



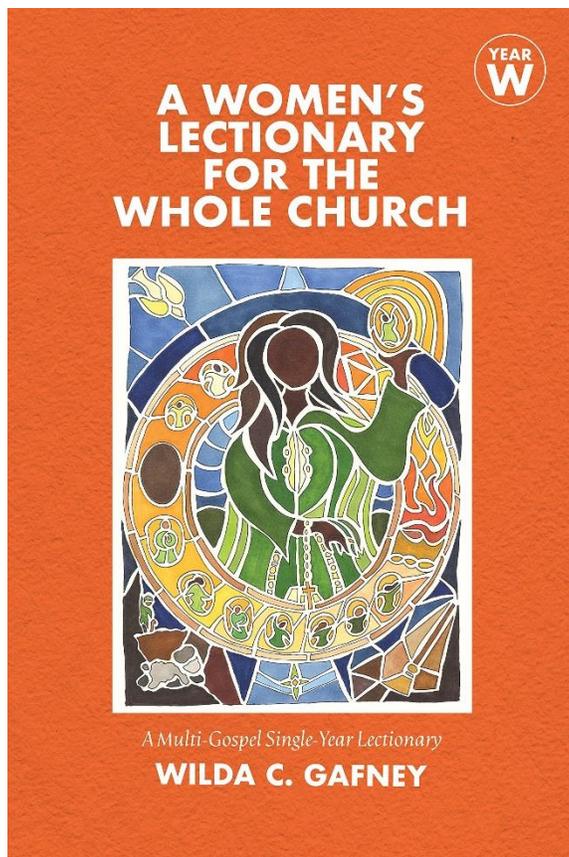
The Visitor

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

No. 13 December 3, 2021 Vol. 64

From Pastor Tim

A New Lectionary for a New Year



“What does it look like to tell the Good News through the stories of women who are often on the margins of scripture and often set up to represent bad news? How would a lectionary centering women’s stories, chosen with womanist and feminist commitments in mind, frame the presentation of the scripture for proclamation and teaching? How is the story of God told when stories of women’s brutalization and marginalization are moved from the margins of canon and lectionary and held in the center in tension with stories of biblical heroines and heroes?”

Those are the questions posed by the Rev. Dr. Wilda C. Gafney, author of *A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church* in the book’s introduction. And these are the questions we will attempt to answer next year, as we follow this multi-gospel lectionary.

For too long, churches have centered the voices of straight, white, cis-gender men, especially in worship. But at First Baptist, we recognize and celebrate the richness of God’s story when it is told from many perspectives. As your pastor, I am committed to walking alongside you as, together, we explore theologies from the margins. One important way we will do that this upcoming year is by centering women’s stories in worship as we follow *A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church*.

Peace,
Pastor Tim Schaefer

2022 PLEDGE AND SURVEY

Your Gifts of Time, Talent, and Money

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.
- Our boards and committees are building a foundation for a revitalized church.
- Our Social 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.

- We are renewing our connections with our congregation's ministry partners.

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. There are also plans to set up internships for college students to assist Pastor Tim with community outreach and with social justice initiatives.

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 **December 17** by completing the enclosed commitment form and the 40 Ways to Help the Church Survey.

Peace,



Paul Chotlos, FBC Moderator



Pledge Update

As of December 8, 2021, 82% of 2022 Goal has been met.

- 2022 Goal to Meet Proposed Budget: \$260,000
- Pledges Received: 54 - 2021 Pledges: 66
- Pledged Total as of December 8, 2021: \$212,309

[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**

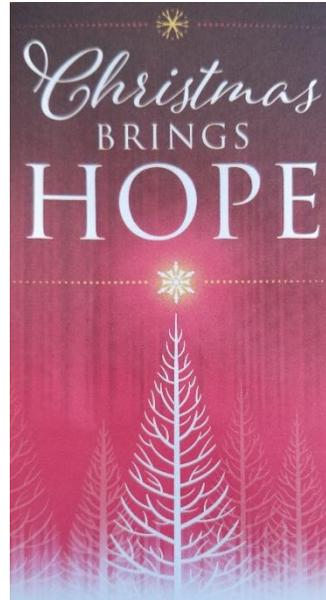
(For paper copies Email or call the office.)

**PLEDGE
FORM**



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Share with a Grateful Heart



During these times of stress and uncertainty, we look to Jesus in hope as we celebrate His birth. The Board of Outreach invites you to participate in this hope by showing God's love towards two very worthwhile causes. This year's Christmas offering will establish an Afghan Refugee Ministry Fund and support the Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin.

First Baptist Church is partnering with Bethany United Methodist Church to help an Afghan family, here in Madison, that consists of three brothers, their spouses, an uncle, and their children. The Board of Outreach would like to establish an **Afghan Refugee Ministry Fund** that would prioritize helping this extended family with getting established here in Madison. The Christmas offering, that would serve as seed

money for this fund, would also be used for other local, pressing needs for Afghan refugee resettlement as well. It will be up to individuals and charitable groups to help stand in the gap because the social service agencies aren't sufficient to meet many of the basic needs of the Afghan refugees.

The second recipient of this year's Christmas offering is **Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin**. The pandemic has greatly increased the use of food pantries all across our country as hunger has become a much greater problem in our communities. Second Harvest Foodbank is one of the biggest suppliers of food to these pantries and to other food relief efforts. First Baptist members currently participate in these life-saving efforts by volunteering with Second Harvest Foodbank.

The Board of Outreach thanks you and invites you to share with a grateful heart.

RJT - THINKING AHEAD

Mark your calendars!

**SUNDAYS, JANUARY 23 -
FEBRUARY 28, 2022**



The Racial Justice Team will lead a discussion group via Zoom on The Color of Compromise: The truth

about the American church's complicity in racism by Jemar Tisby.

If you'd like to join us in our learning and discussion next year, you can [purchase the book](#), check it out from the [Madison Public Library](#), or stream the video companion series on [Amazon Prime](#).

The FBC Racial Justice Team

HANDBELL CHOIR

**Handbell Concert
Sunday, December 12 – 3:00 pm**



Livestream to Concert:

<http://live.firstbaptistmadison.org>

Livestream to YouTube:

<https://tinyurl.com/eubzz6mr>

Livestream to Facebook:

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

FAREWELL, KELSEY

Best of Luck and Farewell Kelsey! Sunday, December 19 – Fellowship Time

On Kelsey's last Sunday with FBC, we hope you will join Pastor Tim and Katrina during Fellowship Time to thank her for her music and talent throughout the years with FBC. Kelsey will leave us to continue to pursue her dreams – singing, touring and performing.

You may also want to bring a farewell card for Kelsey or send one to the church in advance of December 19.



We will miss you, Kelsey!



A thank you gift may be included with your card at your discretion. Non-deductible gifts can be sent via FBC's online Donate page.

<https://tinyurl.com/4f353ea9>

(Enter Donations Other – Kelsey)

FROM FBC'S BOOKKEEPER

Friends,

Budgeted expenses were \$2,107.37 more than budgeted income for the month, leaving a year to

date budget surplus of \$40,787.68. Total budgeted income is at 102.36% of budget, and budgeted expenses are at 88.88% of budget. The loan for the solar project was re-established, offsetting the one-time Electric expense the previous month, and the payment to the Amity Foundation to support the Chinese Orphans was sent out this month.

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

Nancy Moore, FBC Bookkeeper

FBC'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Sunday, December 12, 2021, 10:30 am
Third Sunday of Advent – Joy
- Sunday, December 12, 2021, 3:00 pm –
FBC Handbell Concert – *Festive Favorites*
- Sunday, December 19, 2021, 10:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love
- Sunday, December 19, 2021,
Fellowship Time – Kelsey Miles
- Friday, December 24, 2021 – Office
Closed
- Friday, December 24, 2021, 5:30 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
with Communion
- Sunday, December 26, 2021, 10:30 am
1st Sunday after Christmas
- Friday, December 31, 2021
New Year's Eve – Office Closed
- Sunday, January 2, 2022 – 10:30 am
2nd Sunday after Christmas
- Sunday, January 9, 2022 – 10:30 am
1st Sunday after Epiphany

NEWS FROM FBC'S YOUTH

Monthly Collections



FBC youth members will be hosting monthly collections, starting this month!

This month they collected items for a drive hosted by WisDems and Outreach LGBT Center.

They are creating care packages for transgender/non-binary adults in Dane County.

You can Donate Directly by going to outreachmadisonlgbt.org/donate and selecting MATA

Or Purchase a book from A Room of One's Own roomofonesown.com/wisdemsoutreach-trans-care-package-drive

Or Drop off items at
Outreach LGBT Center 2701 International Ln #101
Monday-Friday 12-7 by December 10th

Thank you for helping spread joy to trans folks for the holidays.

Continue gathering items now so that you're set when the box goes back out again at FBC!

HELPING THE COMMUNITY

Allied Drive Partners and Second Harvest of Southern Wisconsin

There's Another Madison Out There!-- one whose people we typically don't come in contact with. Residents of this Madison have uncertain incomes and little back up money when things go wrong in their lives. Their jobs are the first to be cut back or eliminated when economic hard times come. Many of them struggle with health and addiction issues. Many of them face discrimination of various sorts—racial, sexual, economic. We see some of them standing on our street corners holding signs and hoping for passing motorists to roll down their

windows and give them a few dollars. Others depend on the services of the many organizations that seek to help them deal with the challenges they face. As we get to know them better there are many stories of great courage that can be told about the people who live in this "Other Madison". These are the people whom Jesus calls us to minister to. How are we doing that ministry? How well are we doing it?

One way is through the work of a coalition of churches called Allied Partners. Each month the Partners draws from its Eviction Prevention Fund to provide financial help to people in the Allied Drive Community who are facing eviction and homelessness or an inability to keep up their utility payments.

Eviction Prevention Fund During September and October the Eviction Prevention Fund helped six individuals and families to avoid eviction. (\$3,000 expended)

First Baptist allocated \$2,000 in its Outreach Budget to support the work of Allied Partners during 2021. A number of our First Baptist people also volunteered their time to help in the weekly distribution of Second Harvest food boxes to residents of the Allied Community.

Here is a response FBC received from the leader of the Allied Wellness Center who distributes 180 Second Harvest food boxes to residents of the Allied Drive Community every Friday.

"This is awesome Wynn! I am certain that you have packed some of our 180 cooler or 180 produce boxes! Thank you! This makes our work possible!"

I like the fact that many churches and other organizations are each doing pieces of the good work of Social Justice. I wish that we were better at coordinating and communicating those efforts. Allied Partners is one such effort.

Wynn Davies

JOIN THE FBC FOODBANK TEAM

Volunteers Needed to Package Meals

We'll be going to Second Harvest Foodbanks to package meals on the morning of Friday, December 17!



Get in touch with Wynn Davies
(Phone: 608 238 1817; email lorwyn@sbcglobal.net)
if you would like to join us.

Talk to any of the above volunteers if you would like to know more about what is involved.



THANK YOU FBC!



First Baptist volunteers are showing up at Second Harvest Food Bank each month to help assemble boxes of nutritious food that will later be distributed to food pantries in the Madison area. On Tuesday afternoon, November 9 these eight FBC volunteers formed a team that operated an assembly line that filled several hundred boxes of food during their three hour shift. Members of the team included: Mary Fiore, Bill Hausler, Brenda Lempp, Linda Roberts, Pam Mack, Joan Turner, Luis Castillo, and Wynn Davies.

Helping Afghan Refugee Families

In October, 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.



In November, an Afghan family being helped by Bethany UMC received First Baptist's donation of a sewing machine and sewing supplies, and a supplemental gift card for JoAnne Fabrics. Bethany also gave a gift card for them so they should have enough funds for a good initial shopping trip.

In December, FBC will contribute to the Afghan Refugee Ministry Fund. The fun would prioritize helping this extended family with getting established here in Madison. The Christmas offering, that would serve as seed money for this fund, would also be used for other local, pressing needs for Afghan refugee resettlement as well.

DEC. 11 - MEET & GREET

**Meet & Greet - Fellowship Time
December 11 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."

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>

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>

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.

Office Visits



Pastor Tim will be on vacation the week of December 26.

Please note Pastor Tim will return your emails and phone calls upon his return to the office on January 4th.

Pastor Tim's day off is on Mondays.



On Sunday, December 26, Rabbi Bonnie Margulis will be delivering the sermon.

BIRTHDAYS

December / January 2022

2 Tyler H	1 Coral B
4 Kyle A	3 Jan A
4 Bernie L	4 Victor C
7 Sue L	4 Ann N
10 Jacki B	5 Brenda L
11 Linda C	9 Judy S
15 Ryan B	18 Doris F
15 Beverly D	23 Paul C
18 Linda S	23 Mary R
22 Julie B	25 Virginia E
23 Laurel F	26 Amanda C
24 Geneva M	26 Herman T
30 Lydia H	27 Bert A
30 Dianne H	29 Dennis R
31 Joyce L	29 Jeff M
	31 Bryn A



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 01/04/22
Articles for *The Visitor* must be submitted by
Tuesday, 01-04-22 – 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 December 20, Chapter 7 – The Eternal Revolution). Download^[SEP] from www.freeclassicebooks.com. There may be other sites as well. Questions? Please contact Bill^[SEP] 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.