



**FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
OF MADISON

The Visitor

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

No. 12 November 11, 2021 Vol. 64

From Our Moderator

Dear Members and Friends of First Baptist Church:

Last year we were blessed by a spirit-filled Pulpit Committee that joined us to an energetic new pastor with an inclusive and collaborative leadership style. What a great start it's been! Rev. Tim Schaefer is a champion for the marginalized and a fresh voice for us in a time when we need a sense of direction. He enjoys technology and understands how to make it work for the church. He has taken the time to get to know who we are and what this church has stood for in the past. Our boards and committees are building a foundation for a revitalized church.

In November, our church will host two community events, including an interfaith service of remembrance for transgender people lost to violence and a panel discussion about the experiences of the transgender community hosted by our Board of Outreach. Collaborating with other local churches and support services is a new way to show God's love for all people. In addition to our engaged Board of Outreach, our Racial Justice Task Force continues to be an active force for antiracism, working with Pastor Tim and inspiring us to "Do Justice, Love People, Advocate for All."

We will soon have an upgraded church website that does a better job of telling our story to the community and inviting participants to get involved. Pastor Tim secured new resources with local demographic information that will help the church to provide programming that is targeted to the surrounding neighborhood. He is also renewing our connections with our congregation's ministry partners. A few weeks ago, Pastor Tim led worship at The Crossing Campus Ministry. As part of this collaboration, they will be leading us in Sunday worship this month. There are also plans to

set up internships for college students to assist Pastor Tim with community outreach and with racial justice initiatives.

Early next year, the church will add a Thursday night worship service that will be attractive to families and to those who enjoy a more casual, contemporary, less structured approach to worship. This new service will meet the needs of our changing community. It will also complement our Sunday morning services, which will continue to be streamed virtually. To accommodate the expansion of our worship offerings and music program, we plan to provide additional resources for our talented Director of Music and Worship Arts, Katrina Welborn.

Church boards and committees have been preparing to welcome the congregation and community organizations back to our building. There are plans for making the building more functional for in-person church programming and community use. Some of these ideas include sound and lighting upgrades for the sanctuary, classroom renovations, exterior repairs, and the reopening of our nursery. These changes will allow us to hold special events for families, both in our congregation and the broader community.

As we look ahead to the reopening of the church and continue to seek God's purpose for our lives, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you will help. Moving ahead requires gifts of time, talent, and money. **We encourage you to make your pledges by November 21st by completing the commitment form and the 40 Ways to Help the Church Survey.** Links to these two documents and the projected budget are provided below.

Peace,

Paul Chotlos, FBC Moderator

[CLICK HERE](#)

to complete the **2022 Pledge Commitment Form**

[CLICK HERE](#)

to complete the **"40 Ways to Help the Church Survey"**

[CLICK HERE](#)

to view the **2022 Proposed Budget** (For paper copies Email or call the office.)

**PLEDGE
FORM**



ADVENT SEASON

Announcing This Year's Advent Series

Text from Dr. Marcia McFee's overview of *The Inn: Housing the Holy* Advent Series.



We are still reeling from prolonged uncertainty and instability brought on by the global pandemic. In the United States alone, millions lost their jobs and are affected by whether or not landlords will evict them from their homes for failure to pay rent. A staggering number of families are food insecure for the first time in their lives. And those who were already on the brink are even less sure how to survive. And we are all exhausted in some way. Even if it is decision-fatigue.

We have problems to address. And so did the Holy Family that night. An oppressive regime had demanded everyone upend their lives and hightail it to their home towns to register for the census—for tax purposes, likely. Mary was on the verge of giving birth and the AirBnB app just wasn't an option. Whether they got to town late or for some other reason, they had a housing problem that night.

The Innkeeper is a figure of our imaginations. Not referenced in the sacred texts, we assume that since Luke said there was an “inn,” then there must have been an “innkeeper.” Often our stories cast him in a negative light, someone who banished a pregnant woman to where the animals were kept. But what if, since we are engaging our imaginations anyway, what if he was truly an entrepreneur? Someone who saw a problem and thought, literally, “outside the box” to solve the problem of where Mary could have her child? Instead of thinking “there’s nowhere,” he said to himself first, “there has to be somewhere.”

This worship series was inspired by churches who are asking these kinds of questions. Some are offering affordable office space to non-profits that work to alleviate society's problems, some are creating affordable housing, some after-school help, some food distribution. No one church can solve everything, but each one can do something. Just like the innkeeper. Housing the holy work of Divine Love can happen in many ways.



MID-WEEK SERVICE UPDATE

In last month's edition of *The Visitor*, I announced the beginning of a new mid-week worship service to supplement our existing Sunday morning worship. The original plan was to begin this service in early November. However, we have reassessed that decision after learning of Matt's plans to relocate to the East Coast and Kelsey's plans to go on an extended tour in early 2022. We have begun the process of recruiting musicians, and we continue to plan for this service, which we hope to begin in early 2022. We will continue to keep you updated as our planning progresses. Thank you for your patience!

—Pastor Tim

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Two impactful, meaningful events November 20 and November 21.

Saturday, Nov. 20 is the annual day that the transgender community and its allies gather in locations across the country and around the world to honor the members of the transgender community who were murdered in the past year. On Saturday evening, FBC will host an interfaith service of remembrance. That service will be open to people attending in person as well as online. There are more than a dozen local co-sponsors for the interfaith service. This first event will begin at 6:00, with doors opening at 5:30. A candlelight vigil will follow.

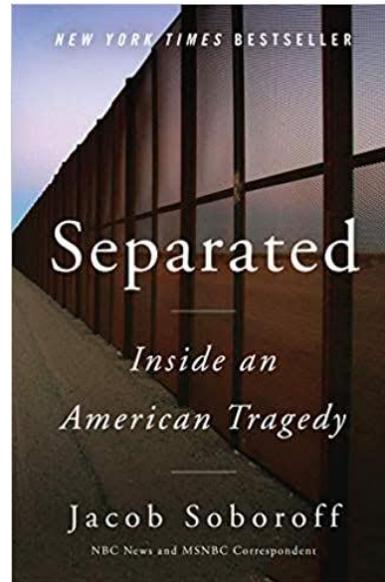


Sunday, Nov. 21 the Board of Outreach will present a second event in conjunction with the Transgender Day of Remembrance. At 1:30 we will host a 'Transgender Conversation'. This gathering will also be available for in person participation as well as online viewing. It will consist of three segments: Trans 101, sharing of transgender personal journeys, and a short question and answer period.



FROM THE BOARD OF OUTREACH

This Year's Big Read



Join Temple Beth El's Immigrant Rights Action Team and the Dane Sanctuary Coalition for this year's Big Read of "Separated: Inside an American Tragedy" by Jacob Soboroff for a gripping and in-depth look at how the U.S. policy of family separation has affected parents and children.

This book, by the award-winning journalist who broke the story, also explores the question of how U.S. immigration policies throughout the years allowed such a tragedy to occur. We hope our discussion will connect people to the human side of this story and will prompt us to ask difficult questions about our immigration policies.

All Dane Sanctuary Coalition member congregations are invited to participate.

Register for Zoom link at

<https://www.tbemadison.org/event/thebigread2021>

Monday, Dec. 6, 7:00-8:30 pm (virtual)

Sunday, Dec. 12, 1-2:30 pm (virtual)



Pathway to Citizenship

On October 29th, Pastor Tim and several church members attended the Immigration Justice Vigil at Orchard Ridge UCC. The vigil focused on getting the Senate to approve a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

The Board of Outreach has formed a small task force to explore refugee and immigrant ministry opportunities for First Baptist.

If anyone is interested in joining the task force, contact Lynette Miller or Rhiannon Tibbetts, co-chairs, Board of Outreach.



Helping The Porchlight Shelter

Last month, Beth and Thomas Gunshor dropped off a full grocery cart of travel-sized toiletries at Porchlight, collected from members of FBC and the Hill Farm neighborhood. These items are given out nightly to the men at their emergency shelter.



Pictured are the donations from FBC members and neighbors.

One of the Porchlight folks Beth Gunshor ran into expressed his thanks and said, "God Bless!"

Thanks to all who were able to donate!

Friends and neighbors are still reaching out to ask if they can still donate. Beth and Thomas will host another collection in the near future. Start gathering items now so that you're set when the box goes back out at FBC!



Helping Afghan Refugee Women and Families

Earlier this month, the Board of Outreach collected fabric and sewing accessories to contribute to the donations for the Afghan women at Fort McCoy.

Hundreds of women are now able to make clothes for themselves and their families.

Pictured below is the sewing center created for the women.



Thanks From the Dane Sanctuary Coalition

"On behalf of this group of Wisconsin's recent arrivals, THANK YOU for helping us continue to warmly welcome them."

Cynthia Hirsch (working with neighbors and friends)
Dane Sanctuary Coalition

NOV. 13 - MEET & GREET

**Meet & Greet - Fellowship Time
November 13 at 10 am**



- ❖ Are you new to Madison?
- ❖ Just visited First Baptist Church through our Sunday worship services?
- ❖ Interested in joining the church?
- ❖ Want to know more about who we are and what we do?

We invite you to our monthly "Meet and Greet."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Church Family: Lynette M; Sara S; Paul H; Jill T's sister, Carol; Sheila D

Our Homebound: Pat & Harley Y; Linda O; Byron & Ruth P; Martha F; Ruth E

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.



FROM FBC'S BOOKKEEPER

September 2021 Report

The month's budgeted income was only \$656.66 than the expenses, leaving a year-to-date surplus of \$42,945.34. Worship & Ministry expenses are at 162.47% of their budgeted amount, but most of them were associated with the installation service. There were no other extraordinary expenses in September.

October 2021 Report

We are 83.3% through the year, and our budgeted income received is at 96% of the annual amount (pledged income is also 96%), and expenses are at 88% of the annual amount. Our year to date surplus is currently \$42,895.05, just a little less than it was last month. The only unusual expense in October was an extra \$5,200 charged to electricity, which is a one-time expense that was actually paid last year.

The story behind this is that last year a member made a \$5,200 loan to the church for it to sign up for MGE's solar project, which was paid to MGE last year. This year the member wanted the loan repaid so essentially the loan repayment was charged to electricity, as that is what the money had been used for (there were not enough uncommitted Capital

Reserve funds to cover that, and would have left very little in the Capital Reserve).

The \$240 was the amount paid to Matt DeBlass as a farewell gift, from the amounts given by people via the church. That money is the only expense, and much of the income, shown for the month is under Memorial & Other Gifts.

If anyone would like to receive the monthly details, please contact me, Nancy Moore, FBC's Bookkeeper.

Nancy

THANK YOU

Dear friends,

Thank you for the cards, calls, and memorial gifts given in memory of Ken.

The care and thoughtfulness of First Baptist is appreciated by the Arneson family. —*Jan Arneson*



From the Board of Outreach,

Thank you to all who have contributed to this year's World Mission Offering. This offering goes to ABC's Global Servants, International Partners and their ministries and support staff. As of the end of September, over \$3,460 has been donated. Thanks again for your willingness to give to our missions. —*Cheryl Castillo*

WORSHIP, GIVING, AND OFFICE VISITS WITH PASTOR TIM

Worship

If you are unable to join Sunday's In-Person Worship Service, you can still join the service in one of three different platforms:

Livestream to Worship:

<http://live.firstbaptistmadison.org>

Livestream to YouTube:

<https://tinyurl.com/eubzz6mr>

Livestream to Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/FBCMAdison>

Zoom Fellowship Time (Livestream Worship only): <https://tinyurl.com/Zoom-Fellowship-Time>



Ways You Can Give

There are several ways you can contribute to your pledge, offerings, memorials, and other / special gifts.

- Online – This link will take you to FBC’s Donate page– <https://tinyurl.com/4f353ea9> to make a donation.
- FBC’s Website – <https://tinyurl.com/ktnv24u8>
- Smart Phone – GivingPlus Application - <https://giveplushelp.vancopayments.com/>

Thank you for your spiritual and financial support.



If you missed the service, you can go to FBC’s YouTube Channel at any time and view it: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJHk7PdGaa700k4UFphlnhw/videos>



Office Visits



You can schedule an appointment with Pastor Tim over Zoom, phone, or in person at the following link tim@firstbaptistmadison.org OR call the church office (608) 233-1880 to schedule a time.

Pastor Tim’s day off is on Mondays.

BIRTHDAYS

November / December

7 Judy R	2 Tyler H
8 Carla E	4 Kyle A
9 Joy M	4 Bernie L
10 Mary F	7 Sue L
13 Una T	10 Jacki B
13 Laura C-T	11 Linda C
14 Deb C	15 Ryan B
17 Barbara M	15 Beverly D
20 Mark C	18 Linda S
20 Jill T	22 Julie B
21 Ruth P	23 Laurel F
26 Stephen B	24 Geneva M
28 Craig T	30 Lydia H
	30 Dianne H
	31 Joyce L

The Visitor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699
(608-233-1880)

(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

Next Publication: Week of 12/06/21
Articles for *The Visitor* must be submitted by
Tuesday, 12-07-21 – Noon

FBC Bible Study and Other Groups

Men's Breakfast (Online) – Via Zoom only - bring your breakfast to your computer and connect with other men via Zoom; we meet at 8:30 a.m. **the first Wednesday of each month.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/y94m75rm> Mtg. ID: 874 5779 5346 PW: 518608
If joining by telephone, the number is 1 (312) 626-6799 enter the Mtg. ID and password.

Hourglass Bible Study – We will **meet via Zoom** from 4:30 to 5:30 each Sunday evening, through December 19. The group is reading the *Gospel of Matthew*, looking with fresh eyes at these familiar verses and contemplating how this book adds to the earlier gospel written by Mark. We especially invite those of you who have studied this book and the Bible in general to join us and add your insights to the conversation, for every member of the group is a teacher. We also especially invite those of you who have little experience with the Bible, because your fresh eyes and observations help us see these scriptures anew.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/y88gf4ol> Mtg. ID: 810 0782 5061 PW: 518608
If Joining by Phone: 1 (312) 626-6799 US Meeting ID: 810 0782 5061 Password: 518608

Bible Study Group (Online) – This group is led by Rev. Bob Martens (retired ABC pastor). The focus is on the lectionary texts for the following Sunday. It meets for about **one to one and a half hours on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/yyewatk6> Mtg. ID: 180 468362 PW: 518608
If joining by telephone, the number is 1 312 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID number.

FBC @ Prayer (Online) – Pastor Schaefer will lead in prayer. This prayer group lifts up joys and concerns of the congregation. It meets for **half hour on Thursdays at Noon.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/y2fwu7py> Mtg. ID: 779 383 700 PW: 518608
If joining by telephone, the number is 1 (312) 626-6799 and enter the meeting ID number.

Spiritual Renewal Group 1 – **First and third Monday of the month at 7 PM.** Please join us! We will continue reading a short book - **Orthodoxy** by G. K. Chesterton, (Monday November 16, Chapter 5 - The Flag of the World). **Download from www.freeclassicebooks.com. There may be other sites as well. Questions? Please contact Bill Hausler, hhausler@tds.net, 608-231-2890.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/y2y9vx7u> Mtg. ID: 241 607 232 PW: 518608
If joining by telephone, the number is 1 (312) 626-6799 enter the Mtg. ID and password.

Spiritual Renewal Group 2 (Online) – **Continues at 4:00 PM the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.** We are reading the book **The Faith Club** by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. Our goal is to grow in our spiritual journey. We pick books that help us to grow. We have become a support group as well and endeavor to not share with the general public and no one is wrong. We do not discuss church business when we meet.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/y8brxx4e> Mtg. ID: 825 2775 4175 PW: 518608
If joining by telephone, the number is 1 (312) 626-6799 enter the Mtg. ID and password.