



## *The Visitor*

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

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### **WORDS FROM THE DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE**

Dear FBC community,

During a recent Discernment Committee meeting, it was agreed that both committee members and the congregation would benefit from clarification of the Discernment Committee's history and purpose. It is our hope that this letter serves this purpose.

The history of this committee begins with the Pastoral Relations Committee. The PRC started discussing with Mark the church's need to prepare for the future when he told them of his intention to retire. The PRC then met with the Church Council and Mark, with the same focus on preparation. It was agreed that a period of "discernment", beginning prior to Mark's retirement, would be beneficial, giving the church an early start on identifying necessary steps before calling our next senior pastor. The PRC and the Council formed a committee, as allowed by the church bylaws, giving it the name, "Discernment Committee." The Discernment Committee then decided to invite additional members of the congregation to join the committee.

The word *discernment* is not a common word and may be unfamiliar. It's an old word, however, first found in print in the 1580's with a meaning of, "keenness of intellectual perception, insight, acuteness of judgment." It comes from Latin originally: *dis-* "off, away" + *cernere* "separate, sift." In Christian terms, *discernment* means *calling on the Holy Spirit to lead or give direction on a matter*. This brief word investigation may help clarify that the

committee's purpose is to sift through possibilities and potentialities that will help our congregation identify our church's path for the future. The committee is working to identify and initiate the first steps in the process of finding a new minister. We are not functioning as a pulpit committee, the committee that will search for a permanent pastor. Rather, we are discerning who God intends us to be as a church in the future and who might help us prepare for that future.

Over the last several months, the committee has explored various possibilities for who might help us in our preparations. Committee discussions and consultation with the state office led to the consideration of professional "Discernment Facilitators." After reading through information provided by several firms, two were brought in for interviews, and one was asked to submit and then resubmit proposals. The Discernment Committee voted on the final proposal and decided it would not recommend the congregation move forward with hiring the selected firm. Instead, the committee decided that using internal or local external facilitators on a smaller scale would adequately serve the goal of identifying opportunities and challenges. The committee is currently anticipating inviting congregational input through a variety of means, including a series of focused "Conversations" on specific aspects of our future. The discernment process may continue over an extended period as we enter the "time of transition" after Mark retires and as we continue the process of creating a vision for the First Baptist of the Future.

The Discernment Committee has also started exploring the role of the Transition Pastor and, with the help of our state and national offices, identifying potential candidates. The congregation will participate in the process of hiring the Transitional Pastor. The committee anticipates this Transition Pastor will assume responsibilities early in 2019. One of the most important responsibilities of the Transition Pastor will be to help our church further develop and

move toward the vision of the First Baptist of the Future that will come out of our discernment process.

During the time of transition, after Mark retires, the congregation will select a pulpit committee. This new committee will be guided by the vision statement generated in the discernment process as they search for the pastor who will help us become the First Baptist of the Future. Please continue to pray for the members of the Discernment Committee and for our church as we move into this next phase of our church's history.

Bill Fiore, Church Moderator and Chair of the Discernment Committee

## Attendance Numbers

### August & September 2018

| Date    | Worship # |
|---------|-----------|
| 8/06/18 | 52        |
| 8/21/18 | 76        |
| 8/26/18 | 59        |
| 9/02/18 | 72        |
| 9/09/18 | 73        |
| 9/17/18 | 97        |

## What's Happening

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

### The World Parliament of Religion

Our state's Executive Minister, Marie Onwubuariri, presented me on Monday morning with the opportunity of our hosting a member of the World Parliament of Religion this coming Sunday, September 23. While we are well acquainted with the ecumenical movement of the twentieth century and the riches gained through conversations between Christian denominations, there is a larger movement. The World Parliament of Religion has, for about one hundred years, sought to produce dialogue between different religions. From where I sit, this dialogue is the "new ecumenism" of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Rev. Dr. Larry Greenfield, an American Baptist minister and a member of the Parliament, will offer Sunday morning's sermon; and will address, those interested, immediately at the close of worship (his travel plans demand a 1:00 departure). During this second hour, he will introduce us to the Parliament and speak of their upcoming gathering in Toronto.

Marie presented me with an offer I couldn't refuse. – Rev. Mark Clinger

### **“Those Amazing Minds: Infants, Toddlers, Twos and Their Ways of Learning” An event for parents, grandparents, working with**

**children?** This Sunday afternoon, September 23 starting, at 3 p.m. **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.

After the presentation, Pam will offer a one-hour staff development training for our new and returning Nursery staff. See you Sunday!

### **Thank You, Jan!**

We all want to join in thanking Jan Arneson for her devoted service as our Flower Coordinator for well over 30 years. From coordinating flowers given in memory of persons to ordering Easter lilies and Christmas Poinsettias to preparing special arrangements at Thanksgiving to making sure flowers are available each Sunday while keeping an eye on the flower cooler, Jan has done it all.

Faithfully and with great care she has made sure we worshipped God in the holiness of beauty, the wonder of creation on full display.

Be sure to offer your own expression of thanks to Jan when you see her. Thank You, Jan.

## "Thank you First Baptist"

The Board of Christian Outreach recently received the following thank you notes, which are now being shared with the FBC family and friends:

\*\* A little girl named Sarah thanked us for donating \$250 to Madison Schools' "Read Up" summer reading program. She is in the fifth grade and read I Survived this summer.

\*\*Mallory from the Crossing Campus Ministry wrote, "Thank you" "Thank you" "Thank you"! Your Support means so much! They received \$1,000 check from our operating budget. They are scheduled to receive a total of \$6,000 in this year's budget

\*\* Rev. Carolyn Dugan said, "Thank you for the \$200 donation to Camp Tamarack. Your continued support of the ministry is very appreciated." This donation came from the Board of Christian Outreach Budget.

\*\*Susan Donahoe thanks you, on behalf of the Catalyst Project for the \$2,735 from our Easter Offering and an additional \$200 from our current Outreach Budget. - Your Board of Outreach

## Our Own Hometown Hero

At the September 8th Badger game, Sergeant Ken Arneson was saluted and honored for his service in the 623rd Field Artillery Unit in the U.S. Army



Thank you, Ken Arneson

<https://twitter.com/UWBadgers/status/1038484939610746880>

## Welcome Home, Judy Sutterlin

Judy was a member of FBC and went to seminary from there. After seminary, she served a church in Western New York state before serving in China. In China, Judy served as an ABC International Ministries (ABCIM) missionary until her retirement in early 2014. She continued to serve in China as an official ABC International Ministries volunteer.

Judy is now transitioning back to the United States, where she will call Atherton Baptist Homes in Alhambra, California, home. Her current plan and that of ABCIM is that she will continue to be an official volunteer, but will just have the responsibility of liaising with the Amity Foundation in China relative to the support that ABCIM gives to over 150 rural orphans ranging in age from kindergarten to college level for their educational and daily life needs. Judy plans to make one trip to China each year, part of which will include visiting these students and part of which will also include visiting some of her former students from the seminary and seeing the churches and bible schools where they now serve as well as visiting friends in Nanjing.

Her contact information is Judy Sutterlin, 600 Irving St Apt 103, Alhambra CA 91801; and her email remains the same ([jsutterlin@hotmail.com](mailto:jsutterlin@hotmail.com)).

We welcome Judy and wish her a happy retirement as she transitions back to the States.

## 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. Trinette 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Discernment Committee Information

The transcript of the July 8, 2018 listening session under the Discernment Team, minutes for the August 27 and September 5 meetings as well as past meetings, are available on FBC's website for access at any time. Please follow the link below to access these documents from the 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)



### Art DECO's Changing Seasons

As the colors change about us and the children are all returning

to school, we become aware of changes in our lives and in the world around us. These changes are reflected in the art on the walls of our building.

In the Gathering Space, we can enjoy the beauty of fall through two paintings of ducks, ponds, and fall foliage by the artist Ron Van Guilder.

In the lower lobby, is a large copy of "Jesus in the Temple Among the Elders." It is Heinrich Hoffman's well known rendition of Jesus as he followed the ancient tradition of visiting the



Temple in Jerusalem at age 12 to be instructed by the priests. This ancient "coming of manhood" ritual is celebrated as "Bar Mitzvah" in today's Jewish congregations.

This print was found rolled up in one of our closets and has recently be reframed for use. Enjoy!

### Volunteer Position Opening

As the position of Flower Coordinator is now open, we are seeking a volunteer to come forward.

This "stems" from Jan Arneson's retirement (see above). Two skills are required: the ability to coordinate and a knowledge of flowers. Contact the church office at 608/233-1880 if you want to share your gifts.

### Hourglass Bible Study Starts Soon

Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 beginning October 7 - "**Chosen by God**"

The Bible is full of stories that reveal God's choice of individuals for vital tasks. Beginning October 7, we will take up a variety of Bible passages describing people chosen by God - some famous, some lesser known. We will explore how God selected them, how they realized they had been chosen, and how God's people discerned or failed to discern God's will.

We'll apply the variety of approaches discussed in Pastor Jason's September class, "What is the Bible?" Everyone is welcome, and advance preparation is not required.

### Two Important Events for Women and Men at First Baptist

#### Church Women United in Madison, WI October Forum:

#### Restorative Justice in Wisconsin –

Friday, October 5, 2018. Oakwood University Woods – Oakwood Community Room, 6225 Mineral Point Road, Madison WI

Peg Wallace, Volunteer for Prison Ministry will be the Speaker. Peg retired as associate director of Wisconsin Humane Council and has been a volunteer at the prison ministry program for 10 years. This program was started 11 years ago by Rev. Jerry Hancock from First Congregational Church (UCC). Currently she volunteers in three prisons. Peg goes to the Fox Lake prison and Wisconsin resource centers in New Lisbon and Madison. She will tell **us what restorative justice means**, as many people do not know anything about it.

9:00 am Refreshment & Fellowship

9:30 am Welcome and Announcements

10:00 am Program

Church Women United in Madison, WI

[www.churchwomenunited-madison.net](http://www.churchwomenunited-madison.net)

**Muslim Women United for Peace, and We Are Many United Against Hate: Demystifying Muslims and Islam -**  
Sunday, October 7, 2018, 1:30-3:30 pm, Union South, 1308 W. Dayton Street, Madison, Varsity Hall (2nd Floor).

The event is hosted by Muslim Women United for Peace, and We Are Many United Against Hate. Dalia Mogahed, a former resident of Madison, graduate of West High and with an undergraduate degree from UW Madison, will be the keynote speaker. Dalia is the Director of Research at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, where she leads the organization's pioneering research and thought leadership programs on American Muslims.

## Reminders



### 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. 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 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 (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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 September 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.

Pastor Jason will continue to 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.



Join the Youth Group

### 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. 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.



## 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

## The Crossing Campus Ministry Volunteers Needed

The Crossing serves a meal to over 100 students each week – leftover dorm food that would have been thrown out we serve for free with the help of a student organization that collects it from the dorms.

The Crossing needs, on some Tuesdays (we have someone who does it every other Tuesday and need to find people to fill in the Tuesdays he can’t be here). Pastor Jason is taking a few Tuesdays. It’s from 11:30 am – 2 pm at the latest (often we are done before 2 pm but some days it takes a bit longer). If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Karla at [karla@crossingministries.org](mailto:karla@crossingministries.org).



## 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.

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*.



## Retirement News - Save the Date

Rev. Mark Clinger’s farewell celebration is fast approaching. Friday, November 16.

Make sure you save the date!



Retirement Celebration for Rev. Mark Clinger

*Save the Date*

FRIDAY, the 16th of NOVEMBER

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
Great Hall  
UW Madison Memorial Union

Details to follow



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