



**FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
OF MADISON

The Visitor

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

No. 3

March 4, 2022

Vol. 65

Update from the Board of Trustees Ad-hoc Sanctuary Refresh Group, The Sanctuary Rejuvenation Committee

About a year ago this group was invited to envision ways that our sanctuary might be able to evolve, along with this congregation. Early on it seemed that diving into obvious fixes (i.e., freshening-up the paint, lighting, and carpet) might be an easy place to start, but it was soon clear that one thing affected another in more complex ways than originally imagined. For example: lighting and acoustical choices also need to support current video and audio needs for the virtual service; flooring choices affect acoustics; potentially more flexible seating needs to integrate with flooring choices; and so on.

Throughout this time input from members has helped guide the discussions and envisioning process of this committee. Here are some of the comments we have heard:

- it's sometimes hard to hear what worship leaders are saying in the sanctuary
- the chancel and balcony don't offer accessibility
- lighting has been inadequate for members of the handbell and chancel choirs
- the carpeting is tired and worn out
- ensuring an equitable online and in-person experience for services is challenging
- it would be wonderful to bring back church concerts, plays, and recitals into the sanctuary
- it would be nice to have more options for seating arrangements
- we need more color variation
- paint needs refreshing
- the sanctuary often feels dark
- being able to afford renovations is a concern

- it may be nice to use the space for community outreach activities

So, where do things currently stand? 1) As reported by Moderator Paul Chotlos in the January Visitor, funding has already been designated to cover modest but much-needed lighting upgrades in the sanctuary and chancel, which we hope will happen very soon. 2) We are experimenting with sanctuary seating, just to get a feel for ways that chairs could perhaps be combined with moveable pews to provide for more flexible use of the space. 3) We have begun exploring options (and associated costs) to ensure the sanctuary's outdated sound system and video equipment address the newly established needs associated with streamed services.

What comes next? In the months ahead we anticipate:

1. Compiling data to share with/present to you for continued planning and feedback. How will we accommodate the needs of the Chancel and Handbell choirs? What will be needed to bring up to date the emergency exit signage and lighting controls? What are the structural needs for creating an accessible and inclusive chancel space? ***Stay tuned for regular updates in the Visitor.***
2. Hosting listening/feedback sessions with all of you. ***Let's talk about desired scenarios.***
3. Coming together to plot a course. ***The most exciting phase!***

To help us get there, we have set up a feedback platform for you to join us in this visioning process. Please go to the following link and let us know your thoughts: [FBC Sanctuary Rejuvenation Project](#)

The Sanctuary Rejuvenation Committee

FAST ACTION INTERFAITH RESPONSE (FAIR) TEAM

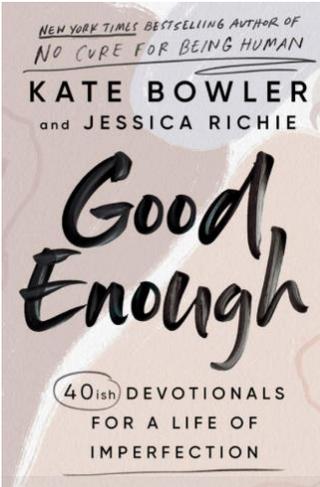
Join the **FAIR Team**, and you'll receive periodic text messages inviting you to participate in social justice actions that have been vetted by one of our partner organizations.

We'll keep it simple by telling you where, when, and how to participate.

[CLICK TO JOIN HERE](#)

LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE



Our Lenten series is based on the book Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

Throughout the season, we will be utilizing the themes and questions from this book in worship. **(Starting Sunday, March 6.)**

If you wish to purchase a copy, it is available at [A Room of One's Own](#) (a Black & Queer owned local bookstore), [Target](#), and [Amazon](#).

A very limited number of books will be available to borrow from the church. Please contact the office to reserve one and arrange pick-up.



From the Author

“Written gently and with humor, Good Enough: 40ish Devotions for a Life of Imperfection gives permission for all those who need to hear that there are some things you can fix—and some things you can’t. And it’s okay that life isn’t always better. We hope to offer fresh Christian imagination for how truth, beauty, and meaning can be discovered amid the chaos of life. Each short reflection, corresponding blessing, and “Good Enough Step” celebrates kindness, honesty, and interdependence in a culture that rewards ruthless individualism and blind optimism. In these pages, we can rest in the encouragement to strive for what is possible today—while recognizing that though we are finite, the life in front of us can be beautiful.”

--Kate [Bowler]

Source: <https://katebowler.com/good-enough/>

Thursday evenings (6:30 PM) beginning March 10.



Our midweek worship will provide an additional opportunity for worship during the week that is less structured, more participatory, and designed to supplement our Sunday morning worship.

You are invited to join us for a more relaxed worship experience featuring contemporary worship music, prayer, and reflection.

All are welcome!

LECTIONARY – SEASON OF LENT

A WOMEN’S LECTIONARY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH, YEAR W

March 6 (Lent 1):

- Genesis 2:7-9, 15-25; Psalm 104:1-4, 10-15, 27-30; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

March 13 (Lent 2):

- Genesis 3:1-7; Psalm 92:1-5, 12-15; Ephesians 2:4-10; Luke 13:31-35

March 20 (Lent 3):

- Genesis 3:8-21; Psalm 96; Romans 8:31-39; Luke 13:1-9

March 27 (Lent 4):

- Song of Songs 4:7-16; Psalm 136:1-16; 1 John 4:7-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 3 (Lent 5):

- Isaiah 51:1-8; Psalm 148; Romans 11:13-24; John 12:1-8

April 10 (Palm Sunday):

- Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-40

LENT | EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 6 – Lenten Series begins: Every Sunday
@ 10:30 AM and Every Thursday @ 6:30 PM
March 10 – Midweek Worship begins: Thursday
@ 6:30 PM
April 10 – Palm Sunday Service: Sunday
@ 10:30 AM
April 14 – Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday
@ 6:30 PM
April 17 – Easter Sunday Service: Sunday
@ 10:30 AM
April 21 – Earth Day Service: Thursday @ 6:30 PM

FROM YOUR BOARD OF DEACONS

An Update From Your Deacons

Avoiding all the rehashing of the pandemic and the challenges of which we are all aware, We would like you to know that the deacons are doing their best to ensure that our members, especially those who are more isolated and/or ill, are cared for.

We have been updating our “roles and responsibilities” to also ensure that our time is spent where most urgently needed, and that we are all aware of how we can best be supportive. We have recently had several members who have suffered illnesses and injuries, often resulting in the need for meals or added support. We continue to keep contact with those who are isolated or lonely, to let them know they are valued. We make a special effort to greet visitors who come for in-person worship, connect them with the activities we still have available to us during this pandemic, and follow up with a friendly email, also offering an individualized “Meet and Greet” (outside the church at a nearby coffee shop). We provide small gift bags with an FBC logo coffee mug, a packet of hot chocolate, biscotti and our FBC brochure, and strive to find out those things that are important to them in a faith community, how we can support those needs. For those attending in-person worship,

if you see any new faces, please introduce yourself and provide an extra warm welcome.

We look forward to and are planning for the day when we can resume our normal deacon activities - scheduled monthly Meet and Greet at the church, the resumption of Baptisms, acceptance of new members, after-church meals, all those things that connect us in the ways that are important to us, that keep us close to our church family.

We thank our deacon “supporters”, who provide extra visits or cards, who cook and deliver meals, provide for unexpected, occasional transportation needs, and other specific needs as they arise. You are appreciated more than you know.

We welcome anyone who feels led to serve as a deacon supporter, and especially look for those who might consider serving as a deacon in the coming year/years. If you have questions about the role of a deacon, please contact any deacon for details.

Whatever your role at FBC, it is an important piece of the fabric of our church family and we thank you.

Gwen Abramson	Barry Kita
Jennifer Angelo	Katy Marty
Mary Fiore, chair	Jill Thomas, co-chair
Barbara Eggleston	

FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Church Guidelines Remain the Same

The Trustees have decided to maintain our current in-person/remote hybrid format per the August 2021 Guidelines. We are in the process of re-evaluating the Guidelines with the changing conditions.

- Since we moved to the hybrid format last summer we have maintained protective measures such as masking, hand sanitizing, physical spacing between family units (there is plenty of space), and no congregational singing.
- The worship team (preaching/music/technical) would be present with any format and they are

comfortable with their own spacing/masking as well as the distance from any in the congregation.

- Fellowship time is limited, people are respectful of spacing, and folks may choose not to participate.
- Worship leaders will continue to remind people of our mitigation efforts.
- We continue to note those in attendance in case contact tracing is ever required.

Church members have been “self-selecting” whether to participate in worship remotely or in-person and this allows each person/family to decide their own level of risk tolerance. We believe that continuing with the hybrid format provides the best combination of safety and flexibility for our worshipping community.

Peace,
Bill Hausler, Board of Trustees Co-Chair

FROM FBC'S BOOKKEEPER

January 2022 Report

The budget shows a net credit of \$31,496.23, largely due to last year's surplus and 2022 pledges prepaid in 2021. No transfer from designated nor endowment earnings are shown as they were authorized at the Annual Meeting in February. Similarly, paychecks were at 2021 levels, and no outreach funds were disbursed (except for the MLK celebration, which was authorized last year) because the 2022 budget was not in place yet. The January shortfall in those areas will be made up in February. Insurance will go over its annual budget this month (I just got the bill of \$363 for Workers Comp), but that will be the last expense for the year.

On January 26, I requested a transfer of \$20,000 from the ABEC Operating account to our BMO Harris account. It did not arrive in January, and I may not know until the February bank statement arrives whether it has arrived or not.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Nancy Moore, FBC's Bookkeeper

MINISTRY PARTNERS

The Crossing – Gala Invitation

We are so grateful for the local churches, pastors, and lay members that continue to support the work of progressive campus ministry, especially in these past two years as we've all dealt with COVID. It has been so long since we have been able to be together, but nevertheless, our dedicated staff and student leaders have continued the hard work doing ministry on the UW campus.

We've decided it's time to celebrate our students and show them the community of support that surrounds them! So, this year, we are bringing back our Annual Gala! We will come together to share in a meal and fellowship to listen to the stories and successes of current students and to lift up the important work of progressive campus ministry.



**THE CROSSING
ANNUAL GALA**
April 30, 2022 6pm
Ticket sales will go live March 7th!
<https://thecrossinggala2022.eventbrite.com>

Join us for an evening of dinner and celebration of a year in campus ministry!

THE CROSSING
CAMPUS MINISTRY

Come celebrate with our students, staff, & board!!

For more information contact Mallory:
mallory@crossingministries.org
608-257-1039

Our Gala will be Saturday, April 30th at 6:00pm at The Crossing (1127 University Avenue). We will serve dinner, catered by Blue Plate Catering, and we will hear the stories from students as well as provide time for fellowship and connecting as a community. Tickets are \$55.00, which covers the cost of dinner. More information about the event can be found on our Eventbrite page: <https://thecrossinggala2022.eventbrite.com>

We invite you to check it out!

Thank you, First Baptist!

Mallory

Mallory (Moore) Yanchus (she, her, hers)
Executive Director, The Crossing, Inc.
mallory@crossingministries.org
call/text: (608) 257-1039 extension 1



Bethany United Methodist

Afghan Family Update

First Baptist teamed up with Bethany United Methodist Church to assist an extended Afghan family of 8 adults and 15 children (the new baby arrived last week) with its resettlement process.

Part of the process is to help the adults and the children learn English. FBC's volunteer, Brenda Lempp, has been spending time with the kids.



Brenda spent about an hour at their apartment teaching the kids ABCs and numbers. It was a SMASHING SUCCESS.

EASTER LILIES ORDERS

Help Beautify the Sanctuary – Lilies for Easter Sunday Worship.



If you would like to order Easter lilies for our Easter service, please fill out the **form on the last page of this newsletter**.

Orders can be emailed to fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org or mailed to the office. Please submit no later than Wednesday, April 6.

Thank you, Linda Stamm

HELPING THE COMMUNITY

Second Harvest Foodbank - Join our team of volunteers – Plan ahead.



First Baptist Second Harvest Volunteers will be gathering each month to package donated food into food boxes to be distributed at food pantries throughout the area. Join us!

Upcoming Dates:

- 🇺🇸 Friday, March 18 | 8:30 - 11:30 AM
- 🇺🇸 Friday, April 15 | 8:30 - 11:30 AM

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

FBC's Youth Group Monthly Collections

Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM)



FBC youth members continue to collect **Towels & Washcloths**

Thank you to everyone who has already donated to this month's drive!

There is still time to donate new towels and washcloths for the Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM). You can drop these items off at the church during regular business (collection bin is located near the parking lot entrance) or anytime in the box on Beth's porch (use church directory for the address).

MOM brings our community together to create food and housing security through action and advocacy, for neighbors in West Madison, Middleton and Cross Plains. MOM hosts one of the largest food pantries in Dane County. Nearly half of those served through MOM are children.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL UPDATE

Spiritual Renewal Group 1 – First and third Mondays of March at 7 PM via ZOOM.

The group will continue reading - "**Selling Water By The River: A Book About The Life Jesus Promised And The Religion That Gets In The Way**" by Shane Hipps. Reading on Monday March 7 - "A Map in the Wilderness" and "Shedding the Swaddle". Reading on Monday, March 21, "Touching the Stove" and "Outside the Boat". 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 By telephone, 1 (312) 626-6799 enter the Mtg. ID and password.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Church Family:

Sandra D & family; Alexandra B & family; Sara S's sister; Linda R; Nadia & her baby; Edith D; Wynn D; Susan D; Paul H;

Our Homebound:

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

Others: The people of Ukraine and those impacted by war; and those whose names and needs are unspoken.

(If you would like to add prayer requests, send your request to the office email, fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org or call the office.)

WORSHIP, GIVING, BUILDING ACCESS, OFFICE VISITS/HOURS, COMMUNICATION

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): Call Office for Information.

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.

Building Access

Building Access

The Church Building Continues to be closed and locked. No unauthorized admittance to the building is permitted. Masks while in the building required.

Office Visits/Hours

Office Visits



You can schedule an appointment with Pastor Tim over Zoom or phone, at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8d7yhh>

OR call the church office (608) 233-1880 to schedule a time.

Pastor Tim’s day off is on Mondays.

Office Hours

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI
Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

FBC’s Communications

Weekend Update

- weekly e-digest, released each Friday, article submission deadline is Thursday, and 60 word limit. The purpose of this publication is to provide

information and links to joining worship, special events, upcoming events, news from our ministry partners, advocacy and volunteer opportunities.

The Visitor

- monthly newsletter, released 1st week of each month, deadline is 1st of the month, and a 200 word limit.

This monthly newsletter provides church news, summary of activities, future events, and updates.

Worship Bulletins

- released every Sunday or for special services. The publication of the bulletins is strictly for use during worship services. Inserts may occasionally be permitted and must be worship related.

BIRTHDAYS

March / April 2022

1 Sheila D	4 Laura D
2 Marni B	12 Dorothy S
9 Bessie W	13 Aaron H
11 Bill F	15 Noriko K
12 Molly D	17 Wayne B
12 Joan T	18 Geta C
13 Pam M	25 Judy M
16 Phyllis J	26 Gladys C
16 Lesa R	26 Steve B
19 Perry H	28 Tim C
20 Carrie S	29 Robbie G
20 Sally D	29 Carmen P
22 Wynn D	30 Brenna K
25 Susan C	
26 Chris B	
30 Anna D	
31 Beth G	



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 Call Office for Information.

Hourglass Bible Study – We will **meet via Zoom** from 4:30 to 5:30 each Sunday evening, **continuing through March 6**, the Hourglass class will continue studying the life and work of Elijah. Although this prophet is one of the greatest figures in the Old Testament, he does not have a book carrying his name. Instead, he is mentioned throughout the Old and New Testament.

We will combine all these references to Elijah in this study so we can get a clearer picture of his actions, character, and influence on the whole of scripture.

Join Zoom Meeting: Call Office for Information.

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: Call Office for Information.

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: Call Office for Information.

(UPDATED) Spiritual Renewal Group 1 – **First and fourth Mondays of March at 7 PM.** Please join us! The group will continue reading - "**Selling Water By The River: A Book About The Life Jesus Promised And The Religion That Gets In The Way**" by Shane Hipps. Reading on Monday March 7 - "A Map in the Wilderness" and "Shedding the Swaddle". Reading on Monday, March 21, "Touching the Stove" and "Outside the Boat". Questions? Please contact Bill Hausler, hhausler@tds.net, 608-231-2890.

Join Zoom Meeting: Call Office for Information.

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: Call Office for Information.

Worship at First Baptist Church

We extend a special greeting to visitors and hope that you will find meaning and fellowship in our worship. If you are searching for a church home and would appreciate a call or visit, please contact the office.

Our Purpose

The purpose of First Baptist Church of Madison is to invite all people, regardless of race, culture, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or marital status, to unite as full participants in this Christian Fellowship.

Our Shared Beliefs

God loves all people unconditionally and seeks a personal relationship with every person.
God offers forgiveness and hope to heal our lives and make us whole.
Jesus shows us who God is and who we can become.
God is present, speaking to us through prayer, the Bible, other people, and creation.

Our Core Values

Inclusive Community ♦ Soul Freedom ♦ Spiritual Growth ♦ Mission
Beyond these shared values and beliefs, a great diversity of personal faith, beliefs, and values is found and treasured within our community.
We expect no conformity to any creed.

Keeping In Touch

Telephone: (608) 233-1880
E-mail: fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

First Baptist Church Madison
518 North Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-3699

Office Hours | Building Access

Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

**THE CHURCH BUILDING WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLOSED AND LOCKED.
NO UNAUTHORIZED ADMITTANCE TO THE BUILDING IS PERMITTED.**

**MASKS REQUIRED AND, IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE SAFE DISTANCE FROM EACH OTHER
WHILE IN THE BUILDING**

Readings for the Season of Lent

A WOMEN'S LECTIONARY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH, YEAR W

March 6 (Lent 1):

- Genesis 2:7-9, 15-25
- Psalm 104:1-4, 10-15, 27-30
- Colossians 3:1-11
- Luke 4:1-13

March 13 (Lent 2):

- Genesis 3:1-7
- Psalm 92:1-5, 12-15
- Ephesians 2:4-10
- Luke 13:31-35

March 20 (Lent 3):

- Genesis 3:8-21
- Psalm 96
- Romans 8:31-39
- Luke 13:1-9

March 27 (Lent 4):

- Song of Songs 4:7-16
- Psalm 136:1-16
- 1 John 4:7-12
- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 3 (Lent 5):

- Isaiah 51:1-8
- Psalm 148
- Romans 11:13-24
- John 12:1-8

April 10 (Palm Sunday):

- Psalm 118:19-29
- Matthew 21:1-11
- Luke 19:28-40

2022 Easter Lilies

If you would like to **order Easter Lilies** for our Easter service, please fill out the form below and email or return to the Church Office **by Wednesday, April 6.**

Cost is \$15.00

(Make checks payable to First Baptist Church or go to firstbaptistmadison.org/give to pay.)



___ I would like to order ___ plant(s)

___ I will bring my own lily

If you would like **to bring your own** lily, please have it at the church **by 2:30 pm, Thursday, April 14, and** let Blanca James (608) 233-1880 or Linda Stamm (608) 884-3708 know.

You may take your lilies home after our Easter service on April 17.

Given by . . .

In Memory / Celebration / Appreciation of . . .

THANK YOU!

The Visitor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699

(608-233-1880)

(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

Worship Schedule

Every Sunday @ 10:30 AM and Every Thursday @ 6:30 PM

Next Publication: First Week of April 2022– Article deadline is 1st of the month / 200 word limit.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL - MAILED – 03/03/22
