

**FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
OF MADISON

The Visitor

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

No. 10 October 5, 2023 Vol. 66

From Our Moderator

In the tradition of our church, during the months of October and November we host a stewardship campaign. Most people tend to think of making a pledge in a narrow sense in terms of a financial gift, but it is important to remember that a church pledge can also consist of time and service. Christians also agree that the amount of the pledge is not as important as the spirit in which the pledge is made.

Prior to making a pledge, it is important to set aside those negative thoughts that sometimes preoccupy us and consider God's good gifts. As you count your blessings, consider how your church is a blessing as well. If you have been part of First Baptist Church for a long time, what difference has it made in your life? In terms of the here and now, in what way does the church meet your spiritual and social needs? How does the church benefit the larger community? Do you think that it is important to continue supporting this church so that it has a future?

The culture of our country and the world is rapidly changing, and many people report feeling isolated and hopeless. Our church can help. We must stay true to our progressive Christian stance, with its emphasis on inclusion and justice. We also need to strengthen our commitment to each other and to the larger community.

The Stewardship theme this year is *Rooted in Faith. Rooted in Community*. The phrase *Rooted in Faith* affirms our commitment to following Jesus, embracing faith, and living spiritually committed lives. The phrase *Rooted in Community* refers to community in both a narrow and a broad sense. We want everyone in our church community to feel a loving spirit of support and encouragement. The church needs to be a place that celebrates diversity,

strives to be anti-racist, welcomes and affirms LGBTQ+ people, and brings together young and old. We also want to be a church that is outward-looking, becoming increasingly connected to our larger community. The good news found within our sacred scriptures is rooted in love, equity, and justice. By sharing our vision of a world shaped by those faith-based values with our neighbors, we bring hope to those living in our neighborhood, city, state, nation, and world.

Our church is and has always been a work in progress. Throughout our 176-year long history, this congregation has continually reinvented itself to meet the needs of the moment. As we face new challenges and opportunities, we must tend to our roots while also promoting new growth. We invite you to invest in that work with us—through your gifts of time, energy, expertise, and finances. Come to Sunday worship or other church events. Be part of a welcoming and committed congregation. Learn from our exceptional pastor. Read your Bible. Rekindle your God light. Prayerfully consider where our call to follow Jesus is leading us.

Peace,
Paul Chotlos



Let's Talk Session

**Sunday, October 22, 2023
11:30AM – 1:00PM**

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) and the Racial Justice Team (RJT) are collaborating on a Let's Talk session, "Looking at FBC Through a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Lens."

It will be held right after church in Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be served. This session is hybrid so there will be a Zoom option. We invite you to join us as we take the pulse of the congregation about DEI at FBC. We hope to get a sense from you about where we are and how we move forward. Your feedback is important, so we look forward to seeing you in person or via Zoom!

Join Zoom: Please contact the office for Zoom link.

– *The PRC: Gil Emmert, Bill Hausler, Rebecca Hebblewhite, Erica Kersten, Tim Schaefer and Linda Stamm*

– *The RJT: Anna Donahoe, Alan Ferguson, Mary Fiore, Beth Gunshor, Tim Schaefer and Linda Stamm*

FROM THE RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM (RJT)

RJT Wants to Thank You

The Racial Justice Team (RJT) wants to thank YOU, First Baptist Church members and friends, for your support of the work of the church's RJT. We have offered opportunities for us to educate ourselves about issues related to race. While we will continue to provide opportunities for education, we want to use what we've learned as foundational to support and encourage our efforts, congregation-wide, to foster individual and corporate (FBC) change in the ways we engage around race.

We have updated the goals of the RJT to reflect our new focus and want to share a summary of them with you. The summary of our goals is:

...To move beyond education to introspection about our own individual and corporate (FBC) responsibility about how we engage with race within FBC. We want to make a long-term commitment to build a racial justice infrastructure within the church that incorporates continuous assessment and improvement of the church's policies and practices so that racial equity, diversity, and inclusion are embedded in the church's day-to-day functioning, worship and the ways in which we engage with each other...

It is critical to note that this work is not just the work of the RJT. While we are raising this work to a higher level of our collective consciousness, this work has to be a collaborative effort with church leadership, boards and the congregation. This work also calls for a shift in our orientation.

Our "go-to" is generally to focus on our formal outreach efforts. While that is important, that does not exempt us from the internal (individual and FBC) work that needs our attention. That work is often more challenging. That is the work that we are called to do in order to live out the church's mission, "to follow Jesus by doing justice loving people and advocating for equity."

The RJT is seeking members from the congregation who would like to join the Team. If you are interested, please feel free to contact any member of the RJT.

Our members are: Anna Donahoe, Alan Ferguson, Mary Fiore, Beth Gunshor, Tim Schaefer and Linda Stamm.

We welcome your feedback and your commitment as we engage in this work.

— Linda Stamm for the Racial Justice Team

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Update from the September 17 Trustees' Meeting

Here are some key items from our meeting...

- We acted on the use of our building by several renters. This generated discussion about our liability insurance coverage.
- We received a bid to update our Sanctuary AV system. This generated questions as well as the desire to seek a second bid.
- Children and youth rooms have been cleaned, painted, and refurbished thanks to Wayne and Amy Bischel and Paul and Deb Chotlos.
- Funds for furniture in the renovated Towner/Hearth/choir room will be provided by Jim Davison in memory of Edith.

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

— Bill Hausler for the Board of Trustees

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, 10/6, 9:30AM, CWU Forum, Bethany United Methodist Church, 3910 Mineral Point Rd, Madison, WI

Wednesday, 10/18, 5:30PM, Wednesday Potluck Dinner, Fellowship Hall

Friday, 10/20, 8:15AM - 11:30AM, Volunteer @ 2nd Harvest, 2802 Dairy Drive, Madison, WI

Sunday, 10/22, 11:30AM – 1:00PM Let's Talk, Discussion and light meal. 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 THE BOARD OF OUTREACH

Afghan Families Update

For almost two years FBC, Bethany UMC, and Orchard Ridge UCC members have been helping five Afghan families as they resettle in Madison. The good news is that, as of August 25, all five families are living in the Northport Apartments near Warner Park. The Northport Community is a supportive home for a large number of Afghan families. Not only do they have friends and family living there, but there is a community learning center where the families can participate in educational and social opportunities. The Northport Community is connected with local organizations offering support services to immigrants. For example, Madison College offers an ESL class there. And the Northport staff are well connected with the schools so, for instance, they facilitated school enrollments for the fall. The Northport Apartments provide Section 8 housing, so their rent is much more affordable. Plus, Northport has three-bedroom apartments that are so needed by the large Afghan families.

Northport Apartments is one of the six Madison and Milwaukee housing communities within [Housing Ministries of American Baptists in Wisconsin](#). FBC members on the Board of Directors include Jill Thomas, Bill Hausler, Gloria Hawkins, and Rev. Mark Clinger. Rev. Carmen Porco is the Executive Director.

The five Afghan families continue to be challenged by low-income jobs, by large families, by cultural and language barriers, and by children with disabilities. But at Northport they can get support of other Afghans who speak their language, and

who have experience and knowledge to share. They have high hopes, such as in starting an Afghan restaurant or store someday. FBC members will continue to offer their friendship to the families.

Please do continue to encourage your Congressional legislators to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act to provide a citizenship path for all Afghans and do keep the families in your prayers.

Ideas for the FBC 2023 Christmas Offering



The Board of Outreach invites you to submit ideas for organizations that could be supported by our 2023 Christmas offering. In recent years, the Christmas offering has gone to Madison organizations that provide affordable housing and budget counseling, that work to prevent homelessness, that help Afghan families resettle, that stock food pantries, and that deliver church-based mental health therapy services.

If you have ideas for how this year's offering could be used in ministry, please submit them to the church office or to a Board of Outreach member by October 23.

Thank You for Your Donations



FBC received clothing donations through the end of September for Casa Alitas. 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/>).

Your donations were taken to the Beth Israel Center in Madison to be transported to Tucson,

Arizona at the beginning of October for distribution.

Your Board of Outreach is grateful for your donations and support. Thank you.

– *Board of Outreach: Cheryl Castillo, Wynn Davies, Barbara Henning, Lynette Miller, Dennis Ray*

FROM THE BOARDS OF ED

Wednesdays Potluck Dinner

Wednesday, October 18 - 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!

We hope to see you there!

– *Deb Chotlos for the Board of Education*

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer @ Second Harvest



Friday, October 20 - 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.

THE GREEN CORNER

Turn the Tide on Ocean Pollution and Poverty

Recently, looking for inspiration for this article, I asked a manager at Metcalfe's Market (West Towne): "What is the best Green-thing Metcalfe's is doing?" He responded quickly and proudly, "Our grocery bags."



Proud he should be. Their "plastic" bags are gray, strong, sturdy, and reuseable. And, with just a little digging, I found out they are quite unique, and they are "Green" in an interesting way. These bags are made from recycled plastic collected off beaches and shorelines in risk zones. Crown Poly, the company making these bags, reports stopping nearly 12 million metric tons of plastic from entering the ocean each year.

Turning the Tide also stands for reducing the level of poverty in developing countries by creating new job opportunities for these families. The Crown Poly website has more information and a short and informative video on the good work being done and passed along to shoppers.

Why Recycled Ocean Plastic

"By using Recycled Ocean Plastic to create our products, we are helping reduce the amount of plastic waste pollution that enters the ocean each year, creating new jobs in developing communities, and helping educate future generations. Learn more about how to Turn the Tide on Ocean Pollution and Poverty."

Click here for "Why Recycled Ocean Plastic":

[Turn the Tide](#)

Did You Know

“While compostable bags seem like a win for the environment, the UN’s top environmental scientist, Jacqueline McGlade, calls them “a false solution.”

“It’s well-intentioned but wrong. A lot of plastics labelled biodegradable, like shopping bags, will only break down in temperatures of 50C [122 Fahrenheit] and that is not the ocean. They are also not buoyant, so they’re going to sink, so they’re not going to be exposed to UV and break down.”

– [The Guardian](#)

McGlade believes the best solution is to find better ways to collect and recycle plastic.”

Source: [Trader Joe’s Ditches Plastic Produce Bags and Switches to Compostable Ones - 5thBranch](#)

You Can Help

1. Reuse Plastic Bags

Reuse your plastic bags rather than grabbing new ones each time you go to the market. Turning the Tide gray, reuseable bags, is one example.

2. Bring Reusable Bags with You

Bring reusable bags with you to the grocery store, farmers market, or anywhere else you might need a bag (find a bunch of reusable bags for every budget [here](#)).

3. Support Plastic Bags Bans

Support plastic bags bans in your city or state.

4. Encourage Your Store to Change

Ask your local grocery store manager to switch to compostable or eco-friendly plastic bags. If enough people do, the store may make the switch.

Instead of Plastic

It goes without saying, reusable fabric bags and totes or paper bags are the better choice. Stack up on these, keep them with you every time you shop.



Also use vegetable bags such as the ones below instead of plastic.



More Information at:

<https://www.1millionwomen.com.au/blog/whats-deal-compostable-plastic/>

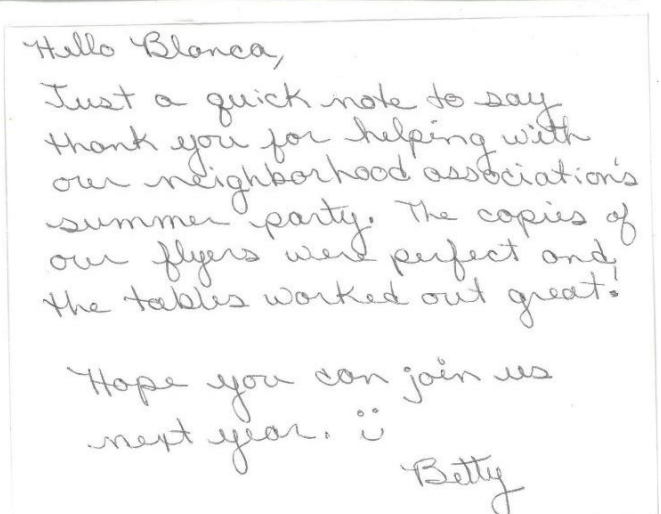
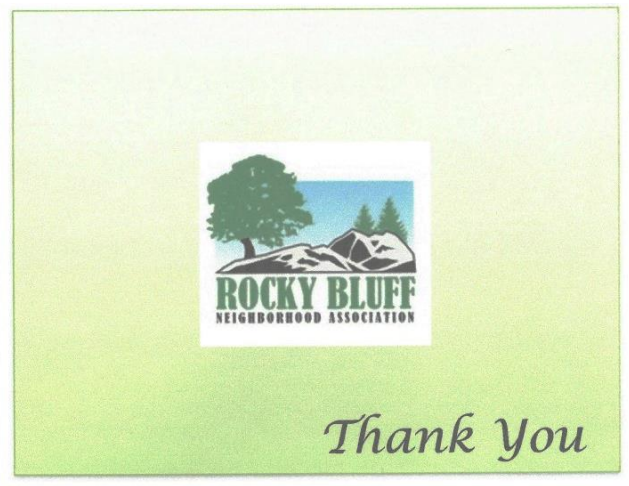
<https://www.crownpoly.com/oceanplasticfaq/>

<https://www.crownpoly.com/compostable/>

[Ocean plastic could triple in decade - BBC News](#)

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

THANK YOU...FROM



The Board of Outreach thanks you.



This month Katie Dean, Lynette Miller, and Jill Thomas provided two evening meals for the guests and staff at the *Healing House*, a place where a family or child experiencing homelessness can go to heal after surgery.

Let the church office know if you would like to help with this ministry in the future.



September 6, 2023

First Baptist Church
518 N Franklin Ave
Madison, WI 53705-3699

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you so very much for your donation. Your gift will be put to work right away as we work to *build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.*

At Habitat, we don't just build homes, we build communities. Together, we are building communities throughout Dane County in Sun Prairie, Madison, Stoughton, and will soon get started in Oregon. The need for affordable housing in Dane County is greater than ever. With your continued support, Habitat will keep working diligently until everyone has a safe and decent place to live.

So far, Habitat for Humanity of Dane County has helped 855 children have a home of their very own, including 29 children who moved into brand new homes in 2022. And that's just the beginning! The strong foundations created with their homes will lead to brighter futures and the lasting impact will be seen for generations to come.

Thank you for being a good neighbor to families in our community.

Sincerely,

Beth Larson, Vice President of Development
Habitat for Humanity of Dane County
608.255.1549 x 121
blarson@habitatdane.org

Thank you!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Church Family: Glenn F; Nancy M's sister, Marty; Bert A; Linda O; Ann P

Our Homebound: Sheila D; Harley Y

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

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

FROM TED REINKE

Thank you to everyone who helped celebrate my 50th anniversary as a church organist. I've never seen a card so big - and you filled it!



Thanks as well for the generous gift card. Janet and I are blessed to be a part of First Baptist!

Blessings,
Ted Reinke, FBC's Organist & Handbell Director

BIRTHDAYS

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

November

1 Jim L
7 Judy R
8 Carla E
9 Joy M
10 Mary F
10 Johan T
13 Una T
13 Laura CT
14 Deb C
17 Barbara M
20 Mark C
20 Jill T
28 Craig T

Daylight Savings Time ends 11-5-23.



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:

<https://tinyurl.com/Zoom-Fellowship-Time>

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>

Sunday, October 8 is Pastor Appreciation Day

Celebrate Pastor Tim Schaefer



October is Pastor Appreciation Month – Sunday, October 8, is the day we show our appreciation. It is a time set aside each year to honor and give thanks for our pastor who gives, cares, and serves us and our community in remarkable ways.

We appreciate and celebrate Pastor Tim Schaefer AND his husband, John W. Duncan.

How can we show them that we appreciate what they do, but also who they are to us and so many others?

1. Write a Note or Letter.

Write and mail a personal note of encouragement and appreciation. Take time to express personally what Pastor Tim and/or John mean to you.

2. Document Special Moments and Places.

Prepare a framed photo or painting to capture moments of worship and ministry throughout the month. Remember, digital photos are a great gift, too.

3. Become Time Guardians.

Try to help protect his time by doing everything you can to make sure he has enough time to prepare for his sermons and spend time with his family.

4. Add New Books to His Library.

Encourage his love of study and reading by adding some new books to his stack of must-reads.

5. Follow Your Feelings and Faith.

Any other “gift” or action that will let them know they are appreciated.

Go Orange 2023

WMTV Post of our Pics from Second Harvest, September 15

FBC's pics were uploaded to the WMTV Post. This is the link to the sight:

<https://www.nbc15.com/community/user-content/>



HUNGER ACTION DAY

**FOOD SHOULDN'T BE AN
IMPOSSIBLE CHOICE**



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, 608/233-1880 or email for joining link.

Hourglass Bible Study (Online) – Beginning October 15 and lasting until Easter, The Hourglass class will study the gospel of John, seeing how this gospel complements the three synoptic gospels and deepening our understanding of John's view of the meaning of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. Newcomers are always welcome--no previous experience is necessary. We also like to provide a safe place where all honest views of the meaning of the scripture are respected and shared.

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, 608/233-1880 or email for joining 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, 608/233-1880 or email for joining link.

Spiritual Renewal Group 1 (Online) meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7 PM via Zoom. We are reading and discussing the book - The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis.

Our coming schedule is as follows:

16 October - letters 8-13

6 November - letters 14-19

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!

Here is the connecting information.

Join Zoom Meeting: Please call the office, 608/233-1880 or email for joining link.

Spiritual Renewal Group 2 (Online) – The group resumed 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, 608/233-1880 or email for joining link.

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

