



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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

MIXON'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

Greetings from beautiful Boise, Idaho, where I am spending a few days visiting family before moving on to Seattle and a visit with friends there. It is sunny and warm here (always a dry heat!) – perfect vacation weather. Yesterday my sister and I paid a visit to the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, a small but powerful setting in celebration of human rights as well as peace with justice in Idaho, the USA and around the world. I learned some things I never knew about heroic figures in the history of my home state.

Last Sunday was a very full day at First Baptist Ann Arbor. In addition to worship and the beginning of educational opportunities for children, youth and adults, we also hosted a moving memorial service for our friend and colleague, David Gregg. The Gregg family has been a part of the community for many years, and David grew up in the church. He was well remembered in the service as the remarkable human being he was. He will be greatly missed. Thanks to everyone who helped make the service special – Kat who attended to all the many details, Sue Ellen Glover who organized the reception, Bonnie, the choir and Shin-Ae for beautiful music, Pastor Emeritus Paul Simpson Duke for an elegant meditation and everyone who participated and pitched in to help.

In the sermon Sunday, I invited you to share some foundational words on which a community such as this one might be founded. Thanks to Janice Stumpf for creating a record of these. I was somewhat surprised as well as pleased at the number of words you came up with. Not surprisingly however, love was the number one word, a selection with which I heartily concur. Others chosen more

than once were kindness, truth, integrity, patience, peace and responsibility. An impressive list on which to lay a foundation, a foundation well-laid at Ann Arbor First Baptist Church over the past 197 years. Thank you for participating.

Thanks to Rolf Bouma who will be preaching Sunday and leading a sermon talk back during Second Hour. I will be back in Ann Arbor in time for Bible Study and the Gathering next Wednesday. I look forward to seeing you on my return.

Blessings on us all in this time of transition,

Pastor Rick



First Baptist Church Town Hall. Following the service on October 5, there will be a Town Hall focused on our Transformation through Transition. As of September 30, Rick will have completed one year in his current role as our Transition Minister. During this meeting, he will review his past year and outline opportunities for the future. Congregants are invited to take part in a Question and Answer session. [A form](#) has been provided for submitting questions or concerns prior to the meeting as we move into the next phase of transition.

Please submit [this form](#) by September 28. Questions will be reviewed and

responses provided during the October 5 Town Hall. We appreciate your participation!



Mission Sundays. Our Board of Mission Action is beginning a new series for FBCA2! Every 4th Sunday of the month we will hear from a local nonprofit during service and afterwards during adult formation. We're excited to learn more about the amazing work that our partners are doing! Please join us for our first Mission Sunday on September 28, where we will hear from Khurshida Hossain, the Executive Director of Detroit Friendship House. Detroit Friendship House is a faith-based, non-profit organization in Hamtramck. Their mission is to strengthen families through community connections, to offer help with basic human needs to residents, and to foster a more resilient, food-secure community. We hope to see you on our first Mission Sunday to learn more!

Mission Sunday

SEPTEMBER 28

Detroit Friendship House



TRANSITION UPDATES

The Pastor Search Committee met on Monday, September 15 and began our meeting reminded of trusting in God, trusting one another, and trusting the process. We continue to pray together for God's leading for our congregation. We spent our meeting discussing first-level reviews of a group of applicants and shared our experiences of our process. Our team continues to balance one another and come to solid consensus. We began work on the next level of the interview process anticipating that some of this initial group of applicants may move forward. This week we will be evaluating sermons of this group of applicants. This is an exciting time of discernment that requires us all to trust in God's goodness to us. Thank you for your prayers as we move forward.



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.



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

Our **AD LIBITUM Concert Series** presents "**Violin Duet**" on **Friday, October 10, at noon**. Two violinists **Maria Bessmeltseva** and **Phoebe Galzer-Govatos** will perform pieces written for two violins by Mozart, Bartok and Prokofiev. Maria and Phoebe have brought exciting and refreshing programs to the series in the past. They will join forces again to take the audience to the violin world. This is a free concert and open to the public. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors. For more information, visit [our church website](#).



**AD LIBITUM
CONCERT SERIES**

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

"Violin Duet"

Music for Two Violins by Maria Bessmeltseva, violin
Bartok, Mozart and Prokofiev Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos, violin

**October 10, 2025
Friday at Noon**

**HAVE YOU
SIGNED UP FOR
SERVANT
KEEPER?**

Have you signed up for Servant Keeper yet? We'd love for you to create a Servant Keeper account or update your existing account with a picture! You can access and update your profile on our [FBCA2 Portal](#), a platform that is a combination of a photo directory and a resource for personal giving statements. With this digital directory, everyone can update their personal information as needed and upload their own photo to their profile. This allows new people to put faces with names and feel more at home in our congregation. This portal is open to anyone who is connected to FBCA2 in a meaningful way and is not restricted to formal members of the congregation. If you need help registering for Servant Keeper or updating your information - take a look at these [instructions](#) or reach out to [Christina Alaniz](#).



Faith and Family Gathering for all Children's Ministry families on Friday, September 26th from 6-8p. We'll gather at the Magers' home (4861 Polo Fields Dr. 48103) for pizza, conversation, and supervised play for the kiddos. Can you join us? We hope so! [RSVP here](#).



Evening Scripture Study. You are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 PM as we work through the Yale Bible Study curriculum on the book of Genesis. 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. The study will conclude the week before Thanksgiving. If you are interested, please contact the church office or [Clay Scott](#).

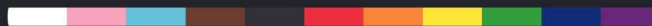
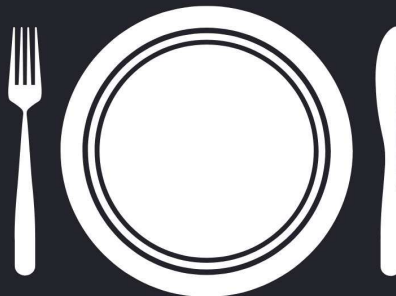


REMINDER!

Please have all Board budget proposals
in by October 1st! Board Chairs, reach out
to Mary, Xan, or Kat with any questions
you may have.



SUPPORT THE GATHERING



Need for Meals for the Gathering. The Gathering, our campus ministry, meets each Wednesday evening for dinner and conversation. Our hope is for the congregation to support this ministry by providing dinner – home-cooked or otherwise! Please choose a date that works for you to provide a meal for 10. Dinners should be dropped off in the Campus Center kitchen ready to serve by 5:45p. Not a cook? That's OK! Contributions to arrange for a meal from a local restaurant are also greatly appreciated! You can [sign up here](#)! Feel free to contact [Mary Davis](#) if you have any questions.

ADULT FORMATION

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. This discussion will be held on 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

The Youth Group for students in grades 6-12 is meeting again weekly on Sundays! 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](#).

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Dear Fellow Bricks,

“Huh?”, you say. Well, after hearing Sunday's Scripture reading, Time as Children, and the sermon, I am calling us that because, with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, as the bedrock, you and I are the bricks with which FBCA2 is made and will flourish. I am thinking about this because I have been hearing from folks expressing feelings of disengagement during this transition time. Transition times are hard! I understand such feelings, and they aren't unusual. Nevertheless, I am asking us to go beyond these feelings and instead find new ways to be engaged as we are able. Thank you to all those who have stepped up to take on new roles or responsibilities and continued to support our ABC family life as we progress through this transition. At risk of belaboring the metaphor, find a new way to be a brick and to be cemented to others in our family. In the rephrasing of Psalm 31 used in worship on Sunday: “So, be strong, and let your hearts take courage all you, who would know Love.”

- Mary Davis
Moderator

CHURCH BOARDS AT WORK

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

Board of Trustees Updates. The Board of Trustees wants to update the church on our current activities. The Board consists of Paula Burton, Rolf Bauma, Scott Diels, Bill Foster, Drew Mast, Anna Moyer, Bill Stapleton, and Janice Stumpf. We meet bi-monthly.

The Personnel Committee reports to the Board of Trustees. In the fall, we focus on staff performance evaluations. Staff members are preparing self-evaluations before meeting with both a Personnel Committee member and their supervisor. Additionally, preparations for the 2026 budget are underway in anticipation of Stewardship. We are, once again, exploring options for cooling the Sanctuary. This has been

researched before, however, we are now looking at something that may actually work and be cost effective! More to come on that. As always, we are looking for creative ways to increase our revenue and will continue to do so. However, if you have suggestions for us to consider, we encourage you to get in touch with us. The Trustees wear the financial hat of the church. We encourage you to prayerfully consider your pledges this year as we continue our attempt to remain relevant in this current climate. As you are all aware, we are a church full of amazing individuals and ask that you continue to respond to the call to dedicate your time, talent or assets. God bless each and every one of you!

Thank you from Bob Shannon. My belated thanks to all of you for all your cards and encouragement. It's been a long and painful journey, but your cards and concerns meant so much to me.
- Bob

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, October 2. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 30.

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