



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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

MIXON'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

Hot weather and summer storms notwithstanding, the weather report this week predicts we will lose 85 minutes of daylight in the next 30 days. I have never heard a reporter offer this statistic before. Among other things, it means things are changing, as is always true with the move from one season to another. Along with the waning of daylight and cooling weather, we also see that students are rapidly appearing on campus and surrounding. Though we literally have another month of summer, autumn is inevitably on the way. If there is anything we can rely on, we know that seasons change.

At First Baptist, a number of things are changing as we look to a new church calendar year. To begin with, we will move from the Fellowship Hall to the Sanctuary this coming Sunday with a service that includes a blessing for our learners and educators. If you are among these, please be there so we can offer you our blessing for the coming school year.

Then the following Sunday, we will welcome the choir back to the loft. The Sunday after is Coming Home Sunday, the official kick-off of the church's calendar year. The celebration will begin with worship and continue afterward outdoors with a jazz band and popcorn bar. Other things on the docket for September include Wednesday Bible Study and the Gathering, starting September 3, and Adult Formation on September 14. Lots of good opportunities for us all to live into being the Body of Christ.

This Sunday, we will continue our exploration of the work of contemporary women hymn writers by considering the wonderful Miriam Therese Winter. Winter first gained fame in the 1970s as the key figure in a group of nuns

known as The Medical Mission Sisters. She was the composer of a very popular collection of simple folk-like songs called "Joy Is Like the Rain." She has gone on to become the creator of many hymns, songs, and works on worship. The hymn for Sunday is probably my favorite of hers, "Oh for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace." The texts are from Isaiah and Romans. What would it mean for us to dream such a world and then live to make the dream come true?

As the season changes, I look forward to witnessing, worshiping, and working with you all for the good of the First Baptist community and the building up of God's Beloved Community.

Blessings on us all in this time of transition,

Pastor Rick



The Pastor Search Committee met on Monday, August 18. Our main task was to begin reviewing applicants. We developed an initial screening rubric which we are using to evaluate the current batch of applicants. Going forward we will use this screening tool to evaluate new applicants on a rolling basis. We continue to develop the next levels of our screening and interview process. We very much appreciate your prayers and support as we take these next exciting steps to discern the person God is calling to the role of Pastor at FBC Ann Arbor.

- The FBCA2 PSC



Join us for Coming Home Sunday on September 7th! Our Board of Worship friends will be offering a meaningful worship experience as we celebrate coming home. And our children's ministry classes will begin for the fall. After worship it will be time to party! Join us for live jazz music, a delicious popcorn bar, and face painting, too. You won't want to miss this festive regathering of our community after summer travels and summer schedules. Youth Group and our Adult Formation class will begin the following Sunday, September 14th.

COME WONDER, PLAY,
AND CREATE WITH
FBCA2 KIDS!

We're looking
for teen and adult
volunteers for
children's ministry
this year!



We need a robust team of folks to make Children's Ministry flourish here at FBCA2 this fall! We have 5 ministry openings to fill. Please reach out to Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org) to express your willingness to serve and to discuss which role - lead teacher, support teacher, children's choir volunteer, nursery caregiver - is best for you. You'll be partnering with many experienced volunteers! Thank you in advance!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

YOUNG 5S THRU 5TH GRADE
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 14
SUNDAYS, 11:30-12:00



Children's Choir for kids in Young 5's through 5th grade begins Sunday, September 14th! Michelle Ding and Charlie Duke look forward to meeting with the children each Sunday from 11:30-12:00p in the Children's Choir room in the Children's Ministry wing. Kids may be picked up from the choir room at noon or they can head to our supervised Play Space until 12:30 when adult and teen formation classes end (12:30p). We are looking forward to a year of fun faith formation through song!



New Offering - Evening Scripture Study! This fall the church will offer a Bible study on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 PM. The study will focus on the book of Genesis and follow the Yale Bible Study curriculum. A key feature of this Bible study is that participants will be asked to read and reflect on the assigned readings in advance of each meeting. Weekly meetings will be devoted to discussing the week's scripture passages and associated material from the Yale curriculum. Most weeks the readings will take 1-2 hours.

Participants are asked to commit to attending most, if not all, weekly meetings, which will be facilitated by Clay Scott. The first meeting will take place on September 17 and the final meeting will take place on November 12. There will be no meeting on October 8. Meetings will be in-person at FBC by default, though some could be switched to virtual depending on group preferences. If you are interested, please look for a sign-up sheet at the Ministry Station in the hallway or [online here](#).



Come One, Come All! The choir has openings for singers in every section. We have wonderful singers with us now, but we need to build each of our sections, soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. We have section leaders to help you learn your parts too! If you love to sing, or know anyone who does, can read some music (don't need to be an expert), want to worship God through music, desire to help the congregation sing the hymns more fully, and have lots of fun, you could be in the choir! I will admit it takes commitment though, but don't we want to give our best in the worship of the living God? We rehearse together each Thursday night from 7pm to 8:30pm. We sing around 120 pieces per season. We rehearse on Sunday mornings starting at 9:15am until the end of the worship service at 11:15am. We sing the Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols Service from King's College, Cambridge. If you or anyone you know would like to join us, please let me know, come to a practice, see how you do, experience singing in the choir! You might find you love it and think, "why have I waited so long? This is GREAT!" You can see me on any Sunday after worship if you would like to chat about it! Think about it. Pray about it.

Here is a famous quote from Shakespeare that I edited long ago:

To sing or not to sing, there is NO question!!!!

- Bonnie Kidd, Choir Director



AD LIBITUM CONCERT SERIES

Celebrating its 13th year, 2025-2026
Free Concerts and Open to the Public
Fridays at noon

2025

SEPTEMBER 19

Organ

Paula Seo, organ

Organ Music by Mozart, Sweelinck,
Bolcom and Price

NOVEMBER 7

Voice and Piano

Wesley Dunnagan, tenor

Mariah Boucher, piano

Romantic and Contemporary Music by
Strauss, Bonds, Fanny Mendelssohn,
Beach, Schubert, Marx and Laitman

OCTOBER 10

Violin Duet

Maria Bessmeltseva, violin

Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos, violin

Music for Two Violins by
Bartok, Mozart and Prokofiev

DECEMBER 5

Christmas Organ Music

from Germany and France

Shin-Ae Chun, organ

Music by Bach, Bruhns, Buxtehude,
Daquin, Guilmant and Dupré

2026

The Performance-Lecture Series in Three Concerts

February 13

Organ

April 17

Harpsichord

May 8

Piano

I am delighted to announce to you the upcoming season's schedule of our **AD LIBITUM Concert Series**. We will celebrate our 13th year of the series with various gifted musicians with their inspiring programs. All concerts on the series are held in our beautiful sanctuary at **First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor** and **are free and open to all**. This series will be a nice adventure for you to share with your friends and neighbors whom you would like to introduce to classical music in various styles with easy access in a welcoming setting. The flyers of the concert schedule will be available soon. And our website will also be available soon for you to check more information for each concert.



AD LIBITUM CONCERT SERIES

Celebrating its 13th year, 2025-2026 / I
Free Concerts and Open to the Public

"Organ"

Music by
Mozart, Sweelinck,
Bolcom and Price

Paula Seo, organ

September 19, 2025
Friday at Noon

On **Friday, September 19 at noon** our season will open with "**Organ Concert**" performed by Paula Seo. Paula received her doctoral degree at the University of Michigan many years ago. Now she lives in Pennsylvania with her family and teaches piano and organ at Neumann University. She will share with us her exciting program featuring music by Mozart, Sweelinck, Bolcom and Price. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors!



Blessing of the Animals. Join us for a short, festive, outdoor service celebrating the gift of relationship between humans and animals this Sunday, September 28th at 4:00p. Bring your pets for a special blessing here at First Baptist! Alternatively, bring a picture of your pet to be blessed. We'll have Washtenaw Dairy donuts, cider, and pup cups, too! You're invited to make a donation to [Maryanne Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center](#) as part of our gathering together.



Sunday Morning Ministry Tasks. We invite you, our church family, to join us in making Sunday mornings at FBCA2 happen! Please take a moment to check out our online signups and indicate when you're able to [read, greet, host fellowship time](#), [serve communion](#), and/or [provide flowers for worship](#). Thank you for being partners with us!

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

CHURCH BOARDS AT WORK

**Look here for how our boards are leading us
in being the church together.**

Board of Christian Education Updates

The Board of Christian Education is happy to provide our church family with an update of our current work! We are Toni Burton, Theodora Danciu, Robbie Stapleton, David Suell, Marissa Alaniz, Jillian Mast, and Xan Morgan. We meet every month, and we are excited to report that we are busily engaged in all aspects of our constitutionally mandated mission.

This fall we are preparing for a full set of educational programs for children, youth, and adults. The Children's Ministry Team, led by Xan, will continue to offer opportunities for the children (through 5th grade) to listen and respond to God's love through exploration of Bible stories together. We love to have our 2nd-5th graders stay with us in worship every first Sunday of the month. We're delighted to have Lindsay Duke as our new Childcare Supervisor in the Nursery.

The youth, led by Jillian Mast and supported by her Youth Ministry Team, will explore questions of how our faith and traditions help us navigate everyday challenges and enjoy several fun, service-oriented outings together, including The CROP Walk in October.

The Gathering will begin to meet on Wednesday, September 3 at 6:00 PM. This year the group will be guided by Pastor Rick Mixon and Phil Christman. The gathering for college and university students traditionally includes a meal, community building and conversation.

Rick leads our Adult Formation efforts. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 14 with projected study of Walter Brueggeman's Sabbath as Resistance, Christian nationalism and climate concerns. In addition, BCE will partner with Mission Action to introduce an Adult Formation program that includes hearing and learning from a different Mission Partner every fourth Sunday.

Pastor Rick will also lead Bible study beginning Wednesday, September 3 at 1:00 PM in the Campus Center Living Room. This Bible study focuses on the lectionary readings for 10 days out in preparation for worship that Sunday.

Your Board of Christian Education is committed to partnering with you all to increase and nurture our Christian faith and discipleship by providing opportunities to serve, study, build community, and grow spiritually. May God bless your participation!

Thank you for supporting Community Action Network!

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you for helping to create brighter futures for children, youth, and families in under-resourced Washtenaw County neighborhoods. CAN envisions the closing of socio-economic gaps by providing educational and enrichment programs for children and teens, supportive services for families who are under-resourced, and challenging systems rooted in racism and inequality. Your donation of backpacks, binders and other school supplies will support CAN's high-impact, year-round programs that focus on Education, Stabilization, and Community Building.

Thank you for being a part of the CAN community. We are excited about what we can accomplish together.

Sincerely,

Your friends at CAN

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!

You're Invited!



Go4GarrettsSpace 2025

Saturday, August 23

6:00 - 9:00 PM

Morris Lawrence Building,

Washtenaw Community College

Pay what you can. All are welcome.

Hi Friends,

I am working at a local nonprofit called [Garrett's Space](#) and invite you to join us for our annual fundraising event, Go4GarrettsSpace, to learn more about our mission and vision!

Garrett's Space was founded in 2018 by Julie and Scott Halpert after losing their 23-year-old son Garrett to suicide. We are building a non-medical residential campus for young adults ages 18 to 28 who are struggling with depression or anxiety. Currently under construction off of Dixboro Rd. in Superior Township, the campus is slated to open for day programming in late 2026 and 30-day overnight stays beginning in late 2027. WDIV Local 4 did a great feature on our groundbreaking earlier this year if you are interested in learning more.

I had dozens of mutual friends with Garrett and have kept a pulse on Garrett's Space's growth and activities for several years. In January, I was hired as their first-ever Director of Development, and in April, we hired an amazing Executive Director, Dave Garcia, with a background in nonprofit leadership at YMCA adventure camps and LGBTQ+ advocacy organizations. Working as a core team of three full-time staff and a handful of social workers who are already facilitating three peer support groups for young adults, we are excited to continue to build out this organization that we hope serves as a pillar in our

community and supports young people for generations to come.

Our fundraising event is this of Saturday, August 23rd at WCC's Morris Lawrence Building, and I would love it if we could get a church presence there! Guests will enjoy a light dinner, drinks, a silent auction, and a program with updates from Garrett's Space. Tickets are priced at \$75/adult, \$25/young adults, and \$10/children but are available on a sliding scale, as all are welcome to attend. To buy tickets or learn more about the event, click [here](#)! If you are in town, I hope to see you there!

Marissa Alaniz
malaniz@umich.edu



Come sing with us

The Women's Chamber Chorus



Director: Joshua Marzan

Pianist: Eden West



Welcomes new members

Qualifications:

- A woman who enjoys singing with a group
- Can carry a tune
- Is open to an eclectic mix of music
- Can read some music



Join us !



When: Mondays 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Sept 8, 2025 to Dec 12, 2025

Where: Monteith Hall of First Presbyterian Church

1432 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor

Cost: \$ 175.00 per semester,

Partial scholarships available

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For information contact Ann Ringia

Annringia@gmail.com

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, September 4. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 2.

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