



November 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's time to make your financial pledge to support First Baptist Church and our ministries.

This year has been marked with several significant changes and more uncertainty than I've experienced in my lifetime. My faith has been tested, but I am comforted that I have my faith to rely on in such times. Your Church Council has relied on faith to present a preliminary budget for 2021. Faith that God has a plan for our church to spread the good news in the midst of a pandemic. Faith that God is working through us and others to strive towards racial justice. Faith that God is transforming us as a church for the better as we enter a new phase of ministry with Rev. Tim Schaefer as our pastor.

Your Church Council has done its best to forecast our financial needs for 2021. The boards have reviewed expenses for the past three years to determine what will be needed for this upcoming year - taking into account that we will not physically gather together for quite some time. A summary of the budget is attached. You can find a detailed budget on the website under the Members section.

Here are a few highlights from the budget for 2021:

1. We are reducing some expenses -
 - A. Pastoral Support - We have moved from a two-pastor to one-pastor church.
 - B. Building Use - We won't be able to physically gather in the foreseeable future. We also anticipate losing income (\$15,000) that came from the use of our building since others won't be able to gather physically either.
2. We added discretionary spending (\$15,000) for Pastor Tim to help him make improvements for the church. We also added \$5,000 for the church to update its equipment to provide live streaming in the sanctuary. We anticipate that broadcasting worship services will be continued well into the future and would like to be able to do so from the sanctuary.
3. We are hoping that previous pledgers will increase their pledges, and we'll have new pledgers pledge in 2021 to cover the loss of income related to less use of the building and expenses related to new ministries.
4. There is an expected surplus for 2020. With the current trajectory of spending and income collected from pledges for 2020, we expect to have at least \$3,000 in surplus to carry over into 2021.
5. We are continuing to commit to reserving 10% of the budget (tithe) for Christian Outreach with a renewed focus on racial justice efforts.

What will it take to commit to our calling of acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God? (Micah 6:8) What will it take to reach more of those who are yearning to hear God's message of radical love? What will it take to support our church and the community we serve in times of economic suffering?

These are questions I am considering as I renew my pledge for the upcoming year. I am comforted that I'm not alone. This church continues to inspire me with its generosity. We may not always agree about the best way to use our resources, but we are blessed to have resources. I pray that you will take time to reflect on what God is calling you to do with the resources you have been blessed with. I hope that you will join me in pledging your financial support to this church as we lean on our faith into this upcoming year.

To make your pledge, you can return your pledge card in the mail to the church office, or email your pledge to our administrative secretary, Blanca James, at office@firstbaptistmadison.org. If you choose to email your pledge, please include in your email the information displayed in the pledge card below. If you rather receive a paper pledge form via US mail, please let Blanca know. Thank you.

Yours in love,
Victor Crentsil, Moderator
For the Church Leadership Council



**Act Justly • Love Mercy • Walk Humbly
(Micah 6:8)**

**2021 Consecration (Pledge) Sunday
November 15, 2020**

I/We will contribute for the Year 2021 \$ _____

Weekly Quarterly Monthly Year

For a total of \$ _____ for the year.



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