



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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

WE ARE THE CHURCH

2025 Stewardship Season

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



Dear FBCA2 Family,

This past Sunday, Jamie and Ian Mills shared a heartfelt reminder that "You are

the Church." Their message resonated with the core of who we are - an active community built on love, care, and belonging. Earlier this year, I also found myself in the hospital following an emergency procedure and subsequent surgery, and I will be back in the hospital again in a few weeks (hopefully for the final time). I echo the Mills family's sentiments about this community. We have felt deeply loved and cared for by the people reading this. Among many things, Xan, Valerie, and Meg ensured Tess made it to and from church camp, and the wings and sushi that David brought to share with me in the hospital were incredible.

As we continue through this (sometimes difficult) season of transition and renewal, our stories underscore the importance of our collective effort. Recent events also demonstrate the seriousness with which our church leaders listen to all voices. Hopefully, we are now more energized than ever to come together and build on the strong foundation of faith and fellowship, especially as we prepare to welcome our new pastoral leadership next year. Your ongoing financial support is vital in enabling us to continue this mission and expand our ministry efforts.

In this spirit, we invite you to participate in two important giving initiatives that honor and sustain our church's future. First, consider making a one-time gift of \$200 today in honor of all the children and teens at First Baptist—50 in total! This "Present of Presence" will support our 2026 ministry budget. You can give via check or online using the QR code included in this newsletter, with a deadline of November 9th. Additionally, we ask you to consider an extra special gift of \$1,000 to support "The Team, The Team, The Team" - the dedicated staff who serve our congregation now and into the future. Your generosity helps ensure the vibrant ministry and caring community we cherish continue to grow, especially during this season of moving forward together.

I hesitate to write quite this vulnerably, but the Stewardship Team has requested it 😊. We will be participating in both of these financial initiatives, and we will also be increasing our annual pledge for 2026 by 25%. I write that knowing that not everyone will be able to do the same, but if you are able to give what you can, you can do so knowing you won't be alone.

Please remember that our In-Gathering Sunday is on November 9th. This is a wonderful opportunity to reaffirm our commitment and join together in supporting the future of First Baptist Church. Your contributions - through pledges or one-time gifts - are a vital expression of our shared faith and purpose. Thank you for your continued support and for embodying the love and spirit of Jesus in everything you do. We look forward to building this next chapter with you, grounded in community, compassion, and hope.

Martin Magers
Member of the Stewardship Team

[Proposed Ministry Budget](#)

[Make Your 2026 Pledge Here](#)

[Make Your One-Time Donations Here](#)

2024 Pledges									
	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$2,800	\$3,600	\$4,400	\$6,000	\$8,400	\$15,000
\$120	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,900	\$3,600	\$4,800	\$6,300	\$8,500	\$15,000
\$200	\$600	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$3,800	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$9,660	\$18,000
\$250	\$600	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$3,000	\$3,864	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$10,350	\$20,700
\$250	\$600	\$1,725	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$3,900	\$5,000	\$7,200	\$11,000	\$20,800
\$300	\$1,000	\$1,725	\$2,400	\$3,200	\$4,140	\$5,500	\$7,200	\$12,300	\$24,000
\$480	\$1,196	\$1,800	\$2,500	\$3,312	\$4,200	\$5,980	\$7,200	\$13,200	\$24,000
\$500	\$1,320	\$1,800	\$2,500	\$3,600	\$4,200	\$6,000	\$7,352	\$15,000	\$42,000

Giving Stats Over the Last 5 Years

Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
# of Pledges	74	70	77	82	79
Median Pledge	\$3,980	\$4,800	\$4,900	\$3,950	\$3,600
Average Pledge	\$6,070	\$6,545	\$6,522	\$6,189	\$5,745


Info to Note:

- In 2024, our pledged total was **84.5%** of our pledge goal to meet the 2025 ministry budget.

- In 2024, our average pledge was **\$6,189**

- In 2024, with boards decreasing their budgets and a bequest, the Budget Committee was able to offer a balanced budget for 2025.

- In 2025, the average pledge would need to be **\$7,412.50** to meet the proposed ministry budget for 2026.



We vision together.
We budget together.
We give together.
We problem solve together.
We make ministry happen,
TOGETHER.



The Pastor Search Committee met on Monday, October 27. We continued with virtual interviews and had robust discussion and evaluation on the content. The group continued work on the next round of in-person interviews. We will be hard at work on these items between our meetings. We anticipate that the next couple of months will be very productive and exciting as we move closer to finding the person God will bring as pastor of FBCA2. We are grateful for your continued prayers and support!



**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](#).



CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING

NOVEMBER 16

Congregational Gathering. SAVE the DATE on November 16 during Adult Formation time (11:30a-12:30p), join your FBC family to talk about recent events, learn about plans for church life over the next few months, ask those burning questions.... More details soon.

~Mary Davis, Moderator



Overnight Rotating Shelter. We still have 13 volunteer spots to fill! 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](#).

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

November 20, 2025 | 12:15 p.m.



First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

Transgender Day of Remembrance. Join First Baptist and other local churches as we gather on November 20th at 12:15 p.m. for a Trans Day of Remembrance Service. The service will be in the sanctuary of our neighbors at First United Methodist. Join the fight against transphobia and remember the beloved who have been taken for being themselves.

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!



Join us on Sunday, November 30 from 5-7 pm for **A Light in the Darkness**, our annual intergenerational Advent event. We're looking forward to our time together as we enjoy a meal from Fed Up Ministries and create together in preparation for Christmas. [RSVP here](#) by Sunday, November 23! We are looking for volunteers to staff each station, join the kitchen team, and help with setup and cleanup. Please contact one of our coordinators, [Xan Morgan](#) or [Christina Alaniz](#).

ADULT FORMATION

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

An important request from one of our youth, Alice VanderVliet:

Each year, my school (Community High School) partners with Food Gatherers to help fight food insecurity in our community. CHS is Food Gatherer's largest third-party donor, we raised over \$96,000 last year and are hoping to break our record this year. This cause especially connects to me, as I've served meals at our church's shelter and volunteer regularly at Hope Clinic, where I see firsthand how important food access is for so many people. I would be so grateful for any support from our church family. While every dollar you give helps provide 2 meals to those in need, an anonymous donor has pledged to match up to \$50,000, so in reality, your \$1 will contribute to 4 meals. Thank you for helping make sure no one in our community goes hungry! You can donate [here](#).



**99-year-old Alumna
Celebrates U-M Biological Station
as Historic Advocate for
Women in Science**



University of Michigan Biological Station writes about Edie Hurst. "World War II was nearing its end when Edith Hurst arrived at the [University of Michigan](#) Biological Station as an undergraduate student. Eight decades later, the 99-year-old professor emeritus of biology takes us back through her six summers at the campus in Pellston, sharing how connections made along Douglas Lake led to her successful career in medical education. Read Edie's story: <https://myumi.ch/mRpej>"

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, November 13. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, November 11.
