

The Visitor

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

No. 9

September 6, 2023

Vol. 66

You're Invited Back to Church!

The beginning of fall marks a time of change. As the days get shorter and temperatures cool, we transition from vacation to a new school year, from growing to harvesting, and suddenly pumpkin spice is everywhere. In the life of our church, we prepare ourselves for the beginning of a new liturgical year as Advent approaches, and we begin the process of planning our new fiscal year. What a perfect time to celebrate what we have done so far this year and dream about what comes next. Please join us for a special Sunday where we do just that—celebrate and dream.

On Sunday, September 24, we will hold a special Back to Church Sunday celebration in worship, followed by a potluck meal. So please bring a dish to share, join us for worship, and stay for a time of good food and fellowship!

What is Back to Church Sunday?

Back to Church Sunday is all about celebrating the many ways God has been active in our communal life and recommitting ourselves to the work ahead. It's a great way to remind ourselves of our mission, reach out to our community, and kick off our ministry year with an outward focus.

Bring a Friend

If you have ever thought about inviting a friend to join you on Sunday morning, here's your chance.

This service and community meal will highlight what we're all about—loving our neighbors and pursuing justice. That's why we are spreading the word about this special Sunday throughout our community. We know that people are far more likely to attend church when they are invited by someone they know, so here's how you can help:

- 1. Share the event with your friends on social media. Like and share posts from the church. If you're on Facebook, look for the Back to Church Sunday event on the church page, mark that you're attending, and invite your friends.
- 2. Pick up a few invitations from the church to give to your neighbors, co-workers, or friends. Hand them out or hang them on their doors (the cards are pre-punched to hang easily on doorknobs and handles).

This Year's Theme

Back to Church Sunday will kick off our theme for the upcoming year: Rooted in Community. How do we support the needs of our community? How will we be good neighbors? How will we nourish the soil that strengthens our roots? What actions and attitudes need to be weeded out to promote the flourishing of our faith community? These are just some of the questions we'll be asking throughout the year as we explore what it means to live out our faith and fulfill our mission.

I look forward to seeing you at our Back to Church Sunday celebration!

Blessings, Pastor Tim



COMMUNITY MEAL AFTER WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 24

BRING A FRIEND!



We'll provide the main course. Please bring a side dish to share.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Upcoming Special Services

Sunday, September 10 – We will observe Suicide Prevention Week with a "Service of Hope and Healing" as part of the National Action Alliance for Suicide's *Faith.Hope.Life* initiative.

Sunday, September 24 – We will hold a special **Back to Church Sunday** celebration in worship, followed by a potluck meal. So please bring a dish to share, join us for worship, and stay for a time of good food and fellowship!

Save the Date

September 2023 RMMO & WMO Offerings

Friday, 9/8, 9:30AM, Church Women United Forum, FBC, Fellowship Hall

Friday, 9/15, 8:15AM - 11:30AM, Volunteer @ 2nd Harvest, 2802 Dairy Drive, Madison, WI

Wednesday, 9/20, 5:30PM, Wednesday Potluck Dinner, Fellowship Hall

Fast Action Interfaith Response Team (FAIR)

Join the **Fast Action Interfaith Response Team** (**FAIR**) to receive periodic text messages inviting you to participate in social justice actions that have been vetted by one of our partner organizations.

CLICK TO JOIN HERE

FROM YOUR MODERATOR

Church News – August 2023

The newly organized Church Leadership Council met on August 2 for a picnic and meeting.

Attending were Paul Chotlos (Moderator), Erica Kersten (Vice Moderator), Carla Eakins (Church Clerk and Board of Deacons), Wynn Davies (Board of Outreach), Bill Fiore (Board of Trustees), Deb Chotlos (Board of Education) and Pastor Tim Schaefer. Alan Ferguson represented the Racial Justice Team.

The Council will meet about once per month, typically on the 4th Wednesday. In addition to carrying out responsibilities specified in the FBC bylaws (long range planning, supporting discipleship, creating a Nominating Committee, budgeting), the Council will hold discussions about dreams and visions for the church.

Our campfire talk consisted of addressing two questions:

- (1) Why did you join First Baptist, and is the church still important to you for the same reasons?
- (2) What do you think people are looking for in a progressive church and how well does First Baptist address their needs?

Discussion focused on the sense of community and the need for diversity. The issue of the aging congregation was discussed as well as the challenges of attracting and welcoming new folks. Where do we sense God's call? How does our church and ministry need to change so that it can grow and flourish?

Visitors are welcome at our Church Council meetings and our minutes are available from the Church Office.

- Paul Chotlos, Moderator

FROM BILL BEAUDREAU

Magic Pride Festival & Interfaith Pride Service



Days of Celebrations August 20 & 21, 2023

Magic Pride Festival

With the utmost gratitude, I want to personally thank everyone for your

contributions and the participation of our congregation at Magic Pride Festival this past Sunday, August 20. It was an extravagant welcome on our behalf, despite the high temperatures and humidity. We had glorious shade at the start, but by the end, we were hit by direct sunlight. Fortunately, the shelter of the tent helped alleviate the situation.

During the day, we simply shared the written affirmations that were written out in advance. We were able to attract attention to our outreach efforts with a simple 'hello' and a 'would you like an affirmation?'. The majority of the responses to the cards were, "This is perfect." "It's what I needed today.", even after some hesitancy on the part of some. We also shared the newly made stickers, which touched hearts even more. However, there were a fair share of replies that stated 'no' to an affirmation and an equally fair share of those strolling along the path that avoided eye contact with us.

Our tent was right next to the public library. They were great neighbors; we were color coordinated, and their button-making and our handing out affirmations were in sync.



Many conversations ensued (including with two folks whose grandparents or great-grandparents were members of FBC), connections were made, many people asked where we were located, and we planted seeds of acceptance and love. We were one of many congregations trying to reverse the tide of rejection and hate.

Please reach out and say thank you to Mat Gunshor, Russell Novkov, Mary Fiore, and Paul Chotlos for being present in front of thousands of people to receive our message while braving the heat of the day.

Interfaith Pride Service

I also want to share that I attended the Interfaith Pride Service at Bethany United Methodist



Church. Of note, Rev. David Hart of Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church summoned up a call and response message that stirred up the house. Overall, it was music-filled, uplifting, and contained strong messages of healing, love, and calls to action. Below are a few photos from the service.



(Photos courtesy of Our Lives magazine.)

– Bill Beaudreau

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Update from the August 22nd Trustees' Meeting

Here are some key items from our meeting...

- We are changing insurance carriers to Church Mutual. Our current carrier (Grinnell) will no longer insure churches with bell towers.
- We approved a request to remove some back pews from the sanctuary to make space for a new sound board and a multiuse area.
- New carpeting has been installed on the first floor and Fellowship Hall landings as well as the Towner Hearth Room.
- Our grant proposal to CESA to improve building security (outside doors, additional video monitoring, church access) was not approved.
- Possibilities for the use of the Parfrey bequest were discussed. This bequest was designated for building repairs and maintenance (We are grateful to Ruth and Byron for remembering us!)
- Our new Music Director Youngjoo Hong began the beginning of August.

Feel free to contact me or a board member with any questions. Peace.

- Bill Hausler for the Board of Trustees

FROM THE BOARD OF OUTREACH

World Mission Offering

Each year First Baptist Madison takes a special offering in support of the international ministries of nearly100 American Baptist "Global Servants" (we used to call them "missionaries") who partner with the people of other countries in which God is at work in the world. This year your Board of Outreach has selected two Global Missionary couples whose ministries we will help to support

with our World Mission Offering. We would like to introduce them to you.

Kyle and Katrina Williams and their family are serving in Thailand – just across the border from Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) in which a repressive military régime has been persecuting a large Christian minority – the Karen People -- thousands of whom are refugees, driven from their homes.



Kyle centers his ministry at the Kawthoolei Hope Theological Seminary – founded with support from our American Baptist denomination. Katrina teaches chemistry at the Chiang Rai International Christian School – one of few schooling options available in northern Thailand.

Katrina and Kyle have been serving as Global Servants for ten years. In that time, they lived on three continents, each with its unique culture and language to tackle. Kyle's primary focus is working with refugee students to train and equip peace makers. Together he and his students discuss strategies for peace building alongside the persecuted church inside Burma. Having graduated the first cohort of students, they are excited to see them returning to their home communities where they have found work as teachers, with churches, and with Non-governmental humanitarian organizations (NGO's) there.

Katrina has begun her fourth year of teaching science at Chiang Rai International Christian School. About 60 % of the student body is made up of children of missionaries while the other 405 are Thai children from various religious backgrounds.

This year she has taken on an additional role at the school working with struggling students.



Want to learn more about the Williams? Read their journals at

https://www.internationalministries,org/author/kkwilliams/

Jon and Amanda Good and their family have served in Hungary since November 2017. They partner with the Baptist Union of Hungary in ministries of outreach, discipleship, and education. Jon teaches seminary courses in Ukraine and Hungary. Amanda also teaches English at a local elementary school.



At the invitation of their partners, they build community through a weekly English Bible Study. Laughter, learning, hospitality, and Christian love serve to lift the light of Jesus in the midst of darkness and discouragement. This community is a place of hope for many in the Debrecen area who face isolation and loneliness.



From this Bible Study ministry, the International Baptist Church of Debrecen (IBCD) was born in October 2021. IBCD is the only fully English church in Debrecen. The church has already grown into its fourth location and seeks to live on mission with Christ. Over the past year and a half, they have partnered with local congregations to provide physical and spiritual support for displaced victims of the war in Ukraine. The hope of Jesus is being shared in Debrecen, and lives are being changed. and the ongoing prayer and financial support of His people.

The Goods make their home in Hungary with their children Sarah (20), Elizabeth (18), and Andrew (14). In July of 2023, Rachel (21) graduated from the University of Debrecen, and married Blake Schinzler of Moweaqua, Illinois. They now make their home in Normal, Illinois. Sarah is a sophomore, and Elizabeth is a freshman at the University of Debrecen. Andrew is studying Hungarian curriculum from the US this year while they are on home assignment.

Want to learn more about the Good's? Here is their International Ministries link:

https://www.internationalministries.org/author/good/

It is our hope that our relationship with these Global Servants will develop into a continuing one in which God will show us additional ways to support these families in their international ministries. Our World Mission Offering this year will give you an opportunity to support the work of these two couples as well as the central operations of International Ministries in support of the nearly 100 Global Servants serving throughout the world.

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering

"In everything give thanks."
I Thessalonians 5:18
"I thank God every time I remember you."
Philippians 1:3



In September First Baptist provides support for our American Baptist global servants (missionaries) through the World Mission Offering (WMO). Also, in September we remember retired pastors and missionaries who have served us here and abroad with a thank you gift to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO).

When I stop to give thanks for the pastors I have had, I am focused on the good I have received: the messages that bring peace, the encouragement to try new ventures and serve my neighbor, the joy of companionship and laughter. I am grateful for the creativity, wisdom, and long-suffering of the youth pastors who have led youth activities, Christmas plays, and mission trips for my children. I am grateful for the missionaries who have broadened my knowledge and understanding of people in other countries and the opportunities to participate in the hopes of people around the world.

RMMO funds are distributed as "Thank You" checks to ABCUSA retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to our denomination, as well as

surviving spouses. A certain portion is also allocated for direct emergency assistance.

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough." Meister Eckhart

- Your Board of Outreach

Clothing Donation Drive for Casa Alitas

First Baptist has, once again, been invited to collect clothing for Casa Alitas in cooperation with the Beth Israel Center.

Casa Alitas is a non-profit welcoming migrant families center that offers shelter, necessities and travel assistance to asylum seeking families in Tucson, Arizona (https://www.casaalitas.org/). The Beth Israel Center will be taking the collected items to Tucson, Arizona at the beginning of October. Items you donate can be placed in the large box inside the parking lot doors by September 24. New or newly washed and gently used items, please.

Suggested items are:

- Casual summer and non-bulky winter clothing (no underwear clothing)
- Shoes, especially flip flops, sandals or tennis
- Men's clothing
 - Small Medium or Large (not XL)
 - Jeans, sweatpants (waist 28 to 34" length 27-32")
 - Shorts and caps
 - T-shirts; polos; sweatshirts; hoodies

• Women's clothing

- Small, Medium, Large (not XL)
- Jeans, sweatpants, leggings
- T-shirts and knits
- Maternity clothes

• Children's clothing

- T-shirts and knits (Sizes 6-18)
- Pants and shorts (sizes 2-16)
- Baseball caps; hats
- School quality backpacks (no string bags)

Thank you for helping those in need.

- Lynette Miller for the Board of Outreach

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Church Women United

Friday, September 8, 9:30 am

Church Women United's September meeting will be held at First Baptist Church in Fellowship Hall.

Refreshments begin at 9:30 and the program on ARC begins at 10:00. ARC is an organization that promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It actively supports their full inclusion in the community.

Everyone, including men, are invited.

About the Guest Speaker

Presentation on **ARC Community Services** and their projects serving women and children.

Linda Van Tol, Chief Operating Officer for ARC

Linda started her career as a Relief Counselor for ARC Community Services, Inc, and has since served in a variety of positions including, Case Manager, Substance Abuse Counselor, Program Manager for ARC's Drug Court and Treatment Alternatives Case Management Programs and Program Manager for ARC-Dayton and the Maternal and Infant Program, Director of Women's Treatment Services and Chief Operating Officer.

Linda received her bachelor's degree in Sociology and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and her master's degree in psychology, specializing in Marriage and Family Therapy, from Edgewood College. She has been a licensed Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor since 1998.

Linda has worked in the correctional field in Wisconsin since 1993. Her current position is Chief Operating Officer for ARC. She works closely with the Department of Corrections with ARC's five residential treatment programs funded primarily through the DOC. Her position requires her to work with agents, supervisors, PPAs, county jails, social workers, and other positions within the correctional system; she also works with our anti human trafficking project as well as our outpatient treatment services for women and children. We work together with everyone who works to meet the ever-changing needs of women- both justices involved and not.

The meeting will be in person and on Zoom for those who would rather avoid in-person activities.

Zoom Link:

Please call the office for Zoom link information.

– Lynette Miller

FROM FBC'S BOOKKEEPER

Financial Report as of July 21, 2023

The July financial reports are, again, slightly out of balance by small amounts.

Operating Fund Assets minus Operating Fund Liabilities on the Account Balance report are \$10.52 more than the Income minus Expenses shown on the Budget report. Also, the 798 Offset Current Period Changes are \$3.00 too high and 798 Offset Current Period Changes are \$3.03 too low, for an out of balance in the total of only \$.03.

We are now 58.33% through the year, and the budget income stands at 61.94% of the annual budget, and budgeted expenses are at 57.18% of the annual budget.

If you wish to receive the monthly reports or have any questions, please contact at bookkeeping@firstbaptistmadison.org.

- Nancy Moore, FBC's Bookkeeper

THE GREEN CORNER

Socks are Recyclable Too



The Green Team has added socks to the list of items we are recycling.

We are accepting the following items: Clean old worn-out socks, socks with holes, stretched-out socks, frayed socks, and socks without a mate. Just about any sock you won't wear.

The Sock Recycle basket is located on the floor next to the other recycle totes in the hallway across from the office.

- Barb Henning for the Green Team: Lynette Miller, Wynn Davies, Gil Emmert, Mary Ray

FROM THE BOARDS OF ED

Wednesdays Potluck Dinners Continue

Wednesday, September 20 - 5:30PM Fellowship Hall



Invite a Friend

Join us for a church potluck meal every third Wednesday of the month. If you haven't

attended previously, it is a relaxing social event with awesome food and conversation. You should come!

At September's potluck we would like to highlight vegetarian dishes, so please consider bringing your favorite plant-based dish to share.

We hope to see you there!

- Deb Chotlos for the Board of Education

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer @ Second Harvest



Friday, September 15, 8:15AM - 11:30 AM

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

Contact the church office or Wynn Davies for more information.

THANK YOU...FROM

First Baptist friends,

Thanks to everyone that prayed and sent their good wishes for Jenny. She is improving and back to work part time.

- Jan Arneson & Family

Thank you, Davison family!

Jim Davison informed FBC that he and his family would like the memorial gifts in memory of Edith to be used for furnishings in the project to refurbish the Helen Towner Hearth Room.

This seems such a fitting gift in memory of Edith who was the driving force for many years in the "Decorating Committee" that resulted in many improvements to our church facility and worship experience. Thanks Jim, to you and your family.

- Wynn Davies, Chair Investments and Planned Giving Subcommittee

Congratulations, Ted



Our Organist & Handbell Director, Ted Reinke, will be celebrating his 50th anniversary as an organist this weekend.

What an amazing career.

Thank you for the many hours of beautiful organ music during our services and events.

- From all of us at FBC

STUDY GROUPS UPDATE

Hourglass Bible Study

The Hourglass Bible Study will begin again on Sunday, September 10. We meet every Sunday from 4:30 to 5:30 on Zoom. **Through October 8** we will read I, II, and III John.

On September 10, we will start by reading and discussing I John 1:1 to 2:17.

We invite everyone to join.

Zoom Link:

Please call the office for Zoom link information.

Spiritual Renewal 1

Spiritual Renewal Group 1 will have its first gathering of the fall via Zoom on Monday, September 18 at 7 PM. After that, the group will meet the first and third Mondays of the month at the same time.

We will start this fall by reading and reflecting on the book <u>Screwtape Letters</u> by C. S. Lewis. In preparation for the first gathering we will read the introduction and first two chapters (letters...!). If this sounds interesting to you, please join us! Connecting information is given below and if you have questions, please feel free to contact Bill Hausler at hhausler@tds.net or 608-231-2890!

Zoom Link:

Please call the office for Zoom link information.

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
3 Brett T	3 Stuart B
5 Alan F	5 Olivia H
6 Christopher E	7 Angela T
8 Heather Z	11 Bill H
8 Pihra P	14 Scott H
9 Cheryl C	16 Greg D
9 Jeff K	17 Benito L
12 Charlotte E	18 Carolyn C
14 Judy C	19 Janet R
14 Tyler M	21 David E
16 Claire R	21 Marci H
20 Ashley B	21 Jason M
20 Rachel E	22 Jody L
24 Jeanette K	25 Richard B
25 Bob M	29 Ted R
25 Rhiannon T	
27 Moira K	
29 Linda M	

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Church Family: Curt G; Nancy M's sister, Marty; Cheryl C; Bert A; Ann P

Our Homebound: Sheila D; Harley Y; Linda O; Glenn F

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

(Send your prayer request to the office email at office@firstbaptistmadison.org.)

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

Season after Pentecost

https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=A&season=Season%20after%20Pentecost

You can also read the specific scripture readings 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.)

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.

Church Office Hours

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

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 Service

Sunday Mornings

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

Online

Livestream to Worship:

http://live.firstbaptistmadison.org

Zoom Fellowship Time:

Please call the office for Zoom link.

Livestream to YouTube:

https://tinyurl.com/eubzz6mr

Livestream to Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/FBCMadison

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

FBC Bible Study and Other Groups

<u>Men's Breakfast (Online)</u> – **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 Zoom link information.

<u>Updated Hourglass Bible Study (Online)</u> The Hourglass Bible Study group will meet via Zoom starting Sunday, September 10. We meet every Sunday from 4:30 to 5:30 on Zoom.

Through October 8, we will read I, II, and III John. **On September 10**, we will start by reading and discussing I John 1:1 to 2:17.

Join Zoom Meeting:

Please call the office for Zoom link information.

<u>FBC @ Prayer (Online)</u> – 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 Zoom link information.

<u>Updated</u> <u>Spiritual Renewal Group 1 (Online)</u> will have its first gathering of the fall via Zoom on Monday, September 18 at 7 PM. After that, the group will meet the first and third Mondays of the month at the same time.

We will start this fall by reading and reflecting on the book <u>Screwtape Letters</u> by C. S. Lewis. In preparation for the first gathering we will read the introduction and first two chapters (letters...!).

This is a "Sherlockian" mystery - a departure from our usual format but similar to what we did last Summer. If you would like to join us for this book reading over the summer - you are invited! If you have questions, please contact Janet Reinke (reinke4@mac.com).

Join Zoom Meeting:

Please call the office for Zoom link information.

<u>Spiritual Renewal Group 2 (Online)</u> – The group will resume in September. 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 Zoom link information.

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



CITSONS Afternoon

SOPRANO YoungJoo Hong



2023.8.26.2:00PM Sequoya Library 4340 Tokay Blvd. Madison Wi

2023.9.9.12:00 PM Grace Episcopal Church 116. W. Washington Ave. Madison, Wi

MEZZO SOPRANO

Jessica Schwefel



Susan Gaeddert



2023.9.8.5:00 PM

Oakwood Village Prairie Ridge

5565 Tancho Dr. Madison WI 53718

2023.10.20.12:00 PM

University of WI-Whitewater Light Recital Hall, Greenhill Center of the Arts

950 W. Main St. Whitewater,WI





