

# The Friendly Communicator

April 2026

## A Word from the Pastor

You are most likely reading this message during Holy Week – a time when the shouts of “Hosannah!” on Palm Sunday transition to the shouts “Crucify him!” on Good Friday. Then, on Easter Sunday, we once again shout “Alleluia!” with renewed joy! The start to April brings with it the heart of our faith — the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ — and I am so grateful to walk through these holy days with each of you. As the angel declared to the women at the tomb, *“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said”* (Matthew 28:6), so we too proclaim that good news with joy and confidence. We have a wonderful season of worship, fellowship, and community ahead, and I hope you will make plans to join us for all that God has in store.

We begin the month with a very special **Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd**. Please plan to join us for fellowship at **6:00 p.m.**, followed by our worship service at **6:30 p.m.** This year, we are delighted to be joined that evening by our friends from **First Baptist Church of Waukesha**, and I know it will be a meaningful time of shared reflection as we remember the Last Supper and the call to serve one another just as Christ has served us.

Then on **Easter Sunday, April 5th**, we will celebrate the Resurrection together with a church breakfast at 9:00 a.m. — a wonderful way to begin the most glorious morning of the year! I also want to invite each of you to **bring a flowering plant** to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. The plant you bring will go home with you at the end of the service as a beautiful reminder of the new life we have in Christ. *Please bring your plant during the **week of March 30th** so we can have everything in place for a stunning Easter morning.*

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for two important gatherings in April. On **April 19th**, we will hold our **quarterly congregational business meeting** immediately following worship, complete with a potluck lunch — so come hungry and ready to share both food and fellowship! Then on **April 28th**, we are honored to host ABCWI’s **Baptist History and Polity class**, taught by our regional office staff. Our own **John W** will offer a brief history of our congregation, and it promises to be a rich time of learning about our Baptist roots and identity.

Thank you in advance for making this Easter month such a meaningful and memorable season in the life of our church. May God bless each of you as we journey together toward — and beyond — the empty tomb!

*In Christ's Service,*

Pastor Stephen

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### February 2026 Financial Income Report

**General Receipts**

Envelopes	\$16,015.00
Loose Offerings	71.00
Church School	48.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,134.00</b>

**Miscellaneous Receipts**

Pow wow	60.00
MMCC	400.00
Initial Offer	6.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$466.00</b>

**Communion Offering**

St. Ben's	140.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>

**Memorial Fund**

	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Mission Offering**

RMMO	25.00
One Great Hour Sharing	40.00
Grand Avenue Club	150.00
MCC	350.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$565.00</b>

**Deposited Total** **\$17,305.00**

### What Goes Where?

Our commitment to mission work is very strong at First Baptist. Many of you regularly support various outreach ministries through the church. To help make sure everything gets where it belongs, I thought I would remind you that:

**Milwaukee Crossroads Community:**

Formerly known as Milwaukee Christian Center, donations for this ministry go in the tubs near the office entrance.

**Street Angels:**

Donations specifically for Street Angels can be dropped off outside the music office.

**Clothing donations:**

Clothing donations can be dropped off in the Sunday School office. These donations will be shared with Apostle Presbyterian's clothing bank and Street Angels

Please watch the announcements for any other projects or collections we may be facilitating. If you have any questions, just ask!

**Thank You** to everyone for the cards and prayers for me. For now, all is great.  
Terry Arnold

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### April Birthdays

- 1 Drew Hettich
- 8 Carol Burns
- 16 Martha Valentyn-Jones
- 18 Marilyn Hazard
- 26 Jacob Schuttenhelm
- 27 Jeff Stoecker
- 28 Trini Maldonado
- 29 Sue Moreno

If we have inadvertently missed your special day, please accept our apologies, and let the office know so we can change our records.

**Spring Workday** - Saturday May 16 from 9 AM to Noon - Please come help us do some spring cleaning! There will be a mix of chores to do, both indoor and outdoor. Many hands make light work! If you have any suggestions on things that need to be done, please contact one of the Trustees.

If you would like to **bring a flowering plant** to share for Easter Sunday, with the understanding the plant will go home with you, please bring during office hours the week of March 30th. If you have any questions, please contact Mary or Sue.

**Scholarship applications** for the 2026-27 academic year are due June 1, 2026. The form is available on the CONNECT page of the church website.

### April Communion Offering

The **Communion Offering** for the month of April is designated for Project Focal Point, 811 West Burleigh Street in Milwaukee. Project Focal Point was founded by ABC-Wisconsin in 1970 in cooperation with Metropolitan Missionary, Calvary, and Mount Moriah Baptist Churches. Its goal is to meet the spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional needs of seniors, allowing them to remain in their homes as long as possible.

### Golden Guys and Gals

At 7:00 pm, Friday, April 17, the 3Gs will go to the high school musical *Catch Me If You Can* at West Allis Central High School, 8516 W Lincoln Ave. It promises to be an enjoyable evening!

We will purchase a block of tickets on April 6, so please let us know on or before Easter Sunday, April 5, if you would like us to buy a ticket for you. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer of the Education Wing. The cost for seniors is \$13. If you prefer, you can purchase online tickets yourself at [wawmtheater.com](http://wawmtheater.com) or you can buy tickets at the door the night of the performance.

Support the youth of our community by attending the performance of *Catch Me If You Can!*

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Easter is almost here and the choirs have been working very hard to get ready for 3 services in a week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Each worship service has its own focus and requires its own music to reflect that focus. What does each week focus on?

Palm Sunday focuses on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, a town that was crowded with people celebrating the Passover. He rode into the town and disappointed many people with his non-violent approach to the rulers.

Maundy Thursday is a very emotional evening in which we remember Jesus' institution of the Last Supper, the washing of the disciples' feet, and his betrayal by Judas.

Easter Sunday is all about celebrating – celebrating Jesus' resurrection and his fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

As you can see, each day is quite different and requires different music. Fortunately, we as a community are blessed with musicians who take up the challenge and work diligently to produce the best music possible for each worship service.

As you worship and fellowship in the coming season, take a minute to thank one of the musicians for their service. It takes commitment and dedication as well as a little bit of humor to get through this busy time!

*Mary Schecher*

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## Historical Reflections: 2025-2026 Winter Activities



We had a busy winter season. Here are some pictures of lighting Christmas candles, the Sunday School's Christmas pageant, and trying to sing the third verse of "Silent Night" in a dark Church. We also officially installed a new Pastor, and had a Christmas/socks tree.



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Additionally, the bells were well rung, the "Men's Choir" gave many "amens", and we consumed



much spaghetti to support local food pantries.



The winter season is now over. New plant life has started to bloom.



*This is the 110<sup>th</sup> of periodic historical articles.*

