



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 27, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF PREPARATION: *"The closet does have a benefit. It provides safety. Which at times is important. But remember, as long as you are in there, two other things will be too. Fear and shame."*

Anthony Venn-Brown,
*A Life of Unlearning - a preacher's struggle
with his homosexuality, church and faith*

GREETING

Rick Mixon

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Maryann Bowen

One: We are the Body of Christ!

All: The handclapping, toe tapping, heart pumping, mouth tasting, arms embracing, justice seeking, hymn singing, love making, bread baking, risk taking Body of Christ!

One: Baptized in one spirit, we are members of one body.

All: Many and varied in gender, color, sexuality, age, class, and ability, we are members of Christ's beautiful body.

One: None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you."

All: For only together can we find wholeness.

One: None of us can say to another, "I will not care for you."

All: For we are connected like muscle and bone. If one suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!

One: Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one.

All: Let us worship God!

PRELUDE

*Andante espressivo, Op.30, No.1
from Songs without Words*

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847, German)

OPENING PRAYER

Maryann Bowen

*HYMN

New Patterns of Loving

ST. DENIO

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

*SCRIPTURE READING John 11:1-7; 17:32-39, 41-44

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!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG God Is So Good (v.1)

SO GOOD

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

TIME AS CHILDREN

Xan Morgan

(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

Give Me Jesus

Trad. African American Spiritual

arr. by Mark Hayes

Bonnie Kidd, soprano

Oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus.

You may have all this world; Give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.

You may have all this world; Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.

You may have all this world, with its troubles and cares,

for of this I am sure, give me Jesus.

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

We Choose Not by John van de Laar

One: We choose not to give in to fear:

Even when we are threatened by violence and abuse,

we choose to believe in the power of love.

All: **We choose not to be led by despair:**

Even when dreams fail and the world seems to grow colder and more broken,

we choose to believe in the power of hope.

One: We choose not to be blinded by cynicism:

Even when joy and celebration feel naïve and frivolous,

we choose to believe in the power of faith.

All: **We choose not to be over-awed by death:**

Even when grief shuts out all other voices,

we choose to believe in the power of life.

One: In every time,
in each place.
with all people,

All: may your resurrection rise up within us,
and lead us to new, creative, healing choices.

*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

Lazarus Come Out

AURELIA

SERMON

Reflections on Coming Out

Brian Henderson

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

Blessed Assurance

John Carter
(b.1930, American)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

*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

Rick Mixon

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.
Response: And also with you.

*HYMN

The Love that Goes Unspoken

LLANGLOFFAN

BENEDICTION

Brian Henderson

POSTLUDE

All Night, All Day

Ruth Elaine Schram
(b.1956, American)

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God
in honor of Paul Larson's birthday.
I am so grateful for our loving partnership and the joy you bring to this world!*

~ Dana Larson ~

We pray for **Bob Reynolds, Jon VanderVliet, Becky Lepley, Adriane Moulton Headley, Rob Snyder, Marlene Francis, Roberta Hause, Betty Doman, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Katherine Cartee, Chuck Suits, Lynda Berg, Marilyn Marsh, Dakota Lawson, Bill Nummy, Helga Mortensen, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, Fay Key, and the Pastoral Search Committee.**

We welcome guest preacher **Rev. Brian Henderson** this morning. He is an ordained American Baptist minister who has served three congregations over 25 years. Brian has worked with the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists' Board and Staff since 2019 before beginning as full-time Executive Director in 2024. Outside of his ministry responsibilities, Brian loves traveling and spending time with his three (nearly) young adult children.

*Please stand in body or spirit

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).

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 Workday. 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).

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 cash or venmo donations to help us purchase these items. Please deliver physical cash directly to Jillian or Kat before Aug 1. You may also venmo Jillian @Jillian-Mast.

5 More Volunteer Spots to Cover 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! 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) 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.

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



Calendar

July 27	Conversation with Brian Henderson @11:15a in the Lounge.
July 28	FBC Men's Book Club @7:00p
July 29	American Baptist Campus Foundation @5:30p
July 30	Executive Council @5:30p
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

The Pastor Search Committee (PSC) had another successful meeting on Monday, July 21. In this working session we continued to fine tune our initial screening process. We collaborated to develop rubrics for the application paperwork we will receive from each candidate as well as the written responses to prompts we have created. Each member of our group brings valuable gifts to the process. We truly enjoy our work and are so thankful to all of you for your prayers and trust in us!

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

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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*