



The Visitor

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

No. 9 September 7, 2022 Vol. 65

Join us for our 175th Celebration!

First Baptist Church has been a community-focused congregation from its very beginning, when eight men and twelve women met with delegates from other Wisconsin Baptist churches on December 23, 1847 to organize the Baptist Society of Wisconsin.

For 175 years, this church has shared its leaders and buildings with our neighbors, supporting the good work of non-profit organizations and faith communities of our city. Our congregation has been at the forefront of social justice by welcoming Japanese members during World War II, supporting the Civil Rights Movement, counseling students protesting the Vietnam War, working for separation of church and state, and advocating for the full inclusion of marginalized groups.



On September 18 during our regular worship service, we celebrate the common thread that runs through our past, present, and future endeavors—our love of God and love of neighbor.

Join us as we honor the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future of this congregation through scripture, story, music, and ritual. We will be joined by the FBC handbell choir and guest musicians “Beltline Bones.” You’ll hear reflections from our Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Mark Clinger, we’ll honor our Pastor Emeritus and Handbell Director Emerita, and we will celebrate the joining of new members.

As always, this service will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person. However you choose to participate, we hope to see you for this very special event in the life of our church!

FROM YOUR MODERATOR

New in the Fall...more people in the building at First Baptist.

In keeping with the congregation’s desire to open our church building to community use, the Trustees are happy to report that we have new building use agreements in place with the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), Madison School Community Recreation (MSCR), and Madison Friends of International Students (MFIS). These groups (and others) will be mostly utilizing third floor classroom spaces.

Among other offerings, there will be alternative classes for high school students, exercise classes for older people, art classes, and classes for English Language Learners. Our community groups have agreed to hourly fees for classroom use.

Community building users must be Not-for-Profit Organizations with proof of insurance. Their values and mission statements must compliment the values and mission of First Baptist. Don’t forget that church members can still make their own building use arrangements with the church office. In most cases, church members can arrange to use classrooms and other spaces at no cost.

If you have questions, please contact members of the Board of Trustees, Moderator Paul Chotlos or Blanca James in the church office.

– Paul Chotlos, FBC Moderator

Update from the August 2022 Meeting

Here is a summary of FBC's Board of Trustees' August meeting:

- 1) We received the quarterly report from our Investment and Planned Giving subcommittee presented by subcommittee chair Wynn Davies (reported separately in this *Visitor*)
- 2) We reviewed and endorsed our current COVID mitigation policies (which remain unchanged) while seeking guidance regarding when facemasks may become optional and when food can return for church events.
- 3) I mentioned last month that we have implemented policies with our staff to minimize cyber fraud. This is an increasingly common problem – and we became one of its victims when \$2,200 of salary was deposited in a fraudulent account before the fraud was identified. The “good news” is that it is a “relatively” small amount. The “bad news” is that it is too small to be reimbursed by insurance!
- 4) Many people from FBC – Trustees and others – have been working to get our pandemic-emptied rooms ready for our renters as well as our own use. Thanks to all of you for your many hours of labor!
- 5) Our monthly review of the budget again shows items under, over, and on budget – surprise! In some over-budget categories (maintenance) there will be a saving in the long run, and some expected over-budget areas (electricity and heating) should be offset by increased rental income.

– *Bill Hausler, Chairperson, Board of Trustees*

Are we still going to talk about this?



Again? Yes! Our racial justice path continues, through an upcoming series scheduled this fall and winter.

Following our previous reading of Jamar Tisby's book [The Color of Compromise](#) last winter, The Racial Justice Team (RJT) invites you to continue this journey as we reflect on the author's recent interview, *Three Words Should Guide our Pursuit of Racial Justice*, which asks us to consider “what next?” What does it mean to reckon with racism in our own lives and in the lives of our faith communities? We will delve into what Tisby sees as the essential elements of all genuine racial reconciliation, namely the ARC (awareness, relationships, commitment) model. Together we will consider his ideas as well as how to implement meaningful change, with plenty of time for discussion in both small and larger groups.

All meetings will be held virtually, from **7 - 8:30 PM** on the following dates:

- **September 18** - we will refresh our memories and knowledge about some of the larger concepts discussed in Mr. Tisby's book [The Color of Compromise](#).
- **October 16** - we will discuss potential next steps for promoting social justice at FBC.
- **November 20** - we will plan our next steps, both as individuals and as a congregation.
- **January 2023** – we will begin a plan to implement the steps we have agreed upon.

If you have an interest in helping the RJT team plan for and execute meaningful actions to achieve racial justice, please contact any of the team members for further information. Please [Register Here](#) or call the church office.

Thank you!

Jennifer Angelo, Anna Donahoe, Mary Fiore, Beth Gunshor, Gloria Hawkins, Pastor Tim Schaefer and Linda Stamm

Doing Good While Doing Well

Did you know that at least 20% of First Baptist's financial assets are invested in "socially responsible" investments?

For example: Self Help Federal Credit Union, which targets its loans and other financial services to low income neighborhoods in Milwaukee. Forward Community Investments is another of our socially responsible investments that makes loans primarily to non-profits throughout Wisconsin that provide affordable housing and economic opportunity for low income communities.

Last week your Board of Trustees approved the investment of an additional \$7,000 in The Wisconsin Council of Churches "Community Investment Program" (increasing it to \$10,000). This program will, in turn, invest our money in seven non-profit "Community Development Financial Institutions" serving minority communities and women-owned business startups throughout our state.

Have you considered investing some of your own financial assets in socially responsible investments? We would be pleased to give you some ideas. For example, our investment in the Council of Churches program earns better than the money you may have invested in money market or savings accounts (it has averaged 2.17 % in recent years) and has an excellent record of keeping our investment "safe" avoiding the fluctuations of the stock market. And with the added advantage of knowing that your money is doing "good" while it is doing "well". Members of the Investment and Planned Giving Committee will be pleased to provide you with more information on how you can join First Baptist in placing some of your own money in "socially responsible investments".

Wynn Davies, Chair

Chris Blythe, Barry Kita, Nancy Emmert

Opportunity to Support Two ABC Ministries

September is the month that our Board of Christian Outreach has designated as an opportunity to support American Baptist Ministries around the world through the **World Mission Offering** and to remember those who have served us here and abroad by supporting the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering**.

The **World Mission Offering** helps support more than 70 global servants serving in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Liberia, East and South Asia, Southeast Asia and Japan. Ministries include inviting people to be disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaiming God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life through education, economic development, medical care, abolishing global slavery, working with immigrants and refugees and teaching peace and justice. ABC International Ministries' website tells about the work of our Global Servants. I chose this example:

"Dan and Sarah Chetti work in Lebanon and are the first International Ministries global servants in the Arab world. Dan is an adjunct professor at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary. Dan's current focus is promoting strategic Arab ministries in seven countries in the Middle East and North Africa, called "Enduring Love". Sarah has pioneered a ministry among foreign migrant women working as maids in Lebanon. She visits and ministers at three prisons, advocates for the rights of maids, fights human trafficking and runs an Integrated Centre for Migrant Domestic Workers, called INSAAF: Justice and Compassion of Jesus. Sarah's journals are available on the IM website. Due to the sensitive nature of Dan's *Enduring Love* newsletters, they are not posted online."

The **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** is an opportunity to say "thank you" to retired pastors who have served our American Baptist churches and to the missionaries who have served as our hands and hearts in projects around the world. Our thank you gifts not only express our gratitude,

but help with the hardship of unexpected expenses such as medical problems, relocation or the death of a spouse. These faithful servants are often far from the church family that once supported them and appreciate being remembered.

You can choose to say thank you by sending your gift via mail or online through the First Baptist Church website, <https://tinyurl.com/FBCDonate>. Offering envelopes are available in the Gathering Space or by calling the office.

Thank you,
Your Board of Christian Outreach

JOIN THE ACTION

**Wisconsin Interfaith
Voter Engagement Campaign**

Please consider joining FBC members and other Madison congregation's members in canvassing efforts on **September 29 at 4:30 pm and October 9 at 1 pm**. You can learn more about a pilot canvassing project held earlier this summer by watching this [video](#) (look for several FBC members in the video!).

Please contact the church office if you are interested in participating.

Join FBC'S Choir

Interested in joining the chancel choir? Contact Pastor Tim or the office. We will begin this fall.



Second Harvest Foodbank

Join our team of volunteers in packaging care boxes for families experiencing food insecurity. **Contact the church office or Wynn Davies for more information.**



Upcoming Date:

Friday, September 16 | 8:30 - 11:30 AM

Hello from The Crossing!

Things are getting busier on campus as Fall approaches, and I'm sure it is for you and your family and congregation as well! We are happy to be here and represent Wisconsin United Methodist, American Baptist, and United Church of Christ congregations on campus!

Just a quick note to update you on dates still available for serving meals. The good news is we now **have a paved parking lot** which will make parking and unloading so much easier this year!!

Thanks again for considering this opportunity to serve our students (and offer a service learning opportunity to any group(s) within your church -- and, if you choose, an opportunity for your youth to learn more about campus ministry).

Open dates:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sept 28 | March 1 |
| Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 | April 5, 12, 19, 26 |
| Nov 16 | May 3 (Picnic @ Picnic Point) |
| Dec 7 | |
| Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 | |

Blessings,
Karla Schmidt (she, her, hers)
Campus Minister, The Crossing, Inc.
www.thecrossinguw.org

ALSO IN SEPTEMBER

Young Adult Gathering
Saturday, September 17 | 10:00 AM



Join us for apple picking at Sutter's Ridge Farm, followed by lunch at the Grumpy Troll Brewpub in Mt. Horeb.

Contact Pastor Tim or the church office (608) 233-1880 for more information.

FROM KATRINA WELBORN

Farewell and Thank You

Friends,

It has been a pleasure to work with such lovely and kind people across the congregation. I am leaving due to the time required of me in other areas of my professional and personal life.

I thank you for the time to lead worship for your congregation. Thank you again for the opportunity to work with your congregation.

My sincerest well wishes for a bright future for First Baptist Church of Madison.

Sincerely,

Katrina G. Welborn

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

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

September 4:

- 1 Samuel 27:1–3, 8–12; Psalm 94:1–15; James 2:8–13; Mark 7:14–23

September 11:

- 1 Samuel 30:1–8, 17–19; Psalm 71:1–6; 2 Corinthians 1:8–11; Matthew 6:9–13

September 18:

- 2 Samuel 1:17–27; Canticle Mater Tua Leaena (Ezekiel 19:1–3, 10–14); 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; John 16:16–22

September 25:

- 2 Samuel 11:2–15; Psalm 32:1–7; 2 Peter 3:1–4, 8–9; Matthew 5:21–26

October 2:

- 2 Samuel 13:1–16, 21–22; Psalm 103:1–17; 1 Thessalonians 2:9–12; Mark 10:13–16

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Church Family: Ceci F & wife Donna; Sara S; Rhiannon T; Pam M & family; Barry & Noriko K's family; Jim & Edith D; Paul H friend's family; Linda R; Ann N; Pat Y; Carla & Doris E; Alan F

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

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

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

GIVING, OFFICE HOURS, AND VISITS

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–firstbaptistmadison.org/give to make a donation.
- FBC’s Website – <https://tinyurl.com/FBCDonate>
- Smart Phone – GivingPlus Application - <https://giveplushelp.vancopayments.com/>

Thank you for your spiritual and financial support.

Church Office Hours

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

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705

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



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](#)

SUNDAY & MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

In person – join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. Fellowship time after worship and/or Thursday evenings, 6:30 pm. Both in the Sanctuary.

Online

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 can be accessed directly from FBC’s Livestream.

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.

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

3 Brett T
 5 Alan F
 6 Christopher E
 8 Heather Z
 8 Pihra P
 9 Cheryl C
 9 Jeff K
 12 Charlotte E
 14 Judy C
 14 Tyler M
 16 Claire R
 20 Ashley B
 20 Rachel E
 24 Jeanette K
 25 Bob M
 25 Rhiannon T
 20 Rachel E
 27 Moira K
 29 Linda M
 30 Sara Strain

OCTOBER

3 Stuart B
 5 Olivia H
 7 Angela T
 11 Bill H
 14 Scott H
 16 Greg D
 17 Benito L
 18 Carolyn C
 19 Janet R
 21 David E
 21 Marci H
 21 Jason M
 22 Jody L
 25 Richard B
 29 Ted R

FBC LEADERSHIP AND BOARDS

FBC's Leadership and Boards June 2022

Church Officers

Moderator, Paul Chotlos, 2023

Vice Moderator, Vacancy

Treasurer, Bill Fiore, 2023

Church Clerk, Carla Eakins, 2023

Membership Clerk, Janet Reinke, 2023

Historian, Barbara Eggleston, 2023

Church Leadership Council Members

Paul Chotlos, Moderator

Vacant, Vice Moderator

Carla Eakins, Church Clerk

Tim Schaefer, Minister

Bill Fiore, Board of Trustees

Curt Grinde, Board of Christian Education

Lynette Miller, Board of Christian Outreach

Mary Fiore, Board of Deacons

(1 Vacancy)

Boards and Committees

Board of Trustees

Diane Adams, 2023, 2024

Wayne Bischel, 2023, 2028

Bill Fiore, 2023, 2026

*Bill Hausler, 2023, 2026

Brenda Lempp, 2023, 2026

(3 Vacancies)

Christian Outreach

Cheryl Castillo, 2023, 2026

Wynn Davies, 2023, 2028

*Beth Gunshor, 2023, 2027

Thomas Gunshor, 2023, 2027

Barbara Henning, 2023, 2028

*Lynette Miller, 2023, 2024

Christian Education

*Deb Chotlos, 2023, 2026

Susan Donahoe, 2023, 2028

Curt Grinde, 2023, 2028

(1 Vacancy)

Deacons

Jennifer Angelo, 2023, 2023

Susan Dean, 2023, 2028

*Mary Fiore, 2023, 2023

Barry Kita, 2023, 2025

*Jill Thomas, 2023, 2026

(3 Vacancies)

Pastoral Relations

Jim Davison, 2023, 2025

*Gil Emmert, 2023, 2026

Nancy Emmert, 2023, 2023

Bill Hausler, 2023, 2026

Wayland Board

*Chris Blythe, Chair

Ed Hansen, Vice Chair

Bill Fiore, Treasurer

Carolyn Dugan, Secretary

Note: Wayland Board Members change in January according to Wayland By-laws.

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.

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.

The Visitor

- monthly newsletter, released 1st week of each month, deadline is 1st of the month, 200-word limit. This monthly newsletter provides church news, summary of activities, future events, and updates.

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 call the church office, 608/233-1880, for joining information.

Hourglass Bible Study (Online) –Beginning Sunday, September 11, we will read two of Paul's letters: Galatians and Romans. We'll work together to understand how these letters speak to us today by studying the historical context in which the letters were written to specific congregations about their specific problems.

Join Zoom Meeting: Please call the church office, 608/233-1880, for joining 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: Please call the church office, 608/233-1880, for joining 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: Please call the church office, 608/233-1880, for joining information.

Spiritual Renewal Group 1 (Online) – **Will resume mid-September.**

Join Zoom Meeting: Please call the church office, 608/233-1880, for joining information.

Spiritual Renewal Group 2 (Online) – The group plans to continue to meet the **second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 4:00 PM.** Books are picked to help them grow through a spiritual journey. They have become a support group as well and endeavors to not share with the general public and no one is wrong. They do not discuss church business during meetings.

Join Zoom Meeting: Please call the church office, 608/233-1880, for joining information.

Welcome to Worship at First Baptist Church

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

Our Mission

The Mission of First Baptist Church is to follow Jesus by doing justice, loving people, and advocating for equity.

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, our sacred scriptures, 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.

First Baptist Church Madison

518 North Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI 53705-3699

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

Office Hours | Building Access

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