a group to prepare and serve a meal next year, let me know the date and I will forward the information to Karla. You no longer need to be restricted to first Sundays of the month. The open dates for next year for serving meals at The Crossing are listed below.

2018

September 16, 23, 30

October 7, 14, 21, 28

November 4, 11, 18, 25

December 2, 9

Study Day is Dec. 13 so those who like to help with the Pancake Brunch please put it on your calendar

2019

January 27

February 3, 10, 17, 24

March 3, 10, 31

April 7, 14, 21, 28



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.**

Porchlight Shelter Volunteer Brunch Saturday, April 28





March Birthdays

1 Sheila Donald
2 Marni Barron
6 Steve Ingham
8 Atlee Wilson
9 Bessie Woodward
11 Bill Fiore
12 Molly Donahoe
12 Joan Turner
13 Pam Mack
15 Ethan Mack
16 Phyllis Johnson
16 Lesa Reisdorf
16 Levi Siddell
19 Perry Henderson
20 Carrie Sweet
20 Sally Dockter
22 Wynn Davies
22 Janelle Robinson
25 Susan Cunningham
26 Chris Blythe
29 Dylan Abramson
30 Anna Donahoe
31 Beth Gunshor



April Birthdays

3 Shawn Strain
4 Laura Dresser
4 Gene Washington
5 Jessica Hill
9 John Cheadle
12 Dorothy Swennes
13 Aaron Hebblewhite
15 Noriko Kit
17 Lorenzo Barnes
17 Wayne Bischel
21 Lauren Bischel
21 Raylin Brockman
24 Charles Reinke
24 Thomas Reinke
25 Judy Marquardt
26 Tanya Bishop
26 Gladys Carlson
26 Steve Books
26 Dale Hopkins
27 Kathryn Hill
29 Timothy Castillo
29 Robbie Gunshor
29 Carmen Porco
30 Brenna Kersten

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 - 3/19/18