



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

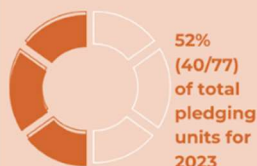
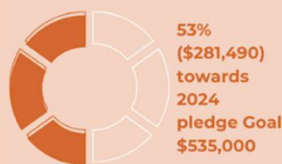
DO JUSTICE. LOVE KINDNESS. WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.
—MICAH 6:8

NEXT STEPS

- pledges received by Nov 12
- stewardship team follows up with members of the church family
- budget committee meets to adjust budget as may be needed based on 2024 pledges in late of November
- budget committee shares updates with church boards and boards modify proposed budgets as needed
- proposed 2024 budget is shared with congregation in mid-january
- congregation-wide vote on 2024 budget at annual meeting on January 28



ABUNDANT LIFE STEWARDSHIP SEASON UPDATE



average pledge:
\$7,084

median pledge:
\$5,000

4 new pledges

19 increased pledges

4 decreased pledges

The goal is to have 2024 pledges received and recorded by **NOVEMBER 12** with an update shared in the November 16th newsletter.

Many of you have already made your pledge for 2023. If you are one of them, **THANK YOU!** We are blessed and grateful to partner with you. If you have not yet made a pledge for 2024, we invite you to prayerfully consider our invitation

to do so by November 12th so we can plan a faithful budget accordingly. You can complete your pledge card [here](#). You'll see in the form the various ways you can make your pledge payments at the increments you choose - most folks fulfill their pledged contribution monthly and some choose to make a one-time payment. If you are new to pledging or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on the Stewardship Team ([Robbie Stapleton](#), [Martin Magers](#), and [Xan Morgan](#)).

We are leaning towards the future with you, eager to experience and to share the blessings of community, compassion, justice, and love that God yearns to share with us and with all.



As we wrapped up our stewardship season this past Sunday, we named our commitment to be a COMMUNITY of COMPASSION, JUSTICE & LOVE. Our intergenerational church family wove pieces of ribbon in our communal art piece. You and your gifts strengthen the fabric of this community and our work together towards ABUNDANT LIFE for all.

Generous God, trusting the promises you make to us, leaning into the abundance of your Spirit at work within us, and living in response to your infinite grace and love, we dedicate all that we are and all that we have to you.

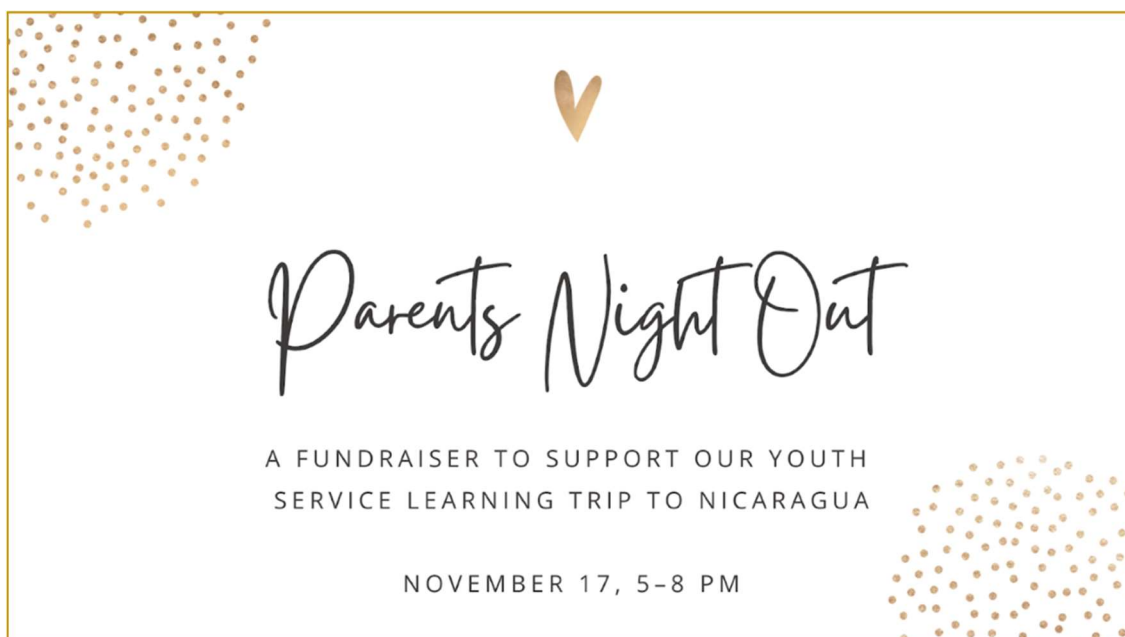
Receive our commitments and embolden us to keep them with gratitude, joy, and generosity. Bless our giving, that it might make your transformative love for our world increasingly visible and increasingly tangible. May the promises we make today be a part of the abundant life you offer to all. Amen

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

WE SEEK TO...

LISTEN TO CHILDREN

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. This coming Sunday we begin our 3-week exploration on the theme: "We Seek to Listen to Children" led by Xan Morgan. On November 12th, the children and youth will be our special guests as we create space and time for the adults to listen. We hope you'll join us for this series as we lean into our commitment of listening to children.



Parents Night Out Fundraiser for Nicaragua. Enjoy a night on the town without the kids on November 17 from 5–8 PM! Drop off your children at the church for supervised childcare, including dinner, games, and crafts provided

by our church Youth Group (with adult supervision). Your donations will support our Youth Service Learning trip this summer to Nicaragua in partnership with AMOS Health and Hope.



Holiday Collection for the Hikone Community

For many years we have collected food and other supplies for our friends in the Hikone housing community which is one of the sites of Community Action Network. The December school vacation is very tough on low-income families because children are not in school to receive their breakfast and lunch so more food is needed at home. The families at Hikone have been so grateful because your donations help them take care of their children and possibly have enough to also buy gifts for the holidays.

We will spend the month of November (through December 3) collecting:

- **Kid-friendly foods:** cereal, oatmeal, canned pasta, mac-and-cheese, chili, peanut butter, soup, tuna, granola and protein bars, fruit cups, juice/milk boxes, etc.
- **Food that isn't usually available in the food pantries:** flour, baking soda and powder, spices, olive and vegetable oil, sugar, macaroni, rice.
- **Family Supplies** that can't be bought with food stamps: cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products (deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, hand and shower soap)
- **Financial donations:** Your financial donations will be used for fresh produce, laundry detergent, toilet paper and paper towels, and gift cards which are distributed by the Community Director for emergency needs.

- **Gently used books for children and youth:** These are highly valued by the families to use as holiday gifts.

We sort and box everything at the church and then transport to Hikone. Your medium-sized Amazon boxes are needed! Bring your donations each Sunday, beginning November 5 through December 3. Please mail your financial donation to the church before December or place it in the offering plate with a notation it is for Hikone. Please address the check and the envelope to Sue Ellen Glover, 517 E Washington, Ann Arbor 48104.

We need all donations by December 3 in order to sort, box, and deliver to Hikone on December 5.



COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS: Intergenerational Advent Event

Join us on **Sunday, December 3rd from 4-6 pm** for our annual advent event which is back to happening in person this year! You're invited to explore a variety of stations at your leisure. Stations will include dinner from Noodles & Company, crafts, and a Story Walk with a nativity petting zoo, too! We're looking forward to our time together; please invite your friends to join us! **You can sign up for the event by [clicking here](#).** We are looking for volunteers to staff each station, join the kitchen team, and help with setup and cleanup. Please contact one of our coordinators, [Xan Morgan](#), [Christina Alaniz](#), [Julia Cooper](#) if you would like to help in this way.



FBCA2 Hosts the Overnight Rotating Shelter in December! During the cold winter months, the emergency overnight shelter at Delonis is not sufficient for the need. Area congregations host a weekly rotating shelter to fill the gap so no one is sleeping outside in freezing temperatures. Our week for hosting begins on the evening of Monday, December 11 and goes through Sunday, December 17.

We have two main ministry tasks - provide hosts to be present throughout the evening and throughout the night and a few hot meals on the weekends. There are 3 volunteer opportunities each night: 1 evening only shift (6:30-10:00p) and 2 evening and overnight shifts (6:30p-7:30a and 8:30p-9:00a). The overnight volunteers will each take a hosting shift (4 hrs) and a sleeping shift in the

Memorial Lounge (4 hrs).

We are providing a hot meal on 4 of the nights; we only have one more date to fill. If you are able to make dinner for our 20-25 guests, please let [Kevin Morgan](#) know.

- Sunday, December 10: Children and Youth (and their families) will make a meal after church to serve on Monday night at our Welcome Meeting.
- Friday, December 15: Faith and Family Small Group
- Saturday, December 16: Carolyn Grapentine
- Sunday, December 17: _____

Are you interested in serving for the first time and want to be paired with someone who has done it before? Let us know and we will find you an experienced partner. Thanks for being a part of this important ministry as one of our concrete ways of loving our neighbors as ourselves. Questions? Connect with Kevin Morgan (ktmorgan@umich.edu).

[SIGN UP FOR THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY HERE](#)

AD LIBITUM CONCERT SERIES

Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series presents a concert "Music and Poetry on Winter and Christmas" on Friday, December 1 at noon. Heather Entrekin will read beautiful, inspiring poems on the theme of winter and Christmas along with music performed by Shin-Ae Chun on the organ and piano. The program includes poems written by Longfellow, Cummings, Frost, Rossetti and more and music composed by Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, Liszt, Rowley and more. There will also be carol singing which the audience is invited to participate in. This concert will help you prepare yourself for the season of Advent and Christmas in a meaningful way. It is a free concert and open to all. Mark your calendar. Invite your friends and neighbors.

- Shin-Ae Chun



**AD LIBITUM
CONCERT SERIES**

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



**Shin-Ae Chun, organ and piano
Heather Entrekin, reader**

**December 1, 2023
Friday at Noon**



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

734-663-9376 / www.fbca2.org

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