



The Visitor

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

No. 12 June 18, 2018 Vol. 61

To the Gathered Community at First Baptist Church, Madison

My early learnings about the Gathered Community at Madison, First, included a phone call back in August 2014 with Pastor Mark Clinger when I asked him about the church co-hosting the region’s 2015 Annual Gathering. In retrospect, that might have been a bold ask for my first ever phone call to him. Perhaps our talk about ice fishing, Badger football, theological diversity, and his long pastoral tenure softened the request! What I remember clearly is how well he received my call and request, and that he seemed to have a sense of humor that would take some time to fully “get”. Four years later, I’m not sure I always get his sense of humor, but his welcoming spirit has never waned.

Learning about and connecting with the Gathered Community at Madison, First, has grown since my interactions with Pastor Mark and Pastor Jason back in August 2014. I have come to appreciate the church’s commitment to and involvement in missions; the nurture you give to servant leaders evident in your members’ volunteerism in various capacities; and your continual pressing on what it means for the church to welcome all of God’s people. Your witness is as important today as it has ever been.

I count it a privilege to have been invited to be a part of your community – in worship, in personal fellowship, and in the work of internal church ministry. The most recent invitation is to now be with you as you enter this liminal pastoral transition. While this period is unique in each congregation, what I have come to understand as a constant is that liminality offers pastor and people a nuanced opportunity to live into the highest standards of Christian community: experiencing

the breadth of God-given emotions, acting out of those emotions in ways that reflect Christ and edify Christian fellowship; and relying on the Holy Spirit for comfort, vision, and courage. The hope is for individuals and community to move through with a deep peace and greater readiness for what God has in store for the next leg of the journey.

“I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Ephesian 3:18-19 NRSV

This has been my prayer for the region this season – for individuals, for churches, for our region-wide fellowship. As in my prayer, I look forward to journeying with you in coming months in discernment and preparation for how this transition may bring you closer to experiencing the fullness of God.

In Peace,

Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri
ABC/WI Regional Executive Minister



Worshiping 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.

Nicaragua

A letter has been received from Ruth Mooney, and American Baptist missionary to Nicaragua. In her letter, she speaks of the escalation of violence and deep unrest in the country. A copy of this letter is posted on the kiosk bulletin board in the Gathering Space.

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 table in the Gathering Space.

Pastoral Leadership from Mark Clinger

This is a brief note on the important matter of my leadership in this time of transition. I am bound by the wisdom of the Code of Ethics for American Baptist ministers. As I have shared with the Pastoral Relations Committee, the Church Leadership Council, and at Sunday's congregational meeting, the announcement of my retirement brings a change to my leadership role. Those changes are:

- **I Will** continue to fully engage in all the current ministries and missions of the church through November 23rd.
- **I Will NOT** participate or engage in the planning of ministry and mission beyond the retirement date of November 23rd.
- **I Will NOT** engage in the congregation's or the leadership's decisions regarding matters of transition.

- **I Will** offer *information*, when asked, which is needed for the transitional decisions being faced. In doing so I will not offer any *recommendations* on the inquiry.
- **I Will** engage with the congregation and its leadership in all ways necessary to ensure a smooth transition to the next chapter in this church's life.

Rev. Mark Clinger

Pastor Jason Out of the Office

I will be out of the office from June 2nd through July 9th.

- June 25 – 28 I will be participating in a conference for young leaders of American Baptist Churches (I just make the cut!).
- From the 29th through the 9th I will be on vacation with extended family.

Pastor Jason



June 2018

Attendance Numbers

Date	Summer Worship	Traditional Worship	Common Table Worship
6/3/18	83	Shared	Shared
6/10/18	67	---	---
6/17/18	67	---	---

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

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.

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

Fresh News

“I Want to Help” – A message from the Men’s Homeless Shelter Chairperson

On June 21st, we will have reached the half-year point of our Mission to provide a meal once a month to the Men’s Homeless Shelter, downtown on West Washington Avenue. Our Volunteers for January through June 2018 were/are:

January: Lynette Miller and Sheila Donald
February: Susan Donahoe and Debra Chotlos
March: Claire Raider
April: Women’s Circle with Lynette Miller
May: Jason Mack and family
June: Lydia Haynes, Wynn Davies, and other volunteers

Thank you to all of you! We have fulfilled our responsibility to provide a meal once a month. Keep up the good work!



Come rain or snow, hot or cold, he is my brother!
Hebrew 13:1-3 “Let BROTHERLY love continue... but for the Grace of God, go I.”

Sincerely,
Sheila Donald, Men’s Homeless Shelter Chairperson



In Need of Printer Cartridges

The Triangle (CDA/HUD housing) has a small but well-used library/computer lab. It provides access to computers/internet, which many residents would otherwise have difficulty accessing. There is no paid library staff, and everything in the library has been donated by the residents, including a printer (which needs cartridges). There is a need for printer cartridges, and if this is something you would consider donating, please contact Katy Marty at (608) 230-5922 or katymarty8@gmail.com.

FBC Helped Fill the Lunch Gap!

The Allied Drive Neighborhood experienced a week-long "lunch gap" as the schools discontinued their noon lunch program; and the Boys and Girls Club began their summer noon meal program.

Allied Partner congregations stepped in to fill this "gap"; and First Baptist Church was able to provide prepared lunch bags for 45 kids on June 15th. The meals were assembled by a group of volunteers in the kitchen that morning and delivered to the Allied Drive Neighborhood by noon. On August 30th, FBC gets to do it all over again. If you would like to help prepare and/or help distribute these lunches, **contact Wynn Davies (Board of Outreach) by email at lorwyn@sbcglobal.net or phone at (608) 238 1817.**

Many hands helped feed many kids.



Thank you:

Tamisha Maitin,
JC Perez, Mary & Bill Fiore, Jill Thomas, Anna Donahoe, Una Torosian, Steve & Marianne Daggett, Wynn Davies

Creation Justice Congregations (CJC)



The Board of Christian Outreach is interested in forming a group under the American Baptist Creation Justice Network umbrella. CJC is an environmental

stewardship program that grants certificates of achievement for implementing eco-friendly measures in our building and within our congregation. If you would like to meet and get together to discuss the possibilities of forming this group, please contact **Wynn Davies (Board of Outreach) by email at lorwyn@sbcglobal.net or phone at (608) 238-1817. Visit www.creationjusticenetworkabc.org for more information.**



Meals on Wheels – You can still help!

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 by two organizations that would appreciate your help.

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

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

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



BIRTHDAYS

Reminders



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.org.



Men's Shelter Meal June 21

The Men's Shelter Meal is coming up.

We will be:

- Serving the meal at Grace Episcopal Church from 7:30-9:00.
- Helping to cook from 4:30-7:30 on Thursday, June 21.
- Transporting the food to Grace Episcopal at 7:30 pm. Contact Person: Lydia Haynes by phone, 437-4990 or Lydia@mhtc.net.

June

2 Lisa Ashwill
2 Gil Emmert
5 Jennifer Angelo
5 Matthew Chotlos
6 James T. Evans
8 Laura Sweet
10 John Darling
11 Julia Voss
11 Brenda Moen
13 Sean Blythe
20 Gerald Eggleston
21 Ava Kersten
23 Billy Holland Jr.
24 Karen Fennema
25 Les Ferge
28 Susan Hausler
28 Barry Kita
28 Sylvia Lowell
29 Edith Davison
30 Vern Lowell

July

1 Amy Bischel
1 William Vlasak
3 Gloria Hawkins
6 Susan Donahoe
6 Flora Csontos
7 Tanya Mack
9 Catherine Haynes
19 Joni Mitchell
11 Emmi Lara
14 Linda Olson
16 Tom Kersten
17 Erica Kersten
19 Gene Dewey
19 Carol Thompson
20 Carsen Cadorette
20 Ruth Evans
22 Martha Fuguitt
22 Jane Evans
23 Mat Gunshor
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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(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE: DATED MATERIAL -

MAILED - 6/20/18

The Visitor Publication Schedule

July 9, 2018

July 23, 2018

Article deadline is 9 a.m.

on day of publication.

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