



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

April 5, 2017

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service:

April 13 at 6:00 p.m. at Northside Community Church

Community Good Friday Service:

April 14 at 12:00, 12:30, and 1:00 p.m.

at the First United Methodist Church

*The FBC Organist and Sanctuary Choir performing
at the 1:00 service*

Rev. Stacey Simpson Duke, preaching

Tenebrae Service:

*April 14 at 8:00 p.m. in the First Baptist sanctuary
(childcare provided)*

Easter Sunday Service:

April 16 at 10:00 a.m. in the First Baptist sanctuary

All children are welcome to worship with family.

*Nursery care will be provided. Following the service, there
will be an Easter Egg Hunt.*

Children and Youth Christian Education and Music

NURSERY care for infants and toddlers is available on the 3rd floor from 9:30 - 12:30

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Preschool - 1st grade

10:00 - 10:30 Worship with families
10:30 - 11:15 Church School (Rm. 202A & B)
11:15 - 11:30 Grace Notes music
11:30 - 12:30 Activities

Youth (6th - High School)

10:00 - 11:00 Worship
11:00 - 11:30 Fellowship Time
(Fellowship Hall)
11:30 - 12:30 Church School
(Memorial Lounge)

2nd - 5th grade:

10:00 - 10:30 Worship with families
10:30 - 11:30 Church School (Rm. 201B)
11:30 - 12:00 Children's Choir (Rm. 306)
12:00 - 12:30 Children's Worship (Rm. 201B)

No classes for Children and Youth on Easter Sunday (April 16). Nursery care will be provided. Join us in an Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the service!

Adult Christian Education

(11:30-12:30)

Concluding April 9:

All Church Lenten Study

Memorial Lounge

Paul Simpson Duke, Stacey Simpson Duke, Clay Scott, leaders

An examination of the biblical call to a covenant of neighborliness in contrast to cultural ideologies of consumerism. The focus of our study is on personal examination and reflection, with consideration of how we can collectively nurture and support shared commitments to connected community. We will grapple with the practical implications of the biblical vision of neighborliness, specifically around issues of time, food, silence, covenant, money, and worship. This study is open to all (ages 12 and up) and will include both large group presentations and small group breakout conversation. The class runs through April 9.

April 16: There are no Second Hour classes for Adults, Youth, or Children on Easter Sunday.

Starting April 23:

Heroes of the Bible

Room 102

Astrid Beck, leader

For this new series, Astrid Beck will lead the discussion on Heroes of the Bible. We will look at great men and women, outstanding leaders in the biblical account, who are foundational to our faith, who not only defined it, but who also taught the values inherent in our faith practices. We will begin with Moses, continue with Elijah (highlighted again in the Gospels of Mark and Luke in the Transfiguration account; why those two?), and work our way through other major men and women in the Old Testament and the New Testament. No background readings required. Bring your favorite Bible or use one of ours.

Conversations about Race

Memorial Lounge

This class provides an opportunity to gain better understanding of racial perceptions and divisions in our culture. Events in recent years make such conversations more urgent. Special attention will be given to the character of systemic racism and white privilege, and to the choices we might make to help bring transformation. Three of the sessions will be led by La'Ron Williams, an expert facilitator on issues of race. The other three sessions will be co-led by Ron Gregg and Paul Simpson Duke.

Young Adult Class

Room 108

The group is continuing their study of the Gospel of Mark.

Other Adult Education Opportunities:

Wednesday Bible Study: Pastor Paul is leading *Studies in the Prophets*. We will discuss the work of the prophets in their historical context and will examine selected texts for closer understanding. Please join us!

Adult Small Groups: We have continuing small groups centered on study, sharing, prayer, worship and mission meeting at various times. See Stacey or Paul for information on how to join an existing group or form a new group.

College/University Students: **The Gathering** is for undergraduates and graduate students. We gather every Wednesday during the school year, 5:30-7:30p in the Campus Center, for a free, home-cooked meal and study. If you would like to be added to the email list for regular updates, please email Stacey at staceyduke@gmail.com.

FBC News & Happenings

Our Annual Program Meeting will be held after fellowship time (11:15) on April 30. After the business meeting we will enjoy a potluck lunch. Please plan to attend. There will be a sign-up sheet at the information desk and in the church office during the week. The Board of Care and Community will provide chicken, rolls, and beverages. Last names beginning A-D bring salad or some kind of vegetable; E-J bring potato, rice, or pasta dish; and K-Z bring fruit or a dessert

Can & Bottle Drive Youth Fundraiser

On June 18, our Youth Summer Mission Team will head to Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota to work with the United Methodist mission there on the reservation. Every Sunday between now and the trip, the youth group will be collecting cans and bottles to take in to receive the deposit money on; this money will be used to help offset the costs of travel to North Dakota. You can help by bringing in your cans and bottles any Sunday (or every Sunday!). It's an easy way to make an important contribution to the service and learning of our youth group. We have bins next to the Information Counter. Thank you!

Iris Martin's 101st Birthday

On Sunday, March 18, we celebrated the 101st birthday of our beloved Iris Martin.

Volunteers needed!

Please check the Information Counter for assorted volunteer sign-up sheets. We can always use your help and no experience is required. It's a great way to meet people at church and get plugged in! If you have any questions, please contact Beverly Inbody in the church office.



The Beecher-Brewer Circle next meets at 1pm on Tuesday, April 18, at Brookhaven. The program will be an update on Kimberly Smith and a book report by Wilma Duke.

The MacGregor-Stitt Circle next meets at 1pm on Thursday, April 20, at the home of Kathy Mortensen. The program will be a history of American Baptist Churches by Joe Mortensen.

Holy Week & Easter Scoop for Kids: We finish our Lenten journey and enter into the mystery of Easter with Holy Week. - Xan Morgan



Palm Sunday, April 9th: We will have palm branches to wave in worship as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry (a parade of sorts) into Jerusalem. The Children's Choir will sing an anthem during worship. During Church School the kids will go on a journey with Jesus. They'll walk alongside him as he enters into Jerusalem, has a meal with his friends and washes their feet and as he dies on the cross. We'll celebrate with anticipation that this isn't the end of the story as we make our journey with Jesus to his resurrection on Easter morning. This journey will include crafts and activities similar to our usual Easter Event. We'll conclude at the same time as 2nd hour at 12:30 pm.



Good Friday, April 14th: We have 2 options for worship on Good Friday. We are participating in our annual midday service with First Methodist and First Congregational at First Methodist next door. First Baptist leads the 1:00-1:30 service with our choir singing. Most school-aged kids have school on Good Friday this year. Nursery care is not provided at First Methodist. We also have a Tenebrae service here at First Baptist at 8:00 pm. Tenebrae is a quiet, 45 minute service. Children are welcome to attend worship. Childcare will be available.



Easter, April 16th: Our journey with Jesus is now a huge celebration as life conquers death! We encourage you to worship together as a family for this festive service. Nursery care will be available as usual. Childcare will be provided for children in Kindergarten and younger following Time as Children. After the service we'll have an Easter Egg hunt - a guaranteed way to help the kids know what a special day it is!

FBC e-Connection and Newsletter Email Distribution

Over the past couple of months, the office has heard from quite a few people that they didn't get word of various events. Here is a quick summary of how to get your email added to one or both of the distribution lists...

The church office sends out two communications electronically. FBC e-Connections are sent out with important news about happenings at the church and the concerns of church members, such as prayer concerns, birth and death announcements. We also send the FBC Newsletter out by email to anyone who wishes to receive it that way.

If you aren't currently subscribed to either list and wish to be, please email the church office at office@fbca2.org and we will send out an invitation to subscribe to either or both lists. When you get the email invitation, click on the link to finish the subscription process. ***In order to prevent complaints about spam, the distribution program doesn't allow us to simply add an email address to the list.***

We have also heard some gmail users that their service is routing e-connection emails to the "promotions" folder, rather than the "primary" folder. If you are a gmail client and it appears that you have suddenly stopped receiving e-connections, give the church office a call and Kat will work with you to fix the situation.

Thank you from Sue Ellen

On March 26, you (my church family), gave me a most memorable "release into retirement". I had been totally kept in the dark by EVERYONE and had no idea of what to expect. I never guessed that Paul and Stacey had a bunch of co-conspirators working to make this morning a perfect and joy-filled occasion. So many thanks for the efforts of these people: Stacey and Paul, along with the staff - Kat, Xan, Shin-Ae, and Bonnie AND the Celebration Committee: Chair Mary Davis, Marissa Alaniz, Toni Burton, Maryann Bowen, Jeanette Halliday, and Carolyn Hillebrand with help from Cesar Alaniz, Bob Kidd, Elli Barron, Betty Doman, and Janice Stumpf, and I am certain there were many others!

While the tears sprung (sprouted?) immediately with the very first gift - a song composed by Shin-Ae and sung first by the Children's Choir and then by the adult choir - each carefully planned moment brought such joy along with all the emotions. We had twenty-five current children and youth in attendance, plus twenty-two "alumni" who joined me on the chancel once more. Speakers at the reception included my friend Ed Ritzler, who drove in from Battle Creek to represent American Baptist Churches of Michigan; George Lambrides; the whole Kidd family: Bob, Bonnie, and Sam; and Marissa Alaniz. Xan assisted the children and youth in sharing a bit of their book for me which includes suggestions for retirement like laying on the beach, binge watching TV, and exercising! Mary Davis presented a wonderful photo book which she helped compile with Carolyn Hillebrand and a notebook of beautiful letters. Stacey presented a "certificate of retirement" and a plaque which will be placed near one of the classrooms. And then Paul presented an overwhelmingly generous gift from all of you.

I can never express enough appreciation for your kind words and your very special gifts. The celebration was perfect! I was surprised, humbled, honored, uplifted, and will remember the joy forever.

I never thought I could coherently make it through any remarks but you had lavished such love upon me that I surprised myself. For those who were not able to be present, here are the brief, and very inadequate words I manage to choke out [edited a little].

I thought of giving you a slide show but 25 years of photos would be too much. I'm also not going to name many names. 25 years of names of all I need to thank would also be too much. I asked Paul and Stacey that there be no fuss with this retirement thing - I am not leaving - I'm still going to be here tomorrow and next Sunday. I said it was going to feel like funeral. Paul said, "too bad!" And then I realized that there is one advantage to this not happening at a funeral.... *I get to tell you how much you all mean to me.*

Last fall, I returned to the little country church where I grew up for the memorial service for my Aunt, who had also grown up in that little church. (I am a third generation Northern/American Baptist.) The ladies who helped prepare the lunch after the memorial included two women now in their 80's who had been the *young mothers* while I was growing up. I have known them all of my life.

We moved to Ann Arbor in 1985 and when Jillian was a little older than Jamie is now, I realized that I wanted my kids to grow up as part of a church family like I had experienced. I found this church, which was so different than my little country church, and Bob Wallace, who was wonderfully different than the pastors I had known. And within a couple of months, Betty Lindquist had me teaching church school, with Ethan (our favorite Marine) as a 4 year old.

I came because of my children - and I hope it's very obvious to you that this church family is much loved by at least one of those kids. I came because of my children, but I did not expect or foresee how important this church family would be **to me** - you have been my church, my extended family, my support system, my vocation, my job, my friends.

It has been such an honor to be given the opportunity to teach, to laugh with, and to love your children and watch them grow. And while it may seem that the children and youth

have been my favorites, it has been such an honor to also share 25 years of life stages with ALL of you, and all those dear ones who are no longer present but who are not forgotten.

Somewhere along the way, I was asked what I considered the most important goals of Christian Education. It took me awhile but I distilled my theology. This is what I wanted the children to know as they grew up in this church: God loves us – all of us – no matter what; because God loves us, we try to love others – no matter what; Jesus helps us understand what that love can look like. And I wanted them to know **that a church family is very important** for questioning and growing and giving us the opportunities to practice how to love others.

I need to say some specific thank yous –

- My husband who has spent 25 years hearing “I can’t miss this Sunday or that Sunday” and who has only rarely (thank you, Brandy!) been able to go on vacation during the 3rd week of July.
- My daughter who grew up feeling neglected because she felt her mother spent every evening on the telephone talking to church volunteers and who willingly got ready to come to church every Sunday at least an hour before the other kids
- There have been at least seven Chairs of the Board of CE (some of whom served more than once) and I lost count of the folks who served and supported me on this Board, and then there are all those who volunteered for activities and events including many who were youth at the time they helped
- Not many people can say this but I have adored every co-worker over the years and have been blessed to work with the most amazing, caring, and FUN staff – the incredibly gifted musicians and those who keep this operation going in the office: my dear friends Annabel and Ivy, Ginny and Bev, and for the last few years, the incomparable Kat.
- I have been blessed to have been mentored, taught, and pastored by the most compassionate and wise – interims Jim Middleton, Ron Tipton and Dianne Fleming, and my first Pastor-boss, George Lambrides, who patiently answered many, many questions, and who guided and nudged me into becoming a Christian educator.
- And Paul and Stacey, who had no choice in the matter – they were stuck with the staff they inherited. The other staff on Paul and Stacey’s initial team all left after awhile, but they were still stuck with me. They are still patiently answering questions, and teaching me, and are my dear friends.
- I truly thank God for Xan, who is making it very easy to leave this role because of who she is and what she brings to us. I know our kids are in her enthusiastic, loving, and superbly capable hands.

This has been the best job - and all of you, and all those beloveds who have left us, have made it so. I borrow words from that great theologian, Garrison Keillor: “And now I fade away into well-deserved obscurity”. I am coming full circle – I came into this role from the congregation, and I am returning to the congregation.

There are too many photos to share and too many people to name, but not enough words to express how grateful I am. I love you and you have made me feel blessed beyond words.

Northside Community & First Baptist Churches

21st **CONCERT** *4a* **Cause**

Supporting local nonprofits

Sunday, April 23, 2017- 4 pm

First Baptist Church

517 E. Washington Street

***Let All the World
in Every Corner Sing!***

Benefiting The Corner Health Center

Five Mystical Songs

Samuel Kidd, baritone

First Baptist Church Choir

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Michigan Sinfonietta Chamber Ensemble

Bonnie Kidd, Director

CO^{4a}

Timothy McAllister and UMSMTD Saxophone Ensemble

Shin-Ae Chun, organist

Corner Health Center Theater Troupe

VokylDuo, Clark-Guerriero Duo, Perry-Goodson Duo

***the* CORNER**
Health Center

Free & open to the public • On-site reception
Donations to the Corner Health Center Accepted



FUNDRAISING NIGHT

Help support

ANN ARBOR FIRST BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP - THE CROSSING

**April 11, 2017
4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

at the Panera Bread bakery-cafe at
**3205 Washtenaw Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

Bring this flyer when you dine with us and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase. Please hand in a hard copy or show an electronic version of this flyer upon placing your order. Purchases of gift cards are not counted towards the event. It's a great way to combine great taste and great fun - for a great cause.

**Learn more about Fundraising Nights at Panera Bread at:
www.PaneraBread.com/fundraiser**

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	3	4 5:30 Vespers	5 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering	6 7:30 Choir	7	8
9 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	10	11 1:30 ChristCare 4:00 Youth Fund -8:00 Raiser at Panera Brd. 5:30 Vespers	12 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering	13 Maundy Thursday 6:00 Maundy Thurs. Serv. (at NCC) 7:30 Choir	14 Good Friday 1:00 Community Good Friday 8:00 Tenebrae	15
16 Easter 10:00 Worship 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt	17	18 1:00 Beecher-Brewer Cir. 5:30 Vespers	19 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering End of Year Party	20 1:00 MacGregor-Stitt Circle. 5:30 Christian Education 7:30 Choir	21	22
23 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour 4:00 Concert-4aCause	24	25 9:30 ABWM 5:30 Vespers	26 1:30 Bible Study	27 7:30 Choir	28	29
30 10:00 Worship 11:15 Annual Program Meeting						

First Baptist Church
517 E Washington Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2015
734-663-9376
www.fbca2.org
office@fbca2.org

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

Next
Newsletter
Deadline:
Sunday, April 23



EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

I / We would like to order an Easter Lily (\$17.50 each) to be given:

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Enclosed is my check made out to "First Baptist Church" for \$_____, for a total of _____ plants, which will be displayed on the chancel Easter Sunday, and may be picked up following the service that day. Paid orders must be received by **Tuesday, April 11**, to be included in the Easter bulletin. Be sure to write "Easter Lily" on the memo line of your check.