

The Visitor

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

No. 1 January 10, 2019 Vol. 62

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome that you gave me this past Sunday, January 6. After the Welcome Michael Breakfast and the Welcome Michael Lunch, I was ready for the Welcome Michael Nap! I felt very welcomed, as well as well-fed.

I come immediately from the Washington DC area, where I have lived for 27 years, 26 of those years teaching at Howard University School of Divinity. I have been married to Joy Newheart for 25 years. She owns her own elder care business. We have two daughters, Anastasia Newheart, who is a graduate student in space plasma physics at Rice University in TX, and Miranda Newheart, who is an undergraduate nursing student at Prince George's Community College in MD.

Although I have lived on the East Coast for many years, I'm a Midwesterner by birth, from Missouri. Specifically, I was born in Independence and raised at Liberty, so freedom is important to me! I'm glad that First Baptist Church (FBC) has as one of its core values "soul freedom."

When my wife and I married, we took the name Newheart, from Ezekiel 36:26: "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Upon marriage, then, Michael Willett and Joy Harman became Michael and Joy Newheart.

As I said on Sunday, I have served a lot of churches, and I think that the values of FBC are more compatible with my own values than any other church that I have served. When I read to a friend the church's mission statement from the website, a friend remarked, "That sounds just like you!" Yes, I too am progressive and Christ-centered. I am committed to social justice, and I serve God through Jesus Christ. I look forward to our service together.

Thanks again for your warm welcome-- amidst the cold. So many of you have made me feel at home, and I hesitate to mention names because I will inevitably leave out someone. Two individuals, though, call for special mention: Bill and Mary Fiore, who have eased my transition in many ways. They have epitomized the grace with which I have been received by the entire church. I'm filled with joy!

Peace to you,
Michael Newheart
Interim Pastor



Welcome Reverend Dr. Michael W. Newheart!

What's Happening

Testimonials of Carols

The worship service on Sunday, December 30th, provided us with inspirational words from three of FBC's members as they shared their favorite Christmas songs.

Lenore Coberly – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*



Lenore and her family moved to Madison, WI, from St. Louis, MO, in 1964. All her family belonged

and were active members of Second Baptist Church in St. Louis, MO. About two years ago, Lenore started inviting writers to her home where a group was formed. The group continues to meet once a month.

Linda Stamm – *Light a Candle – Avalon*



Linda was introduced to First Baptist Church by Mercile Lee in 1987 close to her obtaining her Masters

in Social Work. Since Linda met such wonderful people during the short time she attended, she knew when she returned to Madison in 1991 for a new job at UW, that First Baptist would be the church she attended. Linda joined the church in 2009

after having been actively involved for many years.

Rhianna Tibbetts – *Silent Night*



Rihanna has been attending First Baptist for more than a decade now. She became a full

member of FB in April of 2010. She is a 2012 graduate of the University of Wisconsin. She is a writer and has published about a dozen books over the years in a variety of genres.

Thank you for sharing your story and faith during such a special season.

Attendance Numbers

December 2018 / January 2019

Date	Worship #
12/02/18	80
12/09/18	92
12/16/18	98
12/23/18	57
12/30/18	67
01/06/19	82

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Youth Update

Did you see more of the FBC Youth this fall?

We had a great start to the year, participating in Jason's Sunday school class on the Bible. I went into labor during one of these classes (I only know that now!) and Jason and Mat Gunshor graciously assisted with the youth until I returned. Continuing in our somewhat non-traditional semester,

we participated and shared our opinions during the conversations about the future of FBC that occurred in Fellowship Hall. It was great to hear the thoughts the youth had about our future and the things they love about our church. They also thoughtfully shared concerns and hopes for the future, showing great insight and commitment to their Church.

A lot of our youth have started to take a more active role in Worship on Sunday mornings. I hope you loved seeing Olivia Hebblewhite, Robbie Gunshor, and Thomas Gunshor reading during the advent season! And don't forget, Sam Gunshor is up in the balcony working the sound system every single Sunday. Please encourage our youth to continue sharing their talents, as we know they are a vital part of worship!

We concluded the fall semester with a waffle bar party (think waffles and all the sugary toppings you could imagine!) Fun was had by all!

As we prepare for spring, we look forward to settling back into our classroom. We know that spring can be a tricky time with extra-curricular activities picking up, but we look forward to our Sundays together. During this semester, we will explore local community resources and agencies as we prepare for our summer mission trip to (...drum roll please...) Madison, Wisconsin. This year we are staying local and diving into our own community. This means one very exciting thing: you can participate too! Please stay tuned for more information regarding our mission trip and opportunities to serve alongside the youth this year.

– *Julia Voss, Youth Leader*

Congratulations!

On December 20, Rebecca and Raquel Guerrero, the daughters of Missionary Church Pastor Armando Guerrero, went

through Commencement for the Madison Area Technical College. Rebecca received an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering Technology and Raquel received a diploma in the Dental Assistant program. Congratulations to you both!

Getting to Know Us!



Ruth E. Evans

My years editing a high school newspaper are long gone, but I was asked to give you some background of my being a Baptist -- my father was an American Baptist

minister and my mother the organist and choir director of those Baptist Churches. My twin sister, Rae, and I were born on a Saturday night in a small town, La Moille, Illinois. My parents didn't know they were having twins! We also had a brother, who was two years older than we. I imagine my Dad was a little shaken giving his sermon the next morning! Obviously, I was "born a Baptist", and knowing no other church, it was natural that we grew up as Baptists.

I still have memories of living in the parsonage in Batavia, Illinois, and hearing someone banging on our front door in the middle of the night – "The church was on fire!" We could see the flames from our bedroom window and hear women downstairs, in our kitchen, making coffee for the firemen. There were certain perks for being a minister's kid, and having the mayor and family be members of the church. We got to ride around town in 1945 with the mayor and his children on the firetruck, with horns blaring, the end of World War II! We were used to "helping" in some ways. We could

not get our Saturday allowance of 25 cents until we folded one of the three equal stacks of bulletins on the piano bench. Some may think it could be a little tough being a “minister’s kid”, but looking back, there were many “perks” and only once do I remember my father stopping his sermon with a “glare” to Rae and me. No words were needed!

The three of us went to Baptist Universities, Rae and I to Ottawa University in Ottawa, KS. Our brother went to Shurtleff College in Alton, Illinois. By that time, my father had earned his ThD, and was named the President of that Baptist College, but it has now been sold to the University of Illinois.

With my mother as the organist through my first 20 years of life and as one who took piano lessons, I'm very partial to what was considered "good music" in my home. Classical music is the music that I enjoyed more than any other. One of my favorite hymns has always been "His Eye Is On The Sparrow." It is not sung much in morning services, but my hymn knowledge is good after being in so many choirs and Baptist churches. I do know that I feel fortunate to be in a Baptist Church that has a wonderful organ and choir!! We visited First Baptist when we moved to Madison in 1966. Our Baptist minister in Cambridge, MA, had suggested that we visit First Baptist in Madison, and we did just that. We thought the congregation was friendly, the choir was outstanding, and seeing quite a few children, we soon were members of First Baptist, Madison, WI.



Third Tuesday Lunch – Tuesday, January 15

Third Tuesday Lunch will meet at noon in Fellowship Hall for a potluck. The main dish will be provided. **Bring a dish to share.**

Mary Ray will present a program on her recent trip to Saudi Arabia at 1 pm.

Everyone is invited to share in a delicious potluck and to learn about a country that many of us have not had the opportunity to visit.

Please make a reservation by signing the pew pad or by calling the church office, 233-1880.

Fresh News

Recycle the Warmth Blanket Drive Is Approaching!



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Recycle the Warmth Blanket Drive is approaching! This year will mark their drive's 27th year of collecting warm blankets and bedding to be distributed throughout the year to families who visit their service center seeking assistance.

The 27th Annual Recycle the Warmth Blanket Drive will take place the weekend of January 26-27, 2019. **Watch for the collection box for the bedding donations in the Gathering Space.**



Sunday Mornings Conversations with Michael

9:30-10:30 AM on January 13, 20, and 27,
Fellowship Hall

The next three Sunday mornings adult education will be devoted to conversations with our new Interim Pastor, Michael Newheart. Sunday (January 13) Michael will introduce himself to us and talk about the role of an Intentional” Interim Pastor. Subsequent sessions will be loosely structured for two-way conversation between Michael and those in attendance.

We will discuss the results of our Discernment Process to date and any questions or concerns you would like Michael to hear.

The "Conversations” will happen in Fellowship Hall. Wynn Davies and Richard Bishop will be conveners and timekeepers (we want everyone to have a chance to converse with Michael). *Thanks to the Board of Education for making this time available.*

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering



First Baptist receives the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering in January. You will have received a “thank you” envelope through the mail and you can find RMMO envelopes in the church pews. When you give, you are saying, “Thank you for all the ways you have contributed to our lives. You are remembered and appreciated.” Please **Note:** 2018 Offering was moved to January

2019. – Lynette Miller, Christian Board of Outreach



Fill the Chancel with Color Flowers for 2019

Sunday Services Sign Up Now

Consider taking a Sunday to provide flowers for Sunday worship. There are so many occasions to provide flowers for: in memory of someone, in honor of someone, for a birthday or anniversary, a secret flower pal...use your imagination! You don't have to go at it alone, join the church staff, people born in the same month, people who live in the same complex...all the groups in the church to pool their group resources and select a Sunday. You can provide a single flower in an arrangement or a bouquet so the cost can fit your budget. The sign-up sheet is **on the kiosk in the Gathering Space.**

FBC Fun & Fellowship Committee



presents:

Game Night & Pizza Party!

Saturday, January 19

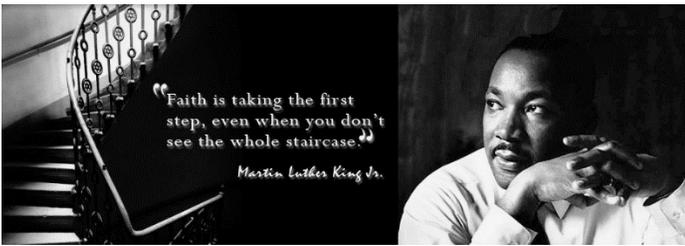
FBC, 518 N. Franklin Ave,

Madison, 6:00 pm until the games are done!

Come join us for Game Night! **Bring a friend and your favorite game** (board game, cards, dominoes, etc.) and get ready to have some fun! And, mark your calendar for the next Fun & Fellowship event on February 9! Details to follow.



**FBC Office will be Closed
Monday, January 21
in Honor of
Martin Luther King, Jr.**



**FBC Annual Meeting
February 10, 2019, Fellowship Hall
Light Lunch at 12:15 p.m. with the
Meeting Following**

Reminders



**Pick up your 2019
Offering Envelopes**
in the Gathering Space.

The 2019 offering envelopes are available for you to pick up in the Gathering Space. If you don't have an offering box available to you and would like to have one, please contact Blanca in the church office, 608/233-1880.



**Austin Channing
Brown in
Madison**
Saturday, March 9, 2019
– 9:30 AM CST

At First Baptist Church, Madison

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. She 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.”

Call the church office for more information, 608/233-1880 or email, fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org .

“Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.”

Church Cancellation Policy

The time draws near for our yearly reminder about cancelling worship. In the event of snow or ice, the following plan is in place:

1. If you feel unsafe about attending Sunday worship, please stay home. God does not like the risk or anxiety.
2. Mark Clinger will make the decision to cancel worship after being in contact with the MAPD to receive any advisories.
3. His decision will be made by 6:00 a.m.
4. There is a phone tree for the notification of all staff who will in turn notify choirs, class teachers, etc.
5. The answering machine will be changed.
6. Channel 27 will insert the church's name in the running banner of cancellations.
7. If worship is cancelled, sit back and enjoy the beauty of God's earth. Let this be your Sunday devotion.

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: James Evans; Jeanette Kersten's father; Paul Husting's friend, David Baer; Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman; Bill Hausler; Rev. William Metzger; Lance Dockter; Jason Mack's father, Darrell Mack; Harley Young; the Lutter family; Phil Daub; Cheryl Castillo; Andy Pike and his parents, Jim and Susan; Sheila Donald and her family; Kathryn Hill's family; Rev. Mark Clinger; Jill Thomas and her family; and Julie Blankenburg

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

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.



Thank You!!!

A BIG thank you to everyone who contributed Christmas cards and calendars for the Triangle Residents. They

went like hotcakes! You have helped meet a need in the community. I'm still accepting birthday cards if you come across any of those.

Peace – *Katy Marty*



Birthdays



January

1 Coral Bishop
3 Jan Arneson
4 Victor Crentsil
4 Ann Nelson
5 Brenda Lempp
8 Sarah Jane Wilson
9 Judy Sutterlin
10 Aaron Clinger
14 James Wm Evans
17 Phyllis Reisdorf
18 Doris Fuelle
23 Paul Chotlos
23 Mary Ray
25 Virginia Evans
26 Amanda Cadorette
26 Herman Torosian
27 Bert Adams
29 Dennis Ray
29 Jeff Moen
31 Bryn Abramson

February

2 Monica Jo Vlasak
2 Fred Robinson
5 Nathaniel Chotlos
6 Scott Mack
6 Lynette Miller
7 Debbie Erwin
7 Paul Husting, Jr.
7 Evan Ziegler
8 Diane Blythe
9 Barbara Eggleston
14 JungJa Haynes Lee
14 Vanessa Kersten
19 Susan Dean
19 Virginia Henderson
19 Harley Young
21 Robert Nelson
21 Marilyn Hurst
22 Katie Dean
23 Lenore Coberly
25 Marianne Daggett
26 John Mueller
27 Glenn Fuguitt
27 Suzanne Vlasak

The Visitor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699

(608-233-1880)

(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 1/20/19 – Articles for *The Visitor* must be submitted by Monday, 1/22 – 9:00 am

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE:

DATED MATERIAL - MAILED - 1/11/19