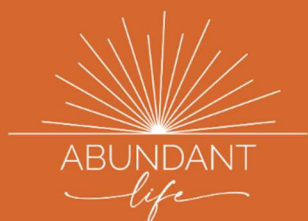




FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

DO JUSTICE. LOVE KINDNESS. WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.

—MICAH 6:8



I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE,
AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY.

JOHN 10:10

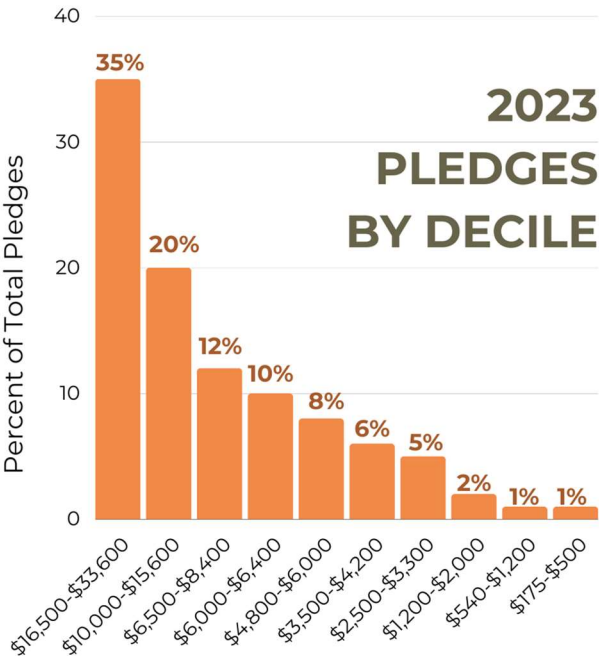
Dear Church Family,

Over the last two weeks, we've been exploring some of what Jesus means by "abundant life," and how First Baptist Church is called to share it with the world. First, by being a vibrant, welcoming community – because the world needs more community. Second, through genuine, joyful acts of compassion – because the world needs more compassion.

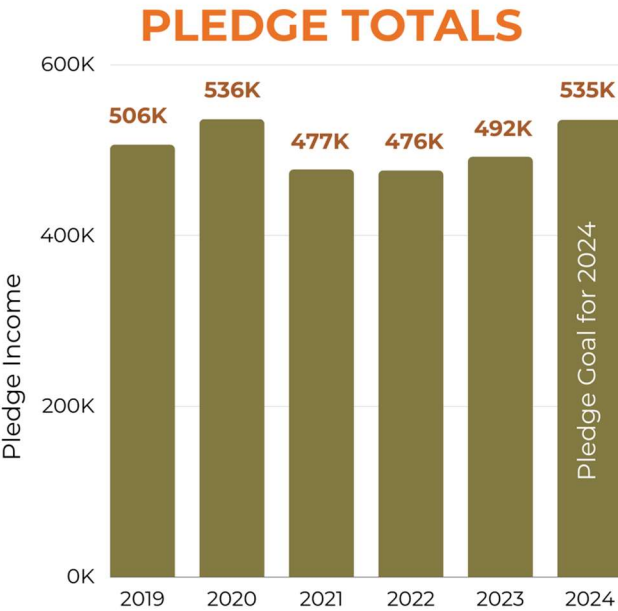
This week, as we approach our In-Gathering Sunday on October 29th, our minds turn to the justice and love at the heart of God's vision for abundance – because the world so urgently needs more justice and more love. As the philosopher and theologian Dr. Cornel West has put it, "Justice is what love looks like in public." We look forward to sharing a video compilation of members of our church family sharing ideas of what "love in public" looks like this coming Sunday.

Today we'd like to share with you some graphics to help tell the stewardship narrative here at FBCA2.

First, we share a bit about our pledged giving last fall for this year; we are a giving community.



We are part of a giving community that has supported the work of compassion and justice consistently over the years.



We have experienced loss and change this year. We have navigated a path forward that offers stability and growth.

STAFFING

2.5 FTE
in 2023

2.5 FTE
in 2024

Rev. Dr. Stacey Simpson Duke
Pastor, Youth & Campus Minister
1.0 FTE

Rev. Dr. Paul Simpson Duke
Pastor & Campus Minister
1.0 FTE

Rev. Dr. Paul Simpson Duke
Pastor & Campus Minister
0.75 FTE

Xan Morgan
Director of Community Life
1.0 FTE

Xan Morgan
Director of Children's Ministry
0.75 FTE

Valerie Francia
Associate for Youth Ministry
& Communications
0.5 FTE

GROWING MINISTRY

2024 Budget Proposal Increases

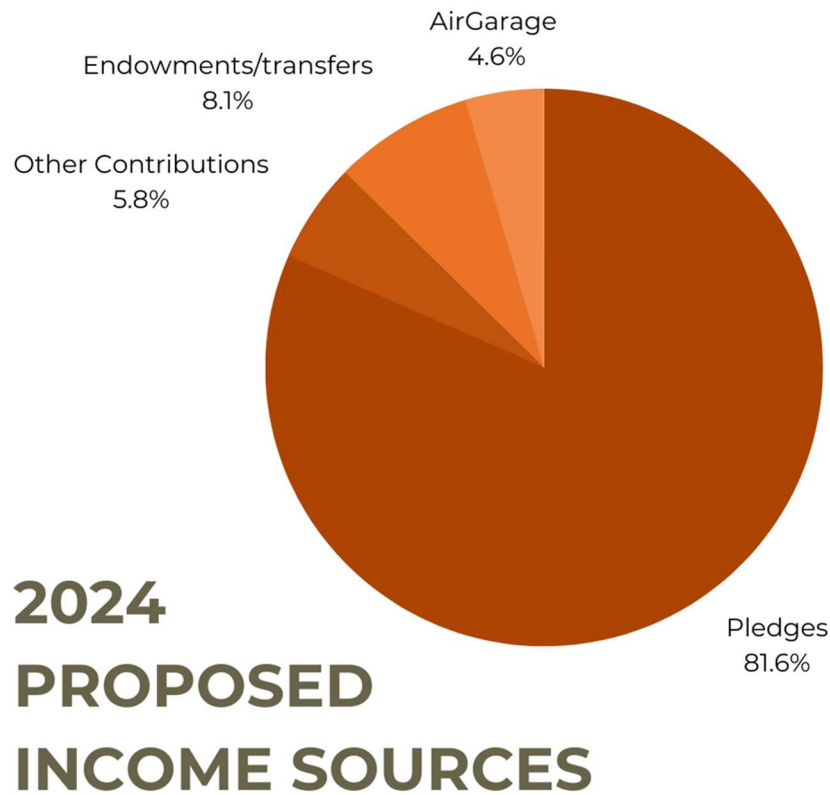
Adding **\$5,000** to support a **youth service learning trip** to our ministry partners, AMOS Health and Hope in Nicaragua (pre-pandemic level)

Adding **\$750** to support **adult formation** opportunities in the coming year

Adding **\$1,000** to support **Outreach events** - Pride and UM Festifall - becoming annual events

Adding **\$6,000** to meet **building needs** and vendor expenses (pre-pandemic level)

**You are an important part of the abundant life here and extending from
FBCA2; your pledge makes ministry possible.**



The world needs more community, more compassion, more justice and love – and with your help, First Baptist can continue to provide these vital treasures, these signs, and sources of abundant life. As each one of us generously gives, we know and trust the God of abundance will make more out of our gifts than we can even imagine.

You can pledge online by [clicking here](#) or with a pledge card that is available at church. Pledge cards can be placed in the offering plate this Sunday or next. Please join us for our In-gathering Celebration on Sunday, October 29th as we wrap up our Stewardship Season.

With a commitment to abundant life for all,

[Robbie Stapleton](#), [Martin Magers](#), and [Xan Morgan](#).
FBCA2 Stewardship Team



God's abundant life invites us to be people of compassion - the kind of mutual care evoked by Jesus' call to "Love your neighbor as yourself." As we committed to being a community of compassion, within and extending from this place, folks named what they need and what they have to offer.

Compassionate God, who heals our wounds and lifts up our lives,
bless these needs and gifts to your healing, redemptive work,
repairing the world one heart, one relationship, one ministry at a time.
Thank you for the joy of participating in your compassion,
your abundant life, your love for the world.
In the generous name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Adult Formation Class. We continue our Adult Formation series called "We Seek To," which draws from the list of commitments included on the sign at our E. Washington Street entrance. Last week we began a discussion on the theme: "We Seek to Honor Questions." Paul Simpson Duke will lead a conversation introducing the subject of what it means for a church to be a safe space for hard questions. For children, teens, students, and adults, how can we better welcome, encourage, and engage with ultimate questions about God, about the world, about meaning. Join us for what is bound to be an intriguing and helpful discussion.




Our next Shared Suppers evenings are November 11 & 12. The Board of Care and Community sponsors this opportunity for our FBC Family to gather and get to know one another better. What better way to do that than around a table? We gather in smallish groups (6-8ish) in homes for Shared Suppers. The groups will be different every time so folks can interact with those they may not know so well. If you are interested in being on the list of participants [email Mary Davis](#) or stop by the Ministry Station at church to leave your name and email. Being on the list only indicates interest, not a commitment to come. You will be contacted for availability about two weeks before each supper. Of course, everyone won't be able to come every time. Children/youth are welcome to participate. Shared transportation can also be arranged.



AD LIBITUM CONCERT SERIES

Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series presents its second concert of the season "Harpsichord" on Friday, October 27 at noon. Edward Parmentier, Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of Michigan, will perform music by François Couperin, Byrd, Froberger and d'Anglebert. Parmentier has performed throughout the United States, Russia, Western Europe, Japan, and Korea on harpsichord and on historic organs. His collection of recordings has won both critical and popular acclaim. This is a free concert and open to the public. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors!

- Shin-Ae Chun



**AD LIBITUM
CONCERT SERIES**

Celebrating its 11th year, 2023-2024 / II
Free Concerts and Open to the Public

"Harpsichord"

Music by F. Couperin, Byrd,
Froberger and d'Anglebert

Edward Parmentier,
harpsichord
Professor Emeritus of Music,
University of Michigan

October 27, 2023
Friday at Noon

House by the Side of the Road needs volunteers! The mission of House by the Side of the Road is to provide FREE clothing and small household items to children and adults in need in Washtenaw County. We opened our doors in 1970 as a partnership between churches in the area and the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, with **First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor** being a **Founding Church**. We serve those who are homeless, reentering society from prison, those with mental health issues, immigrants, migrant workers, and others. People come to us after family breakup, job loss, fire, or prolonged illness.

Volunteers are crucial to what we do. We are a 100% volunteer organization. We have NO paid staff. We rely on the generosity and participation of many individuals and organizations. We need people to receive, sort, tag, and hang up clothes, sort and display household items, or check clients in and out. We are open for clients from 10am to 2pm weekdays. We prefer volunteers who can work a regular shift between 9:30am and 3pm those days or on the one Saturday a month volunteers work to catch up with the large number of donations we receive.

We are on pace to serve the largest number of clients in our history. This is a great opportunity for individual volunteers or groups to make a positive impact on Washtenaw County. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information email us at housebyroad@gmail.com or call us, 734-769-4085. To view our website, go to: <https://www.housebythesideoftheroad.org/home.html>. You may use this QR code to access a short video about the House:



PRAYER REQUESTS. Praying together is a core element of our life together. Each Sunday during worship (10:00a on our [Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#), and in person), we pray for those we know to pray for by name during the Prayers of the People. You are invited to share prayer requests/praises using [this form](#).

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE AND DEADLINE. Our newsletter is on a summer schedule. The next newsletter will be Thursday, October 19. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, October 17.

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