



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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

MIXON'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

Well! Summer has surely come to Ann Arbor. In fact, it has shown up like a blast from the fiery furnace! Since I don't believe any of us claim to be Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego, we have moved worship from the Sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall for the comfort and safety of the congregation. We are trying it for a couple of weeks and are leaning toward staying below for the rest of the summer rather than moving back and forth depending on the weather. I think we can be pretty sure we will be more hot and humid than otherwise for the next couple of months.

As with any big change there were some glitches Sunday which we are working on. We appreciate your patience and support as we try to make this transition a beneficial one for all. In spite of everything, there was a good "vibe" last Sunday as we gathered to sing and pray and reflect. As God found Elijah in the cave, God can come to us even in the basement.

I am largely on the road for the next couple of weeks though I will be here this coming Sunday for worship. This week I am attending the annual meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in St. Louis and next week I will be at the Biennial gathering of the American Baptist Churches-USA in Omaha. Among other things, I intend to spread the word about what a good place Ann Arbor is and what good people make up the First Baptist community. Prayers for Xan and our children and youth as they are off to camp the next couple of weeks.

On July 6, Valerie Francia will be preaching, and Xan will help lead in worship. Please show up to support them and the good work they do. This Sunday is

traditionally Gay Freedom Sunday. It is also the Sunday before Independence Day in the USA. The service will be focused on Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, in which he proclaims that "for freedom Christ has set us free." What does it mean to be set free by, for, and indeed, in Christ? My sermon is titled, "A New Order of Freedom." Meanwhile, keep cool!

Blessings on us all in this time of transition,

Pastor Rick



The Pastor Search Committee (PSC) met on Monday, June 23. We finalized the documents that we will need to send to our American Baptist Churches of MI region representative including the job description, the job posting, and the church's eight ministry priorities. The other item we need to send to the region representative is the salary and benefits package. The personnel committee will be working on that package in early July. While that process is in motion, the PSC will be working on an interview process and rubrics to help us assess candidates. As always, please be in touch with us to share your input at psc@fbca2.org or speak with any of us in person. It is a privilege to represent this congregation and to be about this work together. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

L.J. Brazier, Toni Burton, Bill Foster, DJ Reed, Gretchen Sanewsky, Julie Smith, David Suell



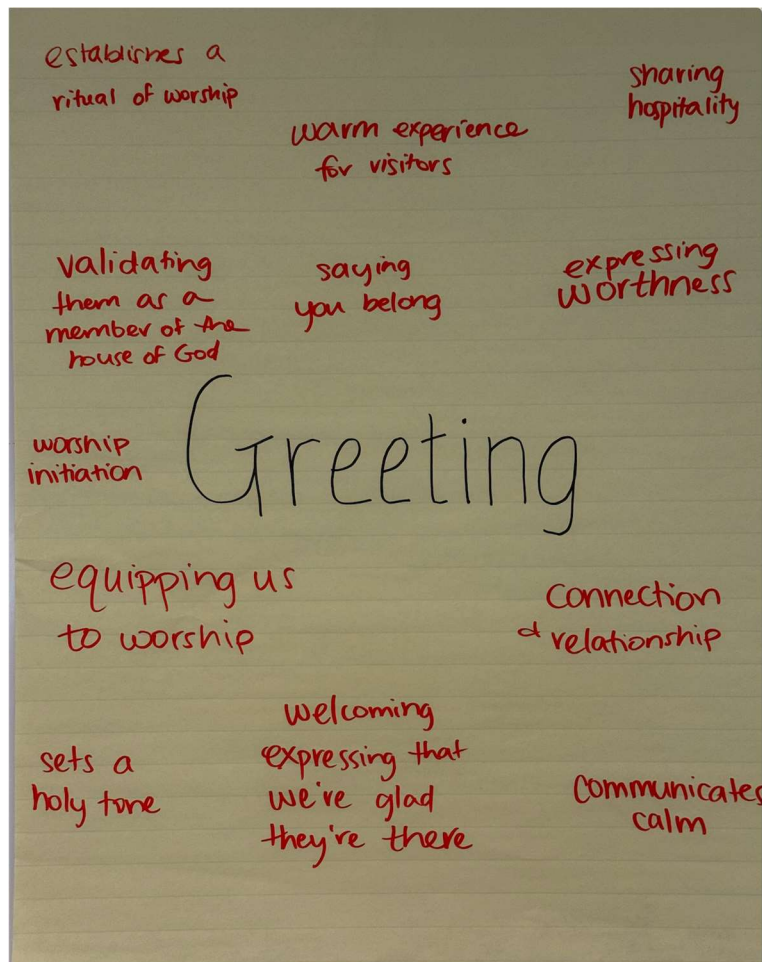
We're excited to host Derek Webb's Survival Songs concert here at First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor! Derek Webb is a veteran singer-songwriter known for his fearless honesty, razor-sharp lyrics, and genre-bending artistry. With a career spanning decades, from his early days with Caedmon's Call to a bold solo catalog, Webb has never shied away from tackling the hard questions. His latest project, Survival Songs, is no exception. Written and recorded in just one month, the new album is a powerful response to the urgent need for comfort, courage, and empowerment, especially for queer youth facing growing threats in today's world. As an artist, citizen, and dad of teens, Webb invites listeners to join him on tour and experience these powerful songs live: a soundtrack for survival in dangerous times. [Get your tickets here](#) and spread the word!

Thank you, Christina Alaniz and welcome, Lindsay Duke! Christina is wrapping up her time as our Childcare Supervisor now that her full-time job is

requiring more travel. We are grateful for her warm and loving presence with our youngest. We're delighted to have Lindsay Duke stepping into the role of Childcare Supervisor beginning in August. Lindsay brings many gifts to the work of caring for children, especially as she invites children to wonder and explore. We give thanks for you both, Christina and Lindsay.



Pizza in the Park! Join us Tuesday, July 22nd for a midsummer, intergenerational gathering of dinner and connection at County Farm Park from 5:30-7:30p. We'll have pizza, fruit, and drinks. Bring a lawn chair if you'd like! [Please take a moment to RSVP](#) so that we can prepare accordingly. Questions? Connect with [Xan Morgan](#) or a member of the Board of Christian Ed.



Board and Staff Retreat 2025. I'll venture to say "A good time was had by all". Yes, I know that's not why we have board retreats, but having a laugh or two helps the work go better. Thanks to Xan and Rick for leading us and to Janice for her admin support for the event. Aside from eating and doing improv we discussed where we find the holy in the work of the boards and committees. It turns out that even a small task like being a greeter can be holy. Greeters make people feel welcome, cared for, important especially in the case of the kiddos. It's not just giving out a bulletin. With the knowledge that as American Baptists without hierarchy, being the church is truly up to the congregation, the various boards worked on setting priorities for the next several months. We'll be hearing more about that. Even more important, they worked on ways that the boards can collaborate. After all, we are the church together. So, whether you are on a board or not, look to be asked to participate in the work of our FBC Family.

P.S. I put in a big plug asking people to wear your nametags, and I will repeat it here. We do have visitors almost every Sunday. Then we have

people like me who suddenly forget the names of people we have known for decades. Be kind. Help prevent the embarrassment!

Mary Davis
Moderator





FBCA2 KIDS AND TEENS ARE OFF TO CAMP CHRISTIAN!

FBCA2 Kids and Teens are off to Camp Christian! We invite you to pray for Emma Francia, Tess Magers, and Simeon Suell while they are at church camp for the first time this week. Please also pray for our CITs who are returning this

year - Lincoln Reed, Emmanuel Morgan, and Piper Morgan. Xan Morgan is the director for the week. May they have a great week filled with laughter, learning, and new tastes of God's love. Interested in sending them a note while they are at camp? Here is the address: 10335 Maple Dell Rd, Marysville, OH 43040.



Habitat for Humanity FBC Workday. The 2025 house is located at 1015 Gault Drive, Ypsilanti. Our Friday workday is August 1st. The FBC volunteers will work with another congregation to provide labor and perhaps lunch that day. If you have the time and wish to volunteer during the week go to the Good News house website: H4H.org/goodnewsgroup for home page and H4H.org/goodnewsvolunteer for signing waivers.

As in past years, our congregation has also committed financial support to the project. We are asking you to contribute as you have in the past to aid this effort to provide affordable housing in our community. We have committed to raising \$2500 in 2025. Checks can be written to FBC, with H4H in the memo line. Reach out to [Scott Diels](#) if you have any questions.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES



Support for the Magers. After having emergency surgery a couple weeks ago, Martin Magers has been diagnosed with Thoracic Outlet Syndrome. He will be having a second surgery tomorrow, June 27th and will be in the hospital for a week. To express love and support for the Magers, Xan will be collecting funds to purchase gift cards to some of their favorite restaurants. You can donate via Venmo (@Xan-Morgan-1), PayPal (@xanmorgan923) or with cash/check. Please reach out to Xan (xan@fbca2.org) if you have any questions.



Greeters Needed! Please consider taking part in this very important ministry in our church. Greeting our church members and friends, welcoming them and setting the tone for our Sunday Morning Worship.

We have 2 greeter posts, one at the sanctuary door and the other at the Washington Street doors. You can sign up [here](#). Or [email me](#) with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Jodylynn Brummett

From our first Habitat for Humanity Workday. Mary Davis, Scott Diels, Steven Kronenberg, and Deb Levine from FBC worked with folks from St Nickolas Greek Orthodox Church on the Good News House Rehab project on June 14. As you can see, there was work for the skilled and the unskilled. Join in for our next day on Aug 1. Contact [Scott Diels](#) for more information.



June Meal at Hope Clinic. Thanks to our amazing congregation for showing up at the Hope clinic yesterday! Paul and Dana Larson, Carolyn Hildebrand, Carolyn Grapentine, Deb and Mint Levine, along with my daughter, Elise and I managed a great meal service.

Our next meal service is July 17 and we need volunteers! You can sign up [here](#). Or reach out to [Karen](#) with any questions.



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, July 10. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, July 8.

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