



A Note From the Pastor

BY REV. TIM SCHAEFER

As the fall season settles in, it's the perfect time to reconnect with our church family and deepen our sense of community. After a summer of travel and relaxation, we're excited to invite you back for a season of growth and fellowship!

Join us for a series on self-care practices—because taking care of ourselves spiritually, mentally, and physically has never been more important. We'll also offer opportunities for fellowship, from small groups to community events.

As we approach the end of the year, we'll focus on stewardship and prepare for Advent, with a series centered on hope and renewal. Let's embrace this season of growth together—coming back to church as active participants in each other's journeys. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us this fall!



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Nourish Your Spirit: A Self-Care Journey

BY DEB CHOTLOS & JENNIFER ANGELO

*"Calm mind brings inner strength and self-confidence,
so that's very important for good health." - Dalai Lama*

You are invited to join us on this journey focused on physical, mental, and spiritual wellness. Caring for ourselves helps us better care for others and all living beings.

- **Mindfulness for Beginners** - Saturday, September 20 | 2:00-4:00PM
- **Calming Foods for Mood** - Wednesday, October 1 | 7:00PM
- **Yoga for Beginners** - Saturday, October 4 | 2:00-4:00PM
- **Nature Bathing** - Sunday, October 19 | 2:00-4:00PM
- **Visio Divina** - Sunday, November 9 | 12:00PM

Sign up for each event through the Weekend Update or 'Events' on the FBC Website.

Personnel Committee Update

BY BILL HAUSLER

We share with both gratitude and sadness that Youngjoo Hong has stepped down from her role as Music Director after serving faithfully since August 2023.

Beth Gunshor, our Worship Coordinator, has graciously agreed to lead the choir until the Personnel Committee identifies a new candidate. We are grateful for Beth's willingness to continue guiding our music ministry through this transition.

Please join us in thanking Youngjoo for her service and wishing her all the best in this next chapter of her life. We also welcome your prayers as the Personnel Committee discerns the best path forward for the music ministry of our congregation.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Board of Trustees Updates

BY BILL HAUSLER

July

Approved: Repair work for the base of the Bell Tower; new rates for parking rentals; recommendations from the Investment and Planned Giving Subcommittee.

Discussed: Upgrading the sanctuary sound system and how to cover the costs.

August

Approved: Two policy changes for the Investment and Planned Giving Subcommittee—Investment policy language updated to align with the church's mission and vision, and memorials under \$200 with no activity for one year will be moved to a "Greater Needs" account under the Church Council; a future appeal to the congregation to support funding for a sanctuary sound system upgrade.

Discussed: Renewal of the church insurance policy; fire alarm issues; carpet cleaning; grounds upkeep; update on Personnel status.



Financial Update

BY NANCY MOORE

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

Revenues --- \$202,198.70

Expenses --- \$172,574.06

Surplus (Deficit) --- \$29,624.64

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

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Magic Pride Festival 2025

BY BILL BEAUDREAU

First Baptist Church celebrated the LGBTQIA+ community on Sunday, August 17, with messages of love, hope, and joy at Warner Park in Madison.

This, the 4th year of our involvement under the white tent, helped build community, foster connections and continued to plant seeds of acceptance and love. We gave away hundreds of affirmations and stickers to many folks who came to experience an uplifting and affirming community event.



Green Team

BY BARBARA HENNING

Solar Panels and Panel Sheep: A Win-Win in Wool Production

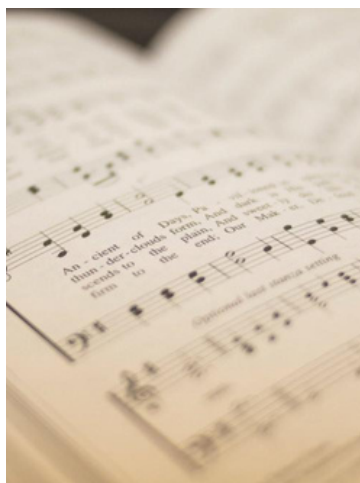
A surprising discovery from a three-year Australian study has revealed that merino sheep grazing beneath solar panels produce better wool than those on traditional pastures. The nearly 2,000 sheep observed grew stronger, faster-growing wool, thanks to the microhabitats created by the shade of the panels, which support richer, year-round vegetation.

The panels also provided much-needed shelter from sun and storms, contributing to the sheep's overall well-being. Importantly, no negative health effects were observed—and as an added bonus, the sheep naturally maintain the grass around the panels, eliminating the need for mowing.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Choir Rehearsals Begin September 4

BY BETH GUNSHOR



Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, Sept. 4 at 7:00PM

This year, we're starting with two introductory sessions (**Sept. 4 & 11**) to learn basic music reading skills from 7:00–7:30PM, followed by hymn review from 7:30–8:00PM. If you enjoy singing and need help with music reading, come give it a try! If you're already comfortable, feel free to skip these first two weeks.

Regular rehearsals for everyone begin **September 18** at 7:00PM. Hope to see you there!

Small Group Updates

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP

Beginning September 15, join us on Zoom at 7:00 PM on the first and third Mondays each month for a faith-focused book discussion. Our fall book is *Psalms – The Prayer Book of the Bible* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. *Visit the event calendar on the church website for Zoom details, reading schedule, and more.*

HOURLASS BIBLE STUDY

From September 7–28, the Hourglass Bible Study will spend each Sunday afternoon comparing selected events in Jesus's life by reading the versions of those events when they appear in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. *Visit the event calendar on the church website for Zoom details, reading schedule, and more.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mindfulness for Beginners

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 | 2:00 PM

We kick off our 5-week self-care series with mindfulness practices, led by Katherine Bonus. Learn peaceful practices for body, mind, and soul.

RSVPs are requested. To register, please:

- Visit the church website, scroll down to the “coming up” section, click on the , “Church Calendar” button, OR;
- Click on the RSVP buttons near each event in the most recent edition of the *Weekend Update*



Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Lauren Lisa Ng

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 10:30 AM



The Rev. Dr. Lauren Lisa Ng serves as the Senior Program Officer at Berkeley School of Theology and is the current board president of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.

She will be the guest preacher for the ABC-WI Annual Gathering and will also preach for us during a special worship service at First Baptist Church on Sunday, September 28.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Calming Foods for Mood

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1 | 7:00 PM

Discover calming food choices with Dr. Katy Wallace, ND. This event is part of Nourish Your Spirit: A 5-week self-care journey.

RSVPs are requested. To register, please:

- Visit the church website, scroll down to the “coming up” section, click on the , “Church Calendar” button, OR;
- Click on the RSVP buttons near each event in the most recent edition of the Weekend Update



Yoga for Beginners

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 | 2:00 PM

Learn yoga and breathing techniques to relieve tension and pain with certified Svaroopa yoga instructor Barb Anderegg.

RSVPs are requested. To register, please:

- Visit the church website, scroll down to the “coming up” section, click on the , “Church Calendar” button, OR;
- Click on the RSVP buttons near each event in the most recent edition of the Weekend Update

BIRTHDAYS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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	



OCTOBER 2025

3 STUART B	16 GREG D
4 JIM T	17 BENITO L
5 OLIVIA H	18 CAROLYN C
5 LEONA M	19 JANET R
7 JULIA B	20 CHERYL J
7 JANET C	21 DAVID E
7 ANGELA T	21 JASON M
9 JOHN P	22 JODY L
11 BILL H	25 RICHARD B
14 SCOTT H	29 TED R

Prayer Wall

Our Church Family & Community Members:

Ted R.; Joel; The family of Dr. Perry Henderson; The family of Russell Novkov; The family of Adán Lara; 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](#)