



# FIRST BAPTIST

## CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
July 20, 2025

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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**WORDS OF PREPARATION:** *"Life goes on and we have lives to live. Yet, unrelenting, you refuse to leave us alone. You are, after all, a zealous God. You startle us from our reveries by gathering us into your dream time, into your Church. May we, thus gathered, be so inspired by your Spirit that our lives never tire, that we have the energy now to wait, to rest, in the goodness and beauty of your truth."*

Stanley Hauerwas, *Prayers Plainly Spoken*

## GREETING

Xan Morgan

## RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Bonnie Kidd

One: We are people who have been called to follow where God leads us.

All: **By faith we can obey, even when asked to walk into an unknown future.**

One: We are people who have been challenged to tell God's story to others.

All: **By faith we have the ability to share the good news.**

One: We are God's children who are invited to dwell in Beloved Community.

All: **By faith we will embrace our siblings in Christ.**

One: Let us now lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving as we join together to worship the Holy One.

## PRELUDE

*Prelude in E Major, BWV 854*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750, German)

## OPENING PRAYER

Bonnie Kidd

## \*HYMN

*Let All Things Now Living*

*ASH GROVE*

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

## \*SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6-16, 12:1-2

Rick Mixon

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God!**

## \*GLORIA (Hymn 72, sung twice)

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Children who are going into 5th grade and younger come forward.)

**TIME AS CHILDREN**

God Is So Good

Xan Morgan

*God is so good, God is so good,  
God is so good – God's so good to me.*

(Children head to Summer Children's Ministry on the 3rd floor.)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rick Mixon

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

arr. by Gary Lanier

Louisa Laidlaw, flute & Noreen Wolcott, piano

**REFLECTING ON OUR NEED FOR GOD**

Rick Mixon

*You have made us for yourself, O God, and hearts are restless till they rest in you.*  
- St. Augustine

A Time for Reflection

One: Eternal God, you have had many friends on Earth, those who heard your promises, and shared them with their neighbors; those who have done the things you have asked, working and speaking out for justice.

All: **Let us, too, be your friends on Earth, living by faith, believing in your promises.**

One: Through the voice of the prophets you call us to account: help us to cease doing evil, and learn your ways;

All: **to seek justice with those who are oppressed; to speak out with those whose voices have been silenced; to journey alongside our siblings that we might bear one another's burdens with compassion and seek healing for a hurting world.**

One: In the midst of these struggles and commitments we trust in your promises and ask you to work through us to build your city, a holy dwelling place for all people. In the ministry of this congregation we pray for courage and strength, for creativity and joy.

All: **May we come to see each other – young and old alike, differently abled and gifted with a variety of talents – as people who are signs of faith-filled living. May we embrace one another's stories and celebrate one another's lives. Let us grow and minister, by faith, as did our spiritual ancestors. Amen.**

*Silence is kept for a time so that we might meditate, reflect, be still,  
draw closer to the holy, lift our own prayers of desire and recognition.*

Words of Assurance

\*HYMN                                      *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*                                      FAITHFULNESS

SERMON                                      *We've Come this Far by Faith*                                      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                                      *Piano Song*                                      Paul Halley  
(b.1952, English)

\*DOXOLOGY                                      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*                                      OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>  
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                                      Rick Mixon  
Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.  
Response: And also with you.

\*HYMN                                      *Now Thank We All Our God*                                      NUN DANKET

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                                      *The Lord's Prayer*                                      Albert Hay Malotte  
(1895-1964, American)

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God  
in celebration of 19 years as a couple with Joyce,  
the very best years of my life!*

~ David Robbins ~

We pray for Bob Reynolds, Jon VanderVliet, Judy Burton, Marlene Francis, Grange Burnside, Becky Lepley, Adriane Moulton Headley, Rob Snyder, Roberta Hause, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Katherine Cartee, Chuck Suits, Lynda Berg, Marilyn Marsh, Pidgey Karolyi, Dakota Lawson, Bill Nummy, Helga Mortensen, Lindsay Grace, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, and Fay Key.

\*Please stand in body or spirit

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

Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*

Jillian Mast, *Associate for Youth Ministry*

Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Communications*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

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

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*

Kat Becker, *Administrator*

**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.



**Join us after worship for refreshments right here in Fellowship Hall.** 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) upstairs. Children who have completed 4th grade and younger, leave for Summer Children's Ministry following Time as Children in the Play Space upstairs and should be picked up after worship. If you are visiting and would like more information about Children's Ministry, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

**Youth Group (grades 6-12)** during second hour is on break until the fall, but we have some activities planned for the summer. If you would like more information about what's coming up for Youth Ministry or would like to be added to our email list, please contact Jillian (jillian@fbca2.org).

**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 RSVP online (fbca2.org/pizzainthepark) or at the Ministry Station so that we can prepare accordingly. Questions? Connect with Xan Morgan or a member of the Board of Christian Ed.

**FBC Men's Book Club** next meets at 7:00p on Monday, July 28 at the home of Scott Diels. They are reading *The Second Mountain, the Quest for a Moral Life* by David Brooks.

**Habitat for Humanity FBC Workdays.** The 2025 house is located at 1015 Gault Drive, Ypsilanti. Our Friday workday is **Aug 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.

**Youth Lock-in August 1-2: Youth Group members (incoming grades 6-12) are invited to our Summer Lock-in!** We will stay overnight at church, participate in service and justice work around town, play games, share meals/snacks, and spend quality time together. We will meet at church at 4:30pm on Friday, Aug 1 and the event will end at 2:30pm on Saturday, Aug 2. Check your email for more information and a link to the RSVP or email Jillian ([jillian@fbca2.org](mailto:jillian@fbca2.org)).

**Donations requested!** The Youth Group will be shopping for groceries and other supplies to donate to Hope Clinic during the Youth Group's Summer Lock-in. We are asking for donations of cash or Target gift cards to help us purchase these items. Please deliver physical cash/cards directly to Jillian or Kat before Aug 1. Gift cards may also be emailed to [jillian@fbca2.org](mailto:jillian@fbca2.org).

**FBCA2 at Ann Arbor Pride!** As a Welcoming and Affirming church, we have a commitment to offering a counter-witness to the messages of condemnation, exclusion, rejection, and even hatred the LGBTQ+ community has historically received from churches and from Christians. We'll be hosting a table at Ann Arbor Pride on Saturday, August 2 between 12:00p and 9:00p to help offer a public witness to love and welcome for all, especially for those who have not felt welcomed elsewhere. Sign up to help host at [fbca2.org/connect](https://fbca2.org/connect)! All are invited to stop by our FBCA2 tent and spin the gift wheel!

**FBC Ladies' Book Club.** Our next book club meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 25th at 6:30pm. We will meet at Mary Gregg's home to discuss *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict, the story of actress and inventor Hedy Lamarr. Please contact Janice Stumpf ([jlstumpf@umich.edu](mailto:jlstumpf@umich.edu)) with any questions! All ladies are welcome!

**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.

**The Pastor Search Committee (PSC)** met on Monday, July 14. We focused our time on developing an interview strategy. This includes deciding on the stages of interviewing and the ways we find most effective to interact with applicants. We are in the process of creating screening rubrics and interview questions. We anticipate this will require a few more meetings to complete. We feel God's leading and the hope that many excellent candidates will apply compelled by all that FBCA2 has to offer.

The PSC is committed to moving this process forward and will be working even when PSC members are on vacation this summer. We trust that our denominational representative will have the position posted with American Baptist Churches soon. Our goal is to begin reviewing applicants around the middle of August. Thank you for your prayers for this process!

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

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



### Calendar

July 22	Pizza in the Park @5:30p
July 28	FBC Men's Book Club @7:00p
August 1	Habitat for Humanity Workday Youth Lock-In
August 2	Ann Arbor Pride @12:00 noon
August 25	FBC Ladies' Book Club @6:30p