

**FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH**  
OF MADISON

## *The Visitor*

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

No. 4

April 5, 2024

Vol. 67

**CONNECTIONS  
CLASS**

Are you interested in learning more about FBC?  
Considering becoming a member? Join us!

**SUNDAY, April 28th**  
12:00-3:00 pm (Lunch Provided)

**First Baptist Church of Madison**  
Community Room

### **FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

## **Opportunities Await!**

As board terms come to a close, the Nominating Committee will be seeking individuals to fill upcoming vacancies. To help you find your niche, the boards are introducing themselves below, offering insights into where your talents and energies may best fit in fulfilling the mission of our church. These openings present opportunities for you to engage in meaningful and rewarding experiences.

### **Board of Deacons**

The Board of Deacons is a group of concerned and committed church members whose primary goal is to help church members in need. What do deacons do? Your role would be to offer support and care to fellow congregants during challenging times, making a real difference in their lives. We understand the importance of balance in your life. You won't be asked to do more than you're comfortable with, and you certainly won't need to sacrifice your hobbies or personal time. In addition to attending our monthly meetings, you will be asked to occasionally help prepare communion. It's a fulfilling way to serve, without overwhelming your schedule. Join the Board of Deacons and become a vital part of our caring church community! Contact Jennifer Angelo if this is of interest to you.

### **Board of Outreach**

The Outreach Board informs the congregation about needs in the community and beyond, and about organizations that minister to people in need. Through the Outreach Budget the Board supports ongoing local outreach concerns of our church members. The Outreach Board also coordinates support for American Baptist Churches' call to go into all the world with good news through the budget and four yearly ABC offerings.

The Board of Outreach encourages and supports us as we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, welcome the refugee, protect those who are mistreated and care for creation.

We support congregation members' calls for action, such as helping refugees from Haiti and Afghanistan, marching in the Poor People's campaign, sharing winter wear with people leaving the jail, preparing food at Second Harvest and Healing House, and supporting Chinese orphans and students in Kenya.

If outreach and mission are your passion, contact Lynette Miller.

### **Board of Education**

The Board of Education is seeking people with a passion for education and a collaborative spirit. Passion for Education: Shape the future of education in our church by fostering inclusive, nurturing, and safe environments. Whether you're

## FROM THE RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

### Building Beloved Community Speaker Series Sunday, April 24, 10:30 am During Worship



**Muhammad Shahzad Hussain**

#### Multifaith Outreach Coordinator Faith in Place | he/him

Shahzad belongs to the northern region of Pakistan where he spent most of his life. Trained as an Islamic scholar in the traditional Islamic seminaries (*madaris*), his intellectual pursuits are stretched along the lines of tradition, scholarship, and a deep commitment to global challenges.

Following his graduation from the seminaries, Shahzad made a scholarly contribution by co-authoring *The Untold Truth of Pakistan's Blasphemy Law*. This report not only compiles but critically examines the perspectives of traditional jurists from diverse Islamic Schools of Law on the sensitive issue of blasphemy. His academic exploration continued with M.Phil. research, where he delved into the complex topic of ISIS' (Islamic State of Iraq & Syria) notion of excommunication, viewed through the lens of al-Ghazali, an eleventh-century theologian and Sufi.

In the United States, Shahzad graduated from the University of Notre Dame, specializing in International Peace Studies. His transformative

an educator or simply love learning, your enthusiasm is valued. And no, you won't be expected to teach just because you're on the BoE!

Collaborative Spirit: Together, we strengthen bonds and enrich lives through educational and social events.

If you're interested, please reach out to Deb Chotlos today.

#### Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees oversees the resources of the church, including financial concerns, maintenance of the building and grounds, and employment policies of non-pastoral staff. If serving on the Board interests you, contact Wayne Bischel or Bill Hausler.

#### Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) has two functions. First, it is the personnel committee for the pastoral staff. As such, it is concerned with vacation and sick leave policy, health insurance for the pastoral staff, pastoral staff salary, etc. Second, it serves as a communication link between the congregation and the pastor; this is meant to be a two-way communication link. An example of this is the series of Let's Talk sessions sponsored by the PRC (in collaboration with the Church Council and the Racial Justice Team) on the topics of worship styles, church mission statement, and racial justice issues. The PRC also serves as a sounding board and support group for the pastor. If serving on the PRC interests you, contact Gil Emmert.

#### Other Opportunities

Are You Looking for Something Else? How about the Green Team or the Affordable Housing Taskforce? Interested in contributing to specific activities? You can help with holiday events, art displays, community picnics, movie nights, potlucks, game nights, coordinating volunteers, organizing educational speakers, and much more.

*Gil Emmert*

internship at the World Hunger Relief Institute in Texas fueled his passion for regenerative practices and sustainability. It is reflected in the capstone project for his master's degree in which he developed a captivating children's handbook on gardening, written in his national language, Urdu.

Shahzad is also the co-founder of "hara bhara Haripur," a social media campaign dedicated to raising climate awareness in his hometown, Haripur, showing his commitment to grassroots change and community engagement.

In the midst of his dynamic pursuits, Shahzad finds balance and inner peace through meditative practices of Tai Chi and sketching.

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 during the worship hour on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month through 2024.

## THE GREEN CORNER

### First Baptist Church Shared Solar Impact Report

As a customer of Madison Gas and Electric (MGE), First Baptist Church has demonstrated its commitment to local clean energy by participating in MGE's Shared Solar program. MGE is excited to partner with First Baptist Church as we work toward shared energy goals for our community! Reducing the carbon intensity of our electricity generation is one of our key strategies for achieving net-zero carbon electricity by 2050.

Take a moment to view the 2023 Emission Offset Impact Chart located on the "Green Table".



Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>; and First Baptist Green Team is celebrating with events that extend through April and into the summer.

1. **Caring for our soil:** A film on the importance of our soil will be shown on Wednesday, April 17 in the Hearth Room. Come to the Third Wednesday Potluck at 5:30 first or just join us for the film at 6:30.
2. **Tour of Water Treatment Plant:** Join us on April 25, 2024, to tour the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). From the MMSD Website: "Have you ever wanted to see how the water we use is cleaned up and returned to nature? Then consider taking a plant tour of the District's Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant. On our plant tours, you'll learn about our treatment process and how you can help protect our shared water resources." Your Green Team has reserved April 25, 2024, at 1:00 pm to tour these facilities. "The tour lasts for 1½ hours. The standard tour route includes stairs and a good deal of walking, sometimes on uneven surfaces and grass. Some parts of the route are not accessible to individuals with physical disabilities. However, with advance notice, we can make modifications to the route to accommodate all visitors." We will have a sign-up sheet and more specific directions at First Baptist Church.
3. **Owning an Electric Vehicle** – See the following article "Reflections of an EV Owner" by Gil Emmert.
4. **Monarch Butterfly Waystation** – Contact Lynette Miller or Sylvia Lowell if you would like to help plant a church garden for Monarch Butterflies.

5. **A Walk in the Woods:** Wynn Davies will be leading a Sunday afternoon walk in the Oakwood nature Preserve when “Mother Nature” decides to put on her annual spring display of beautiful “Spring ephemerals,” the beautiful spring forest flowers that bloom in the short time before the leaves of the trees shade the forest floor. Look for an announcement in worship during late April.

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

### Reflections of a New EV Owner

The technology of electric cars (EV) has intrigued me for several years. The advantages of being emission-free, reduced dependence on fossil fuels, lower maintenance costs, etc. are very attractive. But there is the problem of recharging the EV battery; the infrastructure for that is much less developed. We live in a condo and there are no electrical outlets in or near our parking space. So, we have passed on getting an EV. Recently it became clear that our 19-year-old gas-powered car had reached its end of life. We needed to buy a new car. Do we buy an EV or a gas-powered car? Our next car purchase would probably be our last car purchase; we tend to buy new cars and drive them until they fall apart. Given our advanced ages, either the state of Wisconsin or our children will revoke our driving privileges before the next car hits its end of life. Buy an EV? It is now, or never. In January we made the jump and bought an EV.

What’s it like to drive an EV? With no gas engine the EV is very quiet. Because of the high torque electric motor and the lower center of gravity, the EV can be driven like a sports car. Take your foot off the “gas” pedal and the car slows down rather quickly because of regenerative braking; some EVs can be driven in a “one-pedal” mode with very little use of the brakes.

In short, an EV is fun to drive. Now we need to find a place to recharge the battery. I’ll leave that story for another time.

*Gil Emmert*

## FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Update from the February and March Trustee Meetings

Here are some key items from our last two meetings:

#### February

- We received a written report from Wynn Davies, chair of our Investment and Planned Giving Committee.
- Due to difficulties that we have been having accessing funds from ABEC (American Baptist Extension Corporation) we voted to move the funds to Self-Help Credit Union (this maintains the funds in a socially responsible organization).
- We approved funds for a new amp system and installation in Fellowship Hall.

#### March

- We approved getting bids for sealing and restriping the parking lot during the summer.
- We approved repairs for our boiler (heating system).
- We approved renewing the contract with our lawn service for the summer.
- We were informed that all allotted parking spaces have been rented.

*Bill Hausler for the Board of Trustees*

## FROM THE BOARD OF OUTREACH

### Solace Friends Volunteer Orientation



Solace Friends is the recipient of \$1,000 of our Easter Offering. There are many volunteer opportunities to assist in the hospice care for those who are homeless or underserved and facing the end of life. Some opportunities do not involve contact with the clients and some do.

Interested? Please contact Jane Corkey at [solacefriendsmadison@gmail.com](mailto:solacefriendsmadison@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to be notified of upcoming

orientation sessions. Additional training will be provided as necessary. Orientation is via Zoom.

For information on Solace Friends Madison go to: <https://www.solacefriends.org/index.html>

## FBC's Chinese Orphans Project

First Baptist Church started the Chinese Orphans Project in 2005 and has now changed the lives of 250+ impoverished rural orphans in China's Henan Province by providing funds for school and necessities needed to survive.

Today, there are 70 grateful orphans who are happily attending school with our funds. They range from grade school to college. We expect that all will graduate from high school, and most will go onto college. It's life-changing for these children who might not have gotten any education.

We work through Amity Foundation, a Chinese charity in Nanjing, and Judy Sutterlin, a retired ABC missionary who lived in China for 30 years. Judy, along with Linda Mintener and others traveled to China numerous summers to visit the orphans and bring back updates, grade reports, and photos. Our graduates are now teachers, engineers, computer specialists, accountants, nurses, machinists, mechanics, business owners, and even a jade carver.

We are now collecting for the 2024-25 school year. Your donation would not only help a child go to school, but also give inspiration, courage, and love to a child.



Wen, who will graduate from college this summer, tells what our funds have meant to her:

*I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you for the support you have given me in my studies. The amount of money is not a huge amount, but the love and affection contained in it has warmed me. More than that, it is support and motivation for my future studies and even life in general! Your love,*

*benevolence, and kindness helped me see hope for the future and doubly touched my heart!*

For further information contact Linda Mintener at [Lmintener@aol.com](mailto:Lmintener@aol.com).

Click the link below to donate.

<https://app.easytithe.com/App/Form/0e2356f3-9ee9-464a-bc54-48de6eb3758a>

## With Appreciation!

Dear First Baptist Friends,

Wow—so many of you offered items, support, advice, rides, etc., when I reached out to share about Trichena and Darly arriving from Haiti!

We are eagerly awaiting the birth of their daughter (the first US citizen in their family!) any day now. Thank you for showing so much love and kindness as they re-start their lives in the US.

Thank you,  
*Leslie Garcia*

Dear First Baptist,

Our apartment is all set up, and Trichena and I are so excited to be in Madison.

Thank you for your support,  
*Darly and Trichena*

## DON'T MISS IT

### Second Harvest Foodbank Friday, April 19 | 8:15 - 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.

## Wednesday Potluck Dinner

Wednesday, April 17, 5:30PM

Fellowship Hall



On the third Wednesday of the month, join us for a church potluck meal and for a time of conversation, and great food. If you haven't

attended previously, it is a relaxing, social event. We hope to see you there!

*Deb Chotlos and the Board of Education*

## The Hourglass Bible Study Group

**Spring into a fresh exploration of some Biblical favorites.**

Curious about the Bible but unable to commit to study on your own? If so, the Hourglass Bible study may be just right for you. No reading is required before the class; instead, we read the scripture together one week and share our reflections on that passage the next week. It's an opportunity to work scripture into your everyday life and to benefit from the varied and honest reactions of others in the class.

The class meets from 4:30 to 5:30 on Sundays via Zoom. Questions? Contact Mary Ray at [mbray5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mbray5@sbcglobal.net).

The Hourglass Bible Study will begin a new series on April 7, lasting through May 12. Members of the class will be sharing favorite Bible stories or parables and why these are significant to them. We will read the relevant passage aloud together as we share the experience of the scripture anew, and we will get to know each other a little better as we also get to know the Bible better.

On May 19, we will study the book of Ruth. Then, after Memorial Day weekend, we will dive into Psalms, book 1, for the summer sessions.

*Mary Ray for the Hourglass Bible Study Group*

## FROM THE BOOKKEEPER

### February Financial Report

We are 16.67% through the year. Budget Income is at 36, 05% of the annual budget, largely due to prepaid pledges, and transfers from last year's surplus, designated earnings, and other funds. Budget Expenses are at 15.91% of the annual budget, helped by the refund received from our previous insurance provider, whom we replaced sometime last fall.

Don't hesitate to address any questions to me at [Bookkeeper@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:Bookkeeper@firstbaptistmadison.org).

*Nancy Moore, Bookkeeper*

## FROM THE FLOWER COORDINATOR

### Thank You FBC

We filled the Chancel with beautiful Easter lilies! Thank you for joining us in celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. We hope you continue to celebrate this Easter season regardless of snow, rain, or not so sunny days. Let the light that is Jesus brighten up your day.

*Blanca James and Linda Stamm*

## BIRTHDAYS

April	May
4 Laura D	1 Sam G
13 Aaron H	1 Hyunji H
15 Noriko K	2 Katy M
17 Wayne B	2 Russell N
18 Geta C	2 Morgan T
25 Judy M	13 James W. E
26 Tanya B	18 Nancy M
26 Gladys C	24 Doug H
26 Steve B	27 Steve D
26 Dale H	29 Brock D
28 Tim C	30 Jim D
29 Robbie G	20 Del D
29 Carmen P	30 Charlotte K
30 Brenna K	

## 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.

### Prayers of the People

Our Church Family – Mary R; Nancy M's sister; Marty; Diane A; Paul H; Lynette M's brother; Jill T's friend, Connie; 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](mailto:office@firstbaptistmadison.org).)

### 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, 608-233-1880, 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>

### Office News

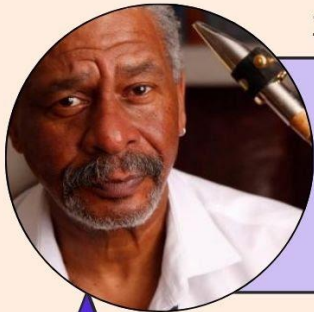
Pastor Tim Schaefer will be out of the office April 11 – April 13 attending the Alliance of Baptists' 2024 Annual Gathering. He will have limited access to emails and will respond upon his return to the office on Tuesday, April 16.

THE **CROSSING**  
CAMPUS MINISTRY  
*Annual Gala*

**Friday April 19th 6:00-8:30pm**

**The Crossing**

1127 University Ave. Madison, WI 53715



**MUSIC BY HANAH  
JON TAYLOR ARTET**

of Cafe CODA Madison

**GUEST SPEAKER  
REV. JEN BLOESCH**

Pastor of Community of Hope UCC Madison



**JAKARTA CAFE FOOD  
TRUCK & JUST  
BAKERY DESSERTS**



**CECIL FINDLEY  
AWARD & MORE!**

Student Speakers, Conversation, Community



**MORE INFO & TICKETS:**

**[WWW.THECROSSINGUW.ORG/GALA](http://WWW.THECROSSINGUW.ORG/GALA)**

[PURCHASE YOUR TICKET](#)



# JustDane's 50th Anniversary Celebration

featuring

*Father Gregory Boyle of Homeboy Industries*



**April 11th**  
**6-8:30 pm**

*at the Mitby Theater  
of Madison College:  
Truax Campus*

## JUST DANE

*Celebrating 50 YEARS of Community Advocacy*

Join us for an evening of live jazz  
music and refreshments

from 6:00-7:00 PM

Followed by a presentation by Father Boyle  
& Homeboys of Homeboy Industries

from 7:00-8:30 PM

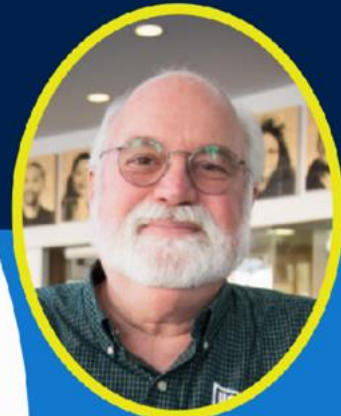
*To purchase tickets, please use the below  
link or QR code*



*General Admission \$50*

*Student Admission \$20*

<http://JustDane50th.eventbrite.com>



Email for Acknowledgement

## **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, for joining information.**

**UPDATE - Hourglass Bible Study (Online)** – We will begin a new series **on April 7**, lasting through May 12. Members of the class will be sharing favorite Bible stories or parables and why these are significant to them. We will read the relevant passage aloud together as we share the experience of the scripture anew, and we will get to know each other a little better as we also get to know the Bible better.

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: Please call the office, 608-233-1880, 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, 608-233-1880, for joining information.**

**Spiritual Renewal Group 1 (Online)** We will continue reading Hineni: An Imitation of Abraham by Alisa Kashmir. We return to meeting the first and third Mondays of the month, 7:00 pm. 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: Please call the office, 608-233-1880, for joining information.**

**Spiritual Renewal Group 2 (Online)** – Meets the second and fourth Tuesdays at 4 pm. on Zoom. We try to pick books that help us to grow spiritually. We are all women and have found that we like it that way. The book that we are using at the present time is titled; THE WISDOM JESUS by Cynthia Bourgeault. You are welcome to join us.

**Join Zoom Meeting: Please call the office, 608-233-1880, for joining information.**

# 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](https://firstbaptistmadison.org/give)


- 

### MOBILE

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

Or give through the **Church App**

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

### MAIL

Mail your gift to:

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

**Worship Schedule**

Every Sunday @ 10:30 AM

Fellowship Time @ 11:30 AM

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL - MAILED - 4/8/24**