



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

A community for all people

The Visitor

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

No. 16 August 28, 2020 Vol. 63

Letter from the Transitional Minister

Grace to you and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:3).

I would like to share with you some excerpts from last Sunday's sermon:

The title of today's sermon is "Jesus and Peter Call One Another Names." It is name-calling in the best sense. Peter says that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus says that on the rock of Peter Jesus is going to build his church. . . .

So, what is God saying to us through this passage in these days of the pandemic of COVID and colorism? I would like to offer a rather off-beat interpretation: As followers of Jesus the Messiah, we are to be name-callers, calling people by their rightful names and calling out the good things that we see people doing. . . .

In the transition so many people have stepped forward and have responded to God's call to lead. And others have supported and encouraged them. This church has grown in its ministry of encouragement. A year and a half to two years ago this church was described by members as an anxious church and an angry church. People were calling others names and not always in a good way, but God has blessed this church. God has turned things around, so that God is doing a mighty work in this church. People are hopeful about the church's future. People are name-calling, encouraging one another, supporting one another, affirming one another. That is the church's task in the remainder of the transition. I do not know how much longer the transition will last, but I know that we must do what we can in order to establish FBC Madison as a supportive community, supportive to clergy and laity alike, supportive to young people and old people alike, supportive of people who want to change things around here, supportive of people

who want things to stay the same. There is a new wind of the Spirit blowing at FBC. . . .

I challenge you this week to call someone new on the telephone. Call them by name. If you've seen them online, then say that you're glad to see their bright and cheery face. If you haven't seen them, say that you've missed their bright and cheery face.

Sometimes we have a request of someone. Or sometimes we have a complaint. It's important to lead with a compliment. For example, you might say, "You do such a good job with that. I really admire you. But I wonder if you have thought of this. Nevertheless, I appreciate the job that you are doing." I've heard this approach called a "compliment sandwich." If you have a request or a suggestion, put it in the context of a compliment. . . . [End of excerpts.]

And here is my preaching schedule for the coming weeks, as I continue to focus on the Gospel lectionary texts in Matthew:

August 30, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost:
"Jesus and Peter Continue to Call One Another Names"
(Matt 16:21-28)

September 6, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: "Dealing with Conflict"
(Matt 18:15-20)

September 13, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: "Forgiving One Another" (Matt 18:21-35)

September 20, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: "Life's Not Fair!"
(Matt 20:1-16)

See you online!

Peace to you,

Pastor Michael Newheart

PS - I must add a few words about the recent unrest in Wisconsin. Here is an excerpt from a lecture I gave last January in Milwaukee on Martin Luther King, Jr's speech "The Other America," which was given three times, once in 1967 and twice in 1968:

King speaks against the backdrop of riots. He says, "a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear? **It has failed to hear that the plight of the Negro poor has worsened over the last few years.** It has failed to

FBC BOARDS & COMMITTEES

This important summary and the description of contributions were provided by Wynn Davies, Chair of the Board of Christian Outreach, two "Visitors" back but mistakenly omitted by me. My apologies to Mr. Davies for this oversight. – Blanca James

Summary of the **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH**

From your Investment and Planned Giving Committee: We are a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees and are responsible for monitoring the financial investments of First Baptist Church. We meet quarterly and this is a report on our recent meeting on July 28.

Our Endowment Fund contained \$271,207.80 at the end of June. It is invested in a "portfolio" of stock and bond mutual funds that are managed by a professional investment specialist from Johnson Bank Investments. During the second quarter (April through June) our endowment fund gained \$38,463 – making back a significant share of the \$57,323 it lost during the "pandemic scare" of the first quarter of the year. Earnings from our endowment fund are available to support the ministries and missions of our church and have frequently been used to supplement the income side of our operating budget. Our current operating budget counted on using \$14,500 of endowment fund earnings. Unfortunately, as of the end of June, due to the first quarter losses, there were no earnings available.

Our Communion Fund also contains funds that are invested in stocks and bonds "index mutual funds" managed by Vanguard. They, too, suffered significant first quarter losses (approximately \$20,000). However, gains in the second quarter have more than made up for those losses; and our Vanguard investments stood at \$135,363 at the end of June. Each year, depending on performance of these investments, an amount (\$7,175 this year) is transferred to the Communion Fund checking account for use during the current year.

Our socially screened and targeted investments: Our investment policies call for at least 20% of First Baptist's financial assets to be invested in "**socially screened**" (mutual and other funds that do not invest in organizations that typically engage in health threatening, weapons producing or poor

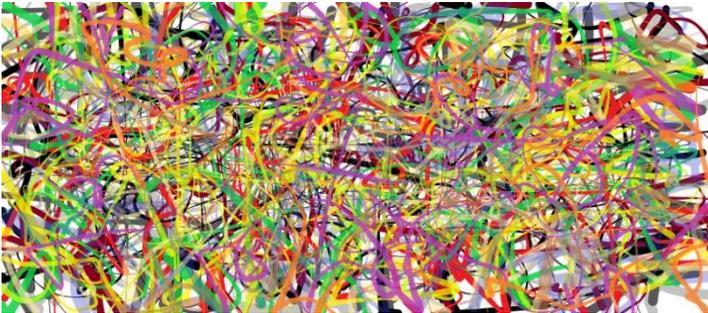
hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice, equality, and humanity. **And so, in a real sense our nation's summers of riots are caused by our nation's winters of delay.** Nonviolence is King's way, but he understands the rioting. [End of excerpt.]

You can watch the speech at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOWDtDUKz-U>.

You can read it at <https://www.gphistorical.org/mlk/mlkspeech/mlk-gp-speech.pdf>.]

We decry the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, who was shot seven times by police in the back while attempting to get into his car. We also decry the shooting deaths of Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum during the protests. We pray for peace and reconciliation.

PSS - Here is an art piece I did August 3 entitled "COVID."



ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

August 2020

Date	Worship #
8/02/20	62 (Online)*
8/9/20	59 (Online)*
8/16/20	57 (Online)*
8/23/20	49 (Online)*

*Online numbers represent the number of devices / households joining in Zoom/FB not the actual number of individuals.

employment policies) and “**socially targeted**” (for example, organizations that make investments in affordable housing or supporting minority business development).

The Endowment Fund portfolio is managed to keep 20% invested “socially”. In addition, \$112,085 of our financial assets are currently invested in ABEC (American Baptist Extension Corporation). This organization provides loans to American Baptist churches for remodeling and building projects. Other socially targeted investments are with Forward Community Investments (\$10,000) and Wisconsin Council of Churches Social Investment Fund (\$3,000).

At our recent meeting we agreed to research opportunities to make additional investments in organizations that promote minority business opportunities.

Have you made arrangements for continuing your financial support of First Baptist in your estate plans? Please contact members of our committee who can help you make arrangements.

Wynn Davies, Chair, Claire Rider, Coral Bishop, Nancy Emmert

We welcome your comments and questions.

~~~~~

## **Thank you, First Baptist!**

A \$750 contribution from our Outreach Budget to Allied Partners eviction prevention fund helped that organization to intervene in the following situations in the Allied Drive Community during July. Here is a better way to understand what that money means in human terms:

- A woman who was laid off from the library because of Covid 19. She is back to work but owes \$200 back rent.
- A woman who was evicted from her apartment because she fell behind in her rent when she had to stop working to care for her children when the schools closed. She has now found childcare, is back to work, and needs help with the security deposit for a new apartment.
- A man with serious health issues and costs. His car broke down and the cost of repairing it caused him to fall behind on his utility bill. We helped him get caught up with MG&E to avoid a utility shut off.

- A woman whose Habitat for Humanity house was damaged by a car that ran into it. She needed to be out of the house for two nights so that repairs could be made. We paid for two nights in a hotel.
- A woman who works as a full-time nanny for a family. When Covid 19 hit the family started working from home and no longer needed her services. They tried to help out by paying her for three hours per week, but this wasn't enough to keep her from falling behind in her rent.

## **MUSIC STAFF CHANGES**

As soon as we learned that Music Director Chris Boveroux would be leaving us, the Personnel Committee of the Board of Trustees faced the job of “not missing a beat” in FBC’s expectations for worship music. Current staff member, Jenny Yim, was interviewed and hired to become our interim Music Coordinator. Jenny joined the FBC music team as accompanist/organist about 3 years ago when she came to the UW School of Music to obtain her doctoral degree in Orchestral Conducting. Jenny has been a pianist since an early age, and earned a Master’s degree in piano from Indiana University; she has since learned the organ and created an organ minor as part of her studies. Jenny is originally from Korea and grew up in the Korean Presbyterian tradition. Her goal is eventually to conduct a regional or national orchestra, a feat achieved by few women around the world.

As Jenny works on her dissertation (remotely, due to Covid-19), she will be taking over the “Zoom master” role created by Chris. This includes using technology and continuing to work with Matt and Kelsey to integrate differing styles of church music and instrumentation on Sunday mornings. She will reach out to include volunteer church musicians occasionally, as well as work with Ann Nelson to include our repertoire of taped Bell Choir numbers. She will coordinate the “screen sharing” on hymns that we sing together, as well as scripture readings, and assist Pastor Michael as he plans services meant to be uplifting and helpful during this pandemic. We are grateful to have Jenny join us in this temporary position, which will last as long as we are not able to meet in person and/or until our new senior pastor has an opportunity for input into the

music program. Jenny's e-mail is: [Jiyim@usc.edu](mailto:Jiyim@usc.edu). You are welcome to contact her with suggestions and comments about the worship music. She begins her duties on Sunday, September 6.

- Diane Adams, Personnel Committee of the Board of Trustees

## FBC-MADISON RACIAL JUSTICE

The FBC-Madison Racial Justice Team continues to create and implement programming about racial injustice and systemic racism. Our goals remain the same:

- educate ourselves about racial injustice and systemic racism through such means as reading materials, lectures, films...
- dig deeper through dialogue and discussion
- create individual and collective actions to promote racial justice
- live in ways that reflect our new or enhanced awareness

To that end, we have planned a six-week series, **“Systemic Racism in Madison: What is our Calling?”**

The series includes local speakers followed by a brief time for questions and discussions as well as weeks set aside for discussions. We will also provide some media resources that will not only be tied to the speaker topics, but other topics that you can engage in on your own. This self-directed curriculum and other related information can be found on the church's website

<http://firstbaptistmadison.org/fall-2020-sunday-school-systemic-racism/>

Our speaker series schedule is as follows on Sunday mornings from 9:00 am to 10:00 am via Zoom:

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** – M Adams, “Systemic Racism in Criminal Justice”

**September 20<sup>th</sup>** – Noble Wray, “Systemic Racism in Law Enforcement”

**September 27<sup>th</sup>** – Small and large group discussions

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** – Tia Murray, “Systemic Racism Effects on Black Maternal Health”

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** – Sagashus Levingston, “Systemic Racism Effects on Black Families”

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** – Small and large group discussions

Please join us and invite your family and friends. Zoom information is included below or you can register by emailing [fbcmadisonjustice@gmail.com](mailto:fbcmadisonjustice@gmail.com) Contact any of the RJT members if you have any questions.

Like our discussions of the documentary “13<sup>th</sup>” and the books Stamped from the Beginning..., these speakers will educate us by providing information we may not already have. However, our programming is not just to provide information; it is not just an intellectual exercise. We are providing opportunities to reflect, dig deeper, examine personal beliefs, increase our own self-awareness and step outside of our comfort zones. These opportunities are where we can engage in dialogues to express our thoughts and feelings. These opportunities can provide the impetus for our own personal transformations, as well as the impetus to take individual and collective actions to transform systems that perpetuate racism.

What is your calling? What is our calling?

- The FBC-Madison Racial Justice Team  
Diane Adams, Victor Crentsil, Anna Donahoe,  
Mary Fiore, Beth Gunshor and Linda Stamm

## WORLD MISSION OFFERING

American Baptist International Ministries and First Baptist's Board of Christian Outreach suggest that we emphasize the World Mission Offering in September. The theme for this year is **“I was blind, but now I see.”**

Through mission stories in *The Visitor* and September worship services, we hope to see God at work through our global servants and partners. Our first Global Servants for Discipleship story features Debbie & Keith Myers; and it can be found on the back page.

- Lynette Miller and Geneva Moore for the Board of Christian Outreach

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Church Family:** Jeanette Kersten's father, Paul Husting's friends David and James, Sally, Del, and Lance Dockter, Jill Thomas' sister Carol, Sheila Donald, Jacki Barnes' daughter-in-law, Jane, Katy Marty's mother, Pam Mack's cousin, Michelle Gotwald, Palmer Haynes, Bernie Long and family, the Hegley family, Susan Lutter, Paul Husting, Rhianna Tibbitts

**Our Shut-ins:** Pat and Harley Young, Linda Olson, Ruth Parfrey, Martha Fuguitt, Atlee Wilson

**Others:** Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

## VIRGINIA HENDERSON ELEMENTARY

The following website tells the viewers why Glendale Elementary became the new Dr. Virginia Henderson Elementary School  
[https://spark.adobe.com/page/pQoXByOeSuAy4/?fbclid=IwAR1QetuQ2rJVAz-ecy6iFrclt1YFVl1pDe0KV9dpZ\\_vwNhRHYMtywUivAuo](https://spark.adobe.com/page/pQoXByOeSuAy4/?fbclid=IwAR1QetuQ2rJVAz-ecy6iFrclt1YFVl1pDe0KV9dpZ_vwNhRHYMtywUivAuo)



**Dr. Henderson was the school psychologist at Glendale School for many years. We are proud to honor the legacy of Dr. Henderson by continuing her work through our work.**

*(from the spark.adobe.com webpage)*

## FAREWELL CHRIS BOVEROUX

Dr. Chris Boveroux, FBC's director of music, has embarked on a new chapter in his career in Indiana. Chris served FBC with his talents, energy, and love of music for over five years.

We will always cherish and remember his ability to create majestic performances using the musical talents of our staff, members of our church, and friends.

Join us this Sunday, August 30, after the online worship during Fellowship Time in wishing Chris farewell and much success in Indiana.

## BIRTHDAYS

### AUGUST

2 Paul Brynelson  
3 Art Hebblewhite  
6 Blanca James  
8 Bea Dewey  
10 William Hurst  
12 Thomas Gunshor  
15 Luis Castillo  
17 Carol Ferge  
17 Rachel Hebblewhite  
18 Gwen Abramson  
22 Phil Daub  
22 Nancy Emmert  
25 Chad Vlasak  
27 Adan Lara  
27 Byron Parfrey  
28 Maddie Frazier  
31 Carys Abramson

### SEPTEMBER

5 Alan Ferguson  
6 Christopher Evans  
7 Nikki Borchardt  
8 Palmer Haynes  
8 Ann Miller  
8 Pihra Pizzingrilli  
9 Cheryl Castillo  
9 Jeff Kersten  
14 Judy Craig  
14 Tyler Mack  
16 Claire Rider  
24 Jeanette Kersten  
25 Bob Martens  
25 Rhiannon Tibbetts  
27 Moira Kersten  
29 Ginger Henderson  
29 Linda Mintener  
30 Sara Strain

### Provide your news...

If you would like to publish news, events, or updates in *The Visitor*, please email ([fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org)) or mail your article by Tuesday, September 8, noon.

## ALL ARE WELCOME!



**First baptist church  
518 N Franklin Avenue  
Madison, Wi 53705  
(608) 233-1880**

[fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org)



i once was **blind**  
but now i **see**

mark 8:22-26

**DEBBIE & KEITH MYERS, CENTRAL MEXICO**

## SEEING GOD BRING RESTORATION

Last January, we welcomed a small group of women into our home who represented four different zones (Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur, Mazahua, and Mixteco). This was the first time the women leaders came together, face to face, in a small group to discuss and plan how to move forward as a women's ministry. Not only has communication been a challenge in the past, but each zone has its own unique culture. For some of the women this was their first trip away from rigorous household duties cooking and caring for children, in addition to working in the coffee fields with their husbands. You can imagine the culture shock of leaving very rural regions for a bumpy four- to seven-hour drive to the city of Puebla, where we live. During the retreat, Keith and our colleague Director of CICESM Noé Trujillo cooked for and served the women, something many had not experienced before, to show their worth and value in the kingdom of God. The retreat's theme was restoration and reconciliation—examining our relationships with Christ, then ourselves, others, and finally creation.

**Debbie & Keith Myers** | *IM Global Servants for Discipleship, Education, Economic Development*

*Debbie and Keith serve in Central Mexico where they partner with the Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico (CICESM) to provide pastoral accompaniment to indigenous churches. This includes training pastors, church leaders, youth leaders, and teachers for the children. Debbie and Keith serve in four states in Mexico and work with thirty-five churches within these states to explore how broken relationships might be repaired, beginning first with a restored relationship with Jesus Christ.*

### JOIN US IN PRAYING

- For the CICESM National Women's Ministry.
- For the new CICESM board of directors.
- For continued spiritual development among CICESM pastoral leadership.

**JOIN US BY GIVING** to the World Mission Offering through your church or online at [www.worldmissionoffering.org](http://www.worldmissionoffering.org). Thank you!

world  
mission  
offering

international  
ministries 

## FBC-Madison 2020 Racial Justice Speaker Series

Act Justly • Love Mercy • Walk Humbly

# SYSTEMIC RACISM IN MADISON: WHAT IS OUR CALLING?

### WHEN

Sundays, Sept 13-Oct 18  
9am - 10am

### WHERE

Online ~ To register, contact  
[fbc.madison.justice@gmail.com](mailto:fbc.madison.justice@gmail.com)

<http://firstbaptistmadison.org/fall-2020-sunday-school-systemic-racism/>

"There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river.

We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."

-Archbishop Desmond Tutu

### SEPT 13

**M Adams**

Systemic racism in criminal justice

### SEPT 20

**Noble Wray**

Systemic racism in law enforcement

### SEPT 27

Small & large group discussions on wks 1 & 2

### OCT 4

**Tia Murray**

Systemic racism effects on Black maternal health

### OCT 11

**Sagashus Levingston**

Systemic racism effects on Black families

### OCT 18

Small & large group discussions on wks 4 & 5