

**FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
OF MADISON

The Visitor

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

No. 4

April 7, 2022

Vol. 65

Update on Mission Statement

In 2021, the Church Council began the process of creating a mission statement for First Baptist Church. Although the congregation has previously adopted a Statement of Purpose and a Statement of Doctrine, Beliefs, and Values, it appears that there is no record of an approved Mission Statement.

What is a Mission Statement?

A mission statement is an action-based statement that declares the purpose of an organization. It usually describes, in a few words, why an organization exists, what its overall goal is, and some information about its fundamental values or beliefs. Effective mission statements are short and memorable.

Experts explain that an organization's mission statement should be reevaluated and updated every 5-7 years to accommodate shifts of an organization's focus. A *mission statement* is a statement of "what we do" and is often accompanied by a *vision statement*, which describes "how we do it."

What steps has the Church Council Taken?

1. During the Pastor search process, the Discernment and Transition Teams, as well as, the Pulpit Committee, held several rounds of listening sessions with the congregation. During those conversations, your ideas, dreams, and hopes for the future of this congregation were compiled into several documents. *Your* feedback from those documents provided a starting point for the first draft of a mission statement.

2. The Church Council solicited further input from the various church boards and committees, which helped to shape the mission statement.
3. Over several months, the Church Council drafted, edited, and revised the following preliminary mission statement, which was unanimously approved by the Council at its February meeting:

The mission of First Baptist Church is to do justice, love people, and advocate for equity.

What comes next?

1. We want your feedback! Please send your thoughts about the preliminary mission statement in writing to me, Paul Chotlos, or to the church office.
2. Based on the feedback received, the mission statement may go through a final revision and approval process.
3. The updated mission statement will be slated for a vote by the congregation for final approval at a future congregational meeting.
4. After a final mission statement is approved by the congregation, the Church Council will begin work on a corresponding vision statement.

This has been a long but necessary process, and it isn't over yet. As always, we are grateful to the congregation for your continued suggestions and feedback. We are also grateful for the dedicated church leaders who have worked diligently on the crafting of this statement over the past year.

Blessings,
Paul Chotlos, Moderator
Rev. Tim Schaefer, Pastor

**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](#)

April 2022 Updates

Sanctuary Lighting. Lamps have been ordered for the sanctuary pendants as well as replacement parts for the ceiling-mounted lights in the chancel, which will significantly improve the level and flexibility of our lighting in both spaces. Once we have received everything, a date and time will be arranged for our lighting installer to bring in equipment and change out lamps and fixtures.

Sanctuary Sound. We will be reviewing estimates for the engineering and installation of sound equipment that will incorporate updated wiring and cabling for new speakers, upgraded equipment in the balcony and chancel, and, potentially, better microphones in the chancel. Much of our current equipment has become outdated, so these improvements will greatly enhance our needs for integration of in-person and virtual services. Of note, there have been recent discussions surrounding removal of the large speaker that has been hanging from the ceiling for decades, and which would not be needed as part of an updated sound system. We will continue to keep you updated!

Don't forget that we have 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](https://tinyurl.com/Rejuvenation-Project) or copy and paste on your browser (<https://tinyurl.com/Rejuvenation-Project>)

–Bill Hausler, Amy Bischel, Bill Beaudreau, Paul Chotlos, Gwen Abramson, and Tim Schaefer

FBS'S RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM UPDATE

Racial Justice – Continuing the Quest

FBC, for many years, has had a rich tradition of “learning together” outside of the Sunday morning worship service. All of this stopped when the pandemic hit our nation causing us to withdraw to our homes, electronically connected, learning new ways to learn together. At the same time, because of

an increase in documented hate crimes, violence at the hands of police, and murders of Black citizens, the “Black Lives Matter” was formed and coalesced into a national effort.

A new Racial Justice Team of FBC took its marching orders from Micah in the Old Testament: to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.” Book groups, video series, and lectures on the topic of race began to be sponsored by our Racial Justice Team. We read and discussed the book “Stamped from the Beginning” by author Ibram X. Kendi. We heard local Black activists speak of systemic racial problems in Madison. UW historian Dr. Christy Clark Pujara led us in reflecting on the role of Baptists in New England during the first American revolution, and the subsequent continuing complicity of institutions –of churches many led by prominent ministers. We were asked to make our own “Micah” pledge along with our financial pledge for 2021.

The most recent book study sponsored by FBC and the Racial Justice Team (February 2022), Jemar Tisby's “The Color of Compromise”, in which several other congregations took part, was tough for us because many of us assumed that Christians were on the right side of the quest for racial justice. We again learned that we didn't know enough, especially about the churches who “went along blindly” with public policy. We concluded the book study with humbled attitudes and greater consciousness of our need to learn more “truth.”

I encourage all FBC members and friends to continue this quest, as Jesus did, to see the danger of staying silent in the face of injustice. I am grateful that we are committed as a congregation to continue to “trust and obey.” One thing you can do – until another book study or video series is announced – is to go to our church website and pick a topic of interest to you from the “Self-Directed Curriculum” located in the Racial Justice Team section. That way, you'll be prepared when the “education” effort planned so creatively by our Racial Justice Team will continue its efforts.

– Diane Adams

More from the FBC RJT

Thank you First Baptist Church family for your continued support of the work of the Racial Justice Team. We are grateful that many of you participated in our recent book study on The Color of Compromise by Jemar Tisby. If you were unable to participate, please consider reading the book. We think you'll find it enlightening.

We consider the programming that we have provided thus far as building blocks, preparing us for next steps with more robust levels of engagement. **Please join us on Sunday, April 24, 2022, 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm, via Zoom, for a follow-up** where we will use the author's ARC (Awareness, Relationships and Commitment) model as a critical element as we move ahead. This session will also be open to those from beyond our church who participated in the book study. We encourage all of you to join us, even if you didn't participate in the book study.

Later this spring, we will have a session just for our First Baptist Church family. We want to take a closer look at things specific to us. Speaking of our church, the Racial Justice Team is inviting YOU to join us. While we may be spearheading the church's engagement in racial justice, this is the work of all of us.

Please contact any RJT member with any questions. Special thanks to Victor Crensil for his foundational work on the Racial Justice Team.

FBC's Racial Justice Team: Anna Donahoe, Mary Fiore, Beth Gunshor, Gloria Hawkins, Tim Schaefer and Linda Stamm

**FROM THE PASTORAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Congregational Forum

Do you feel that communication in our church is less than desirable? Do you wonder what the committees and boards are doing? Do you feel that sometimes important decisions are made without

adequate discussion and input from the membership?

The Pastoral Relations Committee, in an attempt to improve communication between the congregation and our pastor and other leaders, will be sponsoring a series of congregational forums focusing on various topics.

The first forum will be **Wednesday, May 11, at 7 p.m. on Zoom**. Pastor Tim, with help from our musicians, Katrina and Ted, will lead a discussion on worship, how worship planning is done, and how music is selected. This will be an opportunity for you to express your feelings about worship, what elements of worship you find most meaningful or not so meaningful.

Please join us on Zoom and be part of the conversation. Let your voice be heard.

– Gil Emmert for the PRC

BOARD OF OUTREACH SURVEY PDATE

Winter 2022 Survey Results

Recently the Board of Christian Outreach asked members to participate in a survey that covered frequency of special offering requests and questions concerning core values. We had 16 responses to the survey. You can see survey results [here](#).



If you would still like to participate in the survey, you can access the survey [here](#).

Or copy to browser: <https://tinyurl.com/Survey-Pres>

FBC REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT MINISTRY TASK FORCE

Befriending Afghan Refugees

Congregations, resettlement agencies, among other organizations across Wisconsin, are actively doing the important work of helping hundreds of Afghan refugees establish new homes and establish supportive relationships with their communities. First Baptist has partnered with Bethany United Methodist Church to help four households in an extended family of Afghan refugees. These households have eight adults and 15 children, including a newborn who is now their first US citizen! Congregants from both churches now meet twice monthly via Zoom to discuss care of the households.



This picture includes a few Afghan men from the community.

Visits to a fabrics store are much appreciated experiences for the Afghan women. Gift cards are provided to enable purchases.



We are in regular contact with the family, typically visiting them at least once per week. Some needs have been met with physical donations, such as sewing machines, rugs, toys, Chromebook computers, children's books, and art supplies. Some are met with financial support, such as gift cards for food, clothing, and sewing supplies, and help with monthly rent payments. Members of both congregations have donated generously to enable this financial support.

Some needs are met through the time volunteers spend with the households. We have provided advice on questions, such as payment of iPass charges and taxes, made phone calls to agencies and organizations on their behalf, provided instruction on computer use, driven Afghan women to shop, and started ESL classes twice per week for adults and for children who are not in school. We also inquire about whether they are getting the support they need from others, such as dealing with citizenship issues and getting care for a child who has spina bifida.

We are delighted that the Afghans are making progress in their resettlement process and we plan to continue walking with them in that process.



Part of the process is to help the adults and the children learn English.

A request: A current need is for a van for the households. They now only have a small 4-door car for all four households. If anyone has a suggestion, please contact the church office

Our volunteers: Brigit & Michael Blauw, Gil Emmert, Brenda Lempp, Lynette Miller, Jill Thomas

Advocate for Refugee Rights

The current crisis in Ukraine has increased our compassion for the Ukrainian people and, in doing so, has opened our hearts to the plight and needs of ALL refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants.

Consider participating in this postcard effort in support of their rights.



The artwork for the postcard was created by Temple Beth El congregant, Kathy Mazur, TBE's Refugee and Immigrant Action Team supplied the postcards.

We invite you join with us and other congregations in the Madison community to send postcards to President Biden, Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkis, Rep. Pocan, and Senators Baldwin and Johnson asking for them to:

- Support the resettlement of Ukrainians
- Ensure that Afghans have a pathway to safety, and can obtain permanent legal status via the Afghan Adjustment Act.
- End the use of Title 42 to deny entry of asylum seekers at the border.
- Reverse the “Remain in Mexico” policy.
- Support a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants.

The postcards will be available in the Gathering Space after worship on April 10.

FBC Refugee and Immigrant Ministry Task Force

Ukraine Update

We have missionaries in nearby countries helping refugees. Jon and Amanda Good are Special Interest Missionaries for Wisconsin Baptist Women. They have refugees coming to their church. The Women's Circle from our

church sent \$600 of our mission money last week to the Goods to help them with the refugees.

This is of special interest to Beverly Davison who visited some of the Baptist churches when she was President of the denomination a year before Ukraine became independent; and to Jim Davison who was there when Ukraine received its independence and witnessed many Baptists being baptized.

Emergency Relief Funds to Ukraine, More Help Urgently Needed



INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Initial relief will provide basic provisions—food, shelter, medicine, and hygiene items—to at least 2,500 people who are fleeing their homes. Displaced people will be served by distribution centers set up by the Ukrainian Baptists to provide temporary shelter and relief. In addition, the threat of the incursion and the invasion have resulted in refugees fleeing to neighboring countries. In those countries, Baptists are also responding. There will be ongoing needs both within Ukraine and in the surrounding countries. Our global servants in Europe are all well and safe; we ask for your prayers for their continued security.



<https://tinyurl.com/Ukraine-Give>

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

**Thursday evenings (6:30 PM) -
Sanctuary**



Our midweek worship provides 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 LLECTIONARY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH, YEAR W

April 10 (Palm Sunday):

- Psalm 118:19-29; Matthew 21:1-09;
Luke 19:28-40

LENT | EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

THE FLOWERING CROSS

**JOIN US FOR THE FLOWERING OF THE
CROSS**

Sunday, April 17, 2022 – 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Everyone is invited to come to the church on Easter Sunday, between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm, to participate in adding flowers to FBC’s wooden cross, which will be set up on the Franklin Avenue side of the building. Feel free to bring flowers from your own gardens or take them from the bucket that will be available on site.



We hope you will join in this tradition to celebrate the risen Christ!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Allied Wellness Center

Help Wanted: Delivering nutritious food and household essentials to the Allied Drive Community on Friday afternoons---“**Allied Fresh**”.

First Baptist has received a request for volunteers to help the Allied Wellness Center deliver every Friday afternoon, boxes of

nutritious food and household items to some 200 households in the Allied Drive Community.

Can you help? Here is more information to help you make up your mind:



When: Every Friday afternoon . There are two shifts: from 1:30 - 3:00 PM and 3:00- 4:30 PM

What: During the first shift we will prepare the food and supply boxes and load them into cars/vans for delivery to the apartments. Drivers and cars/vans are needed plus people to make the deliveries to

apartments. The boxes weigh between 15 and 30 pounds.

During the second shift you will help take down, clean up, and prepare for next Friday’s delivery

Where: “Allied Fresh” takes place out of the Boys and Girls Club located at 4619 Jenewein Road (off of Allied Drive).

Who? How about you? If you can help or if you would like more information, contact Wynn Davies or call the office. Wynn is a Allied Fresh volunteer and our representative to Allied Partners, the coalition of churches that serves the people of the Allied Community . There is a special need for Spanish speaking volunteers.

PS: The food that is distributed by “Allied Fresh” comes from Second Harvest regional food bank where, once every month, First Baptist volunteers help fill the food boxes that are subsequently sent to “Allied Fresh” (see below).



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, April 29 | 8:30 - 11:30 AM
- ✚ Friday, May 27 | 8:30 – 11:30 AM

Get in touch with Wynn, if you would like to join us.

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

From Executive Director, Rabbi Bonnie Margulis

Welcome to Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice! We have been so appreciative over the years of First Baptist’s partnership and support and are delighted to formalize our relationship with your membership! I know you are familiar with many of our programs and initiatives, but just to catch you up on all the things we are doing, I’ve attached here a one-pager overview of our work (see page 13). I’d be happy to speak to the

congregation or your social witness ministry at any time about any or all of these.

Thank you for your membership and your support! I look forward to continuing our work together toward justice!

Bonnie

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, 608-513-7121

Ramadan 2022 Interfaith Iftar

Saturday, April 30, 2022, at 7:15 PM
Lakeview Park, 6300 Mendota Ave, Middleton, WI.



Iftar is the evening meal with which Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset. Transcending generational, ethnic, and religious differences, this annual event allows guests to learn about Islam, Ramadan, and the Muslim obligation of zakat (charity). It is also an opportunity to break bread together at a time when we are all especially yearning for more connection with each other.

In keeping with the importance of Zakat for celebrating Ramadan, we are excited to raise funds once again for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin. During the pandemic, Second Harvest saw a 40% increase in the number of food insecure people in SW. Donation jars from Second Harvest will be out on the tables during the iftar. Please come prepared to make a donation by cash or check.

For non-Muslims who may want to delve even more deeply into Ramadan, we encourage you to try fasting from the dawn of April 30 until the Iftar. Muslims believe that fasting redirects the heart away from worldly activities and cleanses the soul by freeing it from harmful impurities. The fast also helps us to appreciate the blessings of food and to understand the plight of our food-insecure neighbors.

Due to COVID, the Iftar will be a catered meal instead of the usual potluck, and we are limiting registration to 100 people. Please RSVP early to guarantee a seat! 50 indoor and 50 outdoor seats are available, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Click [HERE](#) to RSVP

Please consider making a gift to help support the Iftar. Suggested donation: \$5 for children under 17; \$10 for adults; \$20 per family. You can donate [HERE](#) or pay at the door by cash or check.

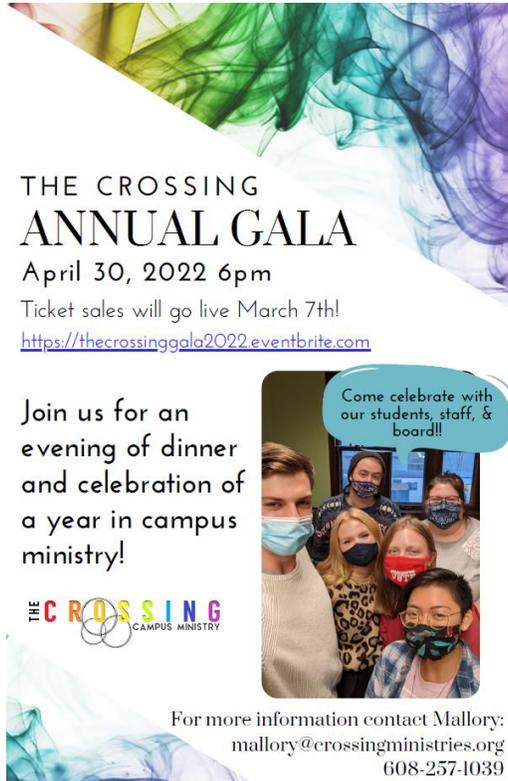
COVID mitigation: If you are unvaccinated, please use the outdoor seating, wear a mask, and stay physically distanced. Please stay home if you are not feeling well.

However you approach the Interfaith Iftar, we look forward to your joining us in this shared celebration.

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**

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

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

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

HELPING THE COMMUNITY

Vilas Park: Saturday, May 21, 1-4:00 pm



Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association's WATER Team invites you to a family friendly and free event. Bring your family, a friend, or neighbor.

Interact with homeowners and people from 30 organizations committed to clean water needed by all life forms that share this planet. Learn more about water stewardship. Leave with new ideas as we collectively ensure healthy lakes, streams, and the lands in-between.

- Participate in fun activities with eight specially for children.
- Engage with storyteller Andi Cloud, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation.
- Renew a sense of connection among people, land, and water.
- Meet homeowners with rain gardens, rain barrels, or with prairies instead of lawns as ways to keep water out of their basements.
- Talk with neighbors who plant prairies and greenspaces on public property.
- Talk with urban vegetable gardeners.
- Learn how climate change impacts Madison Lakes and ways to lessen effects.

- Learn about water management including ways to address flooding.
- Experience lake monitoring and tracking harmful chloride.
- Enjoy art inspired by water research results.

Itinerary at <https://fb.me/e/2fBr0YwrY> Feel free to contact Taylor water.wingragathering@gmail.com

Gathering part of a subgrant from the UW-Madison Arboretum's agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency. Additional funds from Wisconsin Environmental Initiative, Regent Neighborhood Association, Clean Lakes Alliance, Midvale Heights Neighborhood Association, Westmorland Neighborhood Association, Friends of Lake Wingra, Agrecol, and Marta Karlov. Logo courtesy of Colleen Manner, Madison Enterprise Center, 100 S. Baldwin Street, Suite 300 E.



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.

HOURGLASS BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

For the weeks leading up to Easter, the Hourglass group will be reading the entries from the Lenten lectionary, reading the ones for the upcoming Sunday in preparation and then focusing the discussion especially on the ones Pastor Tim chose for the morning's sermon.

After taking Easter Sunday off, we will begin a series of stand-alone classes focusing on favorite and meaningful scripture passages chosen by the members of the class.

Join us for a lively, open discussion of our faith.
– Mary Ray

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Church Family:

Paul C & Family; Susan D; Linda O; Ann N; Lenore C; Jacki B; Alan F; Linda R; Edith D; Paul H; Sara S's sister

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.



Earth Day Service

Thursday, April 21 | 6:30 PM



Join us for a special worship service where we bring intentional focus to the creation care themes found in scripture, prayers, and song.

WORSHIP, GIVING, 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)

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/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

April / May 2022

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 4 Laura D | 1 Sam G |
| 12 Dorothy S | 1 Hyunji H |
| 13 Aaron H | 2 Katy M |
| 15 Noriko K | 2 Russell N |
| 17 Wayne B | 2 Morgan |
| 18 Geta C | 12 Frank H |
| 25 Judy M | 13 James W. E |
| 26 Gladys C | 17 Merrill W |
| 26 Steve B | 18 Nancy M |
| 28 Tim C | 24 Douglas H |
| 29 Robbie G | 25 James M |
| 29 Carmen P | 29 Brock D |
| 30 Brenna K | 29 Judith R |
| | 30 Jerry D |
| | 30 Jim D |
| | 30 Del D |
| | 30 Charlotte K |



518 NORTH FRANKLIN AVENUE
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53705-3699
(608) 233-1880 •
fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Rev. Tim Schaefer, Pastor

April 2022

Dear Members and Friends of First Baptist,

In just a few weeks, we will celebrate new beginnings given to us through Christ's resurrection. As part of that celebration, the Board of Christian Outreach invites you to consider contributing to an Easter Offering supporting new beginnings for members of our Madison community.

- 1) We have identified three opportunities that we hope you will join us in supporting. The first is a local teenager with many strengths but also many barriers. This teen needs a wheelchair designed specifically for them but they are not able to access traditional funding routes. We are working to confirm that a local organization is able to work with us. If that does not work, we will ask the school district to partner with us in helping this young person. The quoted cost of the wheelchair is just under \$5000, so our goal is to raise that amount.
- 2) Once we have reached \$5,000, we will support the needs of a mother identified through our partnership with Catalyst who has plans to return to Madison College to continue her education. A barrier to her new beginning is a previous debt owed to the college in the amount of \$700.
- 3) All funds in excess of \$5,700 will be directed towards Urban Triage's program to [Support Healthy Black Agriculture](#). You are invited to explore Urban Triage's webpage describing this program in full, but a brief description follows: Through advocacy, transformative education, collaboration, and connecting to nature, Supporting Healthy Black Agriculture (SHBA) addresses the root of health disparities and inequalities in our community while providing the space and opportunity for healing for Black families. SHBA is a 90-day leadership workgroup series designed to empower and inspire breakthroughs and transformation in Black communities.

Thank you for considering these opportunities to share the hope of new beginnings in the Madison community.

Board of Christian Outreach:
Cheryl Castillo
Beth Gunshor
Thomas Gunshor
Lynette Miller, Chair



Programs and Initiatives

Experiential Programs

[Moving from Charity to Justice: A Workshop in Faithful Advocacy](#)

[Poverty Simulation](#)

[Minimum Wage Challenge](#)

Justice Initiatives

Dane Sanctuary Coalition (<https://danesanctuarycoalition.org/>) provides sanctuary for those facing deportation; advocates for justice for undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees; assists with temporary housing; provides rides to ICE check-ins and immigration hearings; and educates the public on immigration issues.

Dignity at Work (<http://www.dignityatworkcoalition.org/>)

The Dignity at Work Coalition seeks to establish higher standards of respect and equality for all who labor, greater compassion for working families, and to foster community solidarity in the service of our mission. Our issue areas include equal pay, living wage, sustainable hours, paid sick leave, paid family leave, affordable quality childcare, public transportation, affordable housing, ending racial and gender discrimination, pension protection, and the right to organize.

Creating Beloved Community

Co-led by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, WISDOM, MICAH, and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, this initiative aims to counter the growing influence of white supremacy in Wisconsin, and advocates for policies that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion. Our first initiative - [Taking a Faithful Stance for Racial Equity](#) organizes people of faith on issues of equity and inclusion.

Faithful Action for a Healthy Wisconsin

This coalition of faith leaders around the state focuses on issues of racial inequities in health care. Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice and Wisconsin Council of Churches jointly lead this coalition. Partners in this work include, but are not limited to MICAH, the Racine Interfaith Coalition, the Wisconsin Council of Churches, and others. Two areas of focus currently: lead in the environment, and the issue of the defunding and dismantling of the public health care system.

Interfaith Community Building

Included in this work is a program of [Sacred Site Visits](#); including a model seder and our annual interfaith Ramadan iftar. We also organize two interfaith clergy councils: **Multi-faith Coalition for South-Central Wisconsin** and **Greater Milwaukee Faith Voices for Justice**. Most recently the two clergy groups participated in anti-racism training. Multi-faith Coalition clergy worked together to present a virtual interfaith worship service to mourn and pray for resilience during this ongoing pandemic; and presented an interfaith **Transgender Day of Remembrance service** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBTM1HsOGFE>).

Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign (<https://interfaithvotewi.org/>)

In partnership with the Wisconsin Council of Churches, WIVC organizes faith communities around the state to engage in voter education, voter registration, and Get Out the Vote. We advocate for voting rights and fair maps.



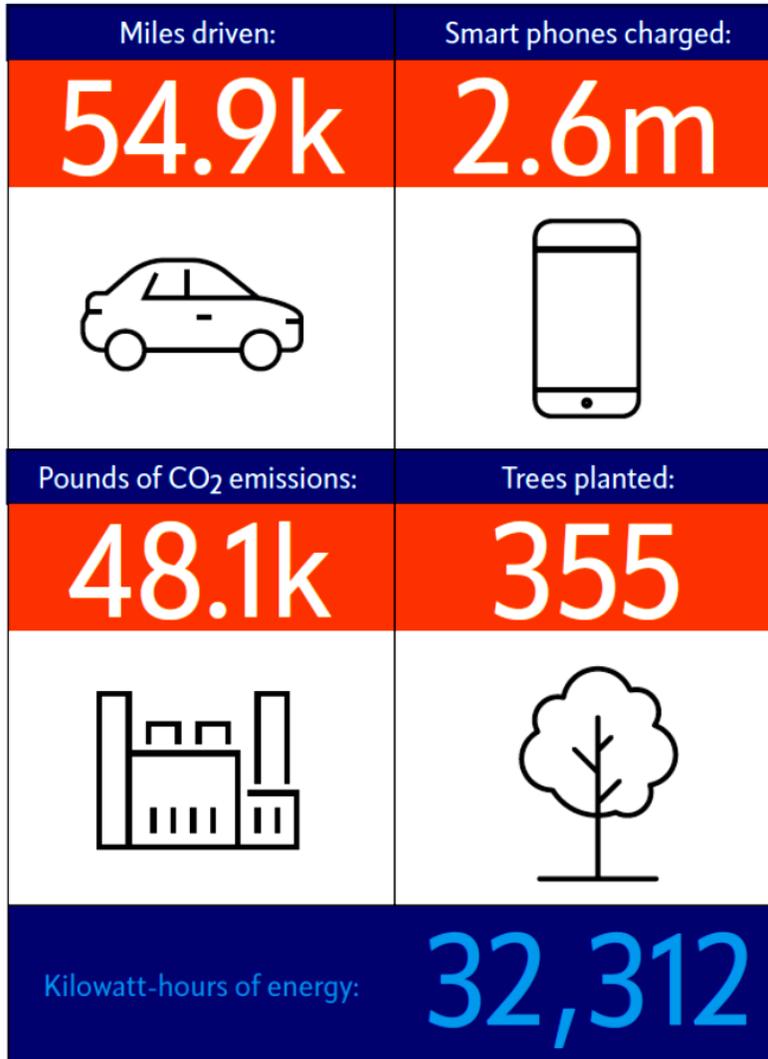


First Baptist Church Shared Solar Impact Report

As a customer of Madison Gas and Electric (MGE), First Baptist Church has demonstrated its commitment to local clean energy by participating in MGE's Shared Solar program. MGE is excited to partner with First Baptist Church as we work toward shared energy goals for our community! Reducing the carbon intensity of our electricity generation is one of our key strategies for achieving net-zero carbon electricity by 2050.

2021 EMISSION OFFSET IMPACT

Purchasing clean energy from MGE has offset emissions equivalent to:



Clean. Local. Sustainable.



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: Please contact the office for information on how to join.

Hourglass Bible Study – We will **meet via Zoom** from 4:30 to 5:30 each Sunday evening, for the weeks leading up to Easter. We will be reading the entries from the Lenten lectionary for the upcoming Sunday in preparation and then focusing the discussion especially on the ones Pastor Tim chose for the morning's sermon.

After taking Easter Sunday off, we will begin a series of stand-alone classes focusing on favorite and meaningful scripture passages chosen by the members of the class.

Join Zoom Meeting: Please contact the office for information on how to join.

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: Please contact the office for information on how to join.

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: Please contact the office for information on how to join.

Spiritual Renewal Group 1 – **First and fourth Mondays at 7 PM.** Selling Water By the River: A Book About the Life of Jesus Promised and the Religion That Gets in the Way by Shane Hipps is being discussed. Questions? Please contact Bill Hausler.

Join Zoom Meeting: Please contact the office for information on how to join.

Spiritual Renewal Group 2 (Online) – **The second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm.** Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie is being discussed. 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: Please contact the office for information on how to join.

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

Readings for the Season of Easter

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

April 17 (Easter Sunday):

- Isaiah 49:1-13;
- Psalm 18:2-11, 16-19;
- Hebrews 11:1-2, 23-24, 28-39
- Matthew 28:1-10 (or John 20:1-18)

April 24 (Easter 2):

- Acts 1:3-5, 12-14;
- Psalm 41:1-4, 12-13;
- Romans 7:1-12;
- John 20:19-31

May 1 (Easter 3):

- Acts 1:6-8;
- Psalm 78:1-7;
- Romans 13:8-10;
- Matthew 22:23-33

May 8 (Easter 4):

- Acts 2:22-24 (or Deuteronomy 18:15-22);
- Psalm 9:9-14;
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-12;
- Luke 7:18-23

May 15 (Easter 5):

- Acts 5:12-16 (or Deuteronomy 28:1-14);
- Psalm 147:12-20;
- 2 Corinthians 4:13-15;
- John 5:25-29

May 22 (Easter 6):

- Acts 17:1-4, 10-12 (or Deuteronomy 28:58-68);
- Psalm 145:8-19;
- Romans 6:5-11;
- John 11:17-27

May 29 (Easter 7):

- Acts 18:24-27 (or Deuteronomy 29:10-15);
- Psalm 111;
- 1 Peter 1:3-9;
- John 11:28-44

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 May 2022– Article deadline is 1st of the month / 200-word limit.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL - MAILED – 04/07/22