



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

A Letter from Our Pastors

January 24, 2018

Dear church family,

As most of you know by now, Stacey received a difficult diagnosis last week. After four days in the hospital for a pulmonary embolism and recurrent deep vein thrombosis (DVT), she was diagnosed with metastatic leiomyosarcoma, a rare, aggressive soft tissue cancer. The primary site of the cancer is, as of yet, unknown, but it has metastasized to her lungs and her liver.

A year ago, when Stacey first experienced a DVT, she went through a series of tests to determine a possible underlying medical cause. Though scans revealed very small pulmonary nodules, her doctors determined those to be benign, and deemed the DVT to be unprovoked. Now we know that the nodules were not benign and that the DVT was caused by malignancy. While it has been truly horrifying to discover this misdiagnosis and the loss of precious time to treat the disease, the good news is that the progress in the lungs from last January to this January was slow. The additional good news is that Stacey is otherwise in very good health, which should make a difference in her ability to withstand treatment and, we hope, in the overall outcome of treatment.

On Monday, Stacey had an appointment with a sarcoma specialist at the University of Michigan Sarcoma Clinic. We also expect to be going to another sarcoma center quite soon to get a second opinion regarding treatment options. Though we trust that she would receive excellent medical care at U-M, this diagnosis is too serious not to get at least one additional opinion. We anticipate that Stacey will begin treatment quite soon, most likely in early February.

This has been a devastating time in the life of our family, and we know it has been devastating to our church family as well. Because we are still in the process of making a treatment plan, it is difficult to know what the coming weeks and months will look like. We will be working closely with church staff and leadership and with church volunteers to continue the vital, vibrant ministry of First Baptist Church. As much as possible, we will communicate with you about our situation.

We are so grateful for the many people in our church family who have stepped forward with offers of help. Many of you with connections to healthcare have been invaluable sources of information as we navigate this crisis. Others of you have stepped up to fill gaps in our ministry here. And so very many of you have asked how you can help. We are working to create a list of help we anticipate needing, both at church and at home, and we will be working with a couple of church members who will coordinate such help. We'll be in touch with more information soon.

Dear church, you are so much in our heart and in our prayers. We cannot imagine facing what lies ahead without you. Thank you so much for your love, your support, and your prayers.

With love,
Stacey and Paul

Children and Youth Christian Education and Music

Our Sunday morning schedule: Children are an integral part of our worshipping church family; children of all ages are welcome in worship. Staff and volunteers transition the kids during the morning. Our goal is to make it easy for parents to participate in "Second Hour," our adult class offerings.

Infant - 3-year-olds:

- 10:00 Worship with family, nursery available
- 10:30 Families may choose to have kids go to the nursery following Time as Children for a time of praying and storytelling in the nursery. Snack will be provided.
- 11:30 Children and nursery staff go to another play space (room 202 A) for Friendship Time.
- 12:30 Kids join families for lunch in the Fellowship Hall

4-year-olds - 2nd grade: room 202A/B

- 10:30 Church School: connecting, praying, storytelling, responding
- 11:05 Snack
- 11:15 Grace Notes Choir with Marissa Alaniz
- 11:30 Friendship Time staffed by Kathryn Gregg and nursery volunteer
- 12:30 Kids join families for lunch in the Fellowship Hall

3rd - 6th Grade: Room 201B

- 10:30 Snack
- 10:45 Church School: connecting, praying, storytelling, responding
- 11:30 Children's Choir with Shin-Ae Chun (music room)
- 12:30 Kids join families for lunch in the Fellowship Hall

Youth (7th-12th grade):

- 10:00 Worship
- 11:00 Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:30 Church School (Room 107)



Prayer Friendship Bracelets: This Sunday (Jan 28) there will be supplies available to make friendship bracelets. You are invited to make and wear a bracelet as a reminder to pray for Pastor Stacey. We'll have extra bracelets already made for those who would like one. Thank you to Nancy Paul for this great idea! And to Ashley Mangrum and Vania McAllister for helping us make it happen.

Plan for Kids this Sunday: This Sunday (Jan 28) we have our annual meeting following worship. We hope many parents stay for this quick (~40 minutes) and valuable meeting. Regular 2nd hour groups/classes will not be meeting this week. Children will be engaged in their usual Sunday morning programming. After the meeting we will delight in a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Xan will bring the children down to have lunch with their families.

Nicaragua Mission Team leads worship on February 4th - Walk with us to Tierra Blanca, Nicaragua! A mission team from FBC will be heading to Nicaragua in less than a month to support the community-based healthcare work of AMOS. The members of the mission team will be leading worship next Sunday. The team is eager to share with you the work they will be doing and how you can help them financially execute their projects. For more info, see the Walk With Us flyer included in this newsletter.

Adult Christian Education

(11:30-12:30)

There are no Adult classes being held on January 28 due to the Annual Financial Meeting.

These classes resume on February 4:

Heroes of the Bible (Astrid Beck, leader)

Lounge

As we begin the new year, we will continue with our study on Heroes of the Bible, great men and women, outstanding leaders in the biblical account, who were foundational to our faith, who not only defined it, but who also taught the values inherent in our faith practices. In the weeks before Lent, we will take a look at Paul, the first New Testament writer, who formulated and established the basics of our Christian faith. No background readings required. Bring your favorite Bible or use one of ours.

A History of Baptists (Joe Mortensen, leader)

Library

This class examines key points in the history of Baptists, from their beginning until now. Participants will learn about the roots of the Baptist movement in the Reformation, the early Baptist advocacy and influence for religious tolerance in America, the pioneer work of Baptists in International missions, the North/South division of Baptists over slavery and the Civil War, and issues of current Baptist denominational life. The discussion will be enlightening and engaging not just for longtime Baptists, but for people who are new to our congregation's Baptist identity and tradition.

The Gospel of Mark

Room 108

This class offers an ongoing study and discussion of Mark's Gospel, attending to its original context and meaning and to its applications for today. 2018 is an especially good year for this study because it is Year-B of the church lectionary cycle, when most of the Gospel readings, and many of the sermons, will be from the Gospel of Mark.

The R&R (Relaxing and Reflecting) Group

This group will meet at the cafe Fred's, just three doors down at 403 E. Washington and will spend time connecting with each other and having informal discussions of the morning's sermon. Participants are welcome to grab a coffee or a bite to eat if they'd like. Parents of teens and/or kids will need to be back at church by 12:30 to pick them up from their morning programming. Connect with Paul or Xan if you have questions.

Other Adult Education Opportunities:

Wednesday Bible Study: Pastor Paul Simpson Duke is leading a study of the Gospel of John.

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 during the school year for a free home-cooked meal, friendship, and study. If you would like to be added to the email list for weekly updates about gatherings and service opportunities, please email Stacey Simpson Duke at staceyduke@gmail.com

FBC News & Happenings

Warming Shelter Ministry at FBC Volunteer Sign up & Warming Center Collection

The Warming Shelter will be open at First Baptist Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of February, 9am-3pm. First Congregational will be the host on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday. The group MISSION oversees the Warming Shelter Ministry, and will be providing many of the volunteers to work this important ministry to the homeless.

Each church hosting the Warming Shelter is invited to participate in any number of ways, such as:

- Volunteer your time to mix and mingle with those using the Warming Shelter;
- Bring some snacks (nothing with peanuts), or food to share with the guests; etc.;
- Sign up at the information desk, or church office to prepare and bring a luncheon dish to serve 35 people (NO Peanuts in food). We will need at least 2 dishes (serving 35 each dish). The Warming Shelter has been averaging about 70 people.
- We are also collecting warm clothing including gloves, hats, mittens, and socks (look for sales!), plus personal products like toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, shampoos, pocket tissue packs, combs, soap, etc. There will be a basket near the Information Counter each Sunday.

Contact Kent Jennings (kentjen31@gmail.com; [734-732-6802](tel:734-732-6802)) or Ron Gregg (rgregg@patientfocussystems.com) for more information.

The MacGregor-Stitt Circle next meets at 1:00pm on Thursday, February 15, in the Lounge. Sandra Deline and Eva Kelly are co-hostesses, and the program is "India" by Fred & Mary Munson.

Resources for Personal Devotions

We hope that one of your New Year's resolutions is to spend a quiet time each day with prayer and scripture. The Board of Christian Education invites you to use *The Secret Place or Disciplines*. *The Secret Place* is available at the Information Counter (free). It is published quarterly and is offered in regular and large print editions. The Upper Room publishes *Disciplines* which has one-page daily devotions for the entire year and the scriptures are based on the lectionary. Each week you can read and meditate on the scriptures that will be usually be included in the upcoming Sunday's worship service. *Disciplines* books are available from Sue Ellen for \$8.



The 2018 Chancel Flower Calendar

The sign-up calendar is now posted on the downstairs bulletin board near the Lounge door. The cost is \$30 and your dedication goes in the bulletin. The flowers are yours to take after the Sunday morning service. Please sign up early to secure your date(s).

Start off the New Year by becoming an FBC volunteer!

There are sign-up sheets at the Information Counter relating to Fellowship Time, Sunday morning greeters, and staffing of the Information Counter on the second and third Sundays of each month (No, you are not expected to know all the answers!). We also need six volunteers on Communion Sundays (first Sunday of the month). There are other ways to help, including Tuesday evening Vespers, Wednesday evening Gathering, just to name a couple. If you have any questions, stop by the Information Counter or the church office (734-663-9376).

Follow us on Facebook! If you aren't already a fan of FBCA2 on Facebook, come on over and "Like" our page: [facebook.com/fbca2](https://www.facebook.com/fbca2).

We post regular updates there about what's going on around here, along with the occasional devotional thought. You can post on our wall as well. If you are already a fan, did you know that you can easily share certain FBCA2 posts with your own Facebook friends? Events and links that can be shared will have a "Share" button (in addition to the usual "Like" and "Comment" buttons). Click "share" and the event or link will show up on your own Facebook page for all your friends to see. It's a great way to get the word out about special happenings at our church.



Baby Shower

Join us on March 4, 12:30 - 2:00, for a baby shower for the family from Afghanistan whom we are assisting. We hope many of you will join us for lunch and the shower. There is an RSVP sheet at the Information Counter. Childcare will be provided upon request. Also at the Information Counter is a gift wish list. When you purchase a gift, please either check -off your gift on this list, or let Sue Ellen know. (Gently used/like-new items are welcomed.) Financial donations are very much appreciated so that large items (car seat, stroller, etc,) may be purchased. You may leave your financial gift in the offering plate (labeled as "shower gift"), or send to the church office. In order to shop, we are asking that financial gifts be turned in by Feb 18.

Items needed:

- Car seat
- Crib mattress
- Stroller
- Crib sheets and mattress pads
- Diaper bag
- Receiving blankets
- Baby clothes
- Baby towels
- Baby Sling Wrap
- Diapers and wipes
- Small bath tub
- Lotion/shampoo/powder/cream

The Board of Care and Community and your congregation want to be available to help in life's difficulties and transitions, but we can only do that if we know your are experiencing them. We can offer visits, help with food, transportation and possibly other needs. If you or your family lets the church office know, we will contact you by your preferred method to see how we can help.

Emergency Contact Forms - There may be times when the church office or staff needs to contact a family member of someone in our congregation. If the family member does not attend FBC, we will not have the information we need. We would appreciate each family in the congregation completing this emergency contact form (to be used only by the staff) and leaving it in the offering plate, at the Information Counter, or mailing it to the church office.

YOUR NAME: _____

Contact #1:
Name _____
Relationship: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____

Contact #2:
Name _____
Relationship: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____

Contact #3:
Name _____
Relationship: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____

Our Coffee Break Concert Series presented another exciting concert on Thursday, January 18. Clarinetist Cecilia Kang and pianist Ana Maria Otamendi flew in from South Carolina and Louisiana respectively and treated our audience with their sensitive and creative playing of wonderful and fun music. The concert began with Gerald Finzi's Five Bagatelles. Each bagatelle was a full and emotional movement, which Cecilia and Ana Maria expressed well together through their instruments. The program included two living composers, David Biedenbender and Theresa Martin, who opened up another aspect of the clarinet and piano duo music to the audience. Finally, it was fun to end the concert with Astor Piazzolla's two tango movements. The talks that were given by these musicians were informative to understand each piece better and to help the audience to see the history around the piece.

The next concert on the series is Violin and Piano/Organ Concert by Andrew and Gail Jennings on February 15, Thursday at 12:15 pm. Violinist Andrew Jennings is Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at the University of Michigan and the Oberlin College Conservatory. And Organist and Pianist Gail Jennings is the organist at Bethlehem United Church of Christ. This husband and wife duo has been musically enriching people's lives locally and remotely. They will play a beautiful program for us with music by Szymanowski, Harrison, Rochberg, Bernstein and Beethoven. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors. Help us reach out to our community. It is a free concert, and all are invited.



Dear Church *family,*
It's time for a New Directory!



*Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!



*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



Online Scheduling Available!

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on schedule your photography session on the right side, enter mi1104 in the Church Code field and enter directory the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
Coffee Break Concert Series, 2017-2018 ⑤
Free Concert and Open to the Public

Violin ^{and} Piano • Organ

Andrew Jennings

Professor of Violin • Chamber Music
University of Michigan
Oberlin College Conservatory

Gail Jennings

Organist and pianist
Bethlehem United Church of Christ



Music by Handel, Szymanowski,
Harrison, Rochberg, Bernstein and Beethoven

February 15, 2018
Thursday at 12:15 pm

517 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734) 663-9376 / www.fbca2.org

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 Warming Center 7:30 Choir	2	3
4 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	5	6 9:00 Warming Center 5:30 Vespers	7 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering 7:30 ChristCare	8 9:00 Warming Center 7:30 Choir	Photo Directory Picture Days	
11 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	12	13 9:00 Warming Center 5:30 Vespers 7:00 Mission Action	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering 7:00 Ash Wed. Service	15 9:00 Warming Center 12:15 Coffee Break Conc. 1:00 MacGregor-Stitt Circle 7:30 Choir	16 7:00 F&F Small Group	17
18 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	19 6:30 Book Group	20 9:00 Warming Center 1:00 Beecher-Brewer Cir. 5:30 Vespers	21 1:30 Bible Study 5:30 Gathering	22 9:00 Warming Center 7:30 Choir	23 10:30 AMOS Mission Team Departs	24
25 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	26	27 9:00 Warming Center 9:30 ABWM 5:30 Vespers 7:00 FBC Ladies Book Club	28 1:30 Bible Study			

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, Feb 4

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28

Our annual financial meeting will be held after fellowship time (11:30) on January 28. 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. If your last names begins with A-D, please bring fruit or dessert; last names beginning with E-J, please bring salad or some kind of vegetable; last names starting with K-Z, please bring a potato, rice or pasta.

FBC e-Connection and Newsletter Email Distribution

From time to time, we hear from folks 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 immediate happenings at the church and the concerns of church members, such as prayer requests, birth and death announcements.
- **FBC Newsletter** for distribution of the twice-monthly church newsletter for those who want to receive it electronically (it helps save on paper and postage, besides arriving at your computer on date of publication!)

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.***

Walk With Us

...to Tierra Blanca, Nicaragua!

This February, we will be traveling from the United States to the remote, rural village of Tierra Blanca, Nicaragua through the nonprofit organization, AMOS Health and Hope. AMOS improves the quality of health in rural communities by working alongside them in health, education, and development.

The need for community-based healthcare is high in rural Nicaragua. The majority of people who live there survive on less than \$2 per day. Women and children are especially vulnerable to preventable illnesses, and poverty and lack of access to healthcare contribute to high maternal and infant death rates.

We are excited to bear witness to God's love and help create positive change in our world by walking together with AMOS and the people of Tierra Blanca!

Our team will be working in collaboration with the community's health and water filter promoters towards these common goals:



Install 35 water filters in homes of extremely poor families who do not currently have safe drinking water



Repair the roof of the community health clinic, which will allow the Health Promoter to continue to see patients there



Plan and facilitate children's activities to teach the kids of Tierra Blanca about health and hygiene

To execute our projects, our team needs to raise \$5,000. Though our work is short-term, we walk together in service to the comprehensive, long-term goals identified by the community itself. We walk together to learn more about the world around us. We walk together to bring health and hope to the people of Nicaragua.

Will you walk with us today?

- The Tierra Blanca 2018 Mission Team: Christina Alaniz, Marissa Alaniz, Alex DaSilva, Xan Morgan, Anjali Nemorin, Eldi Paguada, Nancy Rhodes, Macauley Rybar, and Ethan Wright



When we walk together with the people of Nicaragua, we ensure better health and brighter futures.

AMOS
HEALTH & HOPE

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

I want to walk with you!

My gift brings health and hope to the children and families of Tierra Blanca, Nicaragua. I'm enclosing:

- \$35 to provide supplies for water filters and roof construction
- \$50 to provide in-home healthcare to ten vulnerable patients
- \$100 to provide training for Tierra Blanca's health and water filter promoters
- \$_____ to help as many people as possible

In honor of: _____



When we walk together, we can change lives.

Please make checks payable to First Baptist Church with "Tierra Blanca" in the memo line. Your gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law. If you prefer to donate online by credit card, please visit www.crowdrise.com/tierrablanca2018.