



An Easter Season Message

BY REV. TIM SCHAEFER

During Lent, we spent time reflecting on the contrast between the way of empire and the way of Jesus. Empire relies on fear, control, and violence to hold power, often at the expense of the most vulnerable. Jesus shows us another way—a way rooted in love, mercy, and deep care for our neighbors, especially those on the margins.

Easter reminds us that this way cannot be stopped. Even though empire tried to silence Jesus through the cross, his life and message continue through those who follow him. Love proves stronger than fear. Mercy outlasts violence.

This is the hope of resurrection: that Jesus' way is still alive among us, shaping how we live, serve, and care for one another. This Easter season, may we look for new ways to live that out—seeking love, practicing mercy, and working for justice in our daily lives.



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Church Dinner and Discussion

BY PAUL CHOTLOS, MODERATOR

Join your church family on Tuesday, April 28 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for an evening of food and conversation. Dinner will be catered by Naf Naf Middle Eastern Grill, with everything you need to build your own bowl or pita—falafel or chicken shawarma, fresh toppings, hummus, and sauces.

After dinner, Moderator Paul will guide an informal discussion reviewing responses from last spring's visioning conversations and exploring next steps for our shared ministry. **This meal will be the first in a series of monthly Church dinners to be held on the 4th Tuesday.**

Please RSVP by calling the church office at 608-233-1880 so we can plan accordingly.

Outreach News from Allied Partners

BY WYNN DAVIES FOR THE BOARD OF OUTREACH

Allied Partners is a coalition of congregations and social service organizations that serves the economically and socially challenged Allied Drive Community on Madison's south west side. FBC is one of its founding members. We provide financial (through our Outreach Budget) and volunteer support to the People of Allied. Some examples from their 2025 annual report:

- Enabled 31 families and individuals to avoid eviction or utility cut off through the Eviction Prevention fund. FBC contributed \$1,100 in 2025.
- Helped the social worker assigned to the Allied Community to establish and stock an Essentials Pantry that has been well used by the community.
- They sponsored a summer community picnic and a fall pumpkin carving event—helping the neighborhood to build community in this diverse neighborhood. They will be doing this again in 2026 and will be looking for volunteers.

The full report can be obtained by calling the office, 608-233-1880.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

News from Global Servants

BY DENNIS RAY FOR THE BOARD OF OUTREACH



Amanda and Jon Good, and a church member from Togo
<https://internationalministries.org/author/aj-good/>

Global Servants Jon and Amanda Good, supported by First Baptist through last year's World Mission Offering, shared an update from Florence, Italy. Their church reflects the beauty of global Christianity, with believers from many nations worshipping together. They partner with churches in Africa to serve children with compassion and share the hope of Jesus, while also being strengthened by those same communities. Jon and Amanda express deep gratitude for your prayers and financial support, and ask for continued prayer for their family's health and ministry. **Their daughter, Sarah, will work at Green Lake this summer and would welcome an offer of a loaner car for her. Contact outreach@firstbaptistmadison.org.**

Board of Outreach Update

BY DENNIS RAY FOR THE BOARD OF OUTREACH

Report from the Board of Outreach with thanks for your giving and volunteering.

- Dennis R., Jill T. and Pastor Tim participated in mock interviews at West High School to help students prepare for job interviews. Doug H. will be leading an art workshop at the West High Equity Symposium in April.
- Jill T., Lynette M., and Deb C. continue preparing quarterly meals for families at the Healing House—volunteers are welcome.
- The Board selected The Diversion Program at The Salvation Army for the Easter Offering after considering feedback from the congregation.
- WISDOM is a community-organizing nonprofit advocating for social justice for incarcerated individuals, immigrants, and others. WISDOM recently announced a "win": the state legislature passed legislation to expand health care access before and after release by requiring a federal Medicaid waiver. WISDOM partnered with faith communities to advance this effort. First Baptist supports WISDOM through its Outreach budget.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Financial Update

BY NANCY MOORE, BOOKKEEPER

February 2026 Budget Financials - YTD Actual

Revenues --- \$93,430.30
Expenses --- \$57,062.70
Surplus (Deficit) --- \$36,367.60

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



Celebrating National Poetry Month

BY BRENDA LEMPP FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

"Poetry & Popcorn" Reading

Saturday, April 25 from 3 to 5 pm, Gathering Space



All are welcome to participate and to join the fun! All ages, all levels of writing, read your own poetry, read your favorite poems by someone else, or just come to listen. Get out your pen and paper and happy writing!

Contact Brenda Lempp or the office with questions or to sign up.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Board of Education Update

BY DEB CHOTLOS FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 4 from 2–3 p.m. See the Church Calendar–Featured Events on the FBC website for details.
- There will be no childcare on Easter Sunday, April 5. Easter activity gift bags will be available for children.
- Poetry and Popcorn is April 25 from 3–5 pm—see the website calendar for more information.
- We will honor 2026 graduates at the end of May. Please contact Deb Chotlos with names.
- American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin Camp Tamarack, near Waupaca, is now accepting registrations for summer and fall camps. Opportunities are available for children, families, and adults. www.camptamarack.org and check out the Camping Calendar, 2026 ABC-WI Region Camps.

March Trustees Update

BY BILL HAUSLER FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- [Immigration and Enforcement actions at places of worship](#). ABC USA and Alliance of Baptists joined other religious groups that received a preliminary injunction against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which includes ICE and CBP. The injunction now prevents DHS, ICE and CBP from conducting immigration enforcement in certain places of worship, including FBC. While no signage will be posted, we want the congregation and renters to be aware of this injunction.
- We are reviewing our financial processes to address minor issues and improve clarity and efficiency.
- Building and Grounds will hold two April workdays; and it is reviewing bids for a new sanctuary sound system and AC. A meeting is planned to continue long-term sanctuary upgrades.
- We celebrate the hiring of Zach Busch as half-time Music Director, incorporating all areas of the music program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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!

Young Adult Game Night

FRIDAY, APRIL 10 | 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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Workdays

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM AND SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM



All hands are welcome!

Saturday, April 18, 9–11 am – Indoor workday focused on window cleaning. Meet at the parking lot entrance at 9. Bring Windex and supplies. Note: if you have another project in mind, feel free to work on your project of choice.

Saturday, April 25, 9–11 am – Outdoor workday focused on lawn prep and garden cleanup. Meet on the front lawn at 9. Bring rakes, tarps, and trimming tools. Mulch provided. Rain or cold? We'll reschedule.

Contact Paul Chotlos with questions or the office..

Service and Information Fair

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 | 11:30 AM AFTER WORSHIP

On April 19, leaders and members of the boards, committee and teams of First Baptist are holding a service and information fair in the Gathering Space. Representatives from the Boards of Deacons, Education, Outreach, and Trustees, the Pastoral Relations Committee, the Green Team, and the Racial Justice Team will be available to discuss their contributions to the life of the church. The fair will be held during Fellowship Time after the worship service and will be an opportunity to:

- Gather information and ask questions about the roles and duties of the boards, committee, and teams
- Learn how the groups live out the mission of First Baptist Church
- Explore ways to serve as a board, committee, or team member or take part in a special project

If you are unable to attend the fair and would like information on the presentations or would like to serve, contact Jill Thomas or the office at 608-233-1880.

BIRTHDAYS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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	



MAY 2026

1 SAM G
1 HYUNJI H
2 MORGAN T
13 JAMES WE
18 NANCY M
24 DOUG H
27 STEVE D
29 BROCK D
30 JIM D
30 DEL D
30 CHARLOTTE K

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.