



**FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
OF MADISON

THE VISITOR

NOVEMBER 2024



Introducing Our Advent Theme

BY THE LITURGY WRITERS OF A SANCTIFIED ART

“Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ’s birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ’s birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ’s story to an end.

When we navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown. As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.”

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Thanks for Your Giving to Ministry

BY DENNIS RAY FOR THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

The church has so far received \$3,780 for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) and \$3,970 for the World Mission Offering (WMO).

Gifts to RMMO are to support, remember, and thank those who have dedicated their lives in service to Christ and the church.

WMO goes to global ministries of our denomination. Half of your WMO donations will be for International Ministries (\$1,435 as of September 30) and half will be divided evenly among our designated two families of Global Servants: Amanda and Jon Good, serving in Italy, and Katrina and Kyle Williams, serving in Thailand.

Thank you so much for your donations!

2025 Pledge Update

BY MODERATOR PAUL CHOTLOS



Thank you to those who have already submitted your financial pledge to the church for 2025. As of November 1st, the church office received 23 pledges totaling \$67,620. It is a good beginning towards our goal of 52 pledges totaling \$220,908.

We need your support. If you are in a position to make a financial pledge, now is the time to act.

Return your pledge form to the church by mail or in person, or pledge online at firstbaptistmadison.org/pledge

Pledge Sunday is November 17th. It is a time to celebrate everyone's commitment to our faith community. It would be a great pleasure to announce that we are close to putting together a solid financial framework for church operations and ministries

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Board of Education Update

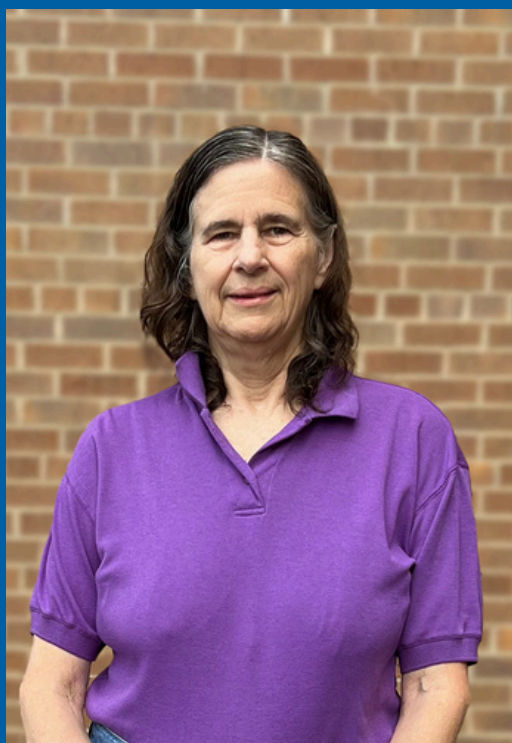
BY DEB CHOTLOS

A huge thank you to Brenda Lempp and her volunteer crew for a successful Trunk or Treat event in late October. This family-friendly community event attracted 40-50 ghosts and goblins, who enjoyed candy, games, and activities.

Earlier in the month, a group gathered at Treinen Farms in Lodi for fall activities. Luckily, no one got lost in the corn maze, even after dark! The warmth of the bonfire invited fellowship and the delicious, chocolatey goodness of s'mores.

Check out photos from both events on the church's social media accounts.

COMING UP: On November 20th, join us for a Thanksgiving/Friendsgiving meal in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm. Bring a dish to share if you are able.



Financial Update

BY NANCY MOORE

September 2024 Budget Financials: *Year-To-Date Actual*

Revenues* - \$247,542.50

Expenses - \$231,248.65

Surplus (Deficit)* - \$16,293.85

**Includes annual pledges paid up front in full.*

The bookkeeper's full report is available upon request. Please email Nancy Moore at bookkeeping@firstbaptistmadison.org

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Board of Trustees Update

BY BILL HAUSLER

Here are some key items from our August and September meetings:

- We received two donations this past month – one for the use of our facilities from ABC-WI and an unpledged donation from an individual donor. Both were placed in the Capital Reserve Fund.
- We received notice from the City of Madison that street and sewer construction near the church is planned for next year (FBC will bear part of the cost).
- We reported on Blanca James' medical leave and coverage of necessary tasks.
- We received a bid for our cleaning service.
- We are working on resolving an issue with our fire alarm system.
- We noted that our heating system was inspected and had a tune-up in preparation for winter.

Exact Sciences Sustainability

BY BARB HENNING FOR THE GREEN TEAM

Ever wonder if large businesses in Wisconsin such as Exact Sciences are “green-motivated?” I have many times as I often drive by their huge campus. Here is a truly remarkable green example.

Exact Sciences operates six labs in three different states and a few more around the world, so their Metrology department handles a lot of equipment, says Exact Sciences Metrologist Brian Guggenheim. Sometimes the equipment is retired but still in good working condition. There are many hoops to jump when donating lab equipment, but the Exact Sciences Metrology team jumped the hoops which resulted in a classroom in Wisconsin -- Oregon High School Lab of Biology and Biotechnology to receive some retired, but still useful equipment. This donation provides hands-on experience for the students and the no-longer-needed equipment found a home – not a landfill.

There are many more examples of Exact Sciences' commitments on their website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Clothing Collection

NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 30

The Madison Jail Ministry is requesting donations of gently used winter clothing items for those being released from the Dane County Jail. Temperatures are dropping, and the need is dire and immediate.

ITEMS NEEDED:

- **Winter hats, gloves, and boots**
- **Winter coats: men's, women's, and unisex – sizes L, XL, XXL, 3X and 4X**
- **Pants & Sweatshirts: men's and women's – sizes M through 2XL**

Items can be placed in the collection bin by the parking lot entrance.

Please make your donations before November 30, 2024.

For questions, contact Barb Henning.



Building Beloved Community Speaker Series

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 | 10:30 AM

MICHAEL ETHERIDGE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
THE ROAD HOME DANE COUNTY

Earlier this year, The Road Home Dane County announced Michael Etheridge as its new Executive Director. With a wealth of experience and a proven track record in the human services field, Michael will speak to us about his faith journey and how it informs his work in our community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

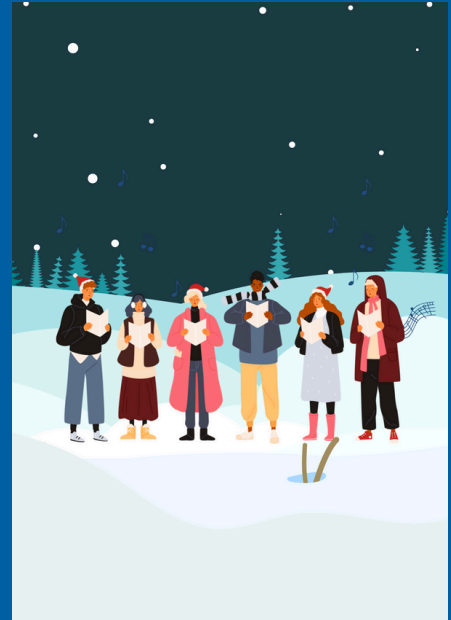
Christmas Caroling

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 9:00AM

Consider celebrating the holiday season with a morning of Christmas caroling and spreading good cheer to an appreciative audience.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 7 from 9AM – 12 noon and warm up your voices for this magical event.

For more information, contact Deb Chotlos



Affordable Housing Taskforce Update

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 | 11:30AM

The Affordable Housing Task Force will make a presentation to the congregation. A meal featuring Korean BBQ and Korean vegetarian option will be served in fellowship hall immediately following worship.

The task force has been hard at work researching possibilities for developing affordable housing on our church property. This is a chance to get information and give your input to the work in progress.

All are welcome to join us for the meal and conversation. A free-will offering will be collected to offset the cost of food, for those who wish to contribute.

For more information, contact Doug Haynes.

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

DEC
1

ADVENT BEGINS

Join us for worship on Sundays @ 10:30AM
THEME: Words for the Beginning

DEC
7

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

9:00 AM

Intergenerational caroling for our
homebound church family

DEC
24

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30 PM

Intergenerational candlelight service with
lessons and Advent hymns

DEC
29

LESSONS & LAUGHTER

10:30 AM

Join us for a special Christmastide service
of Lessons & Laughter during worship



BIRTHDAYS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

NOVEMBER

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 JIM L | 17 BRUCE M |
| 3 SARAH B | 17 BARBARA M |
| 3 ANNA K | 20 MARK C |
| 5 TIM T | 20 JILL T |
| 8 CARLA E | 21 JEAN J |
| 9 JOY M | 21 MARGARET P |
| 10 MARY F | 23 MANJARI M |
| 10 TONYA T | 24 JAMIE S |
| 13 UNA T | 25 BROOKE S |
| 13 LAURA C-T | 28 CRAIG T |
| 14 DEB C | |



DECEMBER

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 2 TYLER H | 24 MARCIA F |
| 4 KYLE A | 24 GENEVA M |
| 7 SUE L | 28 KACIA F |
| 8 KATHRYN R | 28 WILLA M |
| 13 RAINGE D | 29 AMIRA C |
| 15 RYAN B | 30 LYDIA H |
| 15 JEFF M | 30 DIANNE H |
| 17 ANNA C | 30 CARL S |
| 18 LINDA S | 31 KATHRYN H |
| 21 JAMIE K | 31 JOYCE L |
| 22 JULIE B | 31 TROY Z |

Prayer Wall

Our Church Family

Susan H's sister, Barbara; Beth G; Nancy E; Austin H's grandmother; Elizabeth H; Mark C; Crystal V; Pam M; Jill T's daughter-in-law's father, Ron;

OUR HOMEBOUND: Ann P; Linda O; Sheila D; Harley Y; Susan H



Please visit our Prayer Wall, where you will see prayer requests from and for our members, friends, and families.

Share your joys & concerns with us!

To submit a prayer request or view prayer requests submitted by others, scan the QR code or visit firstbaptistmadison.org/prayer.

[GO TO WALL](#)