

The Visitor

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

No. 11 June 4, 2018 Vol. 61

Dear Friends:

Some years ago, my long-time friend Ernie and I decided to take the cog railroad to the top of Mount Washington, the highest peak in the eastern U.S. Due to the popularity of the adventure, tickets had to be purchased well in advance. Built in 1868, it is the first cog railway ever built and remains the second steepest in the world. Built entirely of railroad ties, the smell of the creosote protecting the wood from the extreme weather of the mountain fills the air.

The day came for our ascent, and the weather was light rain with very heavy fog. Visibility was less than ten yards and sometimes less. All we could see ahead was a short section of track with the jumbled ties of the trestle holding things together. In the center of the rails was a track of cogs. The gears of the steam engine pushing us, engaged with these cogs ensuring our gradual ascent of almost an hour. To the side was a continuous jumble of rocks. Sometimes a steel cable ran from the trestle to the rocks to lend some stability! We knew we arrived at the top of Mount Washington when we stood in the dense fog beside a sign reading "Mt. Washington Summit, 6,288ft." That was our entire vista.

This week I came across the picture I took from the front car of the train on the way up. Ten yards of track disappearing into the fog. The tracks were firm and the cogs well centered.

I treasure the picture because it is a photo of so much of life. We can see our way only a little bit forward. Then our future journey disappears into the fog. We have no way of knowing the twists and turns awaiting us. It can certainly be disconcerting. Yet, with our blindness to the future, we dare not miss what we can see. The rail and cogs are firm. We can let go of our desire to see everything ahead of us. We finally trust ourselves into the securities of the present moment.

Shortly after that experience, I came across a quote which I have kept attached to the picture. The picture displays so well the meaning of the words. The words capture so perfectly the picture. The quote says:

"You have called us, O God, to ventures of which we cannot see the end, through perils unknown. Give us faith to travel with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that Your hand is leading and Your love supporting."



I believe those words are essential to so much of life. Perhaps they are especially so as the church looks to its future ministry and mission beyond November 23rd, and I look equally to my future life in retirement.

In Peace,

Rev. Mark Clinger



Worshipping Together!

"... to create a worship experience that is as meaningful as possible for as many of us as possible."



What's Happening

An update on things of interest to the FBC family and friends:

Infant Dedication

On June 24, during worship, we will celebrate with Nikki (Clinger) and Andy Borchardt, the dedication of their new son, Beckett Andrew. Please plan on being in attendances to contribute your own joy and support. Beckett was born on April 22.

Retirement

With the greatest of efforts, we have tried to ensure that everyone received Rev. Clinger's pastoral letter announcing his planned retirement on November 23rd. If for some reason you did not receive this letter, copies are available on the kiosk in the Gathering Space.

Sympathies

We were grieved to learn of the passing of Kathryn Holden, a long term and completely reliable volunteer office assistant as well as a faithful member of the choir. Services for Kathryn were held on Thursday May 31st. Our sympathies and prayers are with her devoted sister Janet and family.

Mid-Year Annual Report and Meeting

On **Sunday, June 10th**, the **Mid-Year Annual Report** will be available to the congregation in the Gathering Space. Remember to pick up your copy. On **Sunday, June 17th**, our **Mid-Year Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place after the worship service.

The report includes the agenda, Minutes, Boards and Committees reports, and proposed amendments to First Baptist Church. Plan to attend this important meeting.

On A Mission

Pastor Jason will be ministering with the High School participants at Camp Tamarac from June 11 through June 15.

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: Virginia Henderson; Jim Siddell, Carl's father; James Evans; Brenna Kersten's friend; 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; Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman; Susan Donahoe's father, Rev. John Davey; Rhiannon Tibbetts' friend; the family of Kathryn Holden

Our Shut-ins: Mercile Lee; Connie Smith; Pat Young; Phyllis Reisdorf; Linda Olson; and Joyce Tardrew

Expecting Parents: Julia Mueller and Garrett Voss are expecting their first child on November 3.

Our Graduates 2018:

Charlotte Kersten is graduating from LaFollette High School and will be attending Madison College in the fall. Charlotte will be participating in their two-year transfer program to the University of Wisconsin, Madison to pursue a degree in nursing.

Moira Kersten is graduating from Oregon High School and will attend University of Oshkosh in the fall to pursue a degree in nursing.

Hyunji Haynes is graduating from West High School and will be attending the University of Wisconsin, Madison in the fall. She will pursue a major in social justice and will be on the pre-med track.

Rachael Hebblewhite is graduating from Waunakee High School and will attend UW Steven's Point in the fall where she will double major in dance and dietetics.

Morgan Turner is graduating from Wisconsin Heights High School and will be pursuing a welding apprenticeship and studying accounting.



Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

Fresh News

May through June 2018 Attendance Numbers

Date	Summer Worship	Traditional Worship	Common Table Worship
5/6/18	---	88	Shared
5/13/18	---	52	26
5/20/18	---	84	Shared
5/27/18	46	Shared	Shared
6/3/18	83	Shared	Shared



Third Tuesday (Salad)

Lunch will meet on **Tuesday, June 19**, at noon in Fellowship

Hall. This will be a salad potluck with dessert provided. Mark Wurzelbacher, our gifted organist, will present a program, "The view from the console: an introduction to the organ and its use in church services." Mark will share with us what an organist must consider when selecting, preparing and performing a piece. The program will begin at 1 pm in the Sanctuary. Please sign the attendance pad or call the church office, 233-1880, to let us know you are planning to attend. Everyone is invited to share our delicious summer salad potluck, enjoy warm fellowship and learn more about the music programs at First Baptist.



Volunteers Needed to Help with

Men's Shelter Meal June 21

There are several ways you can help with the next Men's Shelter Meal.

- Serving the meal at Grace Episcopal Church from 7:30-9:00.
- Bringing bars or cookies to the church kitchen before June 21. They could be delivered on Sunday and put in the freezer.
- Helping to cook from 4:30-7:30 on Thursday, June 21.
- Transporting the food to Grace Episcopal at 7:30 pm.

If you are interested, contact Lydia Haynes by phone, 437-4990 or by email Lydia@mhtc.net.

**GOOD
BYE**

GOD go with you, Cristy Carter!

When Christy Carter moved to Madison three years ago to be with her son and his young family, she already knew she would be "checking out" First Baptist, even though she had never been there. She had heard good things about us from her cousin, Jim Pike, a much-loved former assistant pastor. Despite living on the far-east side of town, she quickly joined and became involved. That was our summer between music directors and she helped fill in as pianist for some of our worship services. She had not yet found a job, so she filled in as church secretary while Linda was on sick leave. Soon she was recruited to join the Board of Outreach, and one year later became its chairperson. She was also part of the chancel and bell choirs, but the distance and the job demands resulted in limiting her participation.

Meanwhile, the young family she came to Madison to be near relocated to Minneapolis. That is a bit far to be a helping grandmother, so she will soon be packing up to join them. She is a good example of what it means to serve the Lord wherever you are planted, and we thank her for all she has given of herself to us. Some Minneapolis church will be blessed by her ministries and her presence.

Go with our prayers, Christy, and our gratitude.

Reminders



Youth Camps at 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.

The Board of Education has approved a scholarship of \$200 per camper for this year's summer Youth Camps at Camp Tamarack. Contact Nancy Moore in the church office to coordinate funds. Contact Pastor Jason with any other questions.



Peace Camp 2018
July 31 - August 3, Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 am. – 11:30 a.m.

This is an opportunity for kids from age 3 up to 5th grade to think about the ways in which the Biblical story encourages us to be people of peace. Together, we explore the power we have to be people of peace in our world. There is no charge, but do welcome food pantry donations. FBC would love to see your children, grandchildren, friends, neighbors, and anyone else who might be interested in attending this year. Call or email FBC's office for registration information at 608-233-1880 or at fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.com

Book Workshop Series

Facilitated by

Laurel Finn and Mary Birmingham



Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It, by Shelly Tochluk, <http://witnessingwhiteness.com>

June 12th and 19th, July 10th, 24th, and 31st 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wright Middle School 1717 Fish Hatchery Rd., Madison, WI

These 5 workshops, sequential series is designed for white people to forward anti-racism work. We connect the book with dialog and experiential activities, by exploring the white experience.

Between each session you will be asked to read 2 chapters of the book. Keeping up on the reading is imperative to the learning during the workshops. Please consider this as you consider your ability to commit to this course. **Each session builds on the previous, so attending all sessions is ideal.** However, we know life is busy. The maximum number of absences is 1. The first and last workshops are required.

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

The series is free and is limited to 30 participants. **To register, please email Laurel at lafinn@wisc.edu by June 5th.**



Meals on Wheels no Longer Served on Weekends -- But you can still help!

While this is sad news there is still good news! **You can continue to be that caring presence bringing a nutritious meal to shut ins in our community.** Both noon meals and evening meals will continue to be delivered on weekdays by two organizations that would appreciate your help.

Please call them and let them know that you can help!

To volunteer to deliver weekday evening meals call Independent Living at (608) 204-0923.

To volunteer to deliver weekday noon meals call Home Health United at (608) 276-7598.



BIRTHDAYS

June

July

2 Lisa Ashwill	1 Amy Bischel
2 Gil Emmert	1 William Vlasak
5 Jennifer Angelo	3 Gloria Hawkins
5 Matthew Chotlos	6 Susan Donahoe
6 James T. Evans	6 Flora Csontos
8 Laura Sweet	7 Tanya Mack
10 John Darling	9 Catherine Haynes
11 Julia Voss	19 Joni Mitchell
11 Brenda Moen	11 Emmi Lara
13 Sean Blythe	14 Linda Olson
20 Gerald Eggleston	16 Tom Kersten
21 Ava Kersten	17 Erica Kersten
23 Billy Holland Jr.	19 Gene Dewey
24 Karen Fennema	19 Carol Thompson
25 Les Ferge	20 Carsen Cadorette
28 Susan Hausler	20 Ruth Evans
28 Barry Kita	22 Martha Fuguitt
28 Sylvia Lowell	22 Jane Evans
29 Edith Davison	23 Mat Gunshor
30 Vern Lowell	23 Marilyn Martens
	25 Megumi (Meg) Kita
	25 Pat Young
	26 Gladys Carlson
	26 Rebecca Hebblewhite
	28 Barb Sorenson
	29 Diane Adams

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE: DATED MATERIAL -

MAILED - 6/5/18

The Visitor Publication Schedule

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July 9, 2018

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on day of publication.

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