



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
A community for all people

The Visitor

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

No. 15 August 6, 2018 Vol. 61

Dear Friends:

Time is passing quickly; summer will soon be over, and the day of my retirement is now only three months away. As I walk among you, I find myself very nostalgic, remembering all we have shared. My heart continues to go out to this congregation whom I deeply love.

Good-byes are always difficult, and I dislike them greatly. I shared with you earlier how the Ministers Council's Code of Ethics shapes my role in decision making as our days together come to a close. That same Code of Ethics also offers vital guidelines on my saying farewell.

The Code of Ethics and its guidelines arise out of a great concern for the church and its continual well-being. Just as you invited me into your lives as your pastor, there is another person whom God will call. This person will look to build that same pastoral trust we have shared. For this transfer of pastoral trust to occur in a healthy fashion, I must slip away.

Thus, it is as the Code of Ethics states: "Upon retirement, I will sever my ministerial leadership relations with my constituents." What this means is that I will no longer make hospital visits, offer pastoral care or counsel, preach, officiate at weddings or funerals or offer any other pastoral functions. This also means I will absent myself from the life of this good congregation—attending neither worship nor social occasions. I will also resign my church membership.

Basically, the Ministers Council Code of Ethics says good-bye means good-bye. Again, as difficult as any of us may find this, in the end it is for the greater good of this church.

What all this does NOT mean is that my love for you will end. Be assured I will hold this church in my prayers, praying especially for those whose lives are

made known to me through The Visitor. As I will continue to reside in Madison, I have no doubt that I will occasionally bump into some of you around town. While we will not "talk church", I will look forward to our chatting and your sharing news about yourself and your family.

As I said, I am not good at good-byes, and this letter is not easy for me to write. I share this with you now so you can understand and anticipate how things will unfold. This also highlights how precious our remaining days have become. My wish is that we use this time together well. May we celebrate all we have shared and resolve any differences we hold. May we speak easily of our friendship in Jesus Christ who will forever remain the peace between us.

In peace,

Rev. Mark Clinger



Additional information about the Ministers Council, ABC USA's Covenant and Code of Ethics may be found at the Gathering Space's kiosk.



Attendance Numbers

July & August 2018

Date	Summer Worship	Traditional Worship	Common Table Worship
7/1/18	49	---	---
7/8/18	69	---	---
7/15/18	52	---	---
7/22/18	65	---	---
7/29/18	72	---	---
8/06/18	52	---	---

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

What's Happening

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

Mark Wurzelbacher

As is widely known, our superb organist and pianist, has resigned to pursue other musical avenues in the Madison area. His last Sunday with us is August 19th. We have asked him to offer a prelude, worship music, and a postlude extended as he desires on that Sunday. We will also be offering him our deep thanks and abiding friendship. Please join us in celebrating his ministry of music.

Joyce Tardrew

We will be celebrating the life of Joyce Tardrew at a memorial service this coming Saturday, August 11, at 10:30 a.m. We are pleased to have her former pastor, the Rev. Dr. Zina Jacque, sharing in the service.

Connie Smith

We are grieved at the death of Connie Smith, early Tuesday morning, July 31st. A memorial service is planned for Wednesday, August 15 at 1:00 p.m. Please keep her husband, Hall, and their children Eric and Eve in your prayers.

Mandatory Reporting

According to Wisconsin State Law, clergy are considered a "mandatory reporter". This means that both Mark and Jason are required to report instances where they believe a child has been abused or neglected or when a child might be at risk of such injuries. The report is made to law enforcement authorities or local child protective service. Pastoral "confessions" are exempt from the law. Please know that both Mark and Jason will comply with this law.

Making History!

I recently received a personal letter from the Baptist World Alliance. In the process of doing research into their beginnings, they looked at the list of churches in attendance at the first Baptist World Congress (which

became the Baptist World Alliance) in 1905, London, England. They learned that First Baptist Madison was one of the **Founding Churches** which was represented at that meeting. Now, 113 years later, **we are one of the six original founding churches still supporting the work of the Baptist World Alliance.** We have received a certificate recognizing our church as a Founding Church, present at the Baptist World Congress in 1905.

Along with an encouragement for us to contribute \$1905 toward the creation of a Heritage Center, they have also invited us to send a delegation to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the 2020 Baptist World Alliance Celebrations. **Delegations from founding churches will be honored during that celebration.**

The letter was signed by Elijah M. Brown, BWA General Secretary.

Rev. Mark Clinger

Fresh News

Building for Ministry

Debt Retirement Financial Report

as of June 30, 2018

Total amount pledged or given to the Debt Retirement appeal	\$363,165
Retirement pledges/gifts received since start of the appeal	\$332,985
Retirement pledges/gifts received in second quarter	\$21,587
Member loans converted to gifts in second quarter	\$0
Total retirement pledges outstanding	\$14,575
Member loans	
Interest paid during second quarter	\$185
Loan repayments during second quarter	\$20,000
Outstanding Loans	\$100,000
Total Indebtedness	\$100,000

If you would like to learn more, please contact Wynn Davies, (608) 238-1817, or Cynthia Kuenzi (608) 239-3933.

Gil Emmert for the Building for Ministry Oversight Committee (Paul Chotlos, Vern Lowell, Mark Clinger, Nancy Emmert, Gil Emmert)

More Than We Can Imagine



Luisa, the woman in the straw hat on our One Great Hour of Sharing poster, is a rural farmer in Nicaragua. She has been aided by the Council of Protestant Churches of

Nicaragua (CEPAD), one of American Baptist Church's partners that are supported by OGHS.

CEPAD was founded by an American Baptist missionary, Gustavo Parajon. In December 1972, just days after a strong earthquake destroyed Managua, Dr. Parajon, a practicing medical doctor, called people to gather under a mango tree. He called on them to come together to help the victims of the earthquake. Now, 46 years later, the needs have changed, but CEPAD continues to be one of the strongest organizations working for the development of rural communities in Nicaragua.

CEPAD memorializes this historic 1972 gathering with a painting of a mango tree on the wall of its



office compound in Managua. We give thanks for the vision of Gus Parajon to see the need, respond, and in doing so give birth to an organization that continues meeting needs in Nicaragua today.

Thanks for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing. Lynette Miller for Board of Outreach.

Did You Know... that ABC missionary doctors David and Laura Parajon, son and daughter-in-law of Gustavo, continue his medical work in rural Nicaragua?

They work with AMOS, a project which engages rural Nicaraguan communities as full partners in providing preventive and curative health services to remote and vulnerable communities where there are no doctors. They train and support health promoters who diagnose and treat common illnesses in those communities.

New Volunteering Opportunities for Family Housing Ministries

First Baptist Church members have a long history of volunteering to support family housing ministries, including those of The Road Home. The Road Home's motivating belief is that every child deserves a home and provides opportunities for families to have affordable, stable housing while working toward their goals. This last spring The Road Home's shelter program ended, but it has implemented a new plan for congregations to stay involved.

First Baptist will continue partnering with other congregations in this housing ministry. Our members will be invited to volunteer for specific jobs during two months of the year using an online volunteering program called Sign-up Genius. During those two months, The Road Home will also be looking for donations of supplies.

Our first month of volunteering is this September. Watch for an email soon from the church with details about how you can help The Road Home work toward its vision.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Third Tuesday Lunch

The Third Tuesday Lunch on **August 21** will be at noon in Fellowship Hall. The main dish will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

The program, "Our Camino - Walking the Way of St James across 550 miles in Spain during the summer of 2018" will be presented by Charlie and Maddie Rider. This description of their pilgrimage to Santiago and Fisterra will begin at 1 p.m. Reservations may be made by signing the pew pads on Sunday morning or by calling the church office, 233-1880. Everyone is invited to share in this delicious lunch, enjoy warm fellowship and learn about their pilgrimage.



Save the Date

Summit by the Sea - 2019 Biennial Mission Summit sponsored by ABC-USA

The American Baptist Churches USA 2019 Biennial Mission Summit will be held June 21-23, 2019, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Va.

- The Biennial Mission Summit returns to the East Coast for the first time since 2007!
- Experience the all-new ABCUSA Biennial Academy – offering continuing education and spiritual growth opportunities for both clergy and lay leaders.
- Not only is this a family event with sessions for all ages from day care through high school, but Virginia Beach is one of the top "family friendly" destinations in the US.
- The Virginia Beach Convention Center and the Mission Summit hotels are all within a mile of the beach and cover a wide range of affordability. Special discounts are available for post-biennial activities and attractions!

Exciting VBS-style classes will be offered for elementary, middle, and high school ages. Day care will also be available.

For more information go to <http://www.abc-usa.org/2018/04/16/save-the-date-for-a-summit-by-the-sea-at-the-2019-biennial-mission-summit/>

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: James Evans; Katy Marty; Atlee Wilson; Lance Dockter; Jeff & Jeanette Kersten & family, and Jeanette's father; Paul Husting's friend, David Baer; Sheila Donald; Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman; Susan Donahoe's father, Rev. John Davey; Rhiannon Tibbetts and family; Hall Smith & family; the Tardrew family; Joan Turner

Our Shut-ins: Virginia Henderson; Mercile Lee; Pat Young; Phyllis Reisdorf; Linda Olson; Ruth Parfrey; Martha Fuguitt

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

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

Reminders

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 or phone at (608) 238-1817.**

Many hands help feed many kids. 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

August

September

2 Paul Brynelson	5 Alan Ferguson
3 Art Hebblewhite	6 Christopher Evans
6 Blanca James	7 Nikki Borchardt
8 Bea Dewey	7 Cristy Carter
10 William Hurst	8 Palmer Haynes
12 Thomas Gunshor	8 Ann Miller
15 Luis Castillo	8 Pihra Pizzingrilli
16 Raymond Moen	9 Cheryl Castillo
17 Carol Ferge	9 Jeff Kersten
17 Rachel Hebblewhite	14 Judy Craig
18 Gwen Abramson	14 Tyler Mack
22 Phil Daub	16 Claire Rider
22 Nancy Emmert	24 Jeanette Kersten
22 Tara Drozdenko	25 Bob Martens
25 Chad Vlasak	25 Rhiannon Tibbetts
27 Adan Lara	27 Moira Kersten
27 Byron Parfrey	29 Ginger Henderson
28 Maddie Frazier	29 Linda Mintener
31 Carys Abramson	30 Sara Strain

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699

(608-233-1880)

(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE:

DATED MATERIAL - MAILED - 8/10/18