



A Lenten Invitation

BY REV. TIM SCHAEFER

Lent invites more than reflection—it invites practice. One concrete step we can take this season is to renew our historic Baptist commitment to religious freedom. At a time when White Christian Nationalism seeks to fuse faith with political control, we are called to protect freedom of conscience and the separation of church and state.



Recently, I shared with you the news that an advocacy group to counter White Christian Nationalism was forming in Wisconsin. Now I invite you to sign up with the *Wisconsin Coalition for Religious Freedom*, which last month became the officially recognized Wisconsin chapter of the Baptist Joint Committee's *Christians Against Christian Nationalism* campaign. This is faithful Lenten action—resisting empire and strengthening the freedom that allows authentic faith to flourish. You can find the Wisconsin group at www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/localgroups

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Board of Outreach Update

BY DENNIS RAY FOR THE BOARD OF OUTREACH

Thank You for Giving and Volunteering

- The Christmas Offering totaled \$6,950 and was divided evenly between Open Doors for Refugees and WayForward Resources. In addition, the Board contributed \$2,500 to each agency from the Fuguitt Social Justice Fund.
- Madison Street Medicine delivered your donated blankets and sleeping bags to people living on the street. Additional items were purchased at St. Vincent de Paul.
- Your gifts of winter clothing for people reentering the community after prison were delivered to the Madison Area Jail Ministry.
- Special Outreach Fund contributions provided \$300 in gift cards to support families of students at West High School and \$500 to Porchlight to assist with emergency shelter needs during a significant influx of men seeking services. We also advertised volunteer opportunities at West High School, and several people responded.

February Trustees Update

BY BILL HAUSLER FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Key Items from the meeting:

- We approved a Board of Education request to remove two back pews from the sanctuary for use as a supervised children's area.
- Heads Up! There will be two Saturday workdays that will be planned for April!
- We are still receiving estimates/bids (or waiting for them!) for Focus on Energy projects and the sound system.
- We expect to have a permanent Music Director in place soon and are still looking for a Rental Manager.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Diaper Bank Pick Up – Volunteers Needed

BY WYNN DAVIES



Wynn Davies is seeking one or two **volunteers with cars (preferably SUVs) to help pick up and deliver** carloads of diapers and wipes to the Allied Community Food Pantry. Diapers are among the pantry's most requested items each week. In 2026, the pantry was selected to receive a monthly supply from Madison's nonprofit Diaper Bank—saving \$10,000 in annual expenses. **Volunteers are also needed** at the beginning of each month to pick up the diapers from the Far East Side and deliver them to the Pantry. Wynn is organizing help from First Baptist for several 2026 pick-ups. Can you help? Contact Wynn Davies or the church office,

Financial Update

BY NANCY MOORE, BOOKKEEPER

January 2026 Budget Financials – YTD Actual

Revenues --- \$52,306.71
 Expenses --- \$26,488.99
 Surplus (Deficit) -- \$25,817.72

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



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Order Your Easter Lilies

BY LINDA STAMM



OR

firstbaptistmadison.org/flowers

What weather we've had! Spring is in the air—though March always keeps us guessing. No matter what the forecast brings, we know that on the first Sunday in April we'll "make a joyful noise to the Lord" as we celebrate Easter! Help us fill the Chancel with beautiful Easter lilies. Lilies are \$20 each, and orders are due by Wednesday, March 25. You may order online, call the church office, or place your order form and payment in the black boxes on the kiosk. Lilies may be taken home after the Easter service. If you're unable to pick yours up—or would like a lily but need assistance—please let us know. Thank you for celebrating the Resurrection with us! For questions, contact Blanca James.

Green Team and Climate Change

BY BARB HENNING FOR THE GREEN TEAM

Climate change can feel too big for individual action. But, when millions move together, the impact is real and measurable. A recent Associated Press analysis found that if just 1 in 10 Americans made one simple change in everyday habits — food, driving, home heating, or clothing — tens to hundreds of billions of pounds of climate pollution could be avoided each year.

Personal action isn't a substitute for systemic change — it's a bridge to it.

Consider:

- Eat less beef
- Switch to an EV car or bike
- Install a heat pump
- Buy secondhand and repair

Condensed from *Let's turn "Small" Choices Into Big Climate Wins – Commit Today* at <https://tinyurl.com/bigclimatewins>

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

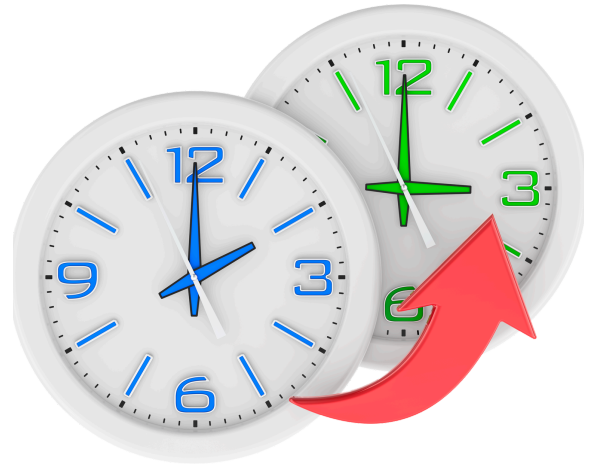
Daylight Savings Reminder

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday bright and early! ☀️



Small Group Updates

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL GROUP

Meets via Zoom, 7PM, first and third Mondays of each month. We are reading and discussing the book *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran. Reading Schedule: Read through "Crime and Punishment" and will meet Monday, March 16th to discuss it. On April 6th read "On Pain". Please contact Bill Hausler with any questions.

HOURGLASS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Beginning on April 12, the Sunday after Easter, the Hourglass Bible study will be reading *The Book of Jonah* for two Sundays, and then tackling the historically important *Deuteronomy*. Join us for a little humor with Jonah and a lot of history with Deuteronomy! Zoom virtual gathering. *Questions? Contact Mary Ray or the church office.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Adult Game Night

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 | 7:00 PM

You're invited to a Young Adults game night!

Bring your favorite board/card game and a snack or drink to share.

Meet in Room 104 at the church.



Spring Election Registration Deadlines

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | TUESDAY, APRIL 7



ONLINE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

BY MAIL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

IN PERSON AT YOUR POLLING PLACE

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026

CLICK HERE
REGISTER TO VOTE!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holy Week Service

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 | 6:00 PM

Join a special Holy Week Service with music, reflection time, and prayer.

Step away from the noise and let music lead you during this sacred time.



Easter Egg Hunt

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 | 2:00 PM



Join us for a joyful Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn!

Children ages 1–10 (accompanied by an adult) are invited to search for colorful eggs, followed by fun, games, and laughter for the whole family.

Bring your basket or bag to gather eggs!

BIRTHDAYS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MARCH 2026

1 SHEILA D	26 CHRIS B
2 MARNI B	30 ANNA D
9 BESSIE W	31 BETH G
11 BILL F	
12 MOLLY D	
12 JOAN T	
13 PAM M	
16 LESA R	
20 SALLY D	
22 WYNN D	
25 SUSAN C	



APRIL 2026

4 LAURA D	29 ROBBIE G
13 AARON H	29 CARMEN P
15 NORIKO K	30 BRENNAN K
17 WAYNE B	
18 GETA C	
25 JUDY M	
26 TANYA B	
26 GLADYS C	
26 STEVE B	
26 DALE H	
28 TIM C	

Prayer Wall

Our Church Family & Community Members:

Preethi; Barb Sorenson; Dick Lovell; Fred Kamnetz; Curt Grinde; Nancy E.; Andrew Pick; Phyllis; Darryl Eatmon; Preethi

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.