



# FIRST BAPTIST

## CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 7, 2025

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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WORDS OF PREPARATION: *"The thrill of coming home has never changed."*

Guy Pearce

*"When I learn something new – and it happens every day – I feel a little more at home in this universe, a little more comfortable in the nest."*

Bill Moyers

GREETING

Xan Morgan

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Julie Smith, Xan Morgan, Rick Mixon

*Welcome Home* Nathan Decker

One: Home is not a building or a place we meet.

Two: Home is not just where we came from.

Three: Home is more than people and memories.

**All: Home is more than sentimentality or traditions.**

One: Home is toys on the floor.

Two: Home is a mess in the kitchen.

Three: Home is a welcome at the door.

**All: Home is a hug of acceptance.**

One: Home is the laughter around the table, bread and cup.

Two: Home is remembering promises made in water and spirit.

Three: Home is seeing where God is leading us.

**All: And going there together.**

One: Welcome home to First Baptist Ann Arbor

Two: where we welcome children, care for each other, and learn how to love.

Three: Welcome Home.

**All: Where we are better together. Amen.**

PRELUDE *Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend, BWV 709*

J.S. Bach

(Lord Jesus Christ, Turn to Us)

(1685-1750, German)

OPENING PRAYER

Julie Smith

\*HYMN 117

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ST. ANNE

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

**\*SCRIPTURE READING** Ephesians 2:19-22 (The Message, adapted) 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!

**TIME AS CHILDREN**

Xan Morgan

*God Be In My Head* (see insert)

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

(Following Time as Children, kids (through 5th grade) will leave for Church School.)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rick Mixon

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

**ANTHEM**

*Hallelujah, Amen*  
from *Judas Maccabaeus*

G.F. Handel

Hallelujah, Amen; O Judah, rejoice! Rejoice, O Judah, in songs divine,  
With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join.

**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

Responsive Time of Reflection Psalm 84

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, God of hosts!

All: My soul longs, it faints for the courts of the Holy One;

One: My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

All: Even the sparrow finds a house, and the swallow a nest where she  
may lay her young, at your altars, God of hosts, the Holy One,  
my God.

One: Happy are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise.

All: Happy are those whose strength is in you, who have set their heart  
on pilgrimage.

One: Even going through Death Valley they find a spring from which to  
drink; the early rain also covers it with pools of water.

**All:** They go from strength to strength, to appear before God in Zion.

**One:** O God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob,  
Leah and Rachel.

**All:** Behold, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed.

**One:** Truly a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**All:** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell  
in the tents of wickedness.

**One:** For you, God, are a sun and shield, you will give grace and honor.

**All:** No good thing will you withhold from those who live the  
upright life.

**One:** O God of hosts, happy are those who put their trust in you.

*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** (see insert)                      *How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely*                      *MERLE'S TUNE*

**SERMON**    *Nesting*    Rick Mixon

**A TIME FOR REFLECTING ON COMING HOME**    Sara Armstrong

### **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**                      *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*                      - J.H. Ossewaarde

Draw us in the Spirit's tether;	Thou art in the midst of them:
For when humbly, in thy name,	Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!
Two or three are met together,	Touch we now thy garment's hem.

**\*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**

## CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Rick Mixon & Xan Morgan

Invitation to the Table

The Bread     *Ach Herr, mich armen Sünder, BWV 742* by J.S. Bach

The Cup     *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound* by George Shearing

The Prayer of Blessing

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rick Mixon

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

## \*HYMN 558

*We Are the Church*

*PORT JARVIS*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*How Firm a Foundation*  
from *Gospel Preludes*

William Bolcom  
(b.1938, American)

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God  
in celebration of coming home at FBC.*

~ Lynn Suits ~

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, Helga Mortensen, Greg DuBois, Cindy Okarski, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, Fay Key, and the Pastoral Search Committee.

Today's **Fellowship Offering** will go towards the Fellowship Fund which provides for meeting emergency needs of those within our community. Please give generously.

\*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.



**Welcome Home! Join us outside after worship for live jazz music, a delicious popcorn bar, face painting, and reconnecting!**

**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 - 3 years). Children through 5th grade leave for Children's Ministry following Time as Children. Please pick up your children after worship and join us outside for the Coming Home party! Beginning next week, Children's Choir (PreK-5th grade) meets from 11:30-noon.

**The Youth Group for students in grades 6-12** will start meeting weekly again on Sunday, September 14. Join us in the Youth Room (in the library wing below the sanctuary) from 11:30-12:30 for snacks, games, and meaningful discussion. This fall we will focus on the subjects of hospitality, emotions, relationships, and justice in the Bible and our Christian faith. We will also have some fun afternoon/evening weekend activities! For more information, please contact Jillian Mast (jillian@fbca2.org).

**Coming Home Housekeeping Tasks!** As we all regather and settle into our fall routines, we have two housekeeping tasks to tend to as a church family. 1. Each household has a profile through Servant Keeper. Our goal is to have Servant Keeper up to date with photos of households before new pastoral leadership arrives. 2. It's time to sign up for Sunday Morning Ministry Tasks for the fall. Church can't happen without you! So, please stop by the Coming Home table outside to tend to these two tasks. Christina Alaniz, our Associate for Communications will be there to help you!

**Wednesday Bible Study.** Starting on September 10, the group will meet on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in the memorial lounge. Pastor Rick will lead the group. We will be discussing the lectionary readings for not the coming Sunday, but the next. The readings we will look at on September 10 are Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; and Luke 16:1-13.

**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 at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect).

**The Gathering is our campus ministry during the academic year.** It's a safe, open space where undergraduate and graduate students can explore and express their questions and their doubts, learn from others, and be supported in their personal faith and growth. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Pastor Rick for details. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact Mary Davis ([madrad@umich.edu](mailto:madrad@umich.edu)), sign up at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect), or make a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal ([@fbca2](https://www.paypal.com/@fbca2)). The Gathering meets on Wednesdays at 6:00p in the campus center living room.

**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!

**Adult Formation Classes on Sundays at 11:30 in the Memorial Lounge.** Pastor Rick will be leading a discussion on *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*, by Walter Brueggemann. These discussions will be held on September 14 and October 12 & 19.

*"In our own contemporary context of the rat race of anxiety, the celebration of Sabbath is an act of both resistance and alternative. It is resistance because it is a visible insistence that our lives are not defined by the production and consumption of commodity goods."* - Walter Brueggemann.

## Other scheduled discussions:

- **September 21**, Rolf Bouma will be preaching and then hosting a sermon talk-back in the lounge.
- **September 28**, the Board of Mission Action will be discussing the work of Detroit Friendship House.
- **October 5**, Town Hall Transition Update

**Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series**, celebrating its 13th year, will open the 2025-2026 season with "Organ Concert" performed by Dr. Paula Seo on Friday, September 19, at noon. The program include Mozart's exciting Fantasie in F Minor, Seelinck's beautiful variations on a German song "Mein junges Leben hat ein end (My Young Life Has an End)," UM Professor Emeritus William Bolcom's gospel arrangement of Sweet Hour of Prayer and Suite No.1 by Florence Price who was the first African-American woman recognized as a symphonic composer. This will be a beautiful concert. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors!

**Blessings of the Animals Service!** Join us for a short, festive, outdoor service celebrating the gift of relationship between humans and animals 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 our gathering together.

**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](https://fbca2.org/connect) or use the QR code to the right.





## Calendar

September 7	Coming Home Sunday Children's Ministry begins
September 8	Executive Council @5:30p
September 10	Bible Study @1:00p The Gathering @6:00p
September 11	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p
September 14	Children's Choir, Youth Ministry, and Adult Formation begins
September 17	Evening Scripture Study @ 7:00p
September 19	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00p
September 28	Blessing of the Animals

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Communications*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

Lindsay Duke, *Childcare Supervisor*

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

Lee Foley, *Facilities Manager*