



Pastor's Reflections by Paul Simpson Duke

February 12, 2020

I got a big shock at the grocery store last week. Near the entrance were tables stacked with white boxes, each one bearing the word, *Pączki*. The shock was not that I was suddenly reading Polish, but that these big stacks of once-a-year Polish pastries could only mean that we are right on the verge of Lent. I already knew, of course, that it would soon begin; I've been mulling over Lenten themes for worship, preaching, and teaching for some time. But these great piles of *paczki* set something in me to gasping: *Already!?!?* Yes, already. By the time you read this, it will be two weeks or less until the season begins. Ash Wednesday is February 26.

The Old English word for the season was *lengten*, precursor of our word, *lengthen*. *Lengten* meant spring, since lengthening daylight signals the dying of winter, and spring is when daylight grows longest. From *lengten* came *Lent*. So, when the liturgy invites us to "a holy Lent," it is calling us, in translation, to "a holy Spring" (though a fair portion of it happens in winter, and in the southern hemisphere it's actually Autumn). Lent occurs in the forty days (plus Sundays) leading up to Easter, and to think of it as the season of "lengthening light" is valuable. We are seeking truer light on who we are and on what Jesus calls us to do with our lives. We look for greater understanding and clarity of purpose. We strive to see our world and our neighbors more clearly, and we reflect on how to extend the light more faithfully to the lives of others. And we do all this as we move toward the great light of Easter. In the earliest days of observing Lent (early 4<sup>th</sup> century, though shorter versions were observed much earlier), the season was used as a time for intense preparation for new converts, who would be baptized on Easter Sunday, and for people who had left the church and would be fully reconciled at Easter. The season was for reflection, renewal, penitence, prayer, and instruction in Christian discipleship.

Here are some ways that we will pursue such reflection, renewal, penitence, prayer, and instruction at First Baptist Ann Arbor this year:

We will offer an adult Lenten second-hour series called *Faithful Citizenship: Covenant, Community, and the Common Good*. This series will consider issues related to the betterment of society (such as the economy, the environment, security, and health) from the perspective of the important concepts from Christian tradition: covenant and community. As we seek during Lent to apply our discipleship more intentionally, how might we do so, as individuals and as a church, for the health and wholeness of society where we live and beyond? The goal of this class is to invite participants to think deeply about their role as American citizens and as global citizens, within the context of respectful, conversational community.

An extraordinary opportunity for worship will be offered on the nights of March 9, 10, and 11. Two brothers from the Taizé community in France will be with us to share and to lead in three ecumenical services of prayer. People from many Christian traditions will join with us in the prayerful singing and worship that this community has made globally famous. (See p. 7 of this newsletter for more on this event). For many, this will be a transforming experience.

There will be much more. A daily devotional resource will be provided for you. An installation of artwork depicting "The Stations of the Cross" will be set up, and the artist will visit us with reflections on it. Soon, we will provide you with a detailed calendar of *many* opportunities for Lenten observance, not only in the worship and programs of our church, but (per our second-hour theme) in numerous community events focused on issues of the common good. (For more on this calendar—"A Holy Lent for the Common Good"—see p. 4 of this newsletter.)

This season holds a great deal of promise for us, leading to the festive celebration of Easter. On our way, in the lengthening light of Christ's call to discipleship, we will find new understanding, inspiration, and resolve. How wonderful that we get to make the journey in the good company of each other.

## Children's Christian Education

**Simple Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday:** Children and their families are invited to church for a soup supper together at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, February 26. Following dinner we'll talk about the season of Lent, introduce a Lenten discipline for the kids and talk about what they'll see, hear and experience during our Ash Wednesday service which begins at 7:00 pm. The service is 30 minutes. Optional childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers. Please let Xan ([xan@fbca2.org](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)) know if you're able to come and whether you're able to help make the soup supper happen.



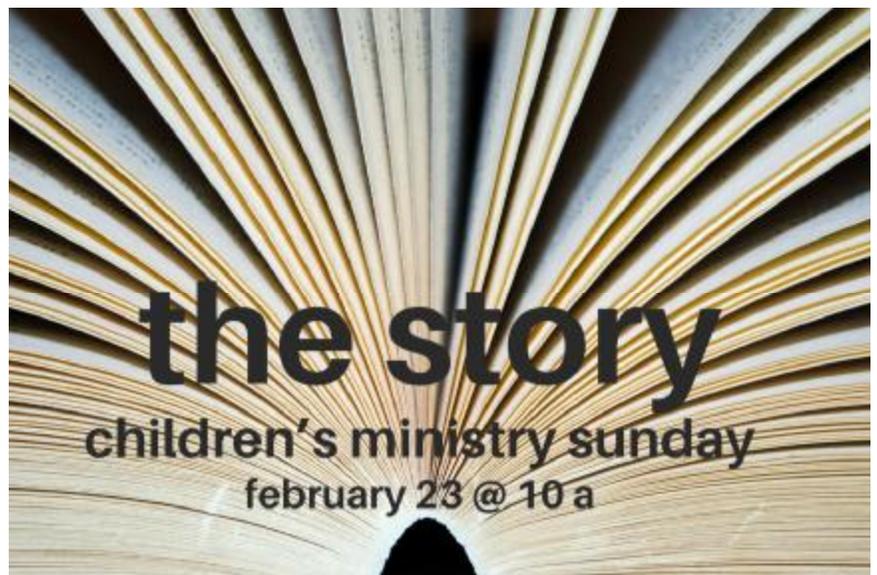
Mark your calendars: **Vacation Bible School** will be Tuesday, June 16th through Thursday, June 18th from 9:30-12:15 pm. VBS is for children who have completed preK through 5th grade. Youth and adults are encouraged to be a part of the volunteer team. Childcare is provided for young children of volunteers.

[Sign your kids up today!](#)

February 16: last Children's choir rehearsal (11:30-12:00) and planning session (12:00-12:30) for CMS

February 22: Rehearsal at church from 11-noon with pizza lunch to follow

February 23: Call time for children is 9:30 am



# FBC News & Happenings

## **Knowing and Loving our Neighbors**

In January the HERE Anchor Team, in conjunction with the Board of Mission Action, promoted understanding and action related to our homeless neighbors. We learned from Sarah Kruszka about the work of the Delonis Center to provide temporary housing and move homeless persons into permanent housing. We also learned how our participation in the Rotating Shelter helps with that work. Sheri Wander taught us more about how to interact lovingly with others, including folks with whom we might not be comfortable especially in relation to the Warming Center. And then there was Undie Sunday! We collected almost twice our 300 pair goal!!!! There were also gifts of toiletries, socks, hats and gloves. Sign up online or at the table in the hallway to be neighborly at the overnight Rotating Shelter (<https://www.fbca2.org/event/rotatingshelter/>) and/or the daytime Warming Center (<https://www.fbca2.org/event/warmingcenter/>).



## **MacGregor-Stitt Circle**

The next meeting of the Macgregor-Stitt Circle will be held at 1:00pm on Thursday, February 20, in the Lounge. The program is "The Life of the Preacher's Spouse."

## **Central Area Annual Meeting**

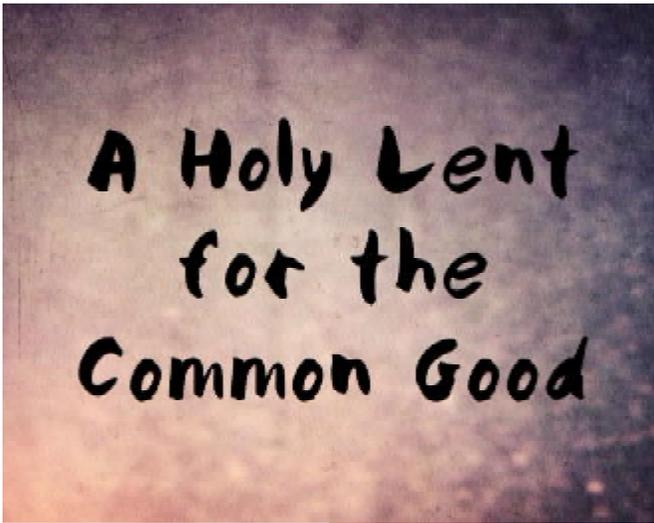
This year's Annual Meeting for the Central Area churches will be held on March 21 at Olivet Baptist in Lansing, 9:00-11:30am. The featured speaker will be our own Marissa Alaniz who will share information about AMOS Health and Hope. In addition to fellowship, sharing, and worship together, there will also be a report from a member of the 2019 Haiti Mission Team, the election of a new Chair, and the approval of the budget which will include camp scholarships and grants for churches doing cooperative ministry. It would be great to have a delegation from our church to support Marissa and to learn what our sister Central Area churches are doing. Please contact Sue Ellen Glover if you are interested in attending.

## **Digitizing Memories Stored on Outdated Media**

Need help with digitizing paper photographs, old VHS tapes, and floppy disks? Sam Schmaltz (grandson of Dick Bowser) has started up a business to help, **Ypsilanti Digitizing Services**. You can call him at 919-699-8766 or email at [ypsilantidigiservices@outlook.com](mailto:ypsilantidigiservices@outlook.com). The website is [ydsypsi.com](http://ydsypsi.com) Check it out to see how Sam can help you preserve those old memories!

## **A Youth Lenten Pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in France**

During the Ann Arbor Public Schools Spring Break, Pastor Stacey, along with two of our young adults, will be taking a small group of high schoolers on pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in France. This ecumenical Christian monastic community has a special ministry to youth and young adults. Through their shared life of prayer, singing, silence, Bible study, and communal work, they offer pilgrims an opportunity to seek communion with God, to discover inner peace, and to be encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity, and reconciliation. This could be a life-changing and faith-deepening experience for our youth! Please keep them in prayer as they prepare to go on this journey (March 27 - April 5).



During this season of Lent, we invite you to consider...

How does our Christian faith challenge our ingrained individualism and invite us to take greater responsibility for the common good?

We invite you to join us in observing a holy Lent for the sake of the common good. On Sunday, February 23rd, we will provide you with a calendar of worship experiences and community events that will help our church family reflect and learn about issues related to the common good. On Palm Sunday, we'll offer to God our reflections and learning through this spiritual discipline. Questions? Contact Xan Morgan ([xan@fbca2.org](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)).

**Overnight Rotating Shelter:**

We will host the DeLonis Center Rotating Shelter for seven nights in March beginning Monday, March 16 through Sunday, March 22. Two or three volunteers serve each night as hosts arriving at 7:30 pm and serving overnight until 7:00 am the next day. The volunteers work shifts; each volunteer takes a shift during the night. We only have a few spots left! [Sign up today!](#) Questions? Contact Pete Stover ([petestover@me.com](mailto:petestover@me.com) or at 816-830-1041).



[Sign up here](#) to greet. Email Sue Ellen Glover ([gloverse@hotmail.com](mailto:gloverse@hotmail.com)) to sign up to host Fellowship Time. We are grateful for your partnership in this ministry!

# **COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS**

**A GATHERING  
FOR THOSE WHO ARE NEWISH  
TO FBC AND WANT  
TO LEARN MORE**

**SUPERVISED FUN FOR KIDS TOO**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1  
3:00-5:00 PM**

**AT XAN AND KEVIN'S  
2614 PAGE CT**

**RSVP: [WWW.FBCA2.ORG/COFFEE](http://WWW.FBCA2.ORG/COFFEE)**

**Our Coffee Break Concert Series** had a unique concert on December 12. Despite being a busy month for all, there was a nice crowd gathered in our sanctuary to hear *Piano Concert: Making Sound Visible* featuring piano music written by Claude Debussy. The program included a 6-movement suite *Children's Corner*, three settings from *Images, Book 2* and *Prelude No. 4* from Book 1. Along with the beautiful piano music played by Dr. Hyewon Jung, selected impressionists' paintings, from which Debussy got inspiration for his music, were projected on the screen. Before each movement, Shin-Ae Chun gave the audience background on the piece making a connection with a painting. After appreciating the concert, people enjoyed a refreshment table which was kindly prepared by our volunteers.

Our next concert in the Coffee Break Concert Series is *Bach Celebration: Happy Birthday to J.S. Bach* on March 19, Thursday at 12:15 pm. The concert will be a celebration with all Bach music performed on organ, piano, violin and continuo organ. It will also introduce an early music vocal ensemble, directed by Shin-Ae Chun, which has recently been created with volunteer singers from our own community to perform sacred music of the Renaissance and Baroque eras. The ensemble will perform "Wohl mir, dass ich Jesum habe" from *Cantata BWV 174* and two four-part chorale settings "Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr" and "Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir." Organist Alice Van Wambeke, pianist Ling-Ju Lai, violinist Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos with Shin-Ae Chun on continuo organ will respectively perform *Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552* (known as St. Anne) for organ, *Tocatta in C Minor, BWV 911* for keyboard, *Violin Sonata in E Minor, BWV 1023* for violin and continuo. It will be a beautiful celebration of music by J.S. Bach whose actual birthday is March 21. Mark your calendar. Invite your friends and neighbors. This is a free concert and open to all. If you like to help with refreshments, please contact Shin-Ae Chun ([shinaechun@gmail.com](mailto:shinaechun@gmail.com)).



**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.



**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 you 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.

JOIN US FOR 3 EVENINGS OF ECUMENICAL PRAYER



# TAIZÉ

*all are welcome!*

MONDAY  
MARCH 9  
7:00 PM

ST. MARY STUDENT PARISH  
331 THOMPSON STREET  
STMARYSTUDENTPARISH.ORG

*bully present*

EVENING PRAYER  
FOLLOWED BY  
A LIGHT RECEPTION

TUESDAY  
MARCH 10  
7:00 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
517 E WASHINGTON STREET  
FBCA2.ORG

*refugee solidarity*

EVENING PRAYER  
FOLLOWED BY  
A LIGHT RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 11  
7:00 PM

CAMPUS CHAPEL  
1236 WASHTENAW COURT  
CAMPUSCHAPEL.ORG

*creation care*

DINNER AT 6:00 PM  
FOLLOWED BY  
EVENING PRAYER

*always on the move, never uprooted*

"In life and in faith we are pilgrims, sometimes even strangers on the earth. In times of trial and joy, let us remember that God is faithful and invites us to persevere in our commitments; God is already preparing a future of peace."

Join Brothers Emile and John from the Taizé community as they share in the spiritual practice that is the heart of the community's home in France. [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)

# Smiles for Hope!



## Helping people in need makes us smile!

Our Near and Far Anchor Teams, supporting Hope Clinic and AMOS Health and Hope, invite you to join us on February 23rd during Fellowship Time for our **Smiles for Hope** kick-off event, with cookie decorating, a photo booth... and even the Tooth Fairy!

The Dental Clinics at Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti and AMOS in Nejapa, Nicaragua seek to offer quality dental care to people in need. Both clinics provide preventive care that includes teeth cleanings, exams, x-rays, fluoride treatments and extractions, as well as restorative treatments like fillings and some root canals.



AMOS opened their Dental Clinic last August at their campus in Nejapa. Their dentist, Maria Soto, sees patients and gives community presentations to educate people on the importance of taking care of their oral health.



Opened in 1994, the mission of the Dental Clinic at Hope Clinic is to offer the best possible dental care, serving every patient with dignity and respect. Last year, Hope's Dental Clinic had nearly 3,900 patient visits.



Join us on February 23rd to be a part of Smiles for Hope!

Your gift of \$32 will cover the cost of one Dental Clinic visit for a patient at Hope Clinic or AMOS.

Our church's goal is to give hope to 32 people in need by raising funds for a total of 32 Dental Clinic visits.

(Please make checks out to First Baptist Church with "Smiles for Hope" in the memo line.)

# THANK YOU FOR MINDING THE GAP!



Today, we simply want to say **thank you**.

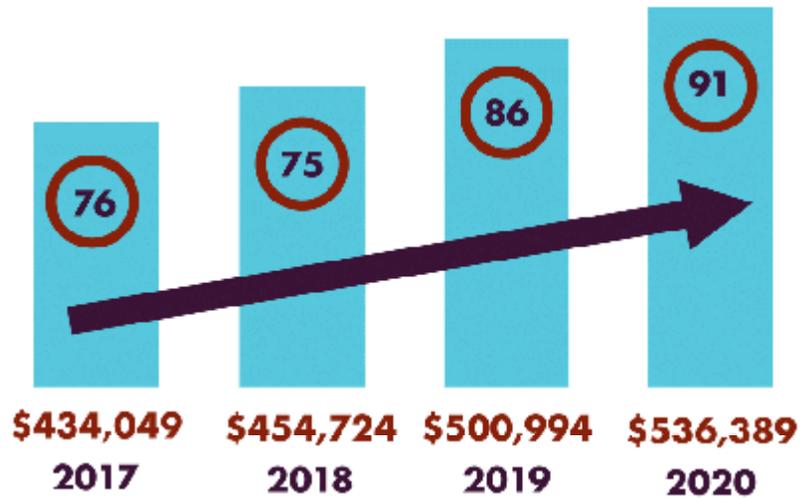
**You have helped our church continue to thrive.** With a vibrant membership, exciting new ideas and innovations in ministry, and a commitment to radically support missions and one another, comes an increase in needed funds to make our vision a reality.

With changes in available funds and the loss of significant pledgers, we were worried our lofty goals just wouldn't be possible this year.

**But when we asked, you responded - promptly, generously, and wholeheartedly.**

You helped us truly "mind the gap" and raise an additional \$89,000 to **fully fund our proposed budget for 2020. Every single pledge and increased pledge helped us meet this goal.**

**You minded the gap!**  
Your 91 pledges and the matching funds from an anonymous donor add up to **\$536,389** to carry out our ministry in 2020!



To all of you who pledge to support this holy community year in and year out, to those of you who increased your initial pledges to take advantage of our match opportunity, and to our brand new pledgers for 2020, thank you!

**We could not have done this without each and every one of you.**

Thank you for minding the gap so we can carry out our vision for 2020, create community and connection, and work towards God's kingdom of peace, justice, and abundance!

In celebration and with gratitude, on behalf of your entire ministry team,

Paul, Stacey, Xan, and Kat; Marissa Alaniz and Allen Burton, Stewardship Campaign Co-Chairs; Mary Gregg, Financial Secretary; Bob Kidd, Treasurer; Bill Foster, Moderator

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor  
**Coffee Break Concert Series, 2019-2020** ④  
Celebrating Its 9th Year  
Free Concerts and Open to the Public

# **Bach**

# **Celebration**

## **“Happy Birthday to J.S. Bach”**

Program: Music by J.S. Bach

*Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552*

Alice Van Wambeke, organ

*Toccatà in C Minor, BWV 911*

Ling-Ju Lai, piano

*Violin Sonata in E Minor, BWV 1023*

Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos, violin and

Shin-Ae Chun, continuo organ

*Wohl mir, dass from ich Jesum habe from Cantata BWV 147*

Early Music Singers directed by Dr. Shin-Ae Chun

And more

# **March 19, 2020**

# **Thursday at 12:15 PM**



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor  
517 E. Washington St, Ann Arbor, MI48104  
734-663-9376 / [www.fbca2.org](http://www.fbca2.org)

# March 2020

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|---|-----|-----|
| 1<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:30 2nd Hour<br><br>3:00 Pastors' Coffee | 2   | 3<br><br>5:00 Budget Committee<br>5:30 Vespers<br>7:00 Executive Council    | 4<br><br>1:30 Bible Study                        | 5<br><br>5:15 Christian Education<br>7:30 Choir                                 | 6   | 7   |
| 8<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:30 2nd Hour                             | 9   | 10<br>11:45 Interfaith Round Table<br><br>5:30 Vespers<br>7:00 Taizé Prayer | 11<br><br>1:30 Bible Study<br><br>6:30 Gathering | 12<br><br>7:30 Choir  | 13  | 14  |
| <b>← Taizé Brothers' Visit →</b>                                 |   |   |  |   |     |     |
| 15<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:30 2nd Hour                            | 16<br><br>5:30 Outreach<br>7:00 Mon. Night Book Group | 17<br><br>5:30 Vespers<br>7:00 Trustees                                     | 18<br><br>1:30 Bible Study<br><br>6:30 Gathering | 19<br>12:15 Coffee Brk Concert<br>1:00 MacGregor-Stitt Circle<br><br>7:30 Choir | 20  | 21  |
| <b>← Rotating Shelter →</b>                                      |   |   |  |   |     |     |
| 22<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:30 2nd Hour                            | 23  | 24<br><br>5:30 Vespers  | 25<br><br>1:30 Bible Study<br><br>6:30 Gathering | 26<br><br>7:30 Choir  | 27  | 28  |
| <b>Rotating Shelter</b>  |   |   | <b>Youth Taizé Pilgrimage</b>                    |   |     |     |
| 29<br>10:00 Worship<br>11:30 2nd Hour                            | 30  | 31<br><br>5:30 Vespers  |  |   |     |     |
| <b>Youth Taizé Pilgrimage</b>                                    |   |   |  |   |     |     |

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734-663-9376  
[www.fbca2.org](http://www.fbca2.org)  
[office@fbca2.org](mailto:office@fbca2.org)

The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors

**Next  
Newsletter  
Deadline:**  
*Sunday, Mar 15*

