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From Pastor Paul:

I would like to update you on the current status of pledging toward the 2024 financial needs of our church. As of today, we have received 64 pledges, totaling \$400,830. The goal is \$535,000, which means that, as of today, we have raised only 75% of our goal and need \$134,170 to reach it. Clearly, we've got a ways to go.

If you are among those who have pledged in the past but not yet pledged this year, I urge you to do so as soon as you can--and please consider raising your pledge from last year. If you have not been a pledger before now, would you please consider doing so now?

It's easy to think of this kind of appeal as trying to reach an institutional budget, but I invite you to see it differently. Our commitments to support the church financially are about what the church can *be* and *do* in the coming year. It's about our ministering to real human needs locally and elsewhere. It's about nurture and love for children, teens, and students, and education for adults as well. It's about our worship, our music, our preaching, and our caregiving. And since each year builds upon the last, it's about our *future*, about whether or not we grow, and how vital and thriving we will be.

Please give serious consideration to offering your pledge now for the church's life and ministry in 2024---and, if you've already done so, to raising it. It can make a bigger difference than you know.

Thanks and much love,

Paul

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

63 pledges received,  
down from 77 last year

\$6,263 average,  
down from \$6,391 last year

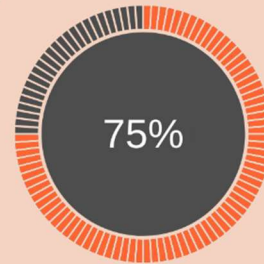
minimum: \$200  
maximum: \$36,000

25 increased pledges

Pledged to date:  
\$400,830

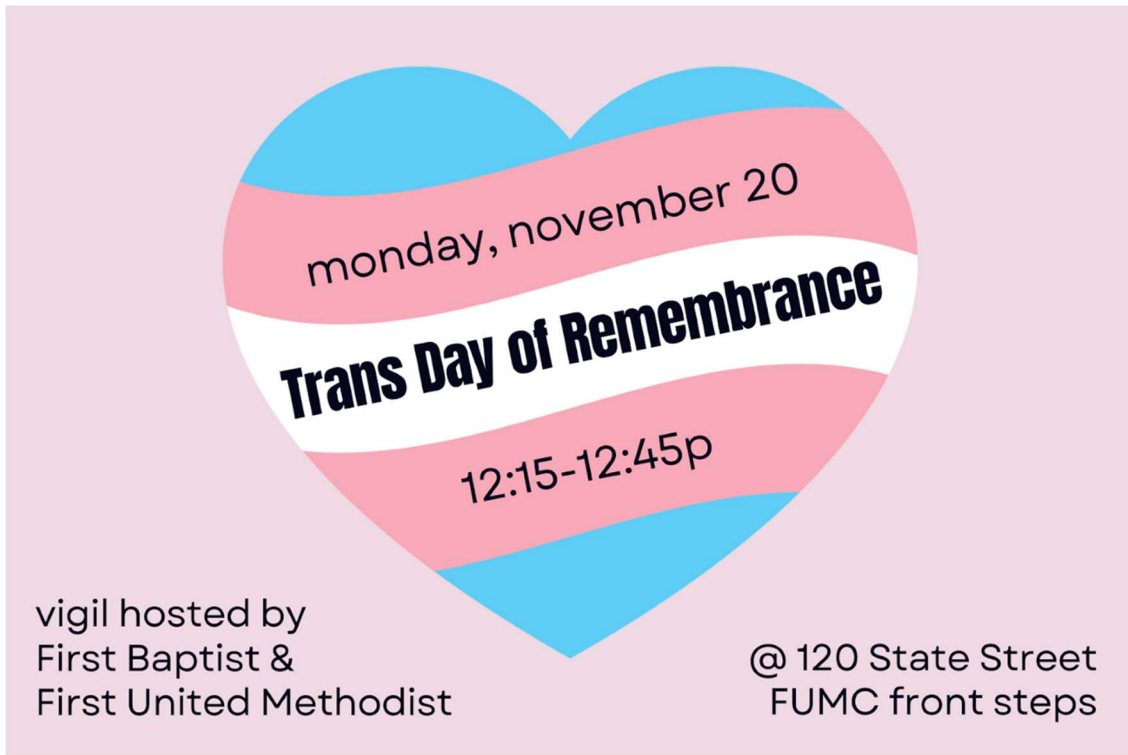
Goal:  
\$535,000

Gap:  
\$134,170



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## CONGREGATIONAL NOTES



This Monday is Transgender Day of Remembrance. You are invited to a vigil to remember and honor the transgender people, gender-variant individuals, and those perceived to be transgender who have been murdered this past year. The vigil is hosted by First United Methodist and First Baptist and will be held on First United Methodist's front steps on State Street. We will learn a bit about the history of Trans Day of Remembrance, pray a prayer of confession, name aloud those who have died this year, and end with a benediction of hope.

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**Let's Decorate for Advent and Christmas!** The Board of Worship invites you to be part of decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas next Sunday, November 26, after worship. Grab a coffee/snack and come back upstairs. Since there are no 2nd hour classes that day, you won't miss a thing.

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### **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.**

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## **WE NEED 11 MORE HOSTS FOR THE ROTATING SHELTER**

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). 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](mailto:ktmorgan@umich.edu))

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**The FBC Ladies' Book Club** will next meet on Tuesday, December 5th at 7 pm. Maryann Bowen has graciously agreed to host our discussion of *Late Migrations* by Margaret Renkl. Please do not hesitate to contact Janice Stumpf or Mary Gregg if you have any questions. All ladies are welcome!

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**Hello Bakers!** Just a reminder that the AB Women's Ministries will be holding their annual Bake Sale on Sunday, Dec 10th. If there are any bakers who would like to contribute, please bring your cookies, candies, breads, cakes, pies, etc. on Saturday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, between 10:00a and 12 Noon! We will have a crew to accept and set out for the sale on Sunday. Mark it on your calendar!

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**Thank you from Betty Doman!** Betty is so very grateful for the many cards and messages from her church family. She has felt the love and prayers pouring in and sends that love right back to all of you.

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Our Faith and Family Small Group for Children's Ministry families will gather on Friday, December 15th to cook a meal for our Rotating Shelter guests. Adults will cook while the children have supervised time to play together. You in? [Email](#) or text Xan to let her know!

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**Poinsettias** can be ordered online [here](#), or you can use this form and send to the office. The dedications will appear in the bulletin on December 24, and you can take them home with you after the Festival of Lessons & Carols.



Please order \_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) for the Christmas services  
at \$20 each, and list as such in the bulletin:

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ as payment for the poinsettia(s).  
**Please have paid orders to the office by Wednesday, December 6. Thank you!**

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## 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, Tchaikofsky, 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.fbca2.org)



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