



**FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
OF MADISON

The Visitor

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

No. 2

February 8, 2024

Vol. 67

Fasting From Whiteness: A Lenten Journey



This month we will begin observing the season of Lent—the period of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus. Symbolizing the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and enduring temptation before beginning his public ministry, this has become for many Christians a time of introspection, repentance, and self-denial. Common practices during Lent include commitment to new spiritual disciplines, fasting, and giving something up.

What more perfect time is there than Lent to reflect on the ways we, as white individuals and congregations, have been complicit in white supremacy, to repent of our participation in the sin of racism, and to fast from our whiteness. During Lent, we will engage in the spiritual practice of fasting from whiteness by abstaining from music and liturgies written or composed by white people in our weekly worship services.

Instead, worship will center the work of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) composers, writers, authors, liturgists, artists, and theologians. We will draw on music from around the world, including Korean folk music, South African melodies, Native American hymns, African American Spirituals, and more. Our weekly themes will draw

heavily from the work of womanist theologian and Hebrew Bible scholar Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney.

The season of Lent may begin with grief and move toward death, but it ultimately ends in the great celebration of resurrection at Easter. This Lenten series is an invitation to grieve our past, repent of our actions, and reimagine a church that is intentionally inclusive in all we do. It is a challenge to fast from our whiteness to create space for underrepresented and marginalized voices. This is the difficult and often painful internal work of self-reflection we must do to create a culture of full inclusion in our congregation. This is the work of building a Beloved Community. This is the work of resurrection, of hope, of revitalization.

Blessings,
Pastor Tim

FROM THE MODERATOR

2024 Winter Business Meeting

The First Baptist Church 2024 Winter Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11th 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. 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.

ALL MEMBERS' VOTES NEEDED. JOIN US!

Please have your report available during the congregational meeting. Paper copies will be available before worship on February 11. If attending online, please contact the office if you didn't receive a report via email last week. Zoom link, <http://tinyurl.com/2024WinterBusMeet>. (312) 626 -6799 - Meeting ID: 840 6452 9894 Passcode: 510994

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

Catalyst Project Update

The Catalyst Project is one of the local organizations receiving support in FBC's budget. An introduction to Catalyst can be found at <http://catalystmadison.org/>. Your Board of Outreach

After seven and a half years of operation in a three rental unit home on the east side, we continue to honor the resiliency of the moms of Catalyst and continue to be incredulous at the myriad barriers and inequities dealt out by the "system as usual" to those outside of privilege. This, indeed, is the responsibility of all of us to deconstruct and then rebuild together.

Yearly roundup for one of our three mamas and her three-year-old:

- 3-year-old with great attendance at nearby HeadStart that she loves
- Pursuit of opportunities for improvement of Mom's employment marketability and leading to a sustainable career path that fits interest.
- Mom is newly certified for computer skills related to office work.
- New job that will evolve to full-time and meet budget goals!
- The family flower garden brightened our corner of the block.
- Regular meetings with resource contacts.

Yearly roundup for our family of seven:

- Moving forward towards goals of excellent school achievement, sustainable income, and debt reduction
- School
 - Four youngest love it!
 - Two high schoolers- not so much love, but they are persisting.
 - School reports show the youngest, born at Catalyst, meeting grade level expectations in all subjects.
 - All progressing academically, with numerous teacher comments such as "He is a joy to have in class," or "I have seen tremendous growth..."

- Overcoming four earlier (and cut short) attempts, the mom passed all test requirements and received a license as a Certified Nursing Assistant.
- Mom with new employment and higher earnings



We look forward to the possibilities that 2024 holds for all of us and stay open to unexpected blessings. Steadfast support from you all count among those.

Warmly,

Susan & Anna Donahoe, Co-founders, Catalyst Project Members; First Baptist Church

Volunteer Drivers Needed to Help Immigrants

Since 2019, the Dane Sanctuary Coalition has provided a rides program that has been deeply appreciated by immigrants, their attorneys, and referring agencies.

Volunteers are transporting immigrants from the Madison area to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) offices in Milwaukee, Waukegan, IL, and Chicago, as well as to the US Immigration Court in Chicago. The demand for these rides is high so more volunteer drivers are needed.

Immigrants have scheduled appointments typically to provide biometrics data (e.g., fingerprints, photos, etc.), security checks, asylum interviews, deportation court hearings, citizenship interviews, and meetings with immigration attorneys. It is

mandatory that they attend their appointments; in some cases, failure to do so can put the immigrant at increased risk for deportation.

The round-trip rides to Milwaukee or Waukegan generally are completed within six to eight hours. The rides to and from Chicago take a full day. The Dane Sanctuary Coalition is able to provide a \$25 reimbursement for rides to Milwaukee or Waukegan, and a \$65 (plus parking) reimbursement for rides to Chicago.

Volunteer drivers only commit to one ride at a time based on their availability and willingness to provide a particular ride.

If you are interested in learning more about this vital immigrant ministry, contact Dennis Ray at djray5@sbcglobal.net or call the church office.

Dennis Ray for the Board of Outreach

From Dane Sanctuary Coalition Casa Alitas Presentation

Sunday, March 10, 7:00PM

Please join Beth Israel Center and the Dane Sanctuary Coalition on March 10 at 7:00pm for a 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. FBC members donated clothing to Casa Alitas last fall.

Join us on March 10 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 on Zoom.

Please RSVP by March 8 using this google form: <https://forms.gle/363KwRqsxQwyV3Q59>

*Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Executive Director
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Dane Sanctuary Coalition Steering Committee*

DON'T MISS IT

Wednesday Potluck Dinner

**Wednesday, February 21, 5:30PM
Fellowship Hall**



On 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!

Game Night

Wednesday, Feb. 21, After Potluck Dinner



Game Night!!

Come to the monthly potluck and enjoy dinner with lots of friendly people, and **then join us for fun and games.**

Games of all kinds for young and old – board games, card games, everything from Tiddlywinks and Pick-up-Stix to Dominos and Cribbage all to the sounds of upbeat music, AND the exotic tastes of popcorn and lemonade!

Want to teach a game/learn a game? Have a new game to share? Bring back the “kid” in you, or if you already are a kid, just be yourself!

Beat the cold and gray of winter and join us for a rollicking fun evening together.

*Deb Chotlos, Mary Fiore, Brenda Lempp
and the Board of Education*

Public Art for the Community by Doug Haynes

Saturday, March 16, 1:00 to 3:00PM
Neighborhood House Community Center

Doug Haynes will be displaying “Public Art for the Community” at the Neighborhood House during the month of March. There will be a reception and an artist talk on Saturday, March 16th, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:00. The title of this exhibit is designed to encompass the range of murals, collaborative projects, documentary videos as well as art featuring local landmarks that will be on display. Haynes’ most recent project is conveniently located outside the exhibition venue (Neighborhood House). This “selfie station” allows visitors to photograph themselves as flowers and insects. Other projects which will be featured in the exhibit include: **“Holy Week” mural (First Baptist Church)**; “Dancing with God” (video documenting re: Madison dancer Paul Schoneman); “Greenbush Mural”; “Life underwater” mural; “State Street Coloring Book”; “My Korean Life” (video documentary); a preview of the as of yet unpublished work “Humanities Building”.

Doug’s art can be seen at www.emeraldstudio.com.

Alisha Jones, Neighborhood House Community Center
alisha@neighborhoodhousemadison.org

Building Beloved Community Speaker Series

Sunday, February 25, 10:30AM During Worship

The series continues during the worship hour on the 4th Sunday of each month through 2024.

The *Building Beloved Community Speaker Series*, which centers the voices of BIPOC leaders from various community sectors – each of them sharing their unique expertise and experiences with us – continues with **Venus Washington-Ross**, Head Coach at Madison Elite Track Club, bringing families together through track and field and teaching youth and adults how to focus and control their energy. And, as a personal trainer at Venus Inspires helping people be the best they can be through fitness training.

FAREWELL TO A DEAR FRIEND



Bert Newton Adams
1932 - 2024

Bert Newton Adams, age 91, of Madison, WI, died on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at Agrace Hospice Residence in Fitchburg.

Bert earned a B.A. in Music from William Jewell College, a Th.M. from Southern Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After a post-doctoral fellowship at UNC, from 1970-72 Bert served as a senior lecturer and researcher in Kampala, Uganda. His book, "An American Family in Amin's Uganda," chronicles the experiences he and his family had. He joined the Sociology faculty of University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1965. For nearly 50 years he taught courses on Social Theory and lecture classes on Marriage and the Family, reaching some 20,000 UW students. Bert published 20 academic books. He received numerous research grants and professional awards and was a Fellow and President of the National Council on Family Relations. Dr. Adams conducted sociological research in Kenya, Uganda, India, Canada, and Great Britain, and gave academic lectures in Sweden, Estonia, Bangladesh, and Korea. Bert was widely known for his amazing baritone voice. His performing career spanned 50-plus years, including more than 30 lead roles with Madison Opera, singing at his beloved church (First Baptist, Madison) and for senior living communities including Oakwood Village where he resided.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Saturday, February 24, 2024 | 1:00 PM
Oakwood Village University Woods
Resurrection Chapel - Reception to Follow

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Update from the January Meeting

Here are some key items from our last meeting – short meeting, short list!

- Wayne Bischel will be the Trustee representative to the Nominating Committee.
- We discussed having a values statement added to our Long-Term rental agreements. Basically, that renters would not publicly take positions that are not in alignment with our stated values.
- With the ubiquity of cell phones, we voted to remove the kitchen phone landline.
- We discussed various items related to the budget.

Bill Hausler for the Board of Trustees

FROM THE FBC BOOKKEEPER

December Financial Report

(Year End)

The Acct Balance report has an out of balance of \$1.20 (again). The Operating Fund Assets Totals minus the Operating Fund Liabilities is \$3,463.92 versus the \$3,465.12 shown in the Budget report. I will try to rectify this in January. The \$37.27 as shown as 55512 Communion in Oper Fund is a liability but it is also payable to the Operating Fund to pay for the 55523 Utilities bill that was charged to the Pastor's credit card.)

The 4th quarter income on our ABEC accounts has not been received--it is not posted online and my phone calls to their office voice mail have not been returned. That will result in slightly more income in each of those accounts in 2024.

The good news is we ended the year with a \$3,465.12 surplus because of receipt of memorial funds designated for the Capital Reserve, which paid off the overage in the 18620 Repairs and Maintenance spending (a total of \$20,089.79 was transferred from 41601 Uncommitted Capital Reserves (plus the designated memorial funds) to 18620 Repairs and Maintenance).

The only Budget accounts that went over their annual budget for the first time in December are 18502 Buildings & Operations Expense (i.e., cleaning supplies & batteries), 18803 Electric, and 18914 Payroll Service.

There was a significant increase in the 503 Vanguard Grp-Communion resulting in a positive balance in the 55603 Gibson Memorial Earnings this quarter. The Endowment Fund also had a significant increase this quarter, but the 303 Endownmt-Uncomm Earnings still has a large deficit.

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Nancy Moore, Bookkeeper

THE GREEN CORNER

Madison Schools Reducing Food Waste

At a recent First Baptist Green Team meeting I learned that some of the Madison Schools are working with the nonprofit Sustain Dane organization to turn food waste into usable compost. This all started through Sustain Dane using a \$20,000 grant from Virent to help educate students about recycling and sustainability. Virent, a company located in Madison, is working to commercialize its BioForming® technology to create the fuels and chemicals the world demands from a wide range of naturally occurring, renewable resources.

Sustain Dane has other programs concerning food waste and composting: The Farmers' Market Food Scrap Collection, and a Restaurant Sustainability Network.

Food waste comprises about one-third of the materials being sent to the Dane County Landfill. To reduce this amount of food waste, Dane County plans to establish a compost facility at the Sustainability Campus by 2026. This is a first step towards designing and building a digester facility in the future.

With less than ten years of landfill space remaining at Dane County Rodefild Landfill, our community

has an opportunity to plan for our changing waste stream and purposefully set the foundation to advance us towards a circular economy.

Green Team Update

The Green Team is working on scheduling a tour of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District. Soon we will have available dates and will start a sign-up sheet. The Green Team is also considering scheduling another tour at the Dane County Landfill this summer.

Do these tours interest you? Let us know.

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

STUDY GROUP UPDATE

Spiritual Renewal Group 1

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

For February we return to meeting the first and third Mondays of the month, 7:00 pm. The readings are: Monday, February 5 (II Hineni), Monday, 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 give below and if you have questions, please feel free to contact Bill Hausler at hhausler@tds.net or 608-231-2890! Connecting information on page 8.

OTHER NEWS

Small Spring Primary Election



The Wisconsin Presidential Primary Election will be on April 2. There is also a small Spring Primary Election on February 20,

2024. This election is only needed for two county

board races and a Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District seat. Polling places will be limited to those two areas.

For more information about voter registration and requesting absentee ballots for the 2024 elections, go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>.

Second Harvest Foodbank



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

Friday, February 16, 2024, from 8:15 am - 11:30 am

Contact the church office or Wynn Davies for more information.

BIRTHDAYS

February	March
5 Nathaniel C	1 Sheila D
6 Lynette M	2 Marni B
7 Debbie E	9 Bessie W
7 Paul H, Jr	11 Bill F
7 Evan Z	12 Molly D
8 Diane B	12 Joan T
9 Barbara E	13 Pam M
14 JungJa H L	16 Lesa R
14 Vanessa K	19 Perry H
19 Susan D	20 Carrie S
19 Harley Y	20 Sally D
21 Robert N	22 Wynn D
22 Katie D	25 Susan C
25 Marianne D	26 Chris B
26 John M	30 Anna D
27 Glenn F	31 Beth G
27 Suzanne V	

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

Ways You Can Give

You can contribute to your pledge, offerings, memorials, and other gifts in several ways. (See blue, boxed information on last page.)

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 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>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Church Family & Our Homebound – Glenn F; Sylvia L; Lynette M's brother; Jill T's friend, Connie; the Adams family; Nancy M's sister, Marty; Ann P; Linda O; Sheila D; Harley Y; Susan H
Others – Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

(Email your prayer requests to office@firstbaptistmadison.org.)

REMINDER

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Administrative Secretary, Blanca James, will be out of the office Monday, February 12 - Monday, February 19, 2024.

The Church Office will be closed during her absence. Please email or call the office (leave a message) and she will respond upon her return on Tuesday, February 20. If you need immediate assistance, contact Pastor Tim or your assigned Deacon.

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 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.

Join Zoom Meeting: Please call the 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: Please call the office for joining information.

UPDATE - Spiritual Renewal Group 1 (Online) We will continue reading Hineni: An Imitation of Abraham by Alisa Kashmir. For February we return to meeting the first and third Mondays of the month, 7:00 pm. The readings are: Monday, February 5 (II Hineni), Monday, 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 or 608-231-2890!

Join Zoom Meeting: Please call the office for joining information.

Spiritual Renewal Group 2 (Online) – Postponed until further notice. 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 joining information.



Game Night!!

Come to the monthly potluck on

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 5:30 enjoy dinner with lots of friendly people, and then join us for fun and games.

Games of all kinds for young and old – board games, card games, everything from Tiddlywinks and

Pick-up-Stix to Dominos and Cribbage

all to the sounds of upbeat music, AND

the exotic tastes of popcorn and lemonade!

Want to teach a game/learn a game? Have a new game to share? Bring back the "kid" in you, or if you already are a kid, just be yourself! Beat the cold and gray of winter and join us for a rollicking fun evening together.

FROM THE FBC OFFICE

Lost & Found



Please remember to take your accessories with you after Worship or Fellowship Time. These items were left behind. If these belong to you, please look for them by the mailboxes (across from the church office) or call the office, (608) 233-1880.

Moderator, Board Chairs, Music Staff, Volunteers



Don't forget to get your mail! FBC's internal mail can be retrieved from the mailbox slots across from the church office. Please remember to check regularly for mail and other communications.

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

Office Hours | Building Access

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

Ways To Give

<p>1</p>  <p>OFFERING BOXES</p> <p>Place your cash or check gift in the black offering boxes located in the Gathering Space.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>ONLINE</p> <p>firstbaptistmadison.org/give</p> 	<p>3</p>  <p>MOBILE</p> <p>Text the word "GIVE" to (608) 610-1600</p> <p>Or give through the Church App</p> <p>firstbaptistmadison.org/app</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>MAIL</p> <p>Mail your gift to:</p> <p>First Baptist Church 518 N. Franklin Ave. Madison, WI 53705</p>
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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 March 2024 – Article deadline is 1st of the month
/ 200 word limit.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL - MAILED – 2/7/24