

Unbroken

A living faith

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT
APRIL 6, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION: *"Once a person learns to read the signs of love and thus to believe it, love leads him into the open field wherein he himself can love. If the prodigal son had not believed that the father's love was already waiting for him, he would not have been able to make the journey home - even if his father's love welcomes him in a way he never would have dreamed of. The decisive thing is that the sinner has heard of a love that could be, and really is, there for him; he is not the one who has to bring himself into line with God; God has always already seen in him, the loveless sinner, a beloved child and has looked upon him and conferred dignity upon him in the light of this love."*

Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Love Alone Is Credible*

GREETING

Rick Mixon & Xan Morgan

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Xan Morgan & Piper Morgan

Humble Homecoming by Bruce Sanguin

One: We gather now,
harvesters of an all-pervasive grace,
unexpected benefactors of the deed,
to this great and glorious cosmic inheritance.

Two: We, the walking, waking stars,
ablaze with wonder,
imagination,
and hope,
gather to remember three words:

All: *kinship* with all that is;
debt that can only be paid forward;
gift, sacred mantra of the humble.
Creation,
the great and glorious sacrifice of abundance,
asks in return –
only –
that we shed our entitled egos
and drop to our knees,
uttering a single, simple prayer
that changes everything:
"Thank you."

PRELUDE

A Lenten Supplication

Rudolf Dittrich
(1861-1919, Austrian)

OPENING PRAYER *Only Kisses* by Bruce Sanguin Xan Morgan & Piper Morgan

***HYMN 400** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* *NETTLETON*
(*Please stand in body or spirit)
(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

***SCRIPTURE READING** Xan Morgan, Rick Mixon & Piper Morgan
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (The Message)

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 Xan Morgan
[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 *Go to Dark Gethsemane* Matthew Culloton

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; Learn from him to bear the cross.
Calvary's mournful mountain climb; There adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete;
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

REFLECTING ON OUR NEED FOR GOD Xan Morgan & Rick Mixon
Coming to Our Senses Bruce Sanguin

One: O Holy One, we are an impetuous lot,
demanding that our every whim be catered to,
and allowing desire to lead us down the path of indignity.

Two: We walk upon Earth as the prodigal species,
taking the inheritance of a fourteen-billion-year-old universe
and a five-billion-year-old planet,
and squandering it in dissolute living.

All: Now, O Source of All Inheritance,
we come to our senses.
Now, O Compassionate One,
we see the error of our ways.
Now, O Forgiver of Foolishness,
we seek to make amends.

One: Awaken us to a wonder that issues in humility
and drops us to our knees.

Two: Transform our desire into a burning willingness

All: to reconcile ourselves one with another,
to heal our relationship to other species,
to see life as pure gift,
and to return with an offering of humility
to your awaiting arms. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rick Mixon

*HYMN 619

Now the Silence

NOW

SERMON

The Unmanly Father

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

Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow

John Stainer

Arr. by Robert J. Powell

Cross of Jesus, Cross of sorrow, where the blood of Christ was shed,
perfect Man on thee did suffer, perfect God on thee has bled.
Here the King of all the ages, throned in light ere worlds could be,
robed in mortal flesh is dying, crucified by sin for me.
O mysterious, condescending! O abandonment sublime!
Very God himself is bearing all the sufferings of time!
Cross of Jesus, Cross of sorrow, where the blood of Christ was shed,
perfect Man on thee did suffer, perfect God on thee has bled.

***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**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Rick Mixon & Xan Morgan

Invitation to the Table

The Bread *Wondrous Love* by Dale Wood

The Cup *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* by Robert Buckley Farlee

The Prayer of Blessing

***HYMN** (Hymn 557, verse 1) *Blessed Be the Tie that Binds* *DENNIS*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

***HYMN** (see insert) *There Are Some Things I May Not Know* *YES, GOD IS REAL*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fantasia in D Minor

Johann Pachelbel
(1653-1706, Geman)

We pray for Bob Reynolds, Rob Snyder, Roberta Hause, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Betty Gerstler, Julianne Mayotte, David Gregg, Jon VanderVliet, Chuck 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.

Today's **Fellowship Offering** will go towards the **Fellowship Fund** which provides for meeting emergency needs of those within our community. Please give generously.

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 will also have Easter cards for our church family members who are unable to attend worship - please sign these cards and add your special note.

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 the end of the annual meeting.

On the First Sunday of Each Month it's "S3 - Stay for the Service Sunday" when the 2nd- 5th grade class will stay in worship for the whole service. This gives the kids an opportunity to experience and participate in the second half of worship. This is a valuable step in their faith formation as worshipers! They are invited to sit with Valerie Francia and their classmates during worship. Following worship, the 2nd-5th graders will attend Fellowship Time with their families until Children's Choir begins at 11:30.

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.

We Need Easter Bunnies! Each year we fill Easter Eggs for a hunt after worship on Easter morning. Like past years, we are also going to fill eggs for a community hunt put on by nonprofits in our area. This year we'll be contributing eggs to a community egg hunt at Perry Child Development Center in Ypsilanti sponsored by Black Greek Fraternities and Sororities, other Black organizations, and Ypsilanti Community Schools. We have 10 bags with 50 empty eggs in each bag that need filling - you can pick them up right after worship today at the ministry station. Please fill the Easter eggs

with wrapped candy, stickers, or little toys and return them to Xan Morgan by **next Sunday, April 13.**

Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series presents "Beautiful Baroque: Violin and Harpsichord Concert" on Friday, April 11 at noon. This is the second concert of the Baroque Art of Variation and Embellishment Series. Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos on the violin and Shin-Ae Chun on the harpsichord will perform works by Bertali, C.P.E Bach, Vivaldi, Schmelzer, Fischer and Muffat. This will be a nice opportunity to hear the potpourri of the delightful Baroque music. It is a free concert and is open to the public. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors. Let's celebrate spring with beautiful music.

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.

Annual Program Meeting. Annual Program Meeting. Please plan to attend First Baptist's Annual Program Meeting on April 27, 2025 after worship (11:15a). Along with celebrating our work together, we will examine the impact of our previous pastors in an effort to determine particular leadership qualities we want in our future pastor(s). We will also approve and commission our Pastor Search Committee and new incoming board members and officers. If you prefer to join by zoom, get the link at fbca2.org/connect.

Let's enjoy lunch together as we approach the future in faith and hope and love. Children and youth will join us for lunch after their usual programming. The Board of Care & Community will supply chicken, rolls, and beverages. The rest of the meal is pot-luck, so if your last name starts with A-D, please bring a green salad or

other vegetables; E-M bring a potato, rice or pasta dish; and N-Z bring fruit or dessert.

Janice Stumpf, chair of the Recruitment Committee, has shared about the Pastoral Search Committee. A hard copy of the board members, officers, and Search Committee to be elected at the annual meeting will be available at the Ministry Station at church.

Wednesday Bible Study. 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 Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; and Luke 24:1-12.

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 meet on 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.

Another Baby Celebration! Jamie and Ian Mills, along with their daughters, will be welcoming their baby boy on April 21. On April 13, please join us during Fellowship Time as we offer our excitement and blessings. Here is the link to their registry: <https://www.babylist.com/list/tiiimxfbi>. Jamie says, "We have almost everything we need and we love second hand items so these are just a few ideas of things we could put to use. We're just grateful for the prayers and community support!"

American Baptist Women's Annual Conference June 13-15, 2025, at DeWitt Retreat Center in DeWitt Michigan. 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. See me for registration forms. 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

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.

ITT Update: We are having our last event related to the Present today at 3:30. We are excited by the response and feel we will have great material to integrate into our Church Profile. As a reminder our last event is on June 1, 2025 which will be an opportunity to talk about our hopes and dreams for the future of FBC. Since this will be the final step in creating our church profile, the work of the Interim Transition Team as we currently know it will come to a close. We will act as the Pastoral Relations Committee for our interim Pastor until the new pastor is named and begins their work at FBC. Now that the recruitment committee has selected a slate of nominees for our Pastoral Search Committee, they will officially begin their work after the congregational vote at our annual meeting on April 27. On behalf of all the input provided by our congregation to create our church profile, we will have a joint meeting with the Search Committee on May 12 so they may effectively begin their search. We continue to be grateful for all your feedback as we transform through transition. Thanks to all of you, the work that has been done is proving to be exactly what we need as we continue our search for our new Pastor!

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



Calendar

April 6	"Living our Stories" Gatherings @3:30p
April 9	Bible Study @1:00p The Gathering @5:30p
April 10	Choir Rehearsal @ 7:00p
April 11	Ad Libitum Concert @12:00 noon
April 13	Palm/Passion Sunday Worship @10:00a
April 15	Ladies Book Club @6:30p
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 20	Easter Sunday Worship @10:00a Easter Egg Hunt @11:15a
April 27	Annual Program Meeting @11:15a

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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*