

DO JUSTICE, LOVE KINDNESS, WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.



Advent means "arrival," and the Advent season is about living in expectation of Jesus' many arrivals: his birth, his return, and the countless other ways he shows up in the meantime.\*

We hope the season of Advent will be a meaningful one for you. We invite you to experience the expectation of Jesus' arrival in a variety of ways.

Pastor Paul has written **devotional reflections for each day of Advent.** Copies of the devotional will be available at church beginning this Sunday and will be shared **electronically on our website** as well. Christmas this coming Sunday from 4:00-6:0p. We'll have fresh greens, wreath forms, and candles to make an Advent wreath along with a family-friendly devotion to read when you light your candles at home. We'll enjoy dinner, a StoryWalk with a petting zoo (4:00-5:00p), and beautiful crafts to get our homes ready for Christmas. If you already have a wreath form, bring it with you! Thank you to Julia Cooper, Christina Alaniz, and the many volunteers who help make this gathering what it is.

During worship, you'll notice **changes in the space** - greenery hung by the Board of Worship and the beautiful star and heart garland Shin-Ae creates for us. The acolytes will light candles along the aisles, members of our church family will light the Advent wreath each week, and the Children's Choir will sing on December 10th.

As you enter into worship each Sunday of Advent, we invite you to notice the images on the bulletin cover. Members of the Board of Music & Arts - Sara Armstrong, Dan Barry, and David Bowen - have gathered **images** to help us enter into the themes explored in our Advent sermon series, Our Deep Longing.

We'll be **offering hospitality to our unhoused neighbors** throughout the season. As a community who is committed to sharing what we have, our theme for adult formation this month, we will be hosting the overnight shelter (Dec 11-17) and the daytime warming center (Dec 18-28). WE're in need of 5 more overnight hosts; you can sign up <a href="here">here</a>. The children, teens, and their families will cook a meal on Sunday, December 10 from 12:00-1:00p. A pizza lunch will be provided to give us energy to cook. Our Faith and Family small group will make and serve dinner on Friday, December 15th from 6-8p.

May this be our intention in the days ahead:that our thinking, our praying, our action, and our love will all be expressions of the church's ancient prayer: "Come, Lord Jesus!"\*

\*excerpt from the December 3 devotion





**25–20=5 HOSTS STILL NEEDED!** 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 <u>Kevin Morgan</u>.

SIGN UP FOR THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY HERE



**Holiday Collection for the Hikone Community.** This Sunday is the last day for donations. We still are needing lots more kid-friendly foods like cereal, pasta, canned fruit and veggies, and other favorites. And your financial donations cover the household supplies and necessities we have purchased (toilet paper, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc.) for the 30 families at Hikone. Please place your

financial donation in the offering plate this Sunday with a notation that it is for Hikone and bring your food donations that afternoon to the Countdown to Christmas event.

Many hands are needed to sort, box, and deliver to Hikone this coming Tuesday, December 5, 10:30-12:30. Please let Sue Ellen know if you can join us at church (10:30-11:30) or with delivery (11:30-12:30).



As many of you know, Pastor Stacey loved to knit and she often spun her own yarn from wool roving. We are hosting a sale of her yarn and wool roving; it's a treat to think of all the beauty that will come of it. Join us on Saturday, December 9th from 10-12p in the Memorial Lounge. Please invite friends who work with wool to stop by. Questions? Connect with Xan Morgan or Kristin Reynolds.

# **CONGREGATIONAL NOTES**

Margaret Renkl. Please do not hesitate to contact Janice Stumpf or Mary Gregg if you have any questions. All ladies are welcome!

**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!



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!

**Thank you to the decorating crew!** The Board of Worship sends thanks to all who helped decorate for the Advent Christmas season. Gratitude goes to our Sextons, Kat Becker, Larry Bates, May and Greg Cartee, Mary Davis, Scott Diels, Sue Ellen Glover, Carolyn Hillebrand, Bonnie and Bob Kidd, Ivy and Lyra and Ursula LaFosse, Nancy Paul, Heather and DJ and Danny and Lincoln Reed, Joyce and David

| Robbins, and Shin-Ae Chun. And thank you to ph | notographer Caroly | yn Hillebrand! |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
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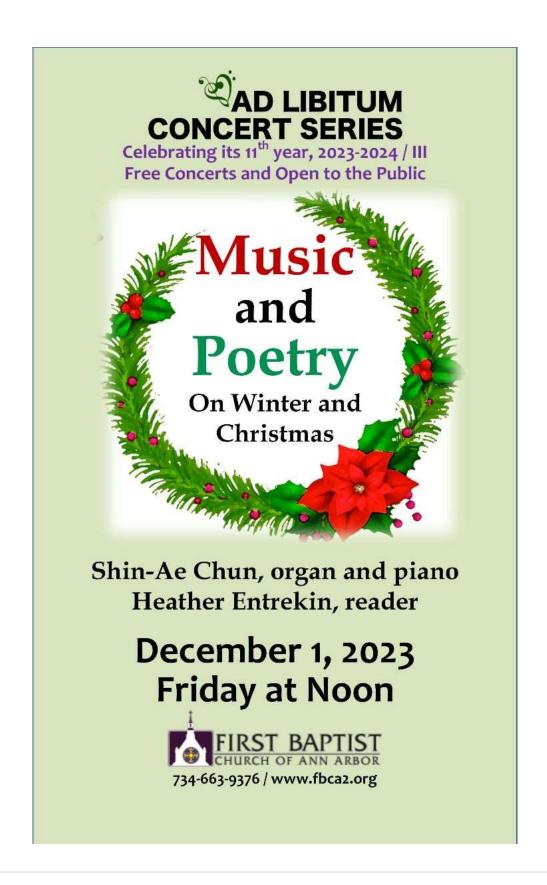
Poinsettias can be ordered online <u>here</u>, or you can use this form and send to the office. The dedications will appear in the bulletin on December 24, and you can take them home with you after the Festival of Lessons & Carols.

|        |  | - |
|--------|--|---|
| EN CO. | Please order poinsettia(s) for the Christmas services  |   |
|        | at \$20 each, and list as such in the bulletin:  | į |
|        | In honor of:   | į |
|        | 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! |   |

# **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



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.

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering

#### RMMO2023: Good will come.

"Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice."—Psalm 112: 5 (NIV)

Starting this Sunday and through the month of December, we will be taking contributions to the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)**. RMMO is a congregational offering and a joint project of ABC-USA and MMBB. Collected annually in December from participating congregations, RMMO funds are distributed as "Thank You" checks to ABC-USA retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to our denomination, as well as surviving spouses. If you donate by check, please write it to FBC and indicate RMMO in the memo line. If a cash donation, please use the envelopes located in the pews. Thank you for your generosity.

### IN THE COMMUNITY

You are invited to Spaghetti and Stories! a fundraiser that will support the Daytime Warming Center.

When: Saturday Dec 2 from 530-830pm

Where: Friends Meeting House (1420 Hill St, Ann Arbor)

What: Dinner, Stories and Fun!

• **Dinner:** Vegan spaghetti sauce, pasta, salad, bread, desserts, Non-alcoholic beverages

• **Fun:** Stories will be shared, along with community connection :)

**Why:** We are in need of extra funds to support paying staff, buying lunch and breakfast, and filling in the gaps when we don't get donations.

optional RSVP: https://forms.gle/V3y9fmpmXWSqBoos8

Donate Here: www.gofundme.com/f/dwc-washtenaw-support, cash will also be

accepted at the door

fb event here: https://fb.me/e/2SGz4ByUl



**PRAYER REQUESTS.** Praying together is a core element of our life together. Each Sunday during worship (10:00a on our <u>Facebook page</u>, <u>YouTube channel</u>, 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 <u>this form</u>.

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