



A Note From the Pastor

BY REV. TIM SCHAEFER

This month, I partnered with Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler in convening a group of faith and nonprofit leaders to form a statewide advocacy coalition to confront the growing threat of Christian nationalism in our schools and government.

This effort is part of a national movement led by the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC), which has stood for religious freedom and against Christian nationalism since the group's formation in 1946.



Grounded in our Baptist heritage of liberty and justice, we're joining with interfaith and community partners to ensure that faith is never weaponized against democracy—or our neighbors. Stay tuned for ways you can engage in this vital work.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Self-Care Events

BY DEB CHOTLOS & JENNIFER ANGELO

Save the Dates: 5-Week Self-Care Journey

This fall, join us for a 5-week journey focused on physical, mental, and spiritual wellness—because caring for ourselves helps us better care for others.

In these challenging times, self-care is not selfish; it's sacred. Co-sponsored by the Board of Deacons and Board of Education, each week will offer space for reflection, renewal, and community.

NOURISH YOUR SPIRIT: A 5-WEEK SELF-CARE JOURNEY

20

SEPTEMBER

MINDFULNESS FOR BEGINNERS

LED BY KATHERINE BONUS, MA, MEd
LEARN PEACEFUL PRACTICES FOR BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT
2 - 4 PM COMMUNITY ROOM

4

OCTOBER

YOGA

LED BY BARB ANDEREGG, CERTIFIED SVAROOPA YOGA TEACHER
YOGA & BREATHING TECHNIQUES TO RELIEVE TENSION AND PAIN
2 - 4 PM FELLOWSHIP HALL

18

OCTOBER

NATURE BATHING

LED BY DEB CHOTLOS
GUIDED FOREST WALK TO ENGAGE THE SENSES
2 - 4 PM MCKAY CENTER @ THE ARBORETUM

TBD

NOVEMBER

CALMING FOODS FOR MOOD

LED BY DR. KATY WALLACE, MD
DISCOVER CALMING FOOD CHOICES AND EASY RECIPES
7:00 PM LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

9

NOVEMBER

VISIO DIVINA

LED BY REV. TIM SCHAEFER
CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER PRACTICE USING SACRED IMAGERY
12 - 2 PM ROOM 303

FOR MORE INFO : WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTMADISON.ORG

Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians

BY BETH GUNSHOR AND TODD ANDREWS

What an incredible week at the Green Lake Conference Center, 7/12–19/25.

The experience attending the conference as president-elect of the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians was very different from the experience I usually have as a conferee. Seeing all that happens behind the scenes to make this conference work is mind-boggling, and I was exhausted when I returned to Madison. Mat, Robbie, and Thomas came and helped; Robbie and Thomas took part in the music-making; and Sam helped drive clinicians from the airport—it was a family effort. – *Beth Gunshor*

I attended the conference as a Facility/Technical Manager Assistant, and I found the week physically demanding yet still very rewarding. I was captivated by the choral performances, instrumental ensembles, and handbell pieces. The fellowship was the highlight, filled with kindness, camaraderie, and a shared purpose that fostered a deep sense of belonging. Green Lake's beauty offered a perfect setting for reflection and spiritual renewal. – *Todd Andrews*

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Your Summer Offering

BY DENNIS RAY

THANKS FOR GIVING

This year we received donations of \$3,105 and \$5,480 for ABC-USA Home Mission Societies and One Great Hour of Sharing respectively. Through your giving to Home Missions, we have enabled community outreach, leadership development, and Christian education in the US and Puerto Rico. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering supports recovery efforts after disasters and builds sustainable futures for families throughout the world. Thank you for your gifts!

Board of Christian Outreach



Financial Update

BY NANCY MOORE

June 2025 Budget Financials: *Year-To-Date Actual*

Revenues --- \$173,630.64
Expenses --- \$148,809.78
Surplus (Deficit) --- \$24,820.86

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

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Magic Pride Festival

BY BILL BEAUDREAU

On August 17, First Baptist Church will host a tent for a 4th year in Madison's Magic Pride Festival event to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community.

Once again, with the help of our congregation, we will be sharing written affirmations, stickers, and other small giveaways. If you wish to contribute affirmations, but are unable to write them out in person in the Gathering Space at church, you can email them to office@firstbaptistmadison.org.

Like other congregations joining in the Festival sharing the message of Love for All, we are trying to reverse the tide of rejection and hate and instead build community, foster connections, and plant seeds of acceptance and love.

Join the Choir!

BY YOUNGJOO HONG



Do you love to sing? Come and join our choir!

We welcome all voices—no audition required.

Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 4th at 7 PM in the Community Room (Choir Room). Practices continue every Thursday evening. Come enjoy music, fellowship, and joyful singing with us.

For more information contact Youngjoo Hong or the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Green Team – What do you think?

BY BARBARA HENNING

Are Electric Vehicles Green?

After just a little research, I found a comparison of electric and gas-powered vehicles on the Earth.org website. In the article “The Environmental Impact of Battery Production for Electric Vehicles” they write: “...The bottom line is that while EVs have the benefits of no emissions and lowered noise levels during functioning, it is hard to consider them to be truly eco-friendly owing to the issues listed in this article” (such as toxic fumes released during the mining process for battery materials such as lithium and the water-intensive nature of the activity).

Another article titled “Why Electric Cars are Better for the Environment” says “...Generally speaking, switching to EV undoubtedly represents a good strategy to stop global warming. Indeed, if all cars on the road became electric, we could cut almost one-fifth of global emission...”

Help Wanted – Volunteers Needed

BY WYNN DAVIES

First Baptist Church is looking for a few volunteers to help Allied Partners prepare and serve a community meal at the Allied Boys and Girls Club in the Allied Drive Community. The Neighborhood Association is planning a chili supper on the **evening of Saturday, October 25**. There will also be some programming for the kids (think pumpkin carving) that we will help provide.

If you can help, let Wynn know. Phone: 608-238-1817 / email: lorwyn@sbcglobal.net

Allied Partners is a coalition of churches and other organizations that help support a food and essentials pantry, community events, and an eviction prevention fund that helps residents of this community on Madison's southwest side. FBC is a long time member of Allied Partners.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hourglass Bible Study

EVERY SUNDAY | 4:00 PM

Through July and August, the Hourglass Bible Study is going three-dimensional!

We will spend each Sunday afternoon comparing selected events in Jesus's life by reading the three versions of those events in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Come join us for our virtual meeting from 4:30 to 5:30 on Sunday afternoons, July 13 through August 31.

Newcomers are welcome at any time!



Community Bike Ride

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16 | 8:30 AM



Join us for the famous Lake Monona Loop route for a day of bike riding and fellowship.

We will meet at the main parking lot for Olin Park beginning at 8:30am and plan to leave by 9:00am. All levels of riders are welcome! We will be riding at a relaxed, enjoyable pace. The loop is 13 miles round trip; our trip is estimated to take 2-3 hours. We plan to stop at the Bait Shop for ice cream.

Rental e-bikes are available nearby.

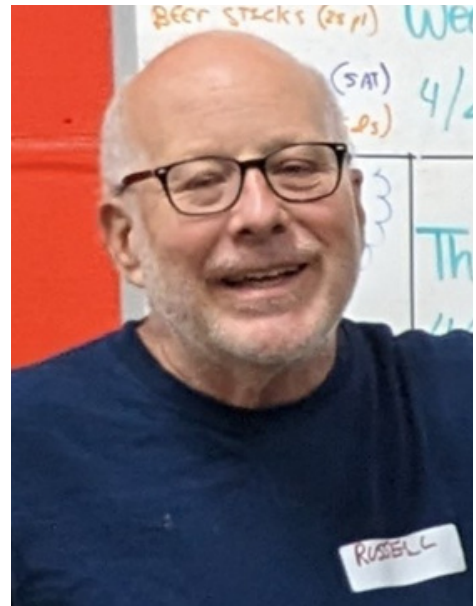
UPCOMING EVENTS

Russell Novkov Memorial Service

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16 | 2:00 PM

Russ was well-known in Madison as a tireless volunteer, spirited advocate, and devoted friend. A time for visitation with the family will begin at 1:00PM. A service to remember Russ and celebrate his remarkable life will begin at 2:00PM.

Light refreshments will be served immediately following the service.



Labor Day Breakfast

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

Join this informal picnic-style breakfast at the Hoyt Park upper shelter. Bring your own breakfast.

This is an all-church, intergenerational event. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Questions? Contact Bill Hausler

BIRTHDAYS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AUGUST 2025

2 PAUL B	22 NANCY E
3 ART H	25 CHAD V
6 BLANCA J	28 MADDIE F
10 WILLIAM H	31 CARYS A
12 THOMAS G	
15 LUIS C	
17 CAROL F	
17 RACHEL H	
18 GWEN A	
22 PHIL D	



SEPTEMBER 2025

3 BRETT T	16 CLAIRE R
5 ALAN F	20 ASHLEY B
6 CHRISTOPHER E	20 RACHEL E
8 HEATHER Z	24 JEANETTE K
8 PIHRA P	25 BOB M
9 CHERYL C	25 RHIANNON T
9 JEFF K	27 MOIRA K
12 CHARLOTTE E	29 LINDA M
14 JUDY C	
14 TYLER M	

Prayer Wall

Our Church Family & Community Members:

The Ray's son, Will; Family of Russel Novkov; Family of Adán Lara; Dianne H.; Vern L.; Isaac Carcasses; Mary's relative; Amber & Hunter; Curt Grinde; Nancy E.

Our Homebound:

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](https://firstbaptistmadison.org/prayer)