



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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

MIXON'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

Just a brief note this time around as I will be in recovery from my second eye surgery when this newsletter comes out. Sadly, my original corneal transplant did not take and had to be redone. That means lying flat on my back for 72 hours post-surgery. Fortunately, this surgery is scheduled so that I can be with you all for Coming Home Sunday, to which I am very much looking forward.

It's back to school and back to the regular routines of the church year, including Sunday School for children and youth, adult formation, Bible studies (2 opportunities now!), and the Gathering. It is good to be back in the sanctuary and great to have the choir back last week. Thanks to Scott Diels and Lee for the new railings in the chancel.

Our theme for this year is "We Are the Church Together." This Sunday my sermon is titled "Nesting" based on Psalm 84 and Ephesians 2:19-22. The Psalmist sings of how the sparrow has built a nest and the swallow a home in the heart of God. It is a unique and beautiful take on coming home. I will be delighted to share the day with you all.

Blessings on us all in this time of transition,

Pastor Rick



Join us for Coming Home Sunday this Sunday! Our Board of Music and Arts will be offering a meaningful worship experience as we celebrate coming home. And our Children's Ministry classes will begin for the year! After worship it will be time to party! Join us outside for live jazz music, a delicious popcorn bar, and face painting, too. Keep an eye out for Cesar Alaniz who will be directing parking traffic before worship to make room for the party in the parking lot. 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.

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY & SERVANT KEEPER

SIGN UP TO HELP MAKE
WORSHIP, HOSPITALITY, AND
CHURCH HAPPEN AT FBCA2!

Sunday Morning Ministry Tasks and Servant Keeper. We'll have a table at our Coming Home Sunday where you can sign up for all the morning ministry tasks that keep our church going! Learn more about participating in these ministries and sign up for one, or multiple, so that we can keep our worship service running smoothly. Take a look at our online signups ahead of time to see how you could help out and to indicate when you're able to [read, greet, host fellowship time](#), [serve communion](#), and/or [provide flowers for worship](#). Also at the table, we will be helping people to sign up for or update their profiles on Servant Keeper, our online directory. We'll help you upload a photo of yourself and add in your personal information so that people can put faces with names and feel more at home in our congregation. Check out [Servant Keeper](#) ahead of time if you'd like to add or edit your information or if you want to create a profile.

See you on Sunday at our table!



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? I hope so! RSVP at fbca2.org/connect.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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



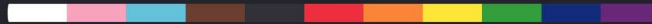
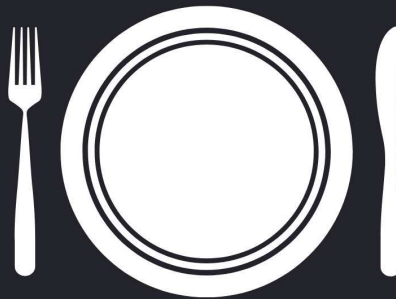
Children's Choir for kids in Young 5's through 5th grade begins Sunday, September 14th! Michelle Ding and Charlie Duke look forward to meeting with the children each Sunday from 11:30-12:00p in the Children's Choir room in the Children's Ministry wing. Kids may be picked up from the choir room at noon 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](#).

SUPPORT THE GATHERING



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.



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**

The Ad Libitum season will open on Friday, September 19 at noon 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.



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!

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 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

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](#).

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES



CHURCH BOARDS AT WORK

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

Board of Worship Updates

Looking for a way to participate in the Worship Service?

The Worship Board is always looking for volunteers to help with our Sunday morning

services. If you have any interest in greeting/handing out bulletins, reading during the worship service, or providing flowers for the altar please let us know! We can find a Sunday that works best for you. Contact [Jeremy Bon](#) with any questions.



The Laidlaws are likely to have their baby any day! We would like to show our love and support for Louisa, Sam, and Weston as they become a family of four! We plan to purchase gift cards to some of their favorite restaurants. If you would like to make a financial contribution, you can do so one of three ways - Venmo (@Xan-Morgan-1), PayPal (@xanmorgan923), or by check made out to Xan Morgan and mailed to church (517 E. Washington 48104).

Michigan Collaborative Against Human Trafficking. Please mark your calendars for a free event that will engage law enforcement, social service agencies, educators, public policy makers, and health care workers in understanding and addressing human trafficking in Washtenaw county and the state of Michigan. The keynote speaker will be Karen D. McDonald, Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney. There will also be panels on the impact of county

anti-trafficking Task Forces from around Michigan and on the Survivor Model.

When: Saturday, September 20, 10am-3pm.

Where: The Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. The event will also be livestreamed via Zoom. A registration link and more detailed agenda will be announced in early September.

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 18. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 16.
