

**FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
OF MADISON

## *The Visitor*

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

No. 1

January 10, 2024

Vol. 67

### **NEW IN 2024: Building Beloved Community Speaker Series**

Coined in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century by philosopher Josiah Royce, the term “Beloved Community” was popularized and expanded upon decades later by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For Dr. King, the Beloved Community was not some lofty utopian goal, but rather a realistic vision of global equity achieved by a critical mass of people committed to the philosophy and practice of non-violence. Poverty, homelessness, and hunger will be no more in Dr. King’s vision of the Beloved Community. Racism and all other forms of discrimination and prejudice will be replaced by a spirit of togetherness and inclusion.

Dr. King’s vision was deeply rooted in his belief that human decency and compassion could prevail over fear and hatred, resulting in conflict resolution and reconciliation. This belief was influenced heavily by his faith values, just as many of us who are committed to this same vision likewise are driven by our faith.

In 2024, we will invite community leaders who are engaged in the work of Building Beloved Community in the Greater Madison Area to share their personal stories and reflect on how their faith influences their work. The *Building Beloved Community Speaker Series* will center the voices of BIPOC leaders from various community sectors—each of them sharing their unique expertise and experiences with us in worship on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

I hope you’ll join us for this exciting new series as we explore together what it means to build Beloved Community.

Blessings,  
Pastor Tim



### **FROM THE MODERATOR**

#### **January Pledging Update**

Thank you to those who made a financial pledge to First Baptist Church for 2024. Your pledge is the primary source of funding for church operations.

To date we have received 49 pledges for a total of \$208,308. The council will be using these pledges as the basis of an operating budget to be prepared for the 2024 Winter Business Meeting.

Blessings to all our members and friends in 2024!

Your Church Leadership Council,

*Paul Chotlos, Erica Kersten, Carla Eakins, Wynn Davies, Nancy Emmert, Alan Ferguson, Deb Chotlos*

#### **2024 Winter Business Meeting**

The First Baptist Church 2024 Winter Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall. There will be a light lunch at 11:30 am followed by the meeting at 12:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports, adopt an annual budget, approve a Nominating Committee, and to conduct other needed business. Similar to our worship services, the meeting will have a hybrid format. Congregants may attend in person after worship or virtually using a ZOOM link

to be provided at a later time. For those who decide to attend in person, we will provide a light lunch in Fellowship Hall between the end of worship and the start of the meeting.

If you have questions about the meeting contact Moderator Paul Chotlos.

## What's happening with Building Updates?

Work continues in the new year in several areas of the church building.

In the Sanctuary, Gil Emmert, Dennis Ray, Paul Chotlos, and Pastor Tim are in the process of securing multiple bids to upgrade the Sanctuary audio system. Dennis and Gil are audio magicians, but our aging system has its complications. New equipment will dramatically improve the sound quality in the Sanctuary and in the livestream broadcast.

In the Choir/Hearth Room, risers have been removed and new carpet, paint, and air conditioner have freshened things up. At the present time, we are working to upgrade furnishings so that the room is a comfortable space that can be used by many different groups, including the choir. See page 7 for suggested setups.

Projects in the children's Sunday School Rooms and the Music Office are also continuing. We have amazing volunteers that have provided many hours of service to us in upgrading these spaces! Thank you for being a blessing to us.

Peace,

*Paul Chotlos, Moderator*

## FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Update from the December Trustees' Meeting

Here are some key items from our last meeting...

1. We authorized Bill Fiore, Treasurer, to open accounts at Old National Bank (for greater

interest as well as viewing ability for our bookkeeper).

2. The Church Council has been given authority to determine use of bequests/memorials and asked for suggestions. Our top priority is an automatic door opener at the parking lot entrance (accessibility).
3. We discussed contracts for 2024 for some renters and service providers.
4. We reviewed several floor plans for the Hearth Room/Towner Room/Choir room continuing renovation.
5. We recognized that Youngjoo Hong, Music director, has successfully completed her probationary period.
6. We received an update on 2024 health insurance coverage for Blanca James, Administrative Secretary.

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

### Ministry Notes

The Board of Outreach deeply appreciates all that FBC members are doing in ministry. Here are a few examples from the holiday season. FBC members:

- Donated to the Christmas offering for Allied Fresh and the Black Business Hub Accelerator Program (\$8,520 given in total through Jan. 3).
- Donated winter wear for released prisoners from the Dane County jail.
- Helped Joining Forces for Families distribute Christmas presents to children in the Allied Dr. neighborhood.
- Delivered fruit baskets to two Afghan families.
- Packaged food at Second Harvest Foodbank for pantries in South Central Wisconsin.
- Donated to the JustDane Mentoring Connections gifts for children impacted by incarceration.
- Prepared two meals for the Healing House ministry of JustDane.

In addition, the Board of Outreach:

- Approved \$300 from the Outreach Dedicated Fund to use in providing Woodman's gift cards to an Afghan family undergoing a special hardship. FBC members and an FBC friend subsequently added another \$450 in gift cards.
- Requested members to ask the Biden Administration to support COP28 priorities.
- Donated \$113 to the FAIR Wisconsin Education Fund (<https://fairwisconsin.com/>) to educate the general public about the harms of anti-LGBTQIA+ discrimination and build more inclusive communities and workplaces for LGBTQIA+ Wisconsinites.
- Donated \$600 from the Outreach Dedicated Account to the Salvation Army's shelter for the homeless.
- Sponsored the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20 for \$50.
- Authorized expenditure of \$250 for co-sponsorship of the MLK Celebration on January 15.
- Purchased \$220 worth of essential household items and delivered them to the Allied Food Pantry.

Your donations of time and money are a blessing!  
Thank you.

*Your Board of Outreach*

## **Forward Community Investments moves its Offices to the Black Business Hub**

Forward Community Investments (FCI) has announced that it will move its offices to the Black Business Hub to enable it to better collaborate with the Hub and its efforts to provide technical assistance and startup capital to folks seeking to develop Black-owned businesses in the Community. Half of our recent Christmas Offering (\$8,520 raised so far) will be targeted to the Hub. First Baptist also has invested \$10,000 of our financial assets in FCI's loan fund.

FCI is an investor, connector, and advisor supporting organizations and initiatives that reduce social, racial, and economic disparities in Wisconsin

communities. It leverages funding from public and private sources to make loans to community businesses. For more information about FCI, go to <https://www.forwardci.org/>.

*Wynn Davies for the Board of Outreach*

## **The Dane Sanctuary Coalition Steering Committee**

The Dane Sanctuary Coalition would like to invite you to two upcoming events:

1. **January 18** at 7:00 pm – presentation from members of Beth Israel Center on their recent volunteer trips to Casa Alitas in Tucson. Throughout October, groups of volunteers from Beth Israel Center journeyed to Tucson to volunteer at Casa Alitas, a migrant welcome center. As the crisis at our border increases, the needs for help at Casa Alitas and similar migrant centers will only increase. Join us on January 18 and hear about the volunteers' experiences and how the trip came together. **The event will be in person at Beth Israel Center 1406 Mound St, Madison, WI 53711, and also livestreamed and/or on Zoom.**

**Please RSVP by January 15 using this google form:** <https://forms.gle/ZvKEVjZH4ooArTa48>

2. **January 29** at 7:00 pm – presentation from the Dane Sanctuary Coalition Steering Committee – **Budget 2024** and opportunity for Q&A with the steering committee on DSC programs. This event is open to all members of DSC congregations and organizations – please share with your members!

**On Zoom only. – Please register here to receive the zoom link**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAscOqs rDsvE9BmlSwHYzPdLGq4hpEFZYHr>

*Dennis Ray for the Board of Outreach*

## FROM THE RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

### Thank You



Thank you to those of you who purchased an ornament from the RJT last month. We also are grateful to those who donated an extra amount of money so that someone else could enjoy an ornament. While the ornaments were available around Christmas, we encourage you to display them year-round. The ornaments can be a reminder, particularly as we begin the New Year, of our desire to live out Micah 6:8.

There are 13 ornaments left with the suggested donation of \$10.00. This was not a fundraiser, but something the RJT wanted to share with the church. If you are interested in purchasing an ornament, please contact the church office or Linda Stamm.

Thank you again!

New Year's Greetings and Blessings from the Racial Justice Team!

*Linda Stamm for the RJT: Anna Donahoe, Alan Ferguson, Mary Fiore, Beth Gunshor, Tim Schaefer*

## FROM THE BOARD OF ED

### Thank You for Spreading Good Cheer



Thank you and blessings to the 17 carolers (ages 18 months to 90 years) and to those who provided delicious holiday cookies for the Christmas Caroling in December.

We received many words of thanks from those we visited. "That just brightened my day!" "The cookies were so professional looking and beautifully packaged."

It was a magical morning of spreading cheer and finding joy in connections.

### Wednesdays Potluck Dinner

**Wednesday, January 17 - 5:30PM**  
**Fellowship Hall**



The third Wednesday of the month, join us for a church potluck meal and for a time of community, conversation, and great food. If you haven't attended previously, it is a relaxing, social event. We hope to see you there!

*Deb Chotlos for the Board of Education*

## THE GREEN CORNER

### Odds and Ends 2024

The Drop-Off sites for City of Madison residents or taxpayers have changed. Visit their website at [www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites](http://www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites).

Disposal and Recycling items of interest:

- Christmas Lights – No Fee. Electronics Recycling at drop-off site.
- Christmas Trees (real) – Collected at curb in January as brush, weather permitting.
- Christmas Trees (artificial) – Tan refuse cart, large item work order for curbside pickup, or take to drop-off site. Metal pieces can be placed into metal bin at drop-off site.
- Wrapping Paper with foil – Tan refuse cart.
- Wrapping Paper without foil – Green Recycling cart of drop-off site.
- Bows, ribbons, and coated gift bags – Tan refuse cart.
- Greeting cards with foil, glitter, or battery-powered speakers – Tan refuse cart.

Have you been to the newly remodeled Drop-Off site on the West Side of Madison? It's located at 402 South Point Road. It is nicely designed, and in my opinion, an improvement.



Here's an interesting recycling website to checkout: [www.sustaindane.org/Better](http://www.sustaindane.org/Better). It contains information on recycling and includes several interesting short videos.

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

## STUDY GROUP UPDATE

### Spiritual Renewal Group 1

We will begin reading Hineni: An Imitation of Abraham by Alisa Kashmir.

In January we will meet via Zoom on the second and fourth Monday at 7 PM. The January Readings are: Monday, January 8 (up to and including the introduction); Monday, January 22 (I - Genesis 22). Starting in February we will return to meeting the first and third Mondays. The readings are: February 5 (II Hineni; February 19 (III Collected Wisdom from the Field pages 42-60). In March the readings are: Monday, March 4 (III Collected Wisdom From the Field pages 43-80); Monday, March 18 (IV Conclusion and Notes).

If this sounds interesting to you, please join us! Connecting information is below and if you have questions, please feel free to contact Bill Hausler at [hhausler@tds.net](mailto:hhausler@tds.net) or 608-231-2890! Here is the connecting information:

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://tinyurl.com/y2y9vx7u>  
Mtg. ID: 241 607 232 PW: 518608

If joining by telephone, the number is 1 (312) 626-6799 enter the Mtg. ID and password.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Our Church Family:** The Adams family & friends; Warren L; Sheila D; Susan H; Glenn F; Nancy M's sister, Marty; 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](mailto:office@firstbaptistmadison.org).)*

## OTHER NEWS

### Second Harvest Foodbank



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

**Friday, January 19, 2024, from 8:15 am - 11:30 am**

*Contact the church office or Wynn Davies for more information.*

## BIRTHDAYS

### January

1 Coral B  
3 Jan A  
4 Ann N  
5 Brenda L  
9 Judy S  
23 Paul C  
23 Mary R  
25 Virginia E  
26 Amanda C  
26 Herman T  
29 Dennis R  
29 Jeff M  
31 Bryn A

### February

5 Nathaniel C  
6 Lynette M  
7 Debbie E  
7 Paul H, Jr  
7 Evan Z  
8 Diane B  
9 Barbara E  
14 JungJa H L  
14 Vanessa K  
19 Susan D  
19 Harley Y  
21 Robert N  
22 Katie D  
25 Marianne D  
26 John M  
27 Glenn F  
27 Suzanne V

## ***OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION***

### ***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:**

Call Office for joining information.

##### **Livestream to YouTube:**

<https://tinyurl.com/eubzz6mr>

##### **Livestream to Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/FBCMAdison>

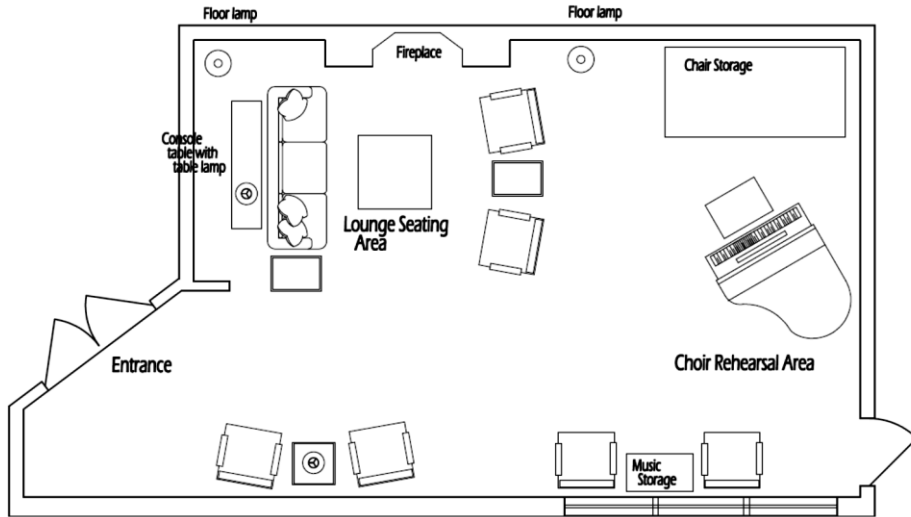
**If you missed the service**, you can go to FBC's YouTube Channel at any time and view it:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJHk7PdGaa700k4UFphlnhw/videos>

## **CHURCH CLOSED**

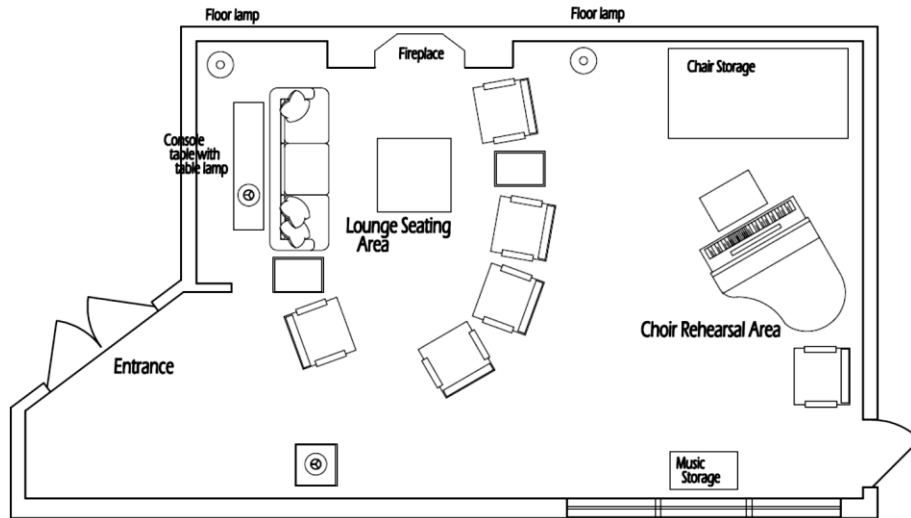
**Monday, January 15, 2024**

**The church will be closed in observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

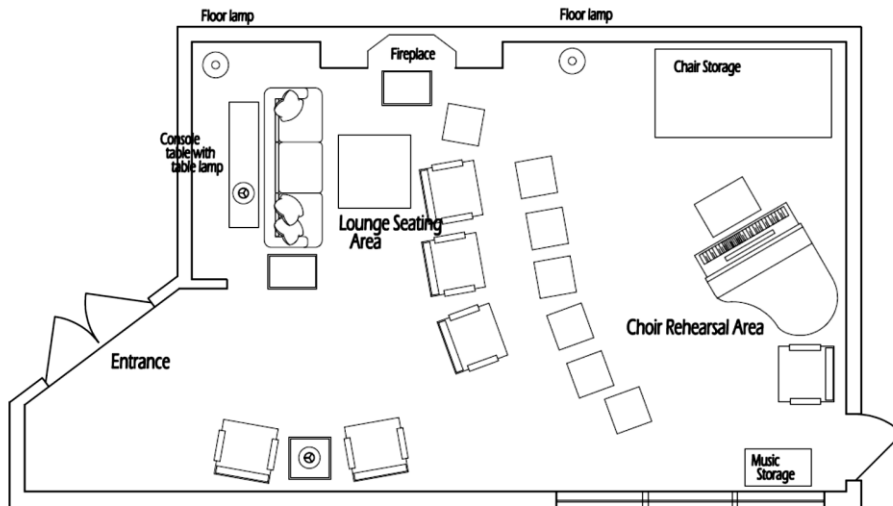
**See Page 10 for events.**



**HEARTH / CHOIR ROOM**  
Suggested setup for visitors  
12.17.2023



**HEARTH / CHOIR ROOM**  
Suggested setup for lounge use  
12.11.2023



**HEARTH / CHOIR ROOM**  
Suggested setup for choir rehearsal  
12.17.2023

## **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** - Call Office for joining information.

**Hourglass Bible Study (Online)** – 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](mailto:mbray5@sbcglobal.net).

**Join Zoom Meeting**- Call Office 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** - Call Office for joining information.

**UPDATE - Spiritual Renewal Group 1 (Online)** will meet via Zoom on the second and fourth Monday at 7 PM. The January Readings are: Monday, January 8 (up to and including the introduction); Monday, January 22 (I - Genesis 22).

Starting in February we will return to meeting the first and third Mondays. The readings are: February 5 (II Hineni); February 19 (III Collected Wisdom from the Field pages 42-60). In March the readings are: Monday, March 4 (III Collected Wisdom From the Field pages 43-80); Monday, March 18 (IV Conclusion and Notes).

If this sounds interesting to you, please join us! Connecting information for both meetings is give below; and if you have questions, please feel free to contact Bill Hausler at [hhausler@tds.net](mailto:hhausler@tds.net) or 608-231-2890!

**Join Zoom Meeting** - Call Office for joining information.

**Spiritual Renewal Group 2 (Online)** – 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** - Call Office for joining information.



**MADISON**



**KOREAN**

**AMERICAN**

**1/13/24**

**DAY**

**3PM-5PM**

**EAGLE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER**

**CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY OF KOR-AM  
IDENTITY THROUGH MUSIC, ART AND FOOD!**

**There will be food, Korean art, music, games, exhibitions  
Youngjoo Hong will be singing as well as the Korean Choir.**

## *MLK Day 2024 Observances*

View a list of upcoming events to observe the 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday culminating in the 39th Annual Madison & Dane County MLK Day Observance, welcoming Terrence Roberts, one of the “Little Rock Nine.”



*5:00PM – 8:00PM*

*OVERTURE CENTER CAPITAL THEATER*

### *39th Annual City of Madison & Dane County MLK Day Observance*

Hosted By [King Coalition](#)

Welcoming Terrence Roberts, one of the Little Rock Nine. Presentation of MLK Humanitarian Award by Mayor & County Executive. MLK Community Choir.

### *To See Other Events*

<https://mlkingcoalition.org/mlk-day-events-for-madison-dane-county/>

# WELCOME TO 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](mailto:fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org)

## Office Hours | Building Access

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

### Ways To Give

- 

#### OFFERING BOXES

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

#### ONLINE

[firstbaptistmadison.org/give](http://firstbaptistmadison.org/give)


- 

#### MOBILE

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

Or give through the Church App

[firstbaptistmadison.org/app](http://firstbaptistmadison.org/app)
- 

#### MAIL

Mail your gift to:

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



*The Visitor*

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699

(608-233-1880)

(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

**Worship Schedule**

Every Sunday @ 10:30 AM

Fellowship Time @ 11:30 AM

Next Publication: First Week of February 2024 – Article deadline is 1st of the month / 200 word limit.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL - MAILED – 1/10/24**