



A Note From the Pastor

BY REV. TIM SCHAEFER

This year's American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin Annual Gathering, followed by a special LGBTQ-focused worship service at First Baptist, was a powerful reminder of the gifts and challenges of our ABC-WI family. I was inspired by the racial, cultural, and theological diversity celebrated across our ABC community, the vital work on immigration advocacy, and efforts to educate congregations about the dangers that white Christian nationalism pose to our communities.



Yet, our guest preacher reminded us that many of our congregations remain ambiguous about LGBTQ+ inclusion. And this is certainly true of our ABC region. This year marked the first time I have heard LGBTQ+ justice explicitly named in an Annual Gathering. And we remain the only explicitly LGBTQ+ affirming congregation in our region. Friends, there is still work for us to do and allies to be recruited to the work of God's justice which we hold sacred.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES



Remembrance Sunday

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | 10:30AM

PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR ROSES NOW

The cost of each rose is \$3.00. Your order must be received by Wednesday, October 22.

**Place your online order at the link below,
or return a paper form to the church office.**

firstbaptistmadison.org/flowers

Contact the church office for more information.

Welcoming Zach Busch

BY BILL HAUSLER FOR THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

We thank Zach Busch for serving as guest organist during September—and we have exciting news! Zach has agreed to serve as our Interim Music Director, taking on the roles of organist/accompanist and interim choir director.

Zach is a community-based musician, whose primary work is teaching private piano, organ, and voice lessons. Since arriving in Madison in 2021, Zach has participated in the music programs of First Congregational, Christ Presbyterian, and Bethel Lutheran. Previously, in the Twin Cities, they were active at University Lutheran Church of Hope and accompanied the Voices of Hope Prison Choir. Zach holds music degrees from Luther College and Luther Seminary.

Please join us in welcoming Zach as Interim Music Director! We look forward to their musical leadership and the ways they will enrich our worship and music programs.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

September Trustee Updates

BY BILL HAUSLER FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- An insurance company error was corrected and premium paid.
- Beth Gunshor has served as interim choir director in September, replacing Youngjoo Hong who resigned – thank you Beth!
- Trustees and Pastor will meet with members of the Handbell Choir on how to move forward since Ted Reinke has resigned as director.
- Change in parking space rental rates (giving discount for multi-month rentals) has gone well.
- Carpets in the Gathering Space and first floor landing were cleaned and the base of the Bell Tower was repaired
- Bids were received for fire alarm monitoring and to replace some fire alarm equipment, as well as changing emergency telephones (in the new elevator and lift) from analog to digital.



Financial Update

BY NANCY MOORE

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

Revenues --- \$222,021.88
Expenses --- \$196,823.08
Surplus (Deficit) --- \$25,198.80

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

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Your Memorial Gift

BY WYNN DAVIES FOR THE 2ND HARVEST TEAM

A donation of \$1,860 was sent to Second Harvest Food Bank from contributions received from members of First Baptist Church and friends of Russell Novkov, in celebration of his life.

Thank you for the generosity shown in Russ' memory and for the opportunity to support those in need through this meaningful gift.



Outreach Ministries Update

BY DENNIS RAY FOR THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Christmas Offering Recommendations

We invite ideas for the Christmas offering, which supports non-profits aligned with our church's mission to follow Jesus by doing justice, loving, and advocating for equity. Send suggestions to the Board of Outreach or church office.

Supporting Immigrants and Refugees

First Baptist remains committed to immigrant and refugee support. Recent efforts include donations to resettlement and legal services, distributing "Know Your Rights" cards, preparing for ICE response, assisting with work permits, transportation to court and medical appointments, partnering with the Dane Sanctuary Coalition, and participating in border ministry in Tijuana.

Let us know if you'd like to get involved in these ministries.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Minimize Plastic Use in the Kitchen

BY LYNETTE MILLER FOR THE GREEN TEAM

- Use wooden or bamboo cutting boards
- Store food in glass, metal, ceramic, beeswax paper or aluminum foil
- Microwave only in ceramic or glass — heat releases plastic particles
- Choose metal cookware and metal or wooden utensils instead of plastic or non-stick pans
- Avoid beverages in plastic — use metal or glass bottles
- Don't put plastic in the dishwasher. It sheds microplastics
- Use cotton, hemp, or canvas reusable bags and produce bags
- Less processed foods not packaged in plastic; choose items in cans or glass jars

Small Group Updates

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Young adults—come connect this fall! Check out upcoming gatherings and find community. Upcoming events can be found at firstbaptistmadison.org/events

HOURLASS BIBLE STUDY

This fall, the Hourglass Bible Study will explore 1st and 2nd Corinthians, reflecting on Paul's teachings and their meaning for our faith today. Written during Paul's time in Ephesus, these letters respond to questions from the Corinthian church and reveal Paul's theology shaped largely by his Damascus road experience. The group meets Sundays on Zoom, 4:30–5:30 PM. Joining info and the reading schedule are on the church website under Church Hub > Small Groups.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 button in the most recent edition of the Weekend Update



Young Adults @ the Pumpkin Patch

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 | 1:00 PM



We will meet at the entrance of Sutter's Ridge Apple Orchard at 1:00 PM.

Admission to the farm is free. You will need to pay for any pumpkins and/or bags of apples you pick. *All young adults are welcome!*

Need a ride?

Meet in the church parking lot to carpool. We will leave promptly at 12:00 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nature Bathing

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 | 2:00 PM

Join us for a guided forest walk to engage the senses. 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



Trunk-or-Treat

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31 | 5:00–7:00 PM

Join us for a fun, family-friendly Trunk-or-Treat in the church parking lot. Kids can dress up, enjoy treats, and visit creatively decorated car trunks for safe trick-or-treating fun.

👻 Mark your calendar and bring your friends—it's going to be a sweet time!

We also need volunteers to decorate their car trunks and hand out candy, as well as donations of candy to help make the evening a success.

BIRTHDAYS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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



NOVEMBER 2025

1 JIM L	17 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
10 MARY F	21 MARGARET P
10 TONYA T	23 MANJARI M
13 UNA T	24 JAMIE S
13 LAURA C-T	25 BROOKE S
14 DEB C	28 CRAIG T

Prayer Wall

Our Church Family & Community Members:

The Abramson Family; Joel; Preethi's friend Kiru; Ted R.; Peggy; Heather and her family; 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 community members.

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.