



A Note From the Pastor

BY REV. TIM SCHAEFER

Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year!

May this time be filled with hope, peace, love, and joy for you and your loved ones.

As I reflect on this past year, I am deeply encouraged by the work we have done together to further our church's mission *to follow Jesus by doing justice, loving people, and advocating for equity.*



At times, the work of justice and anti-racism can be exhausting. So I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued commitment to this community of faith. We could not do this important work together without your support—your gifts of time, talent, and money. I am so honored and grateful to be your pastor!

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Board of Trustees Update

BY BILL HAUSLER FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Key items from the November Trustee Meeting:

- We discussed our cleaning service and possible changes.
- We will be replacing thermostats with remote access in several rooms.
- We reviewed financial reports and discussed other financial items.
- Due to increased rental activity, better technology, and changing church census, we discussed changing the full-time administrative secretary position to half- time and adding a half-time Rental Manager position

Church Leadership Council

BY PAUL CHOTLOS, MODERATOR



Thank you for making a 2025 financial pledge!. As of December 1st, there are 43 pledges for a total of \$204,750. This represents 88% of this year's goal of \$232,000. How does the current total compare to last year? In 2024, FBC received 52 financial pledges for a total of \$220,908.

If you plan to submit a pledge and have not year done so, we would appreciate hearing from you soon. We ask that you give out of your abundance and with a thankful heart.

[Pledge Here](#)

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Resettlement Assistance for Refugees

BY DENNIS RAY, BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Non-profits assisting refugees are encouraging refugees to get into housing as soon as possible if they have not done so already. As a consequence, there is a high demand for furniture, appliances, and housewares.

Open Doors for Refugees – Madison, WI – Their wish list can be found at <https://opendoorsforrefugees.org/contribute-furniture-household-items/>. There is also a need for outerwear and children's items.

A handout with information can be found in the Gathering Space at church.

To donate contact donations@ODFR.org.



Financial Update

BY NANCY MOORE

October 2024 Budget Financials: Year-To-Date Actual

Revenues* - \$281,443.16

Expenses - \$258,389.83

Surplus (Deficit)* - \$23,53.33

**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

Green Team Update

BY BARB HENNING



In October, a group from First Baptist Church enjoyed a walking tour of the Pheasant Branch Conservancy in Middleton. The Conservancy is described as a “24-square mile area within the northwest portion of the Yahara River Watershed.” Their website explains the main threats to the quantity and quality of water in the Pheasant Branch Watershed are agricultural runoff and urban development.

A short walk took us to a breathtaking view of the water and hillside. This wild land is home to critters and birds, and visited by groups, such as school children, and people walking, running, and biking on the trail. Indeed, great fellowship!

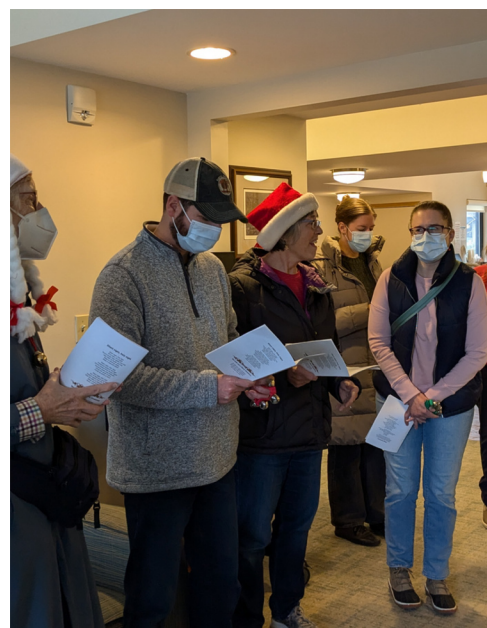
Christmas Caroling

BY DEB CHOTLOS

On December 7, FBC friends gathered in the Community Room (aka Choir Room) to warm up prior to heading out for caroling fun.

They sang carols, delivered cookies, and glad tidings to our homebound friends.

Thanks to all who participated!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 5:30 PM

Join us for an evening of stories, carols, and candle lighting.
This is an intergenerational service. Childcare will not be available.

Lessons & Carols Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 | 10:30 AM

We celebrate the season with our annual service of Lessons & Carols.
Hear the familiar stories and songs of the Christmas story again.

Volunteers Needed

The holidays are upon us and there is a need for volunteers to help distribute holiday gifts to families in the Allied Community. Volunteers are needed at the Joining Forces for Families offices at 2225 Allied Drive to check people in and locating gifts being picked up.

The following dates and times are available:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 3:00 – 7:00 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Contact Wynn Davies for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Women United

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10 | 9:00 AM

We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. for conversation and goodies. The program begins at 10:00. Everyone is invited, not just women.

Brandi Grayson from Urban Triage will receive the CWU Human Rights Award. Brandi's contributions include recognition as one of Wisconsin's most influential African Americans in 2015, the Community Leader of the Year award in 2022; and in 2023, the Madison Black Chamber of Commerce honored Urban Triage as the People's Choice Business and Nonprofit.



Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering



**I MET GOD
AND SHE'S A BLACK WOMAN.**

Womanism and Traditions of Resistance

MARCH 28-30 | RIVERSIDE DC

REGISTER BEFORE JANUARY 15 AND SAVE \$75!

UPCOMING EVENTS



American Baptist Churches USA
BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT
July 3-6, 2025 | Omaha, NE



Get ready for the 2025 Biennial Mission Summit in Omaha, Nebraska, from July 3-6, 2025!

The 2025 Biennial Mission Summit is centered around the theme “Come Seek Living Water,” designed to engage collaboration and inspire action within local communities. It will be a vibrant “family reunion,” focusing on creating meaningful connections for kids, young adults, and all attendees. The Biennial Mission Summit will feature engaging activities for all ages, including many activities for children, alongside workshops and discussions that inspire fellowship and spiritual growth.

Take advantage of the best rates - register by January 10, 2025! Early registration guarantees you the lowest price, so don't miss this great opportunity to secure your spot and save!

BIRTHDAYS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

DECEMBER 2024

2 TYLER H
4 KYLE A
7 SUE L
8 TIM S
11 LINDA C
15 RYAN B
18 LINDA S
22 JULIE B
23 LAUREL F
24 GENEVA M

30 LYDIA H
30 DIANNE H
31 JOYCE L



JANUARY 2025

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

Prayer Wall

Our Church Family

Nancy E; Deidra's nephew Quinn; the Young family; the Roth family; Judy & her family in Texas

OUR HOMEBOUND: Ann P; Linda O; Sheila D; 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](#)