

**FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
OF MADISON

The Visitor

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

No. 3 March 3, 2023 Vol. 66

From the Church Leadership Council

Summary of Winter Business Meeting

The FBC Winter Business Meeting took place on February 12, 2023, from noon to 1:40 pm. It was a hybrid meeting, meaning that participants could attend (and vote) both in person and by computer. The Consent Agenda (previous minutes, 2022 Financial report, Pastor’s report, Music report, Membership report) were accepted as presented.

During the Discussion Agenda, the proposed budget for 2023 was accepted. Also, a motion from the Church Leadership Council to transfer \$8,759.60 from Dedicated Accounts to support the budget was approved. A motion from Wynn Davies to transfer half of the funds set aside in the Pathways Forward account to the Board of Outreach to address “unmet social and economic justice needs” was not approved.

The following people agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee and their nominations were approved.

Paul Chotlos, Chair; Barb Henning, Board of Outreach; Bill Hausler, Board of Trustees; Deb Chotlos, Board of Christian Education; Susan Dean, Board of Deacons

An Invitation from Your Nominating Committee

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to prepare nominees for positions that will become vacant on church boards in June. People that serve on church boards work together as teams to make the church better.

At the present time, church boards meet on a monthly basis using ZOOM. The Deacons, along with Pastor Tim, oversee the church’s spiritual and community life. Christian Education oversees the church’s educational mission for all ages. Outreach provides leadership for the mission of the church in the wider community. The Board of Trustees oversees the resources of the church, including financial resources, maintenance of the building and employment of non-pastoral staff.

Serving on a church board is a great way to feel more connected to church and to make new friends. If you feel called to serve on a church board, please reach out to Paul, Barb, Bill H, Deb, Susan, or to Pastor Tim.

Paul Chotlos, Bill Fiore, Mary Fiore, Curt Grinde, Lynette Miller

LENT | EASTER SCHEDULE & READINGS

Sunday 2/26

The First Sunday in Lent: Who will you listen to?
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 | Matthew 4:1-11

Sunday 3/5 - 10:30AM

The Second Sunday in Lent: How do we begin again?
Genesis 12:1-4a | John 3:1-17

Sunday 3/12 - 10:30AM

The Third Sunday in Lent: Will you give me a drink?
Exodus 17:1-7 | John 4:5-42

Sunday 3/19 - 10:30AM

The Fourth Sunday in Lent: Who sinned?
John 9:1-41

Sunday 3/26 - 10:30AM

The Fifth Sunday in Lent: Can these bones live?
Ezekiel 37:1-14 | John 11:1-45

Sunday 4/2 - 10:30AM

Palm Sunday: Where are you headed?
Matthew 21:1-11

Friday 4/7 - 6:30PM (LIVESTREAM ONLY)

Good Friday: Why have you forsaken me?
Matthew 27:27-50

Sunday 4/9 - 10:30AM

Easter Sunday: Who are you looking for?
John 20:1-18



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

[Click here for the online devotional book](#)

Lenten Devotional Discussion

Weekly Zoom discussion based on our Lenten Devotional book.

**Thursdays - Next Discussion 3/2 - 6:30 PM
through 4/6**

Call the Office for the Zoom link.

FROM FBC'S FLOWER COORDINATOR

Flowers for the Sanctuary

Help us enhance the beauty of the sanctuary with chancel flowers. Your donations to the Flower Fund help us do that.

You can send your donation to the office, add it to your donation envelope and deposit it in one of the black boxes in the Gathering Space, or go online.

<https://tinyurl.com/FlowerFund> (select Flower Fund under Fund)

Thank you!

Easter Lilies Orders

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 office@firstbaptistmadison.org

Or mailed to the office

Or online at <http://firstbaptistmadison.org/flowers>.

Please submit your order no later than Sunday, March 26.

Shalom,
Linda Stamm

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



United
Women
in Faith

We serve.
We advocate.
We make a
difference

SAVE THE DATE!
2023 SOCIAL ACTION DAY
THEME: FAITHFUL CLIMATE ACTION
APRIL 15th 9:00am -NOON CST

VIRTUAL and CHURCH WATCH PARTIES

Speakers:

Elena Canler, M.A., M.P.H. (they/their) Deputy Director-Faith in Place - Elena is passionate about honoring the intersectional nature of environmental health and supporting Faith in Place as they address the social, racial, and economic roots of the climate crisis. They will address the increased impact of climate change on women and children.

Alexander Malchow, B.A. (he/his) WI Policy Coordinator-Faith in Place - Alexander's focus is on empowering people, clergy, and elected officials to make differences in the areas of energy and climate change, sustainable food and land use, and water preservation to care for the Earth through political advocacy, legislative education, and grassroots lobbying.

Rebecca Gregory, B.S. (she/her) Director of Development and Outreach United Methodist Children's Services of WI, Inc. (UMCS) - Rebecca will give a brief update on the accomplishments and future plans of UMCS including hydroponic gardens and adding green space in their neighborhood.

Donations will support UMCS

Contact Josie Gobel josiiegobel@charter.net by **March 1st** if your church will host a zoom watch party.

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER

Watch our website: <http://www.wisconsinumw.org/>

– Deb Chotlos, Chair

FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Deacons at Work

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the biblical requirement of a deacon is to have self-control in speech, in drink, and in the area of money. A further explanation explains, “Paul wants deacons to be men of upstanding moral character – men of dignity, husbands of one wife, and good managers of their children and households.” I would like to assure you that your deacons can ascribe to some of those attributes!!

More realistically, our FBC deacons are caring members of our church who serve primarily in the areas of worship and pastoral care, who work to create connections with our members, especially those who are vulnerable and in need of extra care, and with visitors who arrive on Sunday mornings wondering just what FBC is about. We meet with new visitors who attend monthly Meet and Greets, help welcome new members, and oversee our Communion Fund. We are typically described as a “very friendly church” and oftentimes, it is a deacon who is that first friendly face.

Have you ever considered being a deacon? If you love people, if you gravitate towards helping those who most need it, we hope you will consider this worthy role.

A church is not the building, it is the people, everyone finding and using their talents to be the hands and feet of Jesus. What are your talents, your interests? Might they fit into the role of deacon? As several of our current deacons will be ending their terms this May, we hope you will consider joining us so that we can work together to continue this vital ministry.

If you have questions, please see any deacon.

– *Mary Fiore, Chair, and your Board of Deacons:
Jennifer Angelo, Susan Dean, Barry Kita,
and Jill Thomas*

FROM THE BOARD OF OUTREACH

Easter Offering – Your Suggestions Count

The Board of Christian Outreach is seeking suggestions from the congregation for recipients of our Easter Offering. Please give your suggestions to Lynette, Barb, Wynn, Cheryl or the Church Office by March 12.

Christmas Offering 2022

Thank you for your Christmas Offering gifts. We were able to send \$6,080 to Heart Room, a program begun by Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ in collaboration with The Road Home, Joining Forces for Families and the Early Childhood Initiative. This program helps families achieve their goals and keep stable housing which is key for children to grow up safe and healthy, and learn in school.

FROM FBC'S BOOKKEEPER

January Financial Report

The operating budget has a current surplus of \$33,582.20, due largely to the \$23,800.00 of 2023 pledged prepaid last year and the \$18,586.36 surplus from last year.

The only Outreach budget expense was for the MLK Celebration, which was promised late last year, because there was no approved budget until the Winter Business Meeting (which took place on February 12). January is 8.33% through the year, and some budget lines are well above that already: 72 Guest Musicians at 30% of annual budget (i.e., three and a half months already spent); 83 Insurance at 112% (but little or no additional expense expected this year); and 81 Snow Removal at 60% (and as of February, over the annual budget). The Endowment Fund is up almost \$10,000 from the end of last year, but the total in the account is still under the principal amount.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

– *Nancy Moore, FBC Bookkeeper*

THE GREEN CORNER

More Salt is NOT Always Better

One of the things I love most about Madison are the Yahara lakes which the city is nestled in between. Spending time by the water can provide much needed moments of pause in an otherwise fast paced life. For this reason, Madison residents and adjacent lake lovers feel protective of our lakes. The things we do on land on our streets, sidewalks, driveways, yards, and gardens become connected to our lakes every time it rains or snows, giving us many opportunities to choose what sort of impact we make.

In the winter, many of us use road salt on our sidewalks and driveways to prevent ice hazards, but more salt is not always better. Recently, scientists at UW Madison have been investigating the impact of road salt use on lakes. In the Madison Lakes, salt levels have been increasing slowly but steadily over the last few decades. Increasing salinity in freshwater ecosystems can harm aquatic life as many of the living things in our lakes and streams are not adapted to high salt concentrations.

As individuals, we can reduce our use of road salt by following a few simple best practices. Wisconsin Salt Wise, a local coalition working to reduce salt pollution in lakes, recommends clearing sidewalks right away to reduce the formation of ice, scattering salt evenly and sparingly, or using sand for traction on the ice instead, especially when it is below fifteen degrees since salt cannot melt ice below that temperature. It is possible to keep our neighbors who are out for a stroll and our lakes safe at the same time!

by Matt Chotlos

Wisconsin Salt Wise

We rely on salt to keep our roads safe in the winter and to soften water in our homes year-round but using more salt than is needed comes with a [heavy price](#). Learn more about [#thetruecostofsalt](#) and how you can make a difference.

Source: <https://www.wisaltwise.com/>

VOLUNTEER / ADVOCATE

Second Harvest Foodbank



Join our team of volunteers Second Harvest Foodbank in packaging care boxes for families experiencing food insecurity.

Upcoming Dates:

Friday, March 17 | 8:15 - 11:30 AM

Friday, April 21 | 8:15 - 11:30 AM

Friday, May 19 | 8:15 - 11:30 AM

Contact the church office or Wynn Davies for more information.

FBC in the News



WKOW: Local faith leaders gathered at the First Baptist Church of Madison to discuss their role in countering White Christian Nationalism

For full article go to

<https://tinyurl.com/CounteringWCN>)

For presentation go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qS6FfBYhDJ4>

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](#)

FBC BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Spiritual Renewal 1

WE ARE STARTING A NEW BOOK!

On Monday evening, March 6, we will begin reading Freeing Jesus by Diane Butler Bass. We will be discussing the first chapter - "Friend"! Subsequent chapters will be discussed as follows (subject to change!):

March 20 - Chapter 2, Teacher;

April 3 - Chapter 3, Savior;

April 17 - Chapter 4, Lord;

May 1 - Chapter 5, Way;

May 15 - Chapter 6, Presence

If this is something that might be of interest to you, PLEASE join us! Any questions? Contact Bill Hausler hhausler@tds.net

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Church Family:

Bert A; Jim D; Mary F; Susan H; Linda O; Curt G; Rhiannon T; Paul H; Sara S; Doris E

Our Homebound:

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

Others:

Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

(To add prayer requests, send your request to the office email, office@firstbaptistmadison.org.)

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

1 Sheila D
2 Marni B
9 Bessie W
11 Bill F
12 Molly D
12 Joan T
13 Pam M
16 Lesa R
19 Perry H
20 Carrie S
20 Sally D
22 Wynn D
25 Susan C
26 Chris B
30 Anna D
31 Beth G

APRIL

4 Laura D
12 Dorothy S
13 Aaron H
15 Noriko K
17 Wayne B
18 Geta C
25 Judy M
26 Tanya B
26 Gladys C
26 Steve B
26 Dale H
28 Tim C
29 Robbie G
29 Carmen P
30 Brenna K

REMEMBRANCE & CELEBRATION

On February 25, a service of Remembrance and Celebration for Lenore Coberly took place at FBC.



You can view the service at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hD_sH_jqqR4

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

2023 Lectionary Readings

The current year's lectionary is Year A. Below is a link to a pdf, which you can download and keep so that you can refer to the week's specific readings.

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=A&season=Epiphany>

You can also view and read the specific reading by going to <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

Ways You Can Give

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

(See blue, boxed information on last page for ways you can give.)

Church Office Hours

Office: Monday – Friday – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705
(608) 233-1880

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 is off on Mondays.

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 – 1st of the month, 200-word limit. This monthly newsletter provides church news, summary of activities, future events, and updates.

Worship Services

Sunday Mornings

In-person – join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. Fellowship time after worship.

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:

Call the office for Zoom link.

Thursday Evenings @ 6:30PM (Feb. 23 - Apr. 6)

Lenten Devotional Discussions on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82227993252?pwd=SWp4MFJpMThiSFU2WHJZTXpzMVpjdz09>

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 office for the Zoom link.

Hourglass Bible Study (Online) – The Hourglass class is currently reading Paul's letter to the Romans, which is a thorough but sometimes challenging explanation of Paul's understanding of Christianity. We will take our time, reading this letter through March 6, as we explore both what the letter may have meant to the Romans in the context of their time and circumstance and what the letter means to us today. All views are welcome in this safe place to ask questions and explore your understanding of the Bible.

Hourglass meets via zoom **from 4:30 to 5:30**

on Sunday afternoons. Questions? Contact Mary Ray at mbray5@sbcglobal.net.

Join Zoom Meeting: Please call the office for the Zoom link.

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 office for the Zoom link.

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 office for the Zoom link.

Update - Spiritual Renewal Group 1 (Online) – This small group meets the first and third Monday of the month at 7 PM via Zoom. **On Monday evening, March 6,** we will begin reading Freeing Jesus by Diane Butler Bass. We will be discussing the first chapter - "Friend"! **On March 20,** we will discuss Chapter 2, "Teacher". If this is something that might be of interest, we invite you to join us. Questions? Contact Bill Hausler at hhausler@tds.net

Join Zoom Meeting: Please call the office for the Zoom link.

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 office for the Zoom link.



In recent years we've seen unprecedented attacks on our community specifically targeting transgender and non-binary youth, on the rise -- from attempts to prevent youth from participating in sports to silencing teachers who educate on LGBTQ+ issues, to attempts to ban gender affirming healthcare. Fair Wisconsin has been at the forefront fighting these attacks and we need your help.

fairwisconsin.com/bigshare



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ 60 Organizations in Coalition
- ✓ 5,000+ Calls to Legislators
- ✓ 10,000+ Pages of Testimony
- ✓ 12 Rallies Across the State

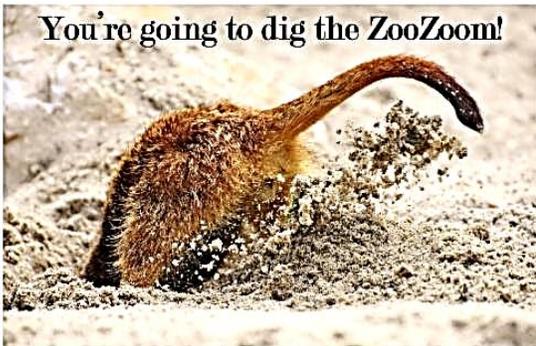
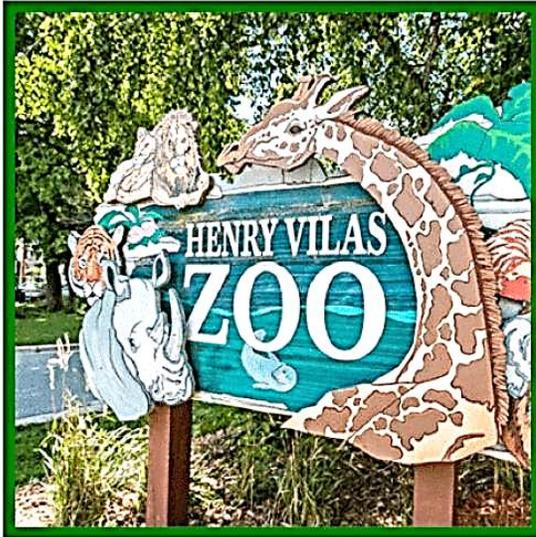
**You're Invited to the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit,
June 23-25, 2023 in San Juan, Puerto Rico**

Registration for the 2023 Biennial Mission Summit is not open! Visit www.americanbaptists2023.com to learn about our plenary speakers and workshop presenters and to view the schedule and learn more about all sessions offered. We hope you will join us in San Juan, with events beginning Thursday, June 22, 2023.





Our March Zoom Event is the ZooZoom presented by Lauren Salzmann, Volunteer Coordinator with the Henry Vilas Zoo. Lauren will discuss volunteer opportunities and training to become an Animal Advocate at the Zoo. The program is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. To be placed on the list to receive the Zoom link, email Jack Guzman at jguzman@rsvpdane.org.



You're going to dig the ZooZoom!

Join us for our March, 2023
ZooZoom Event:
Guest Speaker
Lauren Salzmann,
Volunteer Coordinator,
Henry Vilas Zoo
Thursday, March 23, 2023
1:00 - 2:30 PM

Did you know that you can do volunteer work as an animal advocate working with animals at Henry Vilas Zoo? Animal Handling Docents work with our education animals to teach kids and families about wildlife conservation. From Egyptian tortoises, to pythons (named Monty), to African bullfrogs, this is an incredible opportunity to work with the Zoo team and make lasting friendships.

If you're interested, but might be feeling a little nervous about handling animals, then this Zoom is for you. In this meeting you'll have the chance to meet our education staff, other retired Animal Handling Docent volunteers, and, of course, one of our education animals. We'll be talking about what the program is like, what you could expect as an AHD, and how you can get involved.

To receive a Zoom link for this event, please email jguzman@rsvpdane.org by 03-21-2023.



Set the Captives Free Annual Gathering 2023

April 21-23, 2023
Oakhurst Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Keynote Speaker:

Derecka Purnell: human rights lawyer, researcher, and author of *Becoming Abolitionists: Police, Protests, and the Pursuit of Freedom*. She works to end police and prison violence by providing legal assistance, research, and training in community-based organizations through an abolitionist framework.



[Register Now](#)

First Baptist Church of Madison

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

Ways To Give

1



OFFERING BOXES

Place your cash or check gift in the black offering boxes located in the Gathering Space.

2



ONLINE

firstbaptistmadison.org/give



3



MOBILE

Text the word "GIVE" to (608) 610-1600

Or give through the Church App

firstbaptistmadison.org/app

4



MAIL

Mail your gift to:

First Baptist Church
518 N. Franklin Ave.
Madison, WI 53705

ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES

ORDERS ARE DUE 3/26
COST IS \$17 PER PLANT



NUMBER OF LILIES: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY / CELEBRATION / APPRECIATION OF:

RETURN YOUR ORDER FORM AND PAYMENT BY MAIL
OR PLACE IN A BLACK COLLECTION BOX
IN THE GATHERING SPACE

TO ORDER AND PAY ONLINE, VISIT:
FIRSTBAPTISTMADISON.ORG/FLOWERS