



The Visitor

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

No. 21 November 8, 2018 Vol. 61

Dear Friends:

I was recently asked about the timing of my retirement. Why not after Christmas was the question. It is a question I am happy to answer because its reasons rest all the way back into God.

In Ecclesiastes we read “for everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” Timing is everything. To stand in the pulpit for the last time on Thanksgiving Sunday, being grateful for all the riches of these past 28 years, seems very fitting. Thanksgiving is a day of celebration. It is a day for sharing together. It is a day for counting the rich blessings from our many labors over the course of time. And, yes, there are my ties to Plymouth and the first thanksgiving!

Yet even more important, Advent begins two Sundays later on December 2nd. Advent is a season for transition, anticipation, and hope for the birth of a new tomorrow. In the Old Testament, we read of an eager longing and searching for the birth of the Messiah. It is the stuff of “advent time”. Having said our fondest farewells, you will enter your own “advent time”.

This advent season, you will set your eyes to the horizon searching expectantly for the new life, the new future to be born for you. It is a time of pregnant waiting. The future may not be clear, but God is in that future, waiting to be seen. Even in your waiting change will be happening in each of you and all of you together. Waiting is God’s way of preparing people—it is God-given, God-intended, God-designed as a way for you to grow and become. An opening is made emotionally and spiritually. It is that “manger space” empty but waiting to be filled. You look to the future and watch.

We also read in scripture that “in the fullness of time” God is born. Such matters as the mighty acts of God cannot be forced or sped up on our end. There is God’s time as well as ours. We may

grow impatient but God knows the time to come. The certainty which is yours is that God WILL act, the future WILL become clear, and the time to welcome WILL arrive. A new pastor, called by God and confirmed by you WILL be given.

Already, you have excellent leadership in whom you can place your trust and confidence without hesitation. I know that as well as you.

Furthermore, as a congregation, you have crafted bylaws to guide your leadership in their work and finally in your vote. Beyond these persons and procedures, even within those persons and in yourselves, God is stirring. And the blessing will dawn.

Just as I can’t wait for Christmas, I can’t wait to hear of the one called to join you in your ministry and mission. Please know I will hold you in prayer during this season of your Advent. Also, know when the name is named and you have extended your call, I will smile and pray for the one anointed by God to be your pastor.

In Peace,

Rev. Mark Clinger

Attendance Numbers

October & November 2018

Date	Worship #
10/7/18	79
10/21/18	106
10/28/18	74
11/04/18	78



Correction to the participants’ list of the Third Tuesday Lunch’s October 16 presentations.

Linda Mintener was omitted from our talented and varied group of participants at Third Tuesday Lunch’s Hobbies and Crafts presentations. Thank you, Linda, for sharing the special yarn dress up “paper doll” and clothing you made for your granddaughter. Very special!



What's Happening

Building for Ministry, Debt Retirement, Financial Report as of Sept. 30, 2018

Total amount pledged or given to the Debt Retirement appeal	\$363,165
Retirement pledges/gifts received since start of the appeal	\$337,256
Retirement pledges/gifts received in third quarter	\$ 4,272
Member loans converted to gifts in third quarter	\$ 0
Total retirement pledges outstanding	\$ 25,688
Member loans	
Interest paid during third quarter	\$ 0
Loan repayments during third quarter	\$ 0
Outstanding loans	\$100,000
Total Indebtedness	\$100,000

This financial campaign concludes April 1, 2019. Our goal is to pay off the remaining debt by that time so we can bring the Building for Ministry project to a successful close. To this end we encourage you to bring your pledges up to date, which will allow us to restore our church to a debt-free status.

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

2019 Consecration Sunday Sunday, November 11

To make our budget proposal a reality, we must have faith that God will provide and an understanding that he does that through us. If you would like to look at the draft budget proposal in detail, it can be found on the Gathering Space kiosk, church **website**, or you can contact the church office and request a copy.

Kindly bring your 2019 pledge card with you to worship on November 11th or mail it in at your first convenience. There are pledge cards (yellow) in the Gathering Space area and pews for anyone who needs them.”

Blessings – Bill Fiore, FBC Moderator

Dane Sanctuary Coalition

At last year's mid-year meeting, the congregation voted to join the Dane Sanctuary Coalition as a supporting member. The Coalition is an ecumenical effort currently involving about 13 congregations in the Madison faith community. Six of those congregations at three host sites are willing to open their doors to immigrants needing sanctuary for protection from deportation while their legal cases are being processed. The other congregations, First Baptist included, have agreed to provide support to those six congregations providing sanctuary. There have been over two hundred people at congregations in the Coalition who have joined a dozen or so First Baptist members to volunteer to provide meals, run errands, stay on-site, among other support services for guests in sanctuary. No one has yet gone into sanctuary in Madison, but the Coalition is ready to support any immigrant or refugee who decides to do so.

In the meantime, First Baptist has been supporting efforts to prepare for a guest in sanctuary. Dennis Ray and Gil Emmert serve on the Coalition team that is organizing the Coalition's volunteer management system. The Board of Outreach has approved spending \$250 from its available budget to add to the donations of others to cover the cost of renewing the license for software that will provide a database and a scheduling tool for the 200 plus volunteers. Once someone actually goes into sanctuary, the number of volunteers will most certainly grow so having a system to organize the volunteers is going to be critically important.

First Baptist members have been active on immigration issues. Pastor Jason and other church members met with a staff member of Senator Johnson's staff to share concerns about proposed Congressional actions on immigration. Others have been contacting their Congressional representatives. Some members have been participating in local public events including protest marches and Coalition press conferences. There is an immigration interest group connected via email that has been receiving relevant news and announcements on immigration actions. If you would be interested in being a part of that interest group, please contact Dennis at djay5@sbcglobal.net or Gil at gaemmert@wisc.edu.



UPDATE - As of September 13, the ACLU reports that 2, 217 immigrant children have been reunited with their families, or released to another relative.

Currently, 400 children remain in custody; 279 of them have parents who have been deported. Source: *ACLU.org - First Baptist is a member of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition.*

New - First Meeting of the Fun and Fellowship Committee

You are invited to join this group of fun and fellowship loving folks to brainstorm and plan more fun and fellowship in the life of First Baptist. We will meet at the Pancake Café, 724 South Gammon Road, after worship on Sunday, November 11.



2018 Christmas Offering Decision

Your Board of Outreach has met and chosen two organizations to receive our 2018 Christmas offering. As we considered the criteria to use in making our decision, we decided to select organizations that are addressing serious issues in our community. Here are the organizations we selected:

The Community Immigration Law Center:

This organization operates a Walk-In Legal Clinic, located at Christ Presbyterian Church, where volunteer immigration lawyers can answer questions and advice on immigration concerns. For more information go to <http://www.cilcmadison.org/mission.html>.

The Playing Field: This organization, located at Bethany Methodist Church, offers high quality early care and education programs to children from varied socio-economic backgrounds. Two thirds of their enrollment spaces are reserved for children whose families are homeless or would not otherwise be able to afford quality child care. Look at their website at www.playingfieldmadison.org.

Thank you to all who offered suggestions for our 2018 Christmas offering. We will keep those suggestions in mind for the coming year allocations of whatever discretionary Outreach funding may be available to us.



Getting to Know Us Gene Dewey

The Dewey family was moving to Madison in 1969 as Neil Armstrong was approaching the moon. In fact, we watched him walking on the moon at a motel on our trip from

Buffalo, NY, where I had worked as a librarian since 1960. When it became known at the Central Park Baptist Church in Buffalo that we were moving to Madison, one of the members of that church told us to look up “a great pastor”, Andy Davison. Bea and I had been very active in the Buffalo church. We rented a duplex in Sun Prairie for a year and attended the Methodist Church where Jenny Arneson is now pastor. We took a year off from church activities other than Worship.

In the fall of 1970 we bought our home on Fox Avenue and visited FBC and introduced ourselves to Andy. The rest is history. Another connection is that Beverly Davison had grown up not far from where Bea grew up. They attended the same high school, although at different times.

Since we have been miles away from our families, the congregation here at FBC became our second extended family as well as our church home. Soon after we joined FBC a social group known as the DOTS (Doing Our Thing Simply) was formed. Many good times were held over the years.

A highlight of our years of membership was the trip that Mark led to the Holy Land in 1994-5. Forty-five of us saw places mentioned in the Bible and witnessed the baptism of Aaron Clinger in the Jordan River. Several of us went on to have a cruise on the Nile River.

For many years I enjoyed providing a number of gardens on the Church grounds which have brightened the corner of Franklin Avenue and Shepard Terrace and other areas of the Church property.

During my retirement years I have dabbled in genealogical research of my mother’s family. Last winter I decided to check out my mother’s middle name, Dunning. I was astonished to discover that my third great grandfather was a Dunning and that he and his wife were among the founders of the First Baptist Church of Malone,

NY, in which I grew up. Now I am curious as to whether my late mother ever knew this or not! I thank FBC, Madison for being my church home for these many years and providing a group of loving friends who are as family.

Baptist Peace Fellowship

Registration is open for the 6th Global Baptist Peace Conference that will take place in Cali, Colombia July 15 – 20, 2019 on the campus of the Baptist University of Cali (Unibautista).

Visit www.globalbaptistpeace2019.org or www.bautistaglobalporlapaz2019.org for more information and to register.

The conference theme, **Peace in Our Land: Toward a World without Violence**, will provide an overarching guide for week filled with thought-provoking workshops and activities; inspiring leaders who are all devoted to the work of peacemaking; and challenging, age appropriate programming on a variety of ways to practice peace.

Thanks for Volunteering for the Men's Shelter Meal

Once a month, First Baptist volunteers prepare and serve a meal at the men's shelter at Grace Episcopal Church. Many thanks go to these volunteers for the meal on October 19.

The cooks were:

Willie Hayek
Joyce Laugen
Ann Paulen
Claire Rider
Joan Turner

The servers were:

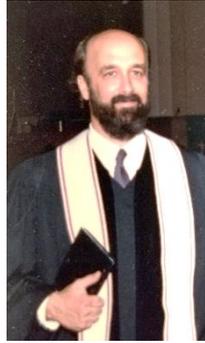
Bethany Cisneros
Tyler Heggstad
Emily Tran
Angel Twine

Please let Sheila Donald know if you are interested in helping with a future meal that will certainly be most appreciated by the 70 to 120 men it feeds. *Claire Rider, Volunteer*



Infant Dedication

On Sunday, November 11th you are invited to be in worship as Julia (Mueller) and Garrett Voss dedicate their son, Shepherd John Voss, to God.



After Service Lunch Happy Retirement Rev. Mark Clinger

After worship service on Sunday, November 18 in Fellowship Hall, join us in wishing Rev. Clinger and his family well as he moves on to retirement life. *The lunch is provided by your Church Leadership Council*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Third Tuesday Lunch

will meet at noon on **Tuesday, November 20** in Fellowship Hall. Mat Gunshor, a researcher in the meteorology department, will present the program: **WISCONSIN'S ROLE IN GEOSTATIONARY WEATHER SATELLITES**. We will learn that this is an exciting time in satellite meteorology as Matt introduces us to the latest GOES (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite). This GOES has been hailed as a game changer -collecting and transmitting weather information faster - making weather forecasts more accurate. Matt has been working on this project since 1999 and will share some history of the UW's role in satellite meteorology.

The meal, served at noon, will be a **potluck with the main dish provided. Please bring a dish to share**. Reservations may be made by signing the pew pads or by calling the church office, 233-1880. Everyone is invited to share a delicious meal followed at 1 pm by a VERY interesting program.



COOKIE TIME **Monday, November 26** **1:30 pm, CR**

The Women's Circle will be preparing Christmas packages on Monday, November 26 at 1:30 in the Conference Room at church. You are invited to bring around a dozen of your favorite Christmas goodies: cookies, candies or fruit. The cookies and candy should be individually wrapped.

Who's Up for a Traditional Church Dinner? Friday, December 7 at 5:00 pm

Where: St. Mathews Church in Dane
What: An all you can eat, old fashioned church dinner with fried and baked cod, baked beans, baked potatoes or French fries, cole slaw, milk or coffee, and a plate of desserts on the table. All prepared and served buffet style by the folks of St. Mathews in their school Gym. Beer and soft drinks also available at extra cost. Cost is \$11 for adults.

We are planning a "caravan" of FBC folks who love old fashioned Church dinners **leaving our parking lot at 4:30 PM** -- Rides available if you don't wish to drive. Call the church office, 233-1880, and let us know if you are planning to come and if you need a ride.

Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It



By Shelly Tochluk
(<http://witnessingwhiteness.com/>)

Book Workshop Series Facilitated by Laurel Finn and Laurie O'Donnell
10-week, sequential series designed for white people to forward anti-racism work. We connect the book with dialog and experiential activities, by exploring the white experience.

Dates Thursdays

11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20

1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14

Time 6 – 8:15 pm

Location

Dane County UW- Extension, 5201 Fen Oak Drive
Madison, WI 53718

Attendance: To really understand and ultimately address how whiteness affects racism, a strong commitment to attendance is required. At Session 1, we will ask you to let us know the dates you plan to miss (if any). The series is free and is limited to 25 participants. To register, please email Laurel at Lafinn@wisc.edu by **November 15**.



Save the date, Saturday March 9th Doris Weidemann Memorial Peace Fund

Guest Speaker

Our next guest speaker for the Doris Weidemann Memorial Peace Fund is coming! Her name is **Austin Channing Brown** and she is a widely praised voice on issues of race, faith and culture. Here is a bit about her: "Austin Channing Brown is a leading new voice on racial justice, and the author of the compelling autobiographical book, **I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness**. Austin is committed to exploring the intersections of racial justice, faith and black womanhood. Her talks are one of a kind, infused with justice, pop culture, humor, and truth-telling." *Source - <http://austinchanning.com/bio/>*
More details to come! - Pastor Jason

Reminders



Pastor Mark's Retirement Celebration – November 16

Mark Clinger's 28 years of ministry with our church and retirement celebration are a couple of weeks away. Please make sure you have informed the church if you require a handicapped parking pass, as they are available and will need to be given to you prior to the event. We look forward to celebrating with those of you who reserved for the event. – *Mary Fiore, Gwen Abramson, Bill Hausler*



EAT RIGHT WHEN MONEY IS TIGHT!

FoodShare is a monthly benefit deposited on a debit-like card, the

QUEST Card, to help with food purchases, freeing up money for bills, medications and other necessities. Did you know... Eligibility is based on income and certain expenses, so you can own a home and car and even have a savings account; claiming FoodShare helps your community (the USDA estimates that for every \$5 spent in FoodShare benefits, about \$9 circulates through local businesses and to our farmers; receiving benefits does NOT take away from others. **EVERYONE** who is eligible and applies will get benefits. **For more information, call the FoodShare Helpline at 1-877-366-3635 today!**

HUNGER BANQUET



Directly learn about food disparities in the Madison area

\$8 per person

November 30 | 5:45-8:00pm

Tripp Commons, Memorial Union

Register here

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-bases-hunger-banquet-tickets-51255975001>

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: James Evans; Jeanette Kersten's father; Paul Husting's friend, David Baer; Sheila Donald; Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman; Rhiannon Tibbetts; Bill Hausler; Rev. William Metzger; Sylvia Lowell; Lance Dockter; Jason Mack's father, Darrell Mack; the Lee family

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

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

Mercile Lee, guiding force behind prominent UW-Madison scholarships, dies at 87



October 31, 2018 by [Doug Erickson](#)

Mercile Lee, the architect and founding director of two of UW-Madison's most respected and successful scholarship initiatives, [the Chancellor's and Powers-Knapp scholarship programs](#), died Oct. 25 in Madison. She was 87. The cause was complications related to longstanding health issues, according to her family. For Mr. Erickson's full article on Mercile's amazing life, go to: <https://news.wisc.edu/mercile-lee-guiding-force-behind-prominent-uw-madison-scholarships-dies-at-87/>



We learned that **Terry Kiss Frank**, interim children's music director in 2014 and widely known performer in the music area, passed away on Monday, November 5. A celebration of her life will be held after the first of the new year.

Birthdays

November

7 Judy Rundell
8 Diana Long
8 Carla Eakins
9 Joy Miller
10 Mary Fiore
13 Una Torosian
13 Laura Clark-Taylor
14 Deb Chotlos
17 Barbara Mueller
20 Mark Clinger
20 Jill Thomas
21 Ruth Parfrey
25 Brooke Siddell

December

2 Tyler Heggstad
4 Kyle Arneson
4 Bernie Long
7 Sue Lutter
8 Kathryn Ray
10 Jacki Barnes
11 Linda Conohan
11 James Mulder
13 Rainge Dockter
15 Ryan Blythe
15 Beverly Davison
15 Jeff Miller
17 Anna Chotlos
18 Christopher Hill
18 Linda Stamm
21 Jamie Kolden
22 Julie Blankenburg
23 Laurel Finn
24 Marcia Frazier
24 Geneva Moore
25 Mercile Lee
27 Robb Lee
28 Kacia Ferguson
28 Willa Vy McAbee
29 Amira Castillo
30 Lydia Haynes
30 Dianne Hopkins
30 Carl Siddell
31 Kathryn Holden
31 Joyce Laugen
31 Troy Zimmerman

The Visitor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699
(608) 233-1880 - fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org
(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

Worship Schedule

10:30 am Fellowship Time, Gathering Space

11:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Next publication: Week of 11/18. Articles for

The Visitor must be submitted by

Monday, 11/19 - 9:00 am

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE:

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