



The Visitor

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

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Dear Friends:

Happy New Year! A time to gather with old friends as we sing in “Auld Lang Syne.” It is a time to look ahead to a new year in a new future, turned fresh with the passing of time. It is a time to look, also, at ourselves in light of our past and our future, making those time-honored “New Year’s Resolutions”. We hope to seize the opportunities, which are ours to make our lives better than they have been. Thus, the frequent question at those new year’s gatherings: “What is your New Year Resolution?”

This is my question to you now. What is your New Year’s Resolution? Of course, I have lost neither my mind nor my calendar. The reality is that it is very common to celebrate New Year’s twice per annum. There is that one, following the calendar, at the start of January. The other follows the seasons and is observed at summer’s end in these days of early September.

How easily the University speaks of incoming students starting their first year. Public schools also use the same mindset. Something new is beginning for every student. New faces look at their new teacher. So also with church. This is the beginning of a new year. Church school classes are set to begin this coming Sunday (September 9th) at 11:00. There are new nursery attendants and a new possibility, still waiting in the wings, for a ministry with our children during the worship hour. Our new pianist, Jenny, has been introduced and has already demonstrated the inspiration yet to come. Adult education classes begin with a course on the Bible presented by Jason, scripture being a great place to start in faith. The Monday night Spiritual Renewal Group begins on September 17th at 7:00 p.m. reading this year about spirituality and the environment (see me for details). The Hand Bell

Choir is rehearsing as is the Chancel Choir. The new worship format developed over the summer will continue into the fall, evolving along the way. And, of course, the entire congregation will be looking for the Holy Spirit to blow in new directions after my departure at the end of November.

So, what are your New Year’s Resolutions? How will you seize the opportunities before you to expand your faith? A fresh resolution to worship regularly? A commitment to become better acquainted with scripture as that nagging voice in the back of your head keeps telling you? What resolutions will you be making which will have a lifelong impact on your children—affecting how they will fall in love with Jesus? What resolutions will our youth be making even as Julia and Garrett anticipate their first child? Will you follow temptation, ignoring how good or bad you imagine your voice to be, and try out the choir which is as much about community as singing (no one hast to join for life, or for a year—perhaps, but a season)? Opportunities abound.

In the end, all these opportunities are about your relationship to Jesus Christ, the top of our scale of values. So, make a resolution. Quantities are not limited so you needn’t stop at one.

Happy New Year!

Rev. Mark Clinger

Attendance Numbers

August & September 2018

Date	Worship #
8/06/18	52
8/21/18	76
8/26/18	59
9/02/18	72

What's Happening

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

FBC's Shared Worship Continues at 11:00

Your Church Council, after reflections by the Deacons as well as our worship leaders, and based in no small way upon the informal feedback received, have decided to continue our summer practice of shared worship into the fall.

The council is seeking your input and feedback so it can determine if this will be a continual path. Such feedback will also aid us in the formation of our worship experience. Please respond to the Questionnaire asking for input that was either emailed or mailed to you. You can obtain copies of the questionnaire located on the kiosk at the Gathering Place in Church or calling (608) 233-1880. Thank you all for your help.

Church Announcements

With the goal of keeping our worship service running smoothly and keeping it focused on praising God, we will be making a small change to how announcements work on Sunday mornings. **Beginning September 9th** all church announcements will be read by one of the pastors. Please get all announcements to the office or to one of the pastors, **in writing**, before the start of Sunday morning worship.

We realize that these changes will take some time getting used to, but we feel that they are important to maintain the flow and attitude of worship that we strive to foster in our worship services. Sincerely, Your Worship Planning Team

American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin Annual Gathering

will be held October 12-13 at Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Milwaukee. The impressive list of speakers includes The Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer, General Secretary of ABCUSA; past denominational president The Rev. Dr. Don Ng; past president and Wisconsin pastor, The Rev. Dr. Trinetta McCray, and our own Executive minister Marie Onwubuariri.

This is **a meeting of strategic importance** as delegates will be voting on a new set of bylaws

which will significantly reshape the region's ministry. As is stated "the formal ways we organize are no longer relevant and/or functional." With the existing structure creating low morale, poor stewardship of time and talents and missed opportunities for dynamic gospel work, change is very much in order. A new organizational structure which will support the way to pursue ministry today and for the foreseeable future, will be proposed. If you will be a delegate of this church, please let Mark Clinger know.

Copies of registration materials as well as the proposed changes are available at the kiosk in The Gathering Space.

Save the Date Rev. Mark Clinger's farewell celebration is fast approaching. Make sure you save the date!



Our Church Office Gentle Reminder

A tremendous range of responsibilities are given to Blanca James. Please remember she is one person carrying a diverse load of work. Some responsibilities repeat themselves with weekly deadlines. Events occur, such as funerals, which demand the immediate priority of her time.

May we all remember that generally the office can turn a project request around within a week. Please keep this in mind as immediate requests can often prove difficult. As soon as you know of something coming up which will require her attention, let her know so she can anticipate your project. Also, please make any deadlines clear. There are times of overload during which Blanca will turn to Mark Clinger as her supervisor to prioritize the work.

We can all assist her in accomplishing her work when we make our requests respecting the many duties upon her shoulders. Thank you.

“Those Amazing Minds: Infants, Toddlers, Twos and Their Ways of Learning”

Are you a parent of an infant or toddler? A grandparent of young children? A teenage babysitter? A member of staff working with children under 3? An event to be held on Sunday afternoon, September 23 starting at 3 p.m. is for you!

Pam Bennett, Early Childhood consultant and instructor with Madison College as well as the UW-Madison Center for Early Childhood Professional Development and Leadership, and a director of local child care programs for over 20 years, will present a free one-hour workshop you won't want to miss. (Child care will be provided)

“Those Amazing Minds: Infants, Toddlers, Twos and Their Ways of Learning” will be a 1-hour interactive presentation designed especially for all the families or caregivers in First Baptist Church (and the community) who marvel at the brain development of very young children, and want to learn more. It will be a time of sharing among those in our church family who live and love our youngest members.

After the presentation, Pam will offer a one-hour staff development training for our new and returning Nursery staff. Put it on your calendar!

Thank you for your support of American Baptist work.

- This year One Great Hour of Sharing received \$4,425.
- America For Christ Donations were \$1,320.
- The last Ministers and Missionaries Offering received \$2,432.
- World Mission Offering is being received throughout the month of September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



July 8, 2018 Listening Session Transcript

The transcript of the July 8, 2018 listening session under the Discernment Team is available on FBC's website for access at any time. Please follow the link below to access the transcript or to view minutes for the other Discernment Team meetings. This information can also be found posted on the board in the Gathering Space at the church.

<http://firstbaptistmadison.org/joint-transition-committee-minutes/> (Members option under Discernment Team)



SUNDAY SCHOOL **Children's Sunday School Nursery (0 – 3)**

We have a beautiful, recently remodeled nursery filled with age appropriate activities for our youngest children. The nursery will be staffed this year by Haley Schoenfelder, returning from last year and Jamie Wheelock, an incoming Freshmen at UW-Madison from Milwaukee. Ava Kersten remains a familiar face that will back up Haley and Jamie when they need a Sunday off.

Preschool – Kindergarten (3-5/K). Taught by Susan & Anna Donahoe. Room 105

In the Preschool-Kindergarten Classroom, children explore through play and music how to use the bright shining, spirit of love that is inside each of us to BE that love, wherever and however we are. The relaxed, small group, multi-age environment encourages interaction and allows the children to learn at their own pace and from each other. Curriculum generally follows the sequence of Jesus' life, with care taken to understand all stories in the Bible from the perspective of a God of love and an ancient people.

Intermediate (1st – 5th Grade). Taught by Paul & Deb Chotlos. Room 104

The Way of the Child helps children, grades 1 – 5, develop an intimate, personal relationship with God, providing an opportunity for them to

experience and practice spiritual disciplines that can nurture that relationship for a lifetime.



Adult Sunday School Sundays, Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30 “What is The Bible?” Led by

Pastor Jason. Room 302.

What is the bible? Is it the “*perfectly inspired word of God without error in the original manuscripts*” or is it simply “*a collection of stories and traditions passed down for thousands of years by a religious minority*”? or is it something in-between? or all the above? This is a question that rarely gets discussed yet is at the heart of many of today’s thorniest theological and cultural issues.

So, let’s explore it together.

Over four weeks, Pastor Jason will lead us in an exploration of the Bible as a whole. This won’t be a normal Bible study, although we will look at some passages in depth. Instead it will be an exploration of what the Bible itself *is*, how we think about it, how we use it, and what we are to do with it. Come, be a part of the conversation.



FBC Youth Update

The FBC Youth will continue to meet as a combined Middle and Senior High class for the 2018-2019 school year. **We will start the year**

off by participating in Jason’s Adult Sunday school class and then move into our curriculum for the remainder of the school year. As many know, we are preparing to welcome a baby in early November. At this time, we will move forward with class until his arrival in November, after which we anticipate a small pause in programming before re-engaging fully for the remainder of the year. More details regarding my brief hiatus will become available as they evolve.
- Julia Mueller, Youth Leader



Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Rehearsals for the Handbell Choir are on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.,

Room 303. **Please come and join us!**



Come, Join the Chancel Choir

as we enter a new year of making music together! Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. in the choir room downstairs. No audition required, we just want you to come help us make beautiful music together. Questions? E-mail music@firstbaptistmadison.org.



Ways You Can Get Out the Vote

I learned from the League of Woman Voters that a little effort can go a long way by just following one or more of the following suggestions: Help someone register to vote on line (provide them internet access to do that); provide child care so a young family can go vote; provide transportation to the polls (take somebody with you when you vote); Encourage “Absentee Ballet” voting (<https://my.vote.wis.wi.gov>); pray for peace; read the League of Woman Voters voting guide coming out in the Isthmus with candidate information; take someone out to the DMV to get a valid State ID (It is not on a good bus line and needed to vote.); Register to vote in person (at the library, city clerk’s office). Talk to everyone about voting in the upcoming election Nov 6! At least 12 people have been helped register with this help; and we will continue to help.

Call WI Voter Assistance: 608-285-2141 with any questions. Thanks for your support – Katy Marty

Immigrant Children Separation Status (as of August 16):



566 children in custody of which 366 have little chance of being reunited with their parents who have already been deported. (Source: ACLU) - *First Baptist is a member of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition.*

Volunteering Opportunities for Family Housing Ministries

New opportunities to help The Road Home of Dane County serve families in need of affordable and stable housing.

You can view the volunteer needs for September (the month our “Blue Team” has been assigned) and sign-up using SignUp Genius. Please put your mouse pointer on “Sign Up” below and press <CTRL><Click> to see the list of volunteer needs. You can also cut and paste (or press <CTRL><click> the following URL into your browser:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E44ADA72CA5F85-2018/70386697>

SignUp Genius shows you a calendar with the volunteer needs. If you click on the calendar entries, you will see more detailed descriptions of what is needed and you will see the number of volunteers that are needed.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Alane at The Road Home by emailing her at Volunteer Manager <vol.mgr@rhome.org>.

Reminders



Spaghetti Dinner is this Monday, September 10, at 6:00 pm. Fellowship Hall. Join the First Baptist friends and volunteers for a delicious Spaghetti Dinner. We look forward to dining with you and sharing fellowship time.



Third Tuesday Lunch will meet Tuesday, September 18 at noon in Fellowship Hall for a potluck lunch. The main dish will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

The program will be presented by the Discernment Committee and starts at 1 o'clock. This presentation will provide an opportunity for the Discernment Committee to enlighten those present on the Committee itself. The presentation will have 3 parts:

1. The committee - what it is and what it isn't.
2. The committee - what it is doing and what it is not doing.
3. The committee - what it wants/needs from you and it doesn't want/need from you.

Everyone is invited to the potluck and to the program but reservations are necessary. Please sign the pew pad or call the church office, 233-1880.

Spiritual  *Renewal*

Spiritual Renewal

The Spiritual Renewal group, which meets on the first and third Monday of each month, **will resume on September 17**, Gathering Space. We will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be reading Thomas Berry: Selected Writings on the Earth Community. Selections by Mary Evelyn Tucker.

Summit by the Sea 2019 The American Baptist Mission Summit (formerly call the Biennial) Sponsored by ABC-USA

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

- The American Baptist 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!

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>

Music on the Lawn

Westminster Presbyterian invites ALL to attend “Music on the Lawn”, a benefit for Madison Area Jail Ministry. Saturday September 29th from 4-6 pm. Enjoy a jazz performance by Chance Allies and dinner from Let’s Eat Out food carts and *Just Bakery*. Plus, learn about the important work of

the Jail Ministry! The event will be held *Rain or Shine*.



Meals on Wheels

You can continue to be that caring presence bringing a nutritious meal to shut ins in our community. 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.**
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Prayer Concerns

Church Family: James Evans; Lance Dockter; Jeanette Kersten’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, Bill Hausler, Julie Blankenburg

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

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

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

Birthdays

September

October

5 Alan Ferguson	5 Alan Ferguson
6 Christopher Evans	4 Jim Thompson
7 Nikki Borchardt	5 Olivia Hebblewhite
8 Palmer Haynes	5 Leona Moen
8 Ann Miller	7 Janet Clinger
8 Pihra Pizzingrilli	7 Angela Thomas
9 Cheryl Castillo	11 Bill Hausler
9 Jeff Kersten	16 Greg Dean
14 Judy Craig	18 Carolyn Cross
14 Tyler Mack	19 Janet Reinke
16 Claire Rider	21 Marci Henderson
24 Jeanette Kersten	21 Jason Mack
25 Bob Martens	22 Jody Lara
25 Rhiannon Tibbetts	25 Richard Bishop
27 Moira Kersten	28 Ken Arneson
29 Ginger Henderson	
29 Linda Mintener	
30 Sara Strain	