



Changing and Becoming

PAUL CHOTLOS (HE/HIM)

As the hot, humid weather transitions to thunderstorms, it's definitely beginning to feel like fall. Back in August, we celebrated the conclusion of Pastor Tim's ministry with us, providing Tim and his husband John with a joyful "Farewell and Godspeed." Now, it's time to look ahead.

As we move into September, our Transition Team is taking the necessary steps to provide the church with an interim pastor. Until that happens, we all need to minister to each other and keep the course steady. To help chart the way, our church worship team (Zach Busch, Linda Stamm, and Sara Kelm) continue to craft worship services that are thoughtful, musical, and inspiring. All the services during this time of transition are tied together using the theme of "Changing and Becoming: A Season for Everything." So far, the congregation has been treated to exceptional sermons from people we know and love: Amanda Huff, Mark Clinger, and Quinn Garcia. In the coming weeks, we will have unfamiliar but equally inspiring speakers in the pulpit. Our FBC worship is a renewing Sunday morning experience not to be missed.

If you have been out of town or unable to attend worship services in the late summer, the start of fall is the time to resume old habits, reestablish your ties to the church family, get a dose of Sunday morning inspiration, and equip yourself to live out your faith. Our church is a spirit filled sanctuary with a message of love, reassurance, and acceptance. We need each other, and the world needs us to do the work of Jesus.

Peace, Paul Chotlos



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

The Alliance of Baptists and THRIVE

LINDA STAMM FOR THE RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

One of the many gifts Pastor Tim blessed us with was strengthening our connection to the Alliance of Baptists. "The Alliance of Baptists is a vibrant movement of people, faith communities and ministry partners who are deeply passionate about ecumenism, partnership in mission, relentless hospitality and racial and social justice." Pastor Tim encouraged the Racial Justice Team to apply for the Alliance's THRIVE (churches that thrive for racial justice) grant. He thought the grant, which we received in 2021 and 2026, could help support the church's antiracism work.

While the RJT has been spearheading our antiracism work, we really want to engage the congregation more fully in this work through THRIVE and with the Alliance. One way you can participate is by reading Alliance emails and participating in their webinars. For example, most recently, the Alliance's Justice in Palestine Initiative (JPI) sponsored an "Organize and Resist: A Call to Action" webinar. In addition to those webinars, each year the Alliance has a Gathering and THRIVE has a retreat. This year, the Alliance Fall Pilgrimage will occur after the THRIVE 2.0 Retreat, October 13-15 and 15-17 in New Orleans, LA. Everyone in our congregation is welcomed and encouraged to attend one or both events.

The Racial Justice Team will continue to take the lead in this work, but this is a part of all of our work as we live out our mission "...to follow Jesus by doing justice, loving people and advocating for equity."

First Baptist Church Music in Ministry

Enjoy the Music! We believe in the power of music to uplift and enhance our worship experience. At First Baptist, you'll hear a mix of music, ranging from traditional hymns to more contemporary praise and worship songs.

Interested in joining our choir, handbell choir, or sharing your talents with us by providing special music? Visit our Music Ministry page to learn more about what we offer and how you can get involved. Join us in making a joyful noise and enhancing our worship experience through the power of music!

For more information, please contact FBC's Music Director Zach Busch at zach@firstbaptistmadison.org



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Denominational Offerings in September

DENNIS RAY FOR THE OUTREACH TEAM

World Mission Offering: Through American Baptist International Ministries, more than 120 Global Servants work in 70 countries alongside local partners so ministries are community-led and sustainable. YouBoard of Outreach has selected two Global Servant couples to support through this year's WMO, with donations divided evenly between them.

Kyle and Katrina Williams

Kyle and Katrina serve in Southeast Asia with churches and community leaders. Kyle focuses on peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and leadership development, helping church leaders respond to conflict and violations of human dignity. They also participate in a home church rebuilt after a 2024 flood. Together, they strengthen local churches and leaders to be agents of hope and reconciliation amidst conflict. Kyle will be preaching at FBC on September 13.



Deliris and Moise Carrion-Joseph

Deliris and Moise serve Haitian, Central American, and African migrants in Tijuana, Mexico. Moise ministers through Jesucristo Migrant Shelter and Haitian Community Baptist Church. Deliris leads Deborah's House, a safe house for women and children escaping domestic violence and cartel threats. Mary Fiore visited their ministries last November and speaks highly of their work.



Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering: The RMMO supports retired ministers, missionaries, and widowed spouses who served faithfully but may face later-life challenges such as health needs, loss of spouse, or isolation. This offering provides emergency assistance and a "Thank You" check to those who have devoted 15 or more years to God's service.

To donate to WMO and RMMO, submit checks to First Baptist by mail or by envelope in the Gathering Space donation box. Note the intended offering on your check. Online gifts may be made using the QR code.



To directly support International Ministries' worldwide mission, go to <https://tinyurl.com/FBCWMO> or use the QR code



international
ministries

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

FBC at Magic Pride 2026 Recap

We had a great group of volunteers this year who shared their enthusiasm with all the folks passing our tent. Please say thank you to Amanda and Emma Huff, Paul Chotlos, Sara Kelm, Leslie Garcia and Quinn Garcia, Katherine Moore, Elias Hankins, Becky, Mary and Bill Fiore, Mat and Beth Gushor. Below are some shared thoughts from those who volunteered. Photos are gathered from sources other than those folks from FBC.

"It was a perfect summer day and everyone is always so happy and free to be. It's catching! It was fun to see the genuine gratitude from so many, to get these affirmations, and I told them to put them on their bathroom mirrors so they can start their days with the knowledge that they are loved and valued."

"It was wonderful and I loved seeing the pure joy on faces as they received affirmations."

"Magic Pride is one of the most affirming, joyful, beautiful events we get to be part of, and we had so many good conversations with folks who had questions, shared their stories, and just delighted in the affirmations written specifically for them. One couple even asked if we do weddings!"

"We talked to at least one person who was interested in coming back to try church again and that makes the whole thing worth it, whatever they decide to do, just knowing there are churches where they're welcome. I think it's important that we are visible at this event."



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

First Baptist Outreach through Allied Partners

WYNN DAVIES FOR THE OUTREACH TEAM

Allied Partners is a coalition of faith communities & human service organizations serving the Allied Drive community in southwest Madison and Fitchburg. The partners meet monthly to share information about community needs and coordinate support for the "People of Allied." FBC has participated for more than 20 years, with Wynn Davies serving as our representative. Highlights from the 2025 annual report show the practical impact of this partnership.

The Eviction Prevention Fund helped 31 individuals and families avoid losing housing or having electricity turned off. A Dane County community social worker identifies urgent needs, such as a grandmother caring for 3 grandchildren who needed help clearing back rent; a woman leaving motel living who qualified for Section 8 housing but needed a down payment; a mother of 2 whose household lost income while searching for new work. First Baptist contributed \$1,100 to the Fund in 2025 and again in 2026.

Volunteers from Allied Partner faith communities also served the community in many ways. They helped provide food for the Neighborhood Association summer picnic, brought food, pumpkins, and hundreds of books to a fall pumpkin-carving party, delivered monthly diaper supplies from the Village Diaper Bank to the Allied Food Pantry, purchased and distributed more than 50 winter coats, provided Christmas gifts for Allied children, and volunteered at weekly Wednesday food pantry events.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering or contributing financially to Allied Partners, contact Wynn Davies at lorwyn@sbcglobal.net or 608-238-1817. For more information, go to <https://www.alliedpartners.org>

How Are Our Children Doing?

WYNN DAVIES

The Annie Casey Foundation, a national child advocacy organization, regularly reports on how well we are taking care of the children in our society. Their latest "Kids Count" report for 2024 contains some concerning information about the disparity in how children from different groups in our society are faring. Here are some of its key findings:

Economic Wellbeing	Overall	Black	Latino	Native American
Children in Poverty	15%	29%	21%	26%
Parents Lacking Secure Employment	25%	39%	30%	42%
Education				
4th Graders Not Proficient in Reading	70%	84%	80%	85%
8th Graders Not Proficient in Math	73%	90%	86%	88%
Health				
Ages 10-17 Obese or Overweight	30%	37%	37%	39%
Child & Teen Deaths per 100k	13	18	20	14
Family and Community				
Single Parent Families	34%	63%	42%	50%
Teen Births per 100k	13	18	20	14

While this is nationwide data, they probably also reflect similar disparities here in our Madison Community.

Should these disparities be of concern to First Baptist and how we minister to the community where we live?

UPCOMING EVENTS

LABOR DAY BREAKFAST AT HOYT PARK

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 | ~09:00 AM

Join members of the church for a BYO Breakfast at Hoyt Park (Upper Shelter)!

Join for food, conversation, and feel free to bring games along to play.



YOUNG ADULTS GAME NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 | 07:00 PM

You're invited to a Young Adults game night in Room 104!

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



SECOND HARVEST

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 08:15 AM

Join our team of volunteers in packaging care boxes for families experiencing food insecurity!



UPCOMING EVENTS (ONLINE)

MEN'S BREAKFAST

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH | 08:30 AM

Join us for this monthly virtual breakfast gathering. Bring your breakfast, log on, and join us for a time of fellowship and conversation on Zoom.



SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH | 07:00 PM

On September 21, we resume our usual Zoom meeting format, when we meet twice a month to read a book together and explore how God is working in our lives.



HOURLASS BIBLE STUDY

EVERY SUNDAY | 04:30 PM

Join the weekly meeting via Zoom to read, discuss, and reflect on scripture. It's an opportunity to work scripture into your everyday life and to benefit from the varied and honest reactions of others in the class.



MIDWEEK PRAYER

EVERY THURSDAY | 12:00 PM

All are welcome to join our virtual prayer meeting via Zoom. We gather each week for a brief devotional and time for prayer.



BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

OCTOBER 2026

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

PRAYER WALL

Our Church Family & Community Members:

Gil & Nancy E; Jim & Susan Pike; John D & Rev. Tim; Blanca S

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.