

The Visitor

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

No. 17 September 11, 2020 Vol. 63

Letter from the Transitional Minister

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

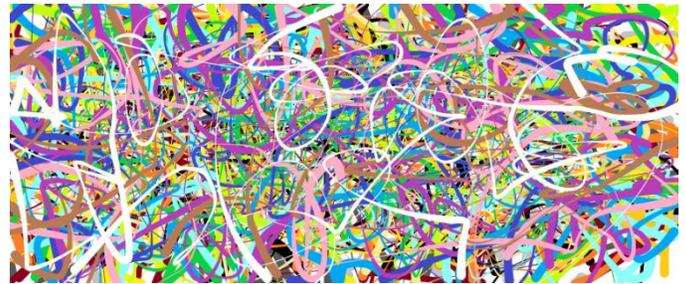
I have been preaching from the Gospel lectionary texts in Matthew. Last Sunday (Sept 6) I talked about dealing with **conflict** (Matt 18:15-20). I said that a healthy congregation handles conflict well. I talked about “I-messages,” using the formula: “I feel (or felt) ___ when you _____. I would like _____. I also noted that Jesus’ commands about dealing with conflict end with Jesus’ assurance that he will be with us. I included this paragraph:

“How will you experience the Risen Christ this week? Perhaps you will experience **Christ** through **confronting a conflict** that you have with a brother or sister in Christ. Remember, nothing is too trivial, nothing is too long ago. As the service continues, ask God whom God would have you be reconciled with this week. Who will you call on the phone to discuss a conflict you’ve been having? Who will join you in the blessing?” [End of excerpt from sermon.]

How has it gone for you as you’ve contacted a person with whom you’ve been in conflict? How did you feel about the person prior to talking with them? How did you feel about them afterward?

This Sunday I will be talking about **forgiveness**, focusing on Matthew 18:21-35. To what extent do you think of FBC as a forgiving community? To what extent do you live a forgiving life? As I have said before, the International Forgiveness Institute is here in Madison (<https://internationalforgiveness.com/>), founded by Dr. Robert Enright of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. On the website, under “Forgiveness Education” there is a tab for “Faith and Religion.”

Here is a **painting** I did on my church computer entitled “Forgiveness”:



And here is my preaching **schedule** for the coming weeks:

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

September 20, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Rev. Tim Schaefer preaching

September 27, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: “Question Authority” (Matt 21:23-32)

October 4, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: “Murder and Mayhem” (Matt 21:33-46)

See you online!

Peace to you,
Pastor Michael Newheart

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

August / September 2020

Date	Worship #
8/02/20	62 (Online)*
8/9/20	59 (Online)*
8/16/20	57 (Online)*
8/23/20	49 (Online)*
8/30/20	50 (Online)*
9/06/20	56 (Online)*

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

MEET OUR CANDIDATE

Invitation to Meet Rev. Tim Schaefer

The Pulpit Committee is excited to invite you to a virtual conversation with Rev. Tim Schaefer who is our strong recommendation for First Baptist's next pastor. On September 17, 18, and 19, we are providing opportunities for you to meet Tim and his husband, John Duncan, virtually using Zoom (either online or by phone). Currently there are four open Zoom sessions for you to choose from, with room for up to ten Zoom connections in each one:

Thursday September 17	Friday September 18	Saturday September 19
7:00-7:45 PM	7:00-7:45 PM	11:00-11:45 AM or 1:00-1:45 PM

There will also be separate Zoom sessions for the Boards of Deacons, Education, Outreach and Trustees. The chairs of those Boards will be in contact with their Board members about their scheduled times.

How do you sign up for an open Zoom session? First, pick one of the available times. Then sign up by using your browser to navigate to <https://tinyurl.com/MeetTimSchaefer> where you will select the date and time you want, and submit your sign-up. The process is illustrated in a video at <https://tinyurl.com/SignupforTim>. Note: The sign up website (SignUpGenius) has advertising. Only click on the buttons associated with signing up.

How do I connect to an open Zoom session? You can connect to the Zoom sessions using your computer or another device, or you can also just call in on your phone.

Be sure to sign up for an open session by September 14 if possible!

Questions? Need assistance with signing up?
Contact Dennis Ray at djay5@sbcglobal.net or 608-249-0764

NOTICE FROM YOUR MODERATOR

A special business meeting will be held on September 20th following worship on Zoom to call Rev. Tim Schaefer as pastor of First Baptist Church.

Here is the meeting agenda:

- Call to Order
- Prayer
- Motion to vote "virtually" until we worship again in person*
- Motion to Call Rev. Tim Schaefer as pastor of the church
- Questions from the members to Tim
- Questions from the members to the Pulpit Committee
- Voting Instructions
- Adjourn

*Currently, Article XI Section 5.2 of the bylaws states that

Every member has the right to vote at a meeting. All voting shall be done in person.

The motion would be to change the bylaws wording to:

Every member has the right to vote at a meeting. All voting shall be done "virtually" (e.g., electronically using email, Zoom, Google Forms, etc., or via phone) until the congregation worships together in person.

NEW ADVISORY TASK FORCE

The Coronavirus Advisory Task Force review information about all the safety precautions out there to help decide on how to safely gather and provide guidance to the Board of Trustees as they advise others who would like to use our building.

Members are:

Paul Chotlos
Gil Emmert
Karen Fennema
Janet Reinke
Ted Reinke

If you have any questions, please contact one of the members.

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." We hope to see God at work through our global servants and partners.

WISCONSIN NATIVE TO SERVE AS GLOBAL SERVANT

Eric and Yuree Lembke have been endorsed by International Ministries to begin the process of raising support to serve as global servants to Thailand.

Eric grew up in Wisconsin, attending an American Baptist church and being involved in Camp Tamarack. He went on to Bacone College in Oklahoma, where he studied Christian ministry.

Yuree, a member of the Karen ethnic group, was born in Myanmar, and when she was three, her family fled persecution by crossing into Thailand. She grew up in a refugee camp in Thailand until she was a teenager, when her family was resettled to the US. After high school, she went on to Bacone College, earning a degree in Christian ministry and a certificate in Christian counseling.

At Bacone, Eric's dorm included about 30 refugees from Myanmar, a mix of Chin, Karenni and Karen ethnic groups. There, Eric felt God's call to serve the Karen people. He spent much time in prayer for a path to serve in Northern Thailand. Then he was assigned to tutor Yuree. They realized they shared a passion for mission and for the Karen people, and not long afterwards they were married. In 2018, Eric and Yuree attended IM's "Hear the Call" Retreat here in Wisconsin at Green Lake. Their experience solidified God's call upon their lives to serve as global servants.

Eric and Yuree will serve at the Kwathoolei Karen Baptist Bible School (KKBBS) in Mae Sot, Thailand.

The World Mission Offering which we are collecting in September is part of International Ministries (IM) which partners with schools such as KKBBS and their mission. More information about Eric and Yuree is available on their profile page on the IM website.



During this year's World Mission Offering, join global servants and staff in prayer.

<https://www.internationalministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/International-Ministries-Prayer-Guide-v2-1.pdf>

FBC-Madison 2020 Racial Justice Speaker Series

Act Justly • Love Mercy • Walk Humbly

Please note we have a new email address!
fbc.madison.justice@gmail.com

Our Fall Sunday School speaker series on Systemic Racism in Madison: What is Our Calling? starts this Sunday, 9/13/20, at 9am, via Zoom. The Zoom information is below. You can find more information at FBC's [website \(click here\)](#).

This Sunday, September 13, we are excited to learn from M Adams, a community organizer in the Madison area and co-executive director of Freedom Inc.

We'd like to draw your attention to the **Self-Directed Curriculum** found at the bottom of that page; here is a [DIRECT LINK](#) for it. You may want to take time this weekend to look at the resources regarding policing and the judicial system in particular.



Please contact us with any questions,

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

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN OF WI

News from American Baptist Women of WI

Peggy Wolf, Wisconsin ABW White Cross Chairwoman has sent a fall report.

The Women's Spring Retreat was moved to Fall and finally cancelled. Wisconsin ABW will no longer work through Associations. Information and requests will be sent directly from the Region Executive ABW Board to participating churches. National ABW is no longer supporting Milwaukee Christian Center as one of their Home Mission White Cross projects. ABW of Wisconsin will continue that work as a state project and requests will be sent by Peggy Wolf to churches that want to participate.

Project Focal Point in Milwaukee will also be a state project. Three women made 350 children and adult masks, as well as purchasing sanitizer, latex gloves non-contact head thermometers and bandages.

Our second year of the ABW of Wisconsin Special two-year project is Rainbow Acres, a residential Christian community in Camp Verde, Arizona serving adults with developmental disabilities. Wisconsin ABW special interest international missionaries include Jon and Amanda Good and their three children who are working in Hungary, and Eric and Yuree Lembke who have recently been commissioned to work in Thailand. The Goods and Eric have lived in Wisconsin and worked at Camp Tamarack. More information about these families will be in upcoming Visitors.

Reported by Lynette Miller

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Church Family: Jeanette Kersten's father, Paul Husting's friends David & James, Sally, Del, and Lance Dockter, Jill Thomas' sister Carol, Sheila Donald, Katy Marty's mother, Pam Mack's cousin Michelle Gotwald, Susan Lutter, Lydia Haynes, Doug Haynes, Jun Ja Lee and family, Jacki Barnes and her daughter-in-law, Jane's family

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

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

FAREWELL TO PALMER HAYNES

We are saddened by the death of long-time member Palmer Haynes last Sunday, September 6. Palmer was an architect, volunteer, and a poet; loved and appreciated by many friends and FBC members.

A virtual memorial service will be held at a later date. Funeral arrangements are also pending. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Haynes family: his wife, Lydia, his son Doug and family, and daughter Cathy and partner.

THE HOURGLASS BIBLE STUDY

NO CLASS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The last two sessions on Exodus are as follows:

September 20: Exodus 24:1 through 25:9 and 31:1-18

September 27: Exodus 32:1-34:9

NEW SESSIONS BEGIN Every Sunday from October 4 through December 13 - 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. The Hourglass is wading into deep theological water beginning in October, when we begin a study of the book of Hebrews. Come join this Zoom session, led by multiple members, from 4:30 to 5:30 every Sunday afternoon, beginning October 4 and running through December 13.

CHRIS BOVEROUX'S CELEBRATION

In case you missed the celebration of Chris Boveroux's music ministry with FBC, a video of it has been uploaded to the church's Youtube channel.



Preview YouTube video of Farewell to Chris Boveroux

During the celebration, a video of people singing Halle, Halle, Hallelujah was shown.



Preview YouTube video Halle Halle Hallelujah Final video

BIRTHDAYS

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

OCTOBER

4 Jim Thompson
5 Olivia Hebblewhite
5 Leona Moen
7 Janet Clinger
7 Angela Thomas
11 Bill Hausler
16 Greg Dean
18 Carolyn Cross
19 Janet Reinke
21 Marci Henderson
22 Jody Lara
25 Richard Bishop
28 Ken Arneson

Provide your news...

If you would like to publish news, events, or updates in *The Visitor*, please email (fboffice@firstbaptismadison.org) or mail your article by Tuesday, September 22, noon.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org



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

<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