



## MIXON'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

In the words of the great American poet, James Agee “high summer holds the earth.” Of course, that also means heat, humidity and smokey air blowing in from Canada. While we might want to luxuriate in the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer,” life swirls around us, full of anxiety, sadness, anger, and despair at the state of the world. Maybe like me, there are moments when you just want to escape, to forget about all the troubles of the world, and sit on a white sand beach or disappear in a cool, calm forest.

Famine and genocide in Gaza and Sudan, bombing of civilians in Ukraine, gun violence on the streets of Detroit and vicinity, climate disasters with melting ice caps and raging wildfires, excessive heat and humidity, violent storms and earth-shaking quakes, abuse of refugees and immigrants, disdain for the poor, hungry, and unhoused, destruction of democracy along with the social safety net. I could go on and I imagine you could, too.

It is so hard to take our ease in times like these. We want a little summer. Sabbath is necessary. Rest and recuperation are essential. We have our own lives to live, don't we? Yet, it is also important that we not ignore what is happening around us. It seems we always live in some sort of tension. It is better not to doom scroll for our own mental health at the same time, as people of faith, we can't forget the needs of our neighbors here and afar. Our religious tradition is steeped in compassion, in care and concern for those who are

underserved, underrepresented, who are desperate for home and the security and comforts so many of us enjoy. Jesus keeps calling us to show up and help in whatever way we can.

I am grateful that this is a congregation that cares, that pays attention, that provides welcome and inclusion. I suppose there is always need for more, but there is a solid foundation here on which to continue building. That said, I want to voice my appreciation for those who hosted our table at Ann Arbor Pride, for those who contributed to Habitat for Humanity and are helping with Community Action Network, to those who volunteer at Hope Clinic, to those who host the unhoused, to those whose work is in social service, including our educators, to those who daily contribute in ways we may never know. These things may seem small on a global scale, but they are something, and something makes a difference, especially as those “somethings” accumulate. Thank you.

Blessings on us all in this time of transition,

Pastor Rick





**How Good it Was to Be at A2 PRIDE!** Thank you to all who hosted our FBCA2 table on Saturday - our Youth Group with Jillian Mast, Christina Alaniz, Marissa Alaniz, and Cesar Alaniz; Mills; Valerie Francia; Gretchen Sanewsky; Davis Diels; and the Boumas. Pastor Rick and Xan enjoyed serving alongside you! We also want to express our deep gratitude to Janice Stumpf who prepped all of our giveaways!



**The Pastor Search Committee (PSC)** met on Monday, August 4. We confirmed that the position is now posted on several platforms and that we will begin reviewing applicants on August 18. We finalized our initial screening rubric and began to flesh out the second phase of our screening process. We all have "homework" assignments for the week ahead and will keep the congregation posted with updates as we have them. We appreciate all the prayers and support! Thanks!

- The FBCA2 PSC



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

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### **School Supplies for Community Action Network (CAN)**

CAN serves hundreds of children and youth in seven under-resourced neighborhoods around Ann Arbor, with 97% of youth graduating from High School. For more than 20 years our congregation has provided backpacks and other school supplies to help CAN's students begin the school year with all the supplies needed.

CAN has created an Amazon Registry that includes supplies and backpacks for the students across all of the sites. We are asking you to continue with your generous gifts by ordering from this [link](#). When you select the items and proceed to checkout, you select the address associated with the Registry (809 Taylor St., Ann Arbor, MI 48105). The items will get shipped right to CAN where they will be sorted and delivered to each site in time for the Back to School events in mid-August.

If you do not want to order through Amazon, you may submit your financial gift to Sue Ellen who will purchase supplies and deliver to CAN. **All donations need to be received at CAN offices by August 15.**

CAN just sent out a list of items still needed:

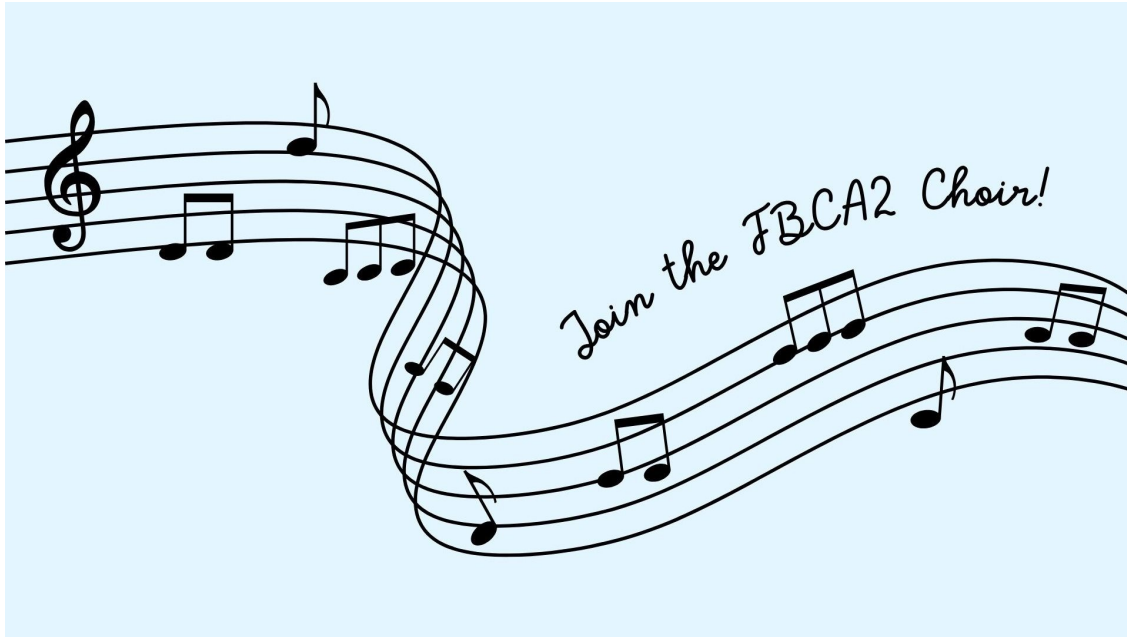
- 13 elementary backpacks
- 48 teen backpacks
- 109 pencil pouches
- 136 binders
- 99 binder divider packs
- 816 folders
- 146 loose leaf paper packs
- 467 pencils
- 158 rulers
- 141 scissors
- 123 composition notebooks
- 4 highlighters
- 24 spiral notebooks
- 46 colored pencil packs
- 142 marker packs

**Shop the Registry!**



**Coming Home Sunday is September 7th!** This will be a festive regathering of our community after summer travels and summer schedules. We're putting a team together to plan some fun; will you join us? Connect with Xan Morgan ([xan@fbca2.org](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)) to let her know you're in!

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**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

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## CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Scholarships have been awarded by the Board of Christian Education on

**behalf of First Baptist!** Six campers/CITs went to camp on scholarships this summer, and one congregant/staff person received a continuing education scholarship award. All were drawn from the Johnson Fund.

Emmanuel Morgan and Ben Findlan have been awarded Diane Chadsey-Keivet Scholarships to study music at the undergraduate and graduate levels, respectively.

Rayna Garcia and Danny Reed have received Loucks-Fullerton awards to study Clinical Psychology and Computer Science, respectively.

What a joy it is to help fund these deserving students' goals for their futures.

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Rayna Garcia expresses her heartfelt thanks for the help given her to pursue her graduate studies. She and Mario are very grateful for First Baptist's presence in their lives and for the welcoming community they experience here.

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Hello!

This is Dani Reed, and I just wanted to say thank you for the \$1,106 scholarship! This will greatly help in assisting my continued attendance at MTU, so I can continue to learn about how to work on what I hope will be the first video game that I publish!

Thanks!

-Dani Reed

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Dear Board of Christian Education,

Thank you for awarding me with this scholarship! It will help me immensely with paying for all that is necessary at college. I am so honored to have the privilege to get education and do what God is calling me to do. Thank you for providing me with this support.

With immense gratitude,  
Emmanuel

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Dear Friends on the Board of Christian Education,

I want to reach out and extend my deepest gratitude to you all for selecting me as a recipient of the Diane Chadsey Keivit Scholarship. This is an immense blessing and a great opportunity for me as I re-enter my studies.

I will certainly do everything in my power to honor this generous gift and share what I learn with our church and the greater community.  
Thank you.

Most sincerely,  
Benjamin Findlan

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**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!

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# 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 on the evening 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](mailto:malaniz@umich.edu)

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**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](#).

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**NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE AND DEADLINE.** The next newsletter will be Thursday, August 21. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, August 19.

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