



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*A community for all people*

## ***The Visitor***

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

No. 13

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Vol. 6

### **To the Gathered Community at First Baptist Church, Madison**

Greetings Friends,

As you know, I recently had the privilege of being the pastor for the senior high camp at Camp Tamarack. And, I must tell you, it was a blast! The whole culture of the place is one of love and acceptance. I didn't see a single kid left out, ignored, or unappreciated. It is a remarkable place.

But, what did we do at camp? Well, here's a very incomplete list:

- Morning worship and evening vespers.
- Canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming.
- Volleyball, water volleyball, kickball (where yours truly legged out an inside the park home-run... and was sore the rest of the week!)
- Capture the flag, poison ball, and human mini-golf.

I'd never had to prepare and give twelve talks in the span of one week; and to be honest, I was a little nervous about it. But the campers were super attentive, engaged with the ideas, and were a joy to teach. The week ended in an amazing way; we baptized one of the campers in the lake, with her friends and family standing on the shore. It was awesome.

Having Ethan there with me, I was also nervous how he would be treated by the older campers. But, again, I had nothing to fear. They completely embraced him. He was included in everything, never made to feel like he didn't belong, and was even having pastoral conversations with a camper by the end of the week.

If you have been thinking of going, or more likely, if you have been thinking of sending a child or grandchild, I urge you to do it! Maybe you have been worried, "will my kid be accepted?" or "will my kid be taken care of?" or "will my kid be safe?". I can tell you, as a parent, that you have nothing to worry about. Carolyn, the director, runs a tight ship; and I would trust her with Ethan any day of the week. They have a 24/7 nurse on duty who handled all kinds of special needs.

It is a truly special place, where grace is the norm and love is felt in everything that happens. Camp Tamarack has made an advocate of me and a camper for life in Ethan. And, I hope if you are thinking of going, you'll do it!

Sincerely in peace,

*Pastor Jason*



### **Camp Tamarack**

Remaining dates for this summer:

- Jr. High Camp July 8 – 14
- Tamarack Tales (intergenerational)  
July 15 – 18



## What's Happening

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

### Social Justice

With the word “justice” so prevalent today in the media, politics, and overall, in our lives, this letter from Ruth Mooney, *So, what is justice?* seems to be very appropriate.

Dear friends,

What does the Bible say about economic justice and the role of government? One of my students, Julio Chacón, explored that theme for his graduation thesis, and we recently published a condensed version of it in our semester journal, *Aportes Bíblicos* (Biblical Contributions). His text is Deuteronomy 15:1-18, a part of the Jewish law which legislates that every 7 years, all debts should be forgiven, and all slaves should be set free. His insights seem important enough to share them with you.



Julio begins by setting this Deuteronomy law into the context of how justice was understood in the ancient world. He explains that justice was expected to work in two ways: first, it guaranteed the balance of a just order and second, it corrected an unjust situation to restore balance. For example, a king's edict would annul the debts of socially vulnerable groups of people to correct an imbalance and restore the social order. A king was responsible to protect the most vulnerable groups from the greed and corruption of the powerful. Psalm 72 illustrates this understanding of the appropriate role of government. The famous law of Babylonian King Hammurabi says, “I have put an end to war, I have created wellbeing in the country, such that the strong do not oppress the weak, and that justice is done for the widow and the orphan” (symbols of the most vulnerable persons in the society; the Israelites added “stranger or foreigner” to this list).

The Israelites did not have a king, but rather a set of laws that governed the people. Set into that law were provisions to guarantee that conditions of poverty did not continue from generation to generation, but that every seven years, people who had fallen into debt, and sometimes had been forced to sell themselves

into slavery to pay that debt, would be given a chance to begin again with a fresh start. The reason given for obeying this law was solidarity, a commitment to a society in which all people would be valued as God's children.

Julio applies this principle of justice to his native Peru, as a microcosm of the growing inequalities between rich and poor in the Americas. He contrasts an individualistic spirit with a biblical vision of seeing ourselves as part of an interdependent community with responsibility for one another.

Let us pray for that ancient justice to become a reality in our time.

Warmly,

*Ruth*

## 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.

## Thank You

**Men's Homeless Shelter** - FBC's mission to provide a meal once a month to the Men's Homeless Shelter, downtown on West Washington Avenue has been fulfilled through June. A good meal was served to the Men's Homeless Shelter on June 21. Thanks to the following volunteers: Erica, Tom, Vanessa, Charlotte, and Ava Kersten; Mary and Bob Sweet; Geneva Moore; Lynette Miller; Wynn Davies; Dianne Hopkins Lydia Haynes.

This church has many willing volunteers who have continued to provide this service to the community every third Thursday for many years. Thank you!!!

## Attendance Numbers

### June & July 2018

Date	Summer Worship	Traditional Worship	Common Table Worship
6/3/18	83	Shared	Shared
6/10/18	67	---	---
6/17/18	67	---	---
6/24/18	71	---	---
7/1/18	49	---	---
7/8/18	69	---	---

## Fresh News



### SOS for the Youth Mission Trip

We look forward to serving the children in Milwaukee on behalf of First Baptist this summer. As the Youth prepare for their mission trip to Milwaukee at the end of July, we need to collect some supplies for the VBS we will be running during part of our time there.

Most importantly (or perhaps just difficult to buy), we need 50 toilet paper tubes! Will you save your leftover cardboard tubes and bring them to church by July 22? We need at least 50. We would certainly appreciate the help.

If you are interested in donating other items we also need:

- Card stock - multi colored packs — 40 sheets
- Brads — 30
- Construction paper — 100 sheets
- White card stock — 30 sheets
- Watercolor paints — 20 sets
- Small Paintbrushes — 30
- Popsicle sticks — 50

Thank you in advance for your support and prayers as we prepare for this journey. Julia Mueller Voss, Youth Leader, [julia.mueller06@gmail.com](mailto:julia.mueller06@gmail.com).

## Art for Summer Vacations



As you are “out and about” on holidays this summer, keep your eyes open for signs and symbols of faith. The DECO team has hung new art that reminds us of just such experiences. In the Gathering Space hangs a water color rendering of a lighthouse by noted Wisconsin artist Phil Austin. It reminds many of us of an old hymn by Philip Bliss.

### Let the Lower Lights be Burning

*Brightly beam our Father's mercy,  
From His lighthouse evermore,  
But to us he gives the keeping  
Of the lights along the shore.*

*Let the Lower lights be burning,  
Send a beam across the wave.  
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman  
You may rescue, you may save.*

On the opposite wall we find a poster advertising a windjammer cruise aboard the popular restored old ship. THE ANGELIQUE recalls Jessie Adams' hymn:

### I Feel The Winds of God Today

*Today my sail I lift.  
Though heavy, oft with drenching spray, and  
torn with many a rift;  
If hope but light the water's crest, and Christ  
my bark shall use  
I'll seek the seas at His behest, and brave  
another cruise.*

### In the Lower Lobby Hands Across the Divine

If you happen to be in Northern Ireland this summer (near the border with Ireland) and cross the bridge over the river Foyle, which runs through Londonderry, you will see a statue of two young men with hands reaching out toward one another. It symbolizes the peace now present between two parts of one island, divided by their faith.

## FBC is Helping Fill the Lunch Gap!

The Allied Drive Neighborhood experiences "lunch gaps" 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 the "gaps"; on August 30, FBC gets to do it 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](mailto:lorwyn@sbcglobal.net) or phone at (608) 238-1817.**

**Many hands help feed many kids.**



## 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 must be people of peace in our world. There is no charge, but we 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](mailto:fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org). Registrations are available on the kiosk in the Gathering Space.



## Third Tuesday Lunch

Third Tuesday Lunch will meet in Fellowship Hall at noon on July 17 for a potluck lunch.

In early April, five members of our congregation attended the ACT NOW - United Against Racism Rally and the Day of Action in Washington D.C. sponsored by the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches. Ava and Tom Kersten, Jason Mack, Pam Mack and Jill Thomas joined thousands from across the country to commemorate the life and work of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to commit to continue his legacy on the 50th anniversary of his death.

Pastor Jason shared brief comments about the gathering in the May 7, 2018 issue of The Visitor. In the program following the lunch, the group will share more impressions and details about the rally. Jason and Jill will discuss the training and legislative visits that occurred on the Day of Action.



## 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](mailto:katymarty8@gmail.com).



## 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.**



## 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](mailto:lorwyn@sbcglobal.net) or phone at (608) 238- 1817. Visit [www.creationjusticenetworkabc.org](http://www.creationjusticenetworkabc.org) for more information.



## FBC's Blended Worship Schedule

**A blending of worshipping styles to create  
meaningful experiences!**

Through Sunday, September 2, 2018

11:00 a.m. - Blended Worship Service  
Pastor Mark or Pastor Jason

12:00 Noon - Light Lunch served on  
8/5, and 9/2

## Happy Birthday!!

### 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

### August

2 Paul Brynelson  
3 Art Hebblewhite  
6 Blanca James  
8 Bea Dewey  
10 William Hurst  
12 Thomas Gunshor  
15 Luis Castillo  
16 Raymond Moen  
17 Carol Ferge  
17 Rachel Hebblewhite  
18 Gwen Abramson  
22 Phil Daub  
22 Nancy Emmert  
22 Tara Drozdenko  
25 Chad Vlasak  
27 Adan Lara  
27 Byron Parfrey  
28 Maddie Frazier  
31 Carys Abramson

The Visitor

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

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(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME VALUE:**

**DATED MATERIAL - MAILED - 7/9/18**