

The Visitor

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

No. 2 January 23, 2019 Vol. 62

Dear Friends,

I have two unrelated matters to address:
(1) I have been serving as your interim pastor for three Sundays, January 6, 13, and 20, and I have preached January 13 and 20. My sermon January 13 was entitled "You Are Beloved" and was based on the baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:15-22). The sermon concluded with an original poem:

Baptized / beloved
Bap
Bapbapbapbapbapbaptized
Beloved
Praying
Heaven opening
Spirit descending
Beloved
Delighted
Be loved
Be
Baptized
Be beloved
Be

(2) "Are you settling in?" This is the question that I am most often asked by church members. Yes, quite well, thank you. Folks are showing me around and integrating me into the life of the church and of Madison. I have been to Forest Hill Cemetery, the Overture Center for the Arts, and other places in downtown Madison. I am quite impressed with the city and the people, especially the people of FBC. What

has stood out for me about the people? Their great talent and intelligence and depth.

Thank you for your warm reception and kindness. I look forward to getting to know you better.

Peace to you,
Michael Newheart
Interim Pastor



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
01/13/19	70
01/20/19	64

What's Happening

Adult Education

Outreach Presentations in February

During the month of February, the Board of Christian Outreach will be presenting the following Sunday morning adult education discussions:

Sunday February 3: Abbi Kruse, Executive Director of The Playing Field, will be speaking on early childhood education and development in our community and what The Playing Field is doing to address that need. A recent special report in The Economist quotes research that demonstrates that the period of birth to five is critical in the development of a child's brain and socialization –and is greatly influenced by whether a child is born to a family experiencing poverty. The Playing Field is one of the recipients of our recent Christmas Offering.

Sunday February 10: Grant Sovern, Board President of the Community Immigration Law Center, the second recipient of our Christmas Offering, will speak about the work of the Center and the challenges it faces in providing legal assistance to detained immigrants at risk of deportation. Grant will (1) provide an overview of immigration policies and enforcement toward non-citizens including immigrants requesting asylum, and (2) the reasons for the dramatic increase in immigrant children and teens being in some form of detention.

Sunday February 17: A Plymouth United Church of Christ member will describe a mission team trip that left on January 16, 2019 to the Arizona-Mexico border area of Nogales. On the trip, eight Plymouth members will provide humanitarian aid, visit

a major port of entry, walk the desert to leave water bottles and look for immigrants in need, observe court hearings for mass prosecution of migrants, and attend a conference on the border and immigration crisis. Mario Garcia Sierra, President of the Board of Centro Hispano, will talk about immigrant concerns in Wisconsin, and the work of Centro Hispano and Voces de la Frontera in addressing those concerns.

Sunday February 24: Madison Urban Ministry Director, Linda Ketcham, has been invited to speak on the state of economic and social justice in the greater Madison Community. MUM is a long-standing advocate for and provider of human services in the community.

These presentations will be held in **Fellowship Hall at First Baptist (518 N. Franklin Avenue) from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.** Members of the community are invited to attend. – *Dennis Ray, Christian Board of Outreach*

FBC Annual Meeting



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

The annual report will be available on the kiosk at the Gathering Space on Sunday, February 3. **Please bring this report to the meeting on Sunday, February 10.**

Old Sheets - If you don't need them, we want them.

If you are replacing your bed sheets, the Women's Circle could use your old sheets. Give them to Sally Dockter or Lynette Miller or leave them in the office for them.

They are still in great demand in the Congo for general hospital needs and especially now that there is civil unrest and an Ebola outbreak there.

The Road Home's Wish List – During the Month of February

First Baptist has a long history of supporting The Road Home Dane County, an organization that works to make sure that every child in our community has a home. Families and children often arrive in The Road Home's supportive housing programs without even the basic life necessities. Your gift of some of these necessities can remove pressure and ease their transition back into housing.

The Road Home's Wish List includes:

- diapers (particularly sizes 4-6)
- baby wipes
- cleaning supplies
- laundry detergent and bleach
- paper towels and toilet paper
- dish detergent
- hair care products designed for African American hair
- deodorant
- lotion and shampoo
- gift cards – gas and grocery

For sanitary and safety reasons, please keep in mind that only unopened items can be accepted. Full-sized (instead of travel-sized) items are preferred. We will be collecting any donations to the Wish List

during the month of February at a collection point in the Gathering Space. Gift cards can be left in the church office or placed in an offering plate during worship.

Stories of Faith - Before there was television, there was radio. Before there was radio there were books and newspapers, and before there were books and writings, there were story tellers, people who verbally passed along the accounts of a community – its origins, its significant events and its heroes.

Stories were told to convey the ancient truths and traditions of a people and its history, to guide the younger generation in the way of truth. (Our national example is George Washington, who “could not tell a lie” about the cherry tree incident). Much of our Old Testament contains such stories of our spiritual ancestors.

In the Gathering Space, we have hung paintings of two such individuals from the Old Testament by the artist Robert Hodgel, a former Madisonian.



Look and ponder the wealthy Daniel, rescued from the lions, not because of his riches, but because of his faithfulness.

See Jonah, forced to follow God's purposes, despite his efforts to run away.



Be sure to read the information posted by each painting to enrich your understanding of the painting and its meaning.

– *The Deco Committee*

Fresh News



Hourglass Bible Study – New Session Starts February 10

Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.,
Conference Room.

Galatians: What is required of a Christian?

Join the Hourglass group to explore Paul's letter to the Galatians starting February 10 during the Sunday School hour. This letter is one of Paul's earliest writings, and it shows us Paul's views on what it means and doesn't mean to be a follower of Christ. This study will be facilitated by James Evans and Mary Ray. All are welcome, and no preparation is required. +

Products of the First Baptist – Madison Discernment Process

Various products of our discernment efforts have been compiled into a report now available to the congregation. It contains a report on responses to the Blended Worship Service, a summary of responses to the Discernment Survey, and a visual and written report on the three "Discernment Conversations" in November. Please feel to provide your comments or questions as this is a continuing process of discernment under the guidance of Pastor Michael Newheart.

Copies can be found on the kiosk by the Gathering Space. Additional copies can be requested in digital or paper copy by contacting the Church Office (608) 233-1880.

FBC Fun & Fellowship Committee

To assist us in planning future events, let us know your thoughts about activities that you and friends might be interested in attending. Call or email the office with your ideas (608) 233-1880 /

fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org. **And**, mark your calendar for the next Fun & Fellowship event on February 9! Details to follow.

You're Invited

Many friends at First Baptist will remember Laura Davison Kolden, daughter of Jim and Edith Davison, who, together with husband, Greg, and their children were active members of First Baptist for many years. In addition to many volunteer activities, Laura was employed for two years here as the Interim Director of Youth Ministry and Christian Education until a full time ordained Associate Pastor could be hired.

Drawn to further discern a path in Christian ministry, Laura then accepted a position as the Associate in Ministry at Salem United Church of Christ (UCC) in Verona, WI, where she gave leadership assistance in all aspects of the church's ministry. In 2012, Laura affirmed her calling to ordained pastoral ministry, and added to her schedule regular commutes to Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. Last spring, after several years of work, study, and travel, Laura graduated from Garrett, earning a Master of Divinity.

First Baptist friends are warmly invited to attend Laura's Service of Ordination into Christian ministry on Sunday, February 10 at 2:30 pm at Salem UCC, 502 Mark Dr., Verona, WI. In early February, Laura will assume the pastorate of Bellville First United Church of Christ, in Bellville, WI. Laura is grateful for the years of her involvement at First Baptist and the support and prayers of her friends here. We hold her in our prayers in this new venture in God's service.

- *Jim and Edith Davison*



SAVE THE DATE

"CELEBRATE"

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN RETREAT

CAMP TAMARACK JUNE 7TH, 8TH, and 9TH, 2019

American Baptist Women of Wisconsin have announced their retreat date for June 7,8,9, at Camp Tamarack. The theme is "CELEBRATE". Rev. Jan Mathison is the retreat Coordinator. If you are interested contact *Lynette Miller*, (608) 238-4155

Reminders

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.**

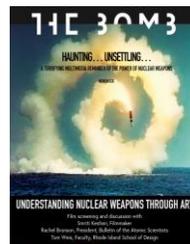


Sunday Mornings Conversations with Michael – Last Session

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

The last Sunday mornings adult education session will be loosely structured for two-way conversation between Michael and those in attendance.

The "Conversation" 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.*



Adult Sunday School Follow Up – Those that took the Nuclear Weapons Sunday School Class may be interested in an upcoming event.

Join the Outrider Foundation for a FREE film screening + discussion with filmmaker Smriti Keshari, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists President Rachel Bronson, and Rhode Island School of Design faculty member Tom Weis on Tuesday, February 5 at The Marquee Cinema at Union South. *The Bomb* combines archival footage, animation, music, and text. It immerses the audience in the cultural and technological realm of nuclear weapons. It is big, visceral, non-linear, and seemingly inescapable. Presented in partnership with Robert F and Jean E Holtz Center for Science & Technology Studies – *Tara Drozdenko, Ph.D., Managing Director, Nuclear Weapons Policy*, (608) 237-3631



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.

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.**



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."

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/austin-channing-brown-in-madison-tickets-52164183477>

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

Can you help prepare and serve Homeless Shelter Meals in 2019?



FBC has partnered with Porchlight since 1986. Many of our congregation members believe very strongly about FBC continuing to keep doing this

service. It is one of our major missions. We are in the process of finding individuals to help with this responsibility. **To sign up on a specific month in 2019 or for more information, please call Sheila Donald, Men's Shelter Coordinator, at (608) 256-9287, or sign up on the sheet located in the Gathering Space.**



Pastor Jason and Moderator Bill Fiore (along with Tara & Mary) will be away next week, January 28 – February

1, at the Strategic Pastoral Excellence Program hosted by the Minister and Missionaries Benefit Board.



Light Lunches

The 1st Sunday of the Month Light Lunch has been changed to the 2nd Sunday of the Month Light Lunch.

Prayer Concerns

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

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

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.



A Celebration of Life
Phyllis Reisdorf was born and raised in Milwaukee. She graduated from Milwaukee State Teachers' College and taught elementary school in Oakland, CA and Madison

where she met the love of her life, Alex Reisdorf. They were married in 1948 and enjoyed their lives in Madison attending UW sporting events, live music and theatrical performances, the Farmers' Market and the summer Art Fair.

They were active members of the First Baptist Church in Madison. Phyllis served on many committees, sang alto in the choir and taught vacation bible school. She had many good friends through the church and considered them to be family. Also, she was active in the League of Women Voters, the Wisconsin Poets Association and Mu Beta Sigma Sorority. She sang in the Madison Civic Chorus. When younger she was a Girl Scout leader and PTA member.

Phyllis and Alex spent time in Naples, Florida in the winter and Door County in the summer where Phyllis spent time outside, in nature, sitting by the water or walking in the woods. Nature often provided inspiration for the many poems she wrote, some of which were published. She enjoyed spending time with her friends, music of all kinds, traveling, dancing, swimming, golfing, bowling, reading, playing bridge, picnics, potlucks, parties, politics and laughter. She had a quick wit, an equally funny laugh. She loved her hats. At Oakwood she was known as 'the lady with the hats.'

She is preceded in death by her husband, R. Alexander; and her parents Henry John and Elsa Bertha Lambrecht (Koch); is survived by her daughters Lesa, Susan and Monica. In lieu of flowers donations may be

made in her name to First Baptist Church of Madison, Wisconsin Public Television or a local charity. A celebration of life reception will be held on Thursday January 31, 2019 at Oakwood Village 6205 Mineral Point Road, Madison, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Nakoma room.



Church Cancellation Policy Corrected

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

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. **Michael Newheart** 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.

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
 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

WHY NO COLOR?

As part of the 2019 budget cuts and standards for FBC and effective immediately, *The Visitor*, The Sunday Bulletin, and other printed materials previously available in color will only be printed in black and white.

