

## *The Visitor*

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

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### **Letter from the Transitional Minister**

### **October is Pastor Appreciation Month (PAM)**

Someone on Sunday suggested that I was making that up. I was not! Google it, and you will find out. Frankly, I am observing PAM so that this church and I can share the mutual appreciation that we have developed in the last 21 months. (Has it really been that long?) I appreciate you, FBC, for sticking with me, and sticking with one another. I appreciate your willingness to engage the Gospel and me in the issues of our day. I appreciate the fact that you did not give up on one another or on me.

In my classes at Howard University School of Divinity, I would usually have students submit a research paper on a brief passage of scripture. They would usually do so in stages, and with each stage they were to include a creative response to the passage, which could be an original drawing, poem, or song. During PAM 2020, please send me a note, drawing, poem, or song that expresses your appreciation of what God has done in your life during this transition.

And it has been a transition from one stage in the church's history to another. We have made the transition, and we all are the better for it. Or at least I am the better for it. We have worked together with one another and with God. Hallelujah!

In my last letter I said that people prepared for the new chapter in the church's history by praising and praying. On this latter point, I wrote, "Visualize people in their homes and in the church building—eventually—being drawn closer to God." Be as specific as possible in your prayers. For example, in my prayers for FBC, I see people smiling at one another and embracing one another warmly (post-COVID, of course). I see people looking at one another in the eye and giving one another a word of encouragement. I see a wide variety of people in the church, of various colors, of various ages, and of varying social class. And I see people singing lustily to the Lord. What do you see?

I will continue in my preaching with the theme "Power in a Pandemic." Here is my preaching schedule for the coming weeks:

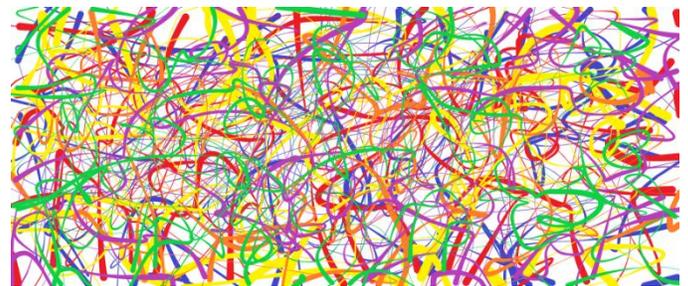
**October 11**, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost:  
"Many Are Called, but Few Are Chosen" (Matt 22:1-14)

**October 18**, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost:  
"Render to Caesar" (Matt 22:15-22)

**October 25**, Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost:  
"The Greatest Commandment" (Matt 22:34-46)

**November 1**, Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost:  
"So Great a Cloud of Witnesses" (Hebrews 11:32-12:2)

Oh, and here is my creative response, entitled, "I appreciate you, FBC, for sticking with (and not to) me."



See you online!

Peace to you,  
Pastor Michael Newheart

### **ATTENDANCE NUMBERS**

August / September 2020

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship #</b>
8/02/20	62 (Online)*
8/09/20	59 (Online)*
8/16/20	57 (Online)*
8/23/20	49 (Online)*
8/30/20	50 (Online)*
9/06/20	56 (Online)*
9/20/20	82 (Online)*
9/27/20	47 (Online)*
10/04/20	52 (Online)*

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

## FROM YOUR MODERATOR

Hello First Baptist!

We at First Baptist are overjoyed to announce that we have a new pastor, Rev. Tim Schaefer. He was called to join us on September 20, 2020, and he enthusiastically accepted our call. He will begin as pastor on November 29, 2020.

Over the past two years First Baptist has weathered several changes while awaiting a permanent pastor:

bidding farewell to our former pastor of almost 30 years at his retirement,

welcoming an interim transitional minister,

bidding farewell to our former minister of community as he accepted a call to pastor another congregation,

burning mortgage papers as we finished our last payment on a loan for building improvements,

bidding farewell to our music director as he pursued a new career,

moving to a virtual worship service and conducting most of church business that way during the pandemic,

recommitting ourselves to racial justice, and

preparing ourselves for welcoming a new pastor to our church.

We thank God for the ministry of Rev. Dr. Michael Newheart for keeping us focused on the divine in the midst of so many changes and uncertainty for our future. We found comfort in his sermons and leadership as we navigated these changes together. We pray that another church may be as blessed as we are with his ministry in their time of transition. We also thank God for the support of the leadership in our American Baptist denomination, specifically Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri, as we progressed through the various phases of our transition during this interim ministry.

We now ask for your continued prayers as we enter a new phase of our ministry, welcoming Pastor Tim and his husband, John, to our church family.

*Victor Crentsil, Moderator*

## FROM THE PULPIT COMMITTEE

### Conversations about Congregational Support of Our Pastor

**Sunday, October 25 and November 1, 9 AM  
via Zoom**

As we look forward to the arrival of our new pastor, Rev. Tim Schaefer, our church will benefit from considering what its commitments are to working with and supporting him, our faith community, and our work for Christ. This is an opportunity for us to consider how we will eagerly walk with, support, and lift-up Pastor Tim and each other on a journey that draws us closer to God while discovering new ways to spread the Good News of God's eternal love for the world. The conversations on October 25 and November 1 will lead to a congregational covenant, an agreement to work together following Jesus' example, that will be shared at an installation service sometime early next year.

*Led by Your Pulpit Committee and Victor Crentsil, Moderator*

### FBC-Madison 2020 Racial Justice Speaker Series

**Act Justly • Love Mercy • Walk Humbly**

We hope you will join us if you have not already done so! As part of this in-depth look at racial justice, we developed some "agreements" that guide the discussions. Among them is this: **NO ONE KNOWS EVERYTHING; TOGETHER WE KNOW A LOT.** In any conversation, especially ones about systemic power of race, class, gender, etc., we know that each person comes to the conversation with different levels of lived experience and

embodied expertise. We also believe that each person has something to contribute to the conversation. We ask that we all practice being humble and look for what we have to learn from each person in the room. It asks us to share what we know, as well as our questions, so that all of us may learn from each other.

**Systemic Racism Effects on Black Families**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 9:00 AM**



Dr. Sagashus T. Levingston was born in Chicago and raised in the area now known as Bronzeville. She holds a bachelor's in English Literature from the University of Illinois. She also holds a master's in Afro-American Studies and a PhD in English literature—both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While her research focused primarily on literature, it was informed by theory and criticism from rhetoric, motherhood studies and black feminism. Her coffee table book, simply titled *Infamous Mothers*, is inspired by this work and so is *Infamous Mothers, LLC*. Sagashus and the *Infamous Mothers* brand has been recognized in several publications, including Demeter Press (the premiere publishing house for motherhood/mothering research), BRAVA Magazine, the Wisconsin State Journal, Forbes and Essence Magazine.

She is a highly sought-after speaker, educator and consultant. Dr. Levingston, or Dr. Sagashus—as she is often called—is a proud button-wearing member of the Doyenne Group, Inc. located in Madison, WI. She also sits on the WWBIC South Central Ambassadorial Advisory Committee. As the proud mother of six children—three boys and three girls, she and her family lives in Madison, WI.

**FOR ALL COMING EVENTS VISIT:**  
<http://firstbaptistmadison.org/fall-2020-sunday-school-systemic-racism/>

**A NOTE FROM JACKI BARNES**

Thank You!

Please know I'm most grateful for your kind messages of sympathy, comfort and love on the death of my daughter-in-law, Jane Barnes, 62, who courageously endured two years of a variety of treatments at the UW Carbone Cancer Center for an aggressive metastatic triple-negative breast cancer.

*Jacquelyn "Jacki" Barnes*

**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, Gene and Bea Dewey

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

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



**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, October 20, noon.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

### **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

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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

**[fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org)**

**Online Worship Service Sundays  
JOIN AT 10:30 AM**

**Live Stream to Facebook:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistMad/>**

Scroll down the timeline to find it. The video will appear when the service starts.

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES  
presents its second

# Faith & Activism Town Hall

## How Faith Intersects with Civic Engagement

**OCTOBER 14, 2020 | 1-3 P.M. [ET]**

Join this interactive virtual dialogue to listen and learn as panelists delve into conversation about ways people of faith can influence society on issues around racial equity, voting, advocacy, community organizing and more

### FEATURING—

#### Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri

Regional Executive Minister of ABC of Wisconsin  
Trainer/consultant for intercultural transformational leadership; co-editor of "Trouble the Water: A Christian Resource for the Work of Racial Justice" (Nurturing Faith, 2017)

#### Dr. Randy Woodley, Ph.D.

Activist/scholar, distinguished speaker, teacher and wisdom keeper addressing issues of American culture, faith/spirituality, justice, race/diversity, regenerative farming, our relationship with the earth and Indigenous realities

#### Rev. Claire Davidson Frederick

Faculty fellow, College of Bible and Ministry, Lipscomb University  
Instructor, Bible and ministry courses; director, ENGAGE Youth Theology Initiative, a public theology and racial justice institute for high school students funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc.

#### Cristina Maria Hernandez, MSW

Boston University, M.Div. student, Boston University School of Theology  
Interfaith economic justice community organizer; immigrant rights advocate; supporter of asylum seekers and domestic violence survivors

#### Rev. Adam Russell Taylor

President-elect, Sojourners; author, "Mobilizing Hope: Faith-Inspired Activism for a Post-Civil Rights Generation"

Registration is required.



American Baptist Home Mission Societies  
Connect. Cultivate. Change.



## Porchlight Wishlist

### Hygiene Supplies

Bath towels  
Hand towels  
Washcloths  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Lotion  
Soap/body wash  
Shaving cream  
Deodorant

### Household Items

Dish & laundry soap  
Brooms & dust pans  
Mops & buckets  
Garbage cans & bags  
Laundry baskets  
Twin- Queen sheet sets  
Twin- Queen blankets  
Small vacuums

### Cleaning Supplies

All-purpose cleaner  
Disinfectant wipes  
Window & floor cleaner  
Sponges/scrubbers  
Kitchen & bathroom  
Cleaners  
Kleenex  
Toilet paper  
Paper towels

Gently used or new donations can be dropped off or mailed to 306 North Brooks Street, Madison, WI 53715. Donations are accepted Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. To set up a different drop-off time or for questions regarding donations, contact Jessica at 608-257-2534 ext. 20.