



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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



Dear Friends - Many of you are wondering about the results of our recent appeal for increased financial pledges. Paul spoke about our budget shortfall in the service on December 10, and I followed up with an email the following week. I am happy to report that several families either increased their pledges or decided to pledge since then. With this new pledged total, together with a portion of our dear Vern Jensen's estate, we have met our financial goal for 2024 and can present a balanced budget to the congregation with no cuts to the ministries of our boards.

This is very good news. And it is a good indication of how seriously we take our work as First Baptist Church. We can all share in the joy of continuing our mission to serve as God's workers in God's world. At the same time, we need to look to the future with plans for a sustainable financial future, which means looking toward new and continuing sources of funding, applying for grants for specific programs, and renewing our commitment as individuals to regular tithing/pledging.

God's work requires this kind of commitment, and I am grateful to be part of a community so willing to make it. "Keeping the lights on" in our beautiful, old building takes money; so does shining our light in the name of Jesus Christ throughout our community.

Thank you for shining so brightly,
Robbie Stapleton, Moderator

FBCA2 Hosts the Daytime Warming Shelter in February



LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS! You are an important part of the hospitality we offer to our unhoused neighbors in February. We will be hosting the Daytime Warming Center for another two weeks (Feb 5-9 and Feb 12-16). There are many ways to show love to our neighbors.

YOU GAVE ME FOOD: You can provide a portion of a lunchtime meal to be served each Tuesday. All offerings should be brought to church by the Sunday before the scheduled meal. You can provide a lunchtime meal as a household or with a group from church on Thursdays or Fridays.

YOU GAVE ME CLOTHING: You can purchase underwear, socks, and other items through our [Amazon Wish List](#). Simply choose the items you would like to purchase and when prompted to choose the shipping address, click "First Baptist Church's Gift Registry Address." Items will be shipped directly to church.

Sign up online at fbca2.org/connect or stop by the ministry station in the hallway to indicate how you plan to offer hospitality. Indicate which food item or whole meal you'll provide and/or which items you have purchased through the Amazon Wish List. Questions? Please contact one of our Here Anchor Team Members (Mary Davis, Sue Ellen Glover, Carolyn Grapentine, Tom Gebhardt, and Xan Morgan).



Inquirers' Gathering

Sunday, January 28
3-5 PM

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS! Membership is about responding to God's call to take the next step in your spiritual journey, and to belong to a community of people who are striving together to do the work of God's limitless love with purpose and passion. By becoming a member of First Baptist Church, you are making a commitment to partner with us as we seek together to claim, cultivate, and proclaim the good news of God's love for our world. Your commitment will make a positive difference in your life, in the life of this church, and in the world around us.

How do I become a member? That's a great question, and we're glad you asked! The first step is to come to our Inquirers' Gathering on Sunday, January 28 (3:00p-5:00p, at the Morgan home, 2614 Page Court). This relaxed gathering offers an opportunity to get to know each other, learn more about First Baptist Church, hear how you can connect with the life and ministry of this congregation, ask questions, and get some insight into what membership at FBCA2 means. If you can't attend the gathering, you can contact Pastor Paul to indicate your interest in learning more about church membership.

COME WONDER, PLAY, AND CREATE WITH FBCA2 KIDS!



**We're looking for
3 more volunteers
for children's
ministry this
semester!**



We have a robust team of volunteers who help make Children's Ministry possible here at FBCA2! A few of these ministry partners are not able to continue this semester so we are looking to fill 3 spots. Please reach out to Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org) as soon as possible to express your willingness to serve and to discuss which role is best for you. You'll be partnering with many experienced volunteers! Thank you in advance!



Congregational Meeting & Potluck

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Our annual financial meeting will be held after worship on February 4. We have important work to do together and we hope you'll attend. We'll vote on this year's budget, name membership changes and honor those in our community who have died over the past year, and share a potluck meal together. As we honor those who have died, we will share about the art memorial that is underway to celebrate Pastor Stacey's ministry.

The Board of Care and Community will provide chicken, rolls, and beverages (as well as plates and utensils).

- If your last name begins with A-D, please bring a salad or vegetable
- If your last name begins with E-M, please bring a potato, rice, or pasta dish
- If your name begins with N - Z, please bring fruit or a dessert

Volunteers will receive your meal donation in the kitchen before worship if you would like to drop it off. Please provide heating or refrigeration directions and be sure that your dish and serving utensil are labeled with your name.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

The FBC Ladies' Book Club will next meet on **Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:30 pm** to discuss *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck, location TBA. Please do not hesitate to contact [Janice Stumpf](#) or [Mary Gregg](#) if you have any questions. All ladies are welcome!

Thank you from the Board of Worship to all the folks, at least a dozen, who helped with the less-than-glamorous task of un-decorating the sanctuary. Many hands made quick work of it before and after class this past Sunday.

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. The next newsletter will be Thursday, January 25. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, January 23.
