



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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

MIXON'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

Stewardship season is upon us. Over the next four weeks we will focus on the theme, “We Are the Church.” For these four Sundays we will look at how “I am the church,” “you are the church,” “we are the church,” and “together” creates a flow that emphasizes the importance of being the church and not just doing church. First Baptist is only as rich and full and lovely as the people who make up the community. Yes, the community is made up of individuals, but it is vital that you see yourselves coming together as God’s people, the Body of Christ, the Beloved Community. You choose the image that best characterizes for you what it means to belong to this congregation.

For the church to have life and a future, can we imagine it as an essential part of our lives? We need the church to be Beloved Community for us, and the Beloved Community needs our participation. There is a sense in which neither can exist without the other. Among other things, that means supporting the church with your time, your talent and treasure. Ideally belonging to First Baptist is not just joining a volunteer organization; it is a fundamental dimension of your identity as a follower of Christ.

Personally, I have found great joy in being part of this community for a season. I hope you feel that way, too. Of course, there are changes and challenges and there is loss and grief. That is what comes of being a living entity, the great rhythm of life. But being in relationship as you share your joys and fears, your celebrations and your troubles, your hopes and dreams is what God intended for us from the beginning. Indeed, God joins with us in the sharing. First Baptist may not be perfect, but it is a pretty good place to practice Beloved Community.

I trust you believe that and will do all you can to support the ongoing life of this congregation, your community. Now is the exact moment when that community is much needed in a fractured, struggling world.

Blessings on us all in this time of transition,

Pastor Rick



Like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house. - 1 Peter 2:5

We're excited to explore what it means to be the church TOGETHER as we kick off our stewardship season in worship this Sunday. We look forward to meaningful moments in worship over the next four weeks and important information in all our regular communication channels.

Feel free to connect with members of the Stewardship Team - Amanda Shutko, Martin Magers, Robbie Stapleton, Toni Burton, and Xan Morgan - at any time!



The Pastor Search Committee met on Monday, October 11. We finalized questions and a screening rubric for first round virtual interviews. We have dates set up and will be conducting these interviews during October and November. We are excited about the candidates who are moving forward! As we move through these interviews we will also be working on questions and a screening rubric for second round interviews. Please be in prayer for this process, for our team and these candidates as we move closer to new pastoral leadership for FBCA2! Thank you for your trust in us and your trust in God's leading.



Corn Maze Fun! Youth Group members and their families and friends are invited to join us at The Blast Corn Maze at Nixon Farms in Dexter on **Saturday, October 25**. We will meet there at 5:00pm for donuts, cider, and some quality fall farm fun!

Advanced tickets are recommended, so please [RSVP here](#) and Jillian Mast will purchase tickets online.



Mission Sundays. Every 4th Sunday of the month we get to hear from a local nonprofit, during service and afterwards during adult formation, to learn more about the amazing work that our partners are doing!

Please join us for our second Mission Sunday on **October 26**, where we will hear from Shannon Canniff, from Avalon Housing. Avalon Housing builds healthy, safe, and inclusive supportive housing communities as a long-term solution to homelessness. They emphasize values like dignity, community, self-determination, and overall wellbeing. Please join us during worship and afterwards on our next Mission Sunday to learn more about Avalon Housing and the powerful work they are doing in our community!



**AD LIBITUM
CONCERT SERIES**

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

"Voice and Piano"

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

Wesley Dunnagan, tenor
Mariah Boucher, piano

**November 7, 2025
Friday at Noon**

Our **AD LIBITUM Concert Series** presents "Voice and Piano" on Friday, November 7, at noon. Tenor Wesley Donnagan and pianist Mariah Boucher will perform art songs from the different periods written by Strauss, Bonds, Helsel, Beach, Marx, Schubert and Laitman. Wesley, as Assistant Professor in Voice, teaches Voice, Vocal Pedagogy, and Lyric Diction at St. Olaf in Minnesota. Mariah currently serves as a Collaborative Pianist/Vocal Coach at the UM. It will be a beautiful concert. This concert is free and open to the public. Mark your calendar. Invite your friends and neighbors. For more information, visit [here](#).



During the cold winter months, the emergency overnight shelter at Delonis is not sufficient for the need. Area congregations host a weekly rotating shelter to fill the gap so no one is sleeping outside in freezing temperatures. Our week for hosting begins on the evening of Monday, November 17, and goes through Monday, November 24. There are 3 volunteer opportunities each night: 1 evening shift (6:30-10:00p) and 2 overnight shifts (6:30p-7:30a and 9:45p-8:00a). The overnight volunteers will each take a hosting shift (4 hrs) and a sleeping shift in the Memorial Lounge (4 hrs). Are you interested in serving for the first time and want to be paired with someone who has done it before? Let us know and we will find you an experienced partner. Thanks for being a part of this important ministry as one of our concrete ways of loving our neighbors as ourselves. You can sign up at <http://fbca2.org/connect> or at the Ministry Station in the hallway. Questions? Connect with [Kevin Morgan](#).

SAVE THE DATE for our

FAITH + FAMILY Friendsgiving

All Children's Ministry families are invited to a Friendsgiving on
Sunday, November 23 from 4-6p at the Mills' Home.



Faith and Family Friendsgiving. All Children's Ministry families are invited to a Friendsgiving on Sunday, November 23 from 4-6p at the Mills' Home. More info to come as we get closer to the date!

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.

Christians Ruminating on Climate Change: Knowing, Engaging, Coping. For the first three weekends of November, the second hour in the Memorial Room will be devoted to conversations on climate change. Rolf

Bouma, who teaches environmental ethics and ecology/religion classes at the University of Michigan, will lead the sessions. The first session will be **Beyond the Bare Facts of Climate Change**, highlighting the range of changes and effects that can be expected as time goes on. The second session will be **Do We Have To Talk About This?**, exploring the challenges of conversations with friends, relatives, and others about climate change. The third session is entitled **Years To Go: Coping with a Changing Climate** and will look at how to live well (for us and others) as the world's climate changes.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

CHURCH BOARDS AT WORK

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

Board of Care and Community Update

The Board of Care and Community's goals are to provide hospitality, foster relationships, and offer care to the church community. In general, we work to make sure church members are cared for and have opportunities to care for one another. Over the past couple of months, we've:

- Gathered cards that can be sent to members for holidays, special occasions and events, or check-ins
- Managed card and letter writing with Watchcare and staff members
- Coordinated volunteers for fellowship time and for members with transportation needs
- Worked with the Watchcare group to ensure needs are met
- Tidied the kitchen
- Bought snacks (and a few mouse-proof containers!) for the pantry

We also coordinate celebrations, memorials, and the annual meeting and are looking to plan a chili-related event as the weather cools down.

If you're looking for ways to provide care for your church community, please consider

signing up to host fellowship time.

We're excited to think through and plan future opportunities for building community in the church!

Hayley Heaton, for the Board of Care and Community

Members: LJ Brazier, Mary Gregg, Astrid Beck, Christine Hwang



Accessibility Updates in the Sanctuary! The Board of Outreach has been exploring ways to make our space more accessible. We are grateful for Scott Diels and Lee Foley who have been busy installing new stairs and railings this week!

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 30. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, October 28.

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