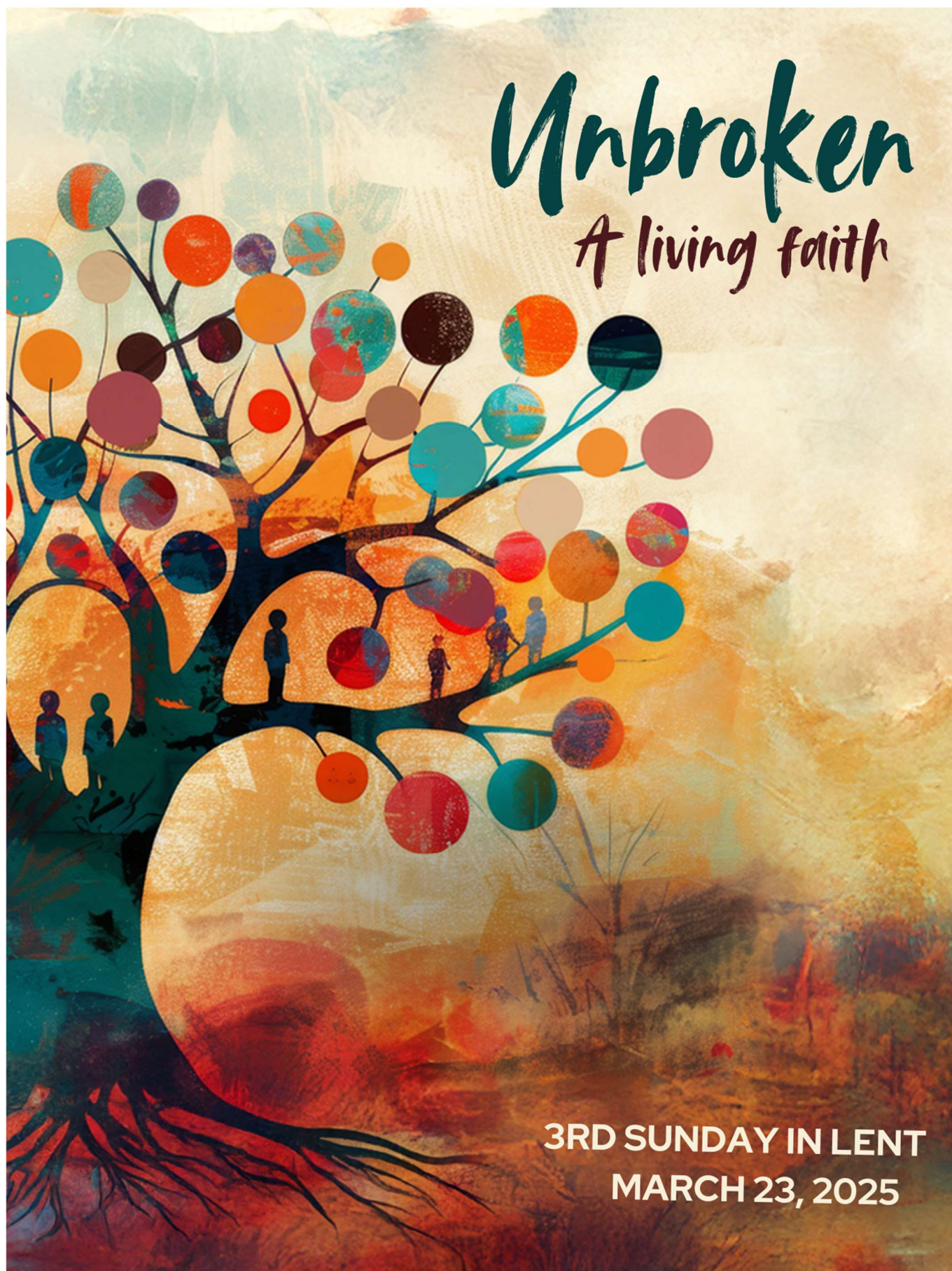


Unbroken

A living faith



3RD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 23, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION: *"All around us worlds are dying, and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying, and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new lives, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and [people] have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of a child — life's most dramatic answer to death — this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!"*

Howard Thurman, *The Growing Edge*

GREETING

Rick Mixon

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 63

Mark Ely

One: You are my God, I long for from early morning. My whole being desires you like a dry, worn, waterless land. My soul thirsts for you.

All: In the sanctuary let me see how mighty are your works; your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you.

One: I will give thanks as long as I live; I raise my hands in prayer.

All: My soul will feast and be filled, and I will sing and praise you.

One: As I lie in my bed, I remember you, O God; I think of you all night long, for you are my constant help.

All: In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. I cling to you; your hand keeps me safe.

PRELUDE

The Lone, Wild Bird

Robert J. Powell
(1932-2025, American)
Maryann Bowen, *oboe*

OPENING PRAYER

Mark Ely

*HYMN 126

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above MITT FREUDEN ZART

(*Please stand in body or spirit)

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

***SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 55:1-9

Rick Mixon

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

(Hymn 402, v.4)

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

TIME AS CHILDREN

Rick Mixon

[Following Time as Children, kids (through 5th grade) will leave for Church School]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rick Mixon

The Lord's Prayer ("debts" - hymnal page 896)

ANTHEM

Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

- Matthew Merker

Arr. by Shelton Ridge Love

Dear refuge of my weary soul, on You, when sorrows rise,
on You, when waves of trouble roll, my fainting hope relies.
To You I tell each rising grief, for You alone can heal;
Your Word can bring a sweet relief for ev'ry pain I feel.
Have You not bid me seek Your face, and shall I see in vain?
And can the ear of sovereign grace be deaf when I complain?
No, still the ear of sovereign grace attends the mourner's prayer,
May I ever find a place to breathe my sorrows there.
O gracious God, where shall I flee? You are my only trust;
My weary soul will cleave to You, though prostrate in the dust.
Your mercy seat is open still, here let my soul retreat;
With humble hope attend Your will, and wait beneath your feet.
Dear refuge of my weary soul, I wait beneath your feet.

REFLECTING ON OUR NEED FOR GOD

Rick Mixon

The Call of Compassion by John van de Laar

***HYMN (see insert)**

Come to the Water

Text & Music: John Foley, S.J.

v.1 Bonnie Kidd v.2 Lucy Thompson & Bonnie Kidd vv. 3-4 All

SERMON

That You May Live

Rick Mixon

SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO GIVING

Now we return to God a portion of that with which we have been blessed. In this moment and in this act, we pledge ourselves anew to responsible stewardship of our financial resources, our time, our talent and of the good earth we inhabit by God's grace.

OFFERING OF GIFTS *I've Been In De Storm So Long* Arr. by H.T. Burleigh Bonnie Kidd, *soprano*

I've been in de storm so long; I've been in de storm so long children;
I've been in de storm so long, Oh, give me little time to pray.
Oh, let me tell my mother how I come along, Oh, give me little time to pray;
With a hung down head an' a aching heart, Oh, give me little time to pray.
I've been in de storm so long; I've been in de storm so long children;
I've been in de storm so long, Oh, give me little time to pray.
Oh, when I get to heaven, I'll walk all about, Oh, give me little time to pray.
Dere'll be nobody dere to turn me out, O give me little time to pray.
I've been in de storm so long; I've been in de storm so long children;
I've been in de storm so long, Oh, give me little time to pray.

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

*HYMN 57 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Now Let All Loudly Sing Praise to God* Healey Willan (1880-1968, English Canadian)

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
in gratitude for our church family and in celebration of spring.*

~ Beth & Bill Foster ~

We pray for Bob Reynolds, Rob Snyder, Roberta Hause, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Betty Gerstler, Juliane Mayotte, David Gregg, Jon VanderVliet, David Lamkin & Lynn Suits, Lynda Berg, Becky Lepley, Marilyn Marsh, Dakota Lawson, Bill Nummy, Helga Mortensen, Lindsay Grace, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, Grange Burnside, and Fay Key.

"I've Been in the Storm So Long" is a traditional African American spiritual that speaks to the hardships and resilience of the African American experience, particularly during slavery. The "storm" in this song is a metaphor for the trials of humankind and if sung during Lent, shows the trials of the forty days Jesus suffered in the desert and then his death on the cross.

We're glad you're here! Please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card in your bulletin and place it in an offering plate when it comes by later in the service. You can indicate any prayer requests you have and let us know if you'd like a name tag and/or our bi-weekly communication about the life of the church.

You may place your offering in one of the plates when they are passed. Or make your offering online using this QR code or via PayPal (@fbca2) and place a Connection Card indicating so in the offering plate.



Church service hearing aids are available at the back of the sanctuary

Join us after worship downstairs for fellowship time. We'd love to connect!

Children's Ministry. All children are welcome in worship; Worshipful Play Bags are available as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery care is available for children (infant through 3 years). Children through 1st grade leave for Children's Ministry following Time as Children. Children's Choir (PreK-5th grade) meets from 11:30-noon. You may pick up your children at 11:30 from their Church School classrooms, at 12:00 from the choir room, or at 12:30 from the Playroom upstairs.

Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets Sunday mornings during the Formation hour (11:30am–12:30pm) in the Youth Room directly below the sanctuary. We have fun together, eat snacks, talk about our lives and explore some exciting stories from the Bible and their real-life justice implications. Feel free to contact Jillian with any questions at Jillian@fbca2.org.

Adult Formation Classes. LJ Brazier leads a Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark looking at several sections and themes. LJ will bring some interpretive perspectives. Bring yours. The group meets in the lounge at 11:30a.

Living Our Stories. We invite you to join us as we continue to explore who we are and plan for the next phase of life for First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor through our Living Our Stories gatherings! *All who are part of our community are welcome and encouraged to participate.* Sign up to gather with others in our church family on Sunday, April 6 (3:30-5:00p) to further

examine the stories we tell here at First Baptist and what those stories say about us and our values. WE create the church we want to be! You can sign up online at fbca2.org/connect or in person at the Ministry Station at church. Questions? Connect with members of our Interim Transition Team: Robbie Stapleton, Paula Burton, or Xan Morgan.

Lenten Devotionals. Our Lenten theme for this year is "Unbroken: A Living Faith." Raising questions about faith, the people who developed the curriculum write, "Faith is passed down from generation to generation - it's an unbroken line of ancestry that connects all the way back to Jesus. The powers of the world wanted to break Jesus and yet this faith that we rest on is strong enough that they couldn't do it. We are part of this great tradition that will not and cannot be broken." In support of our exploration of this theme, there are Lenten devotional booklets available at the ministry stations. Please pick one up and use it to deepen your own Lenten discipline of living out your faith as part of the First Baptist community.

Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series will present "Passacaglia and Ciacona: Organ Music by Johann Sebastian Bach and Dieterich Buxtehude" performed by Shin-Ae Chun this Friday, March 28, at noon. This is the first concert of the Baroque Art of Variation and Embellishment Series. Our faithful Robert Noehren Organ, which was installed in 1966, will be greatly featured to perform this special program of the two masters from the Baroque period. It is a free concert and open to the public. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors. For more information, go to fbca2.org/events.

Transgender Day of Visibility Service. First Baptist is partnering with neighboring churches for a service on Monday, March 31st which is International Trans Day of Visibility. We'll gather at 11:30a at First Congregational Church. We hope to see you there.

Holy Week Schedule:

Soup Supper & Foot Washing on Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 5:30p. We continue our journey through Holy Week with this intergenerational worship experience. We will share a simple soup supper together with an invitation to have your feet washed afterwards as we embody the story of Jesus' last meal with his friends. The Children's Choir will be singing and our friends from Northside Community Church will join us. If you are able to provide a pot of soup for the meal, please let Xan (xan@fbca2.org) know. Thank you in advance!

Community Good Friday Service. We have a longstanding tradition of joining with sister churches First United Methodist and First Congregational to offer the community a midday Good Friday service. Join us at 12:00 noon on Friday, April 18 at First Congregational Church.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service. Join us at First Baptist for our Good Friday service of shadows at 8:00p, as we sit together in the growing darkness to hear again the story of Jesus' Passion in word, song, and silence, and ponder its meaning for our lives.

Wednesday Bible Study from 1- 2:00p. Pastor Rick leads the study which often includes good snacks, and always coffee and fellowship as we receive the gift of God's living word. We will be looking at Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; and Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

The Gathering is our campus ministry on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30pm. It's a safe, open space where undergraduate and graduate students can explore and express their questions and their doubts, learn from others, and be supported in their personal faith and growth. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Pastor Rick Mixon. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact Janice Stumpf, sign up at fbca2.org/connect, or make a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal (@fbca2).

The FBCA2 Ladies' Book Club will next meet Tuesday, April 15th at 6:30pm at Paula Burton's home. We will discuss *Brave the Wild River: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon*, by Melissa L. Seigny. The book describes the contributions of two University of Michigan botanists. Work on your taxes early and plan to join us! Please contact Janice Stumpf or Mary Gregg if you have any questions.

American Baptist Women's Annual Conference June 13-15, 2025. I want to encourage you to consider our Annual Conference at the DeWitt Retreat Center in DeWitt Michigan. It is a beautiful and peaceful setting! Our conference theme this year is Stronger Together. A weekend to cultivate Joy! We have two key speakers: Rev. Dr. Laura J. Hunt and Hon. Rev. Dr. Shannon Holmes. You may come for the full weekend or just Saturday. I will have registration forms by the end of March. Our weekend includes workshops, small groups, spiritual gift reassessments, prayer, meditation and time for relaxing and fellowship. Please prayerfully consider this time for relaxation and renewal. -Carolyn Grapentine

Help Needed! The City of Ann Arbor has put out a feedback survey for their Throne Pilot Project. First Baptist reached out to the city and the Throne company to ask that they might have a few of their Thrones available 24/7 for our unhoused neighbors. Through our continued advocacy, the city agreed to rent parking spaces in our lot to host a Throne here at First Baptist. This accessible, free, and clean bathroom was available to our Daytime Warming Center guests and will continue to be for those who spend time here throughout the warmer months. We invite you to fill out the city's feedback form and indicate that the Thrones have been a positive addition to Ann Arbor. Questions? Connect with Xan Morgan or Kat Becker.

Land Acknowledgement. We acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral homeland of the Anishinabae people of the Three Fires Confederacy - the Ojibwe, Ottawa & Potawatomi - and the Wyandot, and that this unceded land is still sacred to them.

Seek, serve, and grow with us! More information about these opportunities at fbca2.org/connect or use the QR code to the right.



ITT Update: We continue to work on our church profile to provide our search team with the information needed to begin their work. There is an abundance of information that will prove very valuable during our search process. Our second round of in-home group meetings is scheduled on April 6, from 3:30-5:00. At this point, this reflects approximately 70 individuals. It is also important to note, we want to include EVERYONE! You do not need to be a member of FBC to participate in these events! This is the final part of our *Present* focus "Living our Stories". The next group to meet will gather key information about our *Future*. They have had their first meeting so information about that will be forthcoming. You will also hear soon from the Recruitment Committee regarding their work creating a team who will represent our Search Committee. In addition to April 6, please mark your calendars for April 27 for the church's Annual Meeting. We will present the slate of candidates for the search committee at that time. We look forward to continuing our journey together. As always, we couldn't do this without you. Thank you AGAIN for continuing to join with us as we work towards a bright future for First Baptist Church!

Calendar

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| March 26 | Bible Study @1:00p The Gathering @5:30p |
| March 27 | Choir Rehearsal @ 7:00p |
| March 28 | Ad Libitum Concert @12:00 noon |
| March 31 | Transgender Day of Visibility Service @11:30am |
| April 6 | "Living our Stories" Gatherings @3:30p |
| April 11 | Ad Libitum Concert @12:00 noon |
| April 17 | Maundy Thursday Soup Supper @5:30p |
| April 18 | Community Good Friday Service @12 noon (at First Congregational Church) Service of Tenebrae @8:00p |
| April 27 | Annual Program Meeting @11:15a |

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-2015

Telephone: 734/663-9376

Email: office@fbca2.org Website: fbca2.org

Rev. Dr. Rick Mixon, *Transitional Interim Pastor*

Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*

Jillian Mast, *Associate for Youth Ministry*

Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Communications and Childcare Supervisor*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

Michelle Ding & Charlie Duke, *Children's Choir*

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*

Kat Becker, *Administrator*