



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

DO JUSTICE. LOVE KINDNESS. WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.

—MICAH 6:8

MIXON'S MUSINGS

Dear Friends,

The last time I greeted you all, I was on vacation in Idaho. After an enjoyable visit with my sister and niece, I moved on to Seattle, where I attended the annual lecture of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, a fundraiser for Companis ministries, and worship at Seattle First Baptist Church. The fine lecture was given by my colleague Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis on the topic “Reveal, Resist, and Revel: Queer and Trans Artists’ Vision of Spirituality” and hosted by Seattle First Baptist Church. The fundraiser was a bonus for me. Companis is a ministry started by my friend Craig Darling through Seattle First Baptist a number of years ago. Basically, it places volunteers, often specific expertise, with existing nonprofit agencies and programs in the community. The fundraiser was held at the Museum of Flight in Seattle literally under a number of vintage aircraft suspended from the ceiling. The food was delicious, the entertainment was great, and the featured speaker was Paul Raushenush, now president and CEO of the Interfaith Alliance, who served as a Companis volunteer in the early 1990s. It was also good to catch up with old friends and see how Seattle has changed since I lived and worked there long ago.

It is a rich time at First Baptist as we move fully into the fall schedule. This Sunday we will celebrate Worldwide Communion decoration and liturgy from around the world. If you have something from your country of origin or a country you visited that you would like to wear that would be great. We also will be taking our annual World Mission Offering on Sunday for the support of the American Baptist Board of International Ministries. I have several wonderful friends and acquaintances who serve as ABC missionaries who would greatly appreciate your generous support for the important work they do. Following

worship service and fellowship time we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for an opportunity to reflect on where we are at the end of one year of transitional ministry. I hope you will all come to be part of this time for reflection.

Halloween, stewardship season, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are not far behind. There is a lot to look forward to in the days ahead and a lot to be grateful for in the life of First Baptist Ann Arbor.

Blessings on us all in this time of transition,

Pastor Rick

I Am Coming Home
by Sara Armstrong

I am coming home.
My hand is on the door, a story on my lips.
I bring the world inside, an adventure at a time,
And I am met with steady love, with patience and impatience.
Full of light and might, I embrace and am embraced.
And in the coming and the going, in the busyness of days,
we build, memory by memory, who I am meant to be.

I am coming home.
I shut the door behind me to keep the world at bay.
Its pain howls at the windows while it calls my name.
I take off my armor. I unlink my spine.
I take a jagged breath, and hold your hand in mine.
And I am seen, and I am known in all my imperfections.
And somehow loved in spite of them—
Healed, whole—I leave again.

I am coming home.
I stand uneasily on the porch, unsure whether to stay or to go.
My heart keens,
Mourning what was and will never be again.
You are gone, and I am broken, but you sing in my soul still.
I remember your failures, and I regret my own.
And amongst the echoes, I sit weeping in the ashes of our home.

I am coming home.
I step outside, onto my porch, and walk into the world.
I close my eyes. A gentle breeze kisses my skin.
I breathe it all in. The sun, the rain.

Day departing, dawn returning.
The inevitability, the limitless possibility,
And for a fleeting moment, I am at peace,
But then a car drives by, the door slams, and I am lost again.

Lord, I see it now—
how you have offered home,
And held within it everything. Everything.
The world is hard and wonderful,
and as the years pass, I try to meet it all with love.
I want to be for others what home has been for me.
I want mine to be the arms that extend your embrace.
Softness and safety, I want to be that place.
Lord, help me. I am not coming home. I am becoming home.



Join us after Fellowship Time this Sunday, October 5, for a Town Hall/Transition Update. In our effort to provide updates and be transparent with our church community, Rick will talk about his work during the past year, we will get an update from PSC and we will answer the questions submitted by the congregation over the past month.





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
Bartok, Mozart and Prokofiev

Maria Bessmeltseva, violin
Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos, violin

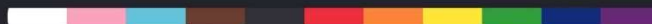
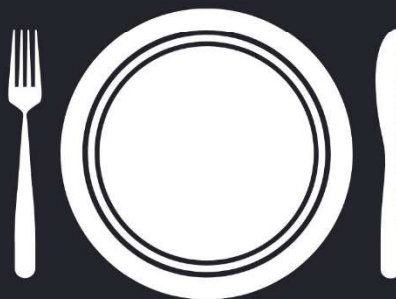
**October 10, 2025
Friday at Noon**

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](#).



Mission Sundays. Every 4th Sunday of the month we will hear from a local nonprofit during service and afterwards in adult formation. We're excited to learn more about the amazing work that our partners are doing! Save the date for our next Mission Sunday on October 26 where we'll hear from Avalon Housing.

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.

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!



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](#).

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.

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



CHURCH BOARDS AT WORK

Check back here later for how our boards
are leading us in being the church together.



Banners and Paraments. It may not be so obvious to you from a distance but the banners and paraments in our sanctuary are showing their age. A task group consisting of Grace Vandervliet, Kristin Reynolds, Heather Reed, and Julie Smith has been working on a plan to update these elements that grace and beautify our sanctuary. Recommendations will soon be going to the Boards of Worship and Music and Arts for their consideration. Stay tuned to see what evolves.



Thank you to the Hope meal crew from last Sundays meal service! They served 140 meals of pulled chicken sandwiches and baked beans. It was a great night! Pictured below from right to left: Dana Larson, Karen Brummett Rayner, Maryann Bowman, Susan Schilperoort, Joe Brummett, Paul Larson, and Jodylynn Brummett (photographer).





Blessing of the Animals. We loved hanging out with all the critters at last Sunday's Blessing of the Animals! Thank you to every person and furry friend who joined us! (And yes, apparently our congregation loves black and white dogs!)

October 12 Road closures for Proability Ann Arbor Marathon. Some streets in the city will be temporarily closed Sunday, Oct. 12, for the [Proability Ann Arbor Marathon](#). Streets will reopen as soon as early as safely possible after participants have cleared the areas. Motorists should plan to avoid the event route area. Visit the marathon online for [routes and details](#), as well as the city [roads and lane closures webpage](#) (closer to the event).



What is the World Mission Offering?

Through International Ministries' World Mission Offering (WMO), thousands of God's people across the country celebrate and give financial support to ministries God is using to transform the world. During the 2025 World Mission Offering, you will learn more about the work of IM Global Servants Eric and Yuree Lembke and Mike Mann in Thailand, and Kristy Engel in Ukraine. Their ministry stories offer a glimpse of the *new thing* God is doing through International Ministries' global servants and international partners in over 70 countries worldwide. As you explore the resources available at worldmissionoffering.org, we hope you will use them to spread awareness of how we can invest together in this incredible work God is doing around the world. **Would you like to know more about how WMO funds are used?** Please read more by clicking [here](#)!

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 16. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, October 14.

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