



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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

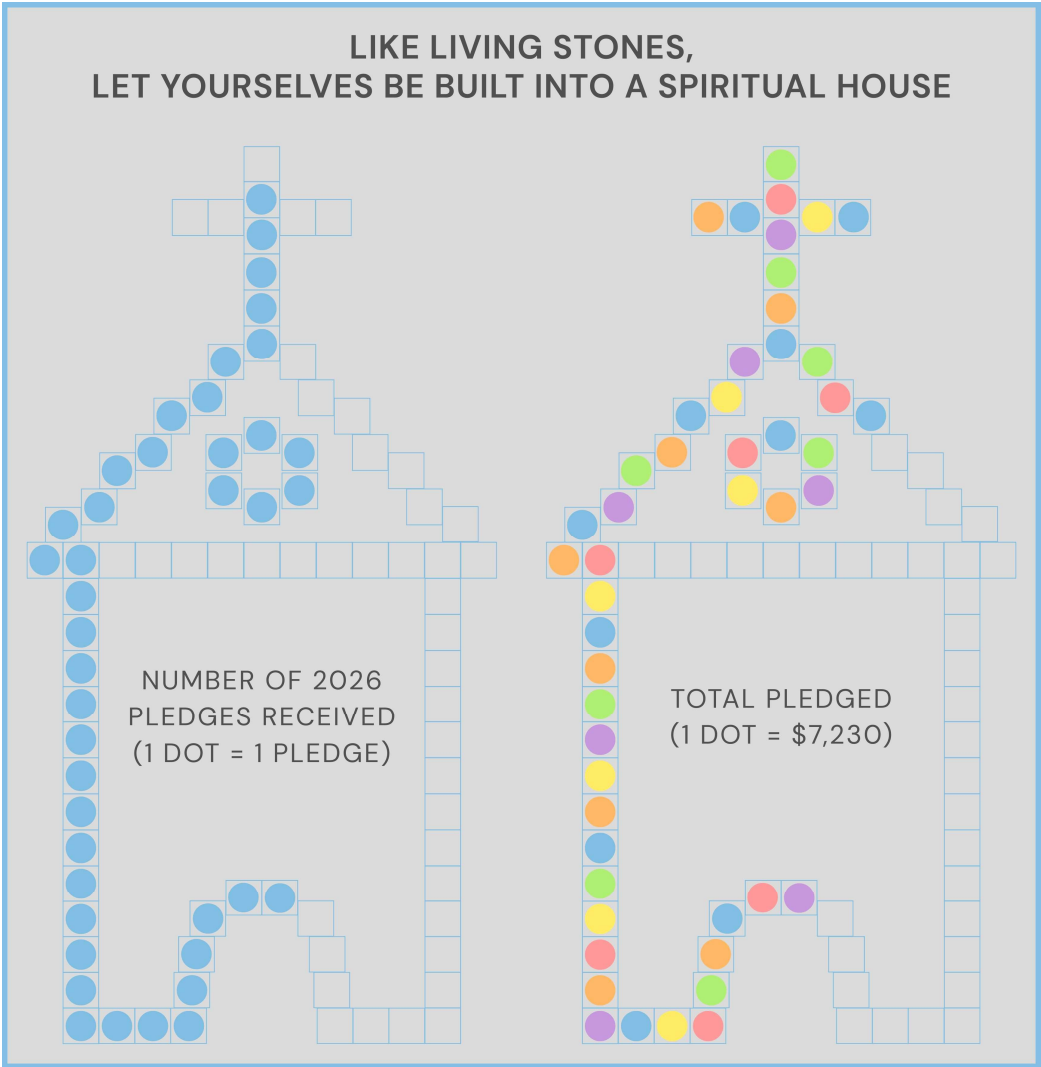
## WE ARE THE CHURCH

2025 Stewardship Season

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



**Wrapping Up Our Stewardship Season.** As of this week, we are well on our way to our pledge goal for next year's ministry. We have raised \$357,155 (60% of our pledge goal) from 43 pledges (54% as compared to last year). And we have received \$11,900 in one-time gifts that will supplement our pledged support for next year. If you haven't pledged yet, please do so as soon as possible. You can complete your 2026 pledge card online ([fbca2.org/connect](https://fbca2.org/connect)) or pick up a pledge card at the ministry station in the hallway. In terms of next steps, our Stewardship Team will begin making phone calls to those we haven't heard from. The Budget committee will meet in early December to make proposed adjustments as necessary and will then follow up with Board chairs accordingly. Questions? Connect with a member of our Stewardship Team – Toni Burton, Martin Magers, Xan Morgan, Amanda Shutko, and Robbie Stapleton.



[Proposed Ministry Budget](#)

[Make Your 2026 Pledge Here](#)

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



**The Pastoral Search Committee** met on Monday, Nov. 10. We discussed recent virtual interviews and some additional initial screenings of potential candidates. Some candidates will be moving to the next level and we continue to prepare for those in-person interviews. We also prepared to share updates with the congregation at the meeting today. God is leading us well and we're excited about how candidates are progressing through the process. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

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# CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING

NOVEMBER 16

**Congregational Gathering.** This Sunday, November 16 at 11:30am, join your FBC family to do a bit of reflection, learn about plans for church life over the next few months and interact with the Pastoral Search Committee. They will provide an overview of the search process and update you on our progress to the extent that their commitment to candidate confidentiality will allow. There will be time to hear and respond to your questions and comments. The PSC looks forward to this time of engagement.

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Community Service @ First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor

# TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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



**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 First Baptist Church. Join the fight against transphobia and remember the beloved who have been taken for being themselves.

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**Decorating the Sanctuary.** Advent is coming! Join in to decorate the sanctuary for the season. Next Sunday, November 23, have some fellowship, then come back upstairs to hang the garlands, help put up lights or trees, and put out the Advent wreath. No experience needed.

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**Kids, Teens, and Parents Cook Together for our Rotating Shelter Guests.** On Sunday, November 23 from 11:30-12:30, FBCA2 children, teens, and their parents will cook a meal for our guests. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall to listen to directions and then get to work! Big thanks to Grace VanderVliet and Amanda Shutko for making this important service opportunity possible for our families.

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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 and young(ish) adults are invited to a Friendsgiving celebration on Sunday, November 23, from 4-6 pm at the Mills' Home in Ann Arbor. There will be space for both children and adults to gather and share a meal. Please [click here](#) for details and to sign up to bring something if you are able, otherwise please come as you are! Email or text Jamie Mills at [jamie.mills08@yahoo.com](mailto:jamie.mills08@yahoo.com) or 925-324-4456 with any questions.

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# A Light in the Darkness

## Intergenerational Advent Event

NOV 30

5-7P

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](#).

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# Mission Sunday

NOVEMBER 30

HIKONE COMMUNITY CENTER



**Mission Sunday.** Join us for our third Mission Sunday on November 30, where we will hear from Torey Madura, the Director of Hikone Community Center. Community Action Network (CAN) aims to close socio-economic gaps by providing educational and enrichment programs for children and teens, offering supportive services for families who are under-resourced, and challenging systems rooted in racism and inequality. We hope to see you on Mission Sunday, during and after service, to learn more from this amazing organization!

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**Holiday Collection for the Hikone Community.** For over 16 years we have collected food, hygiene, and household supplies for our friends in the Hikone housing community, one of the sites of Community Action Network. The December school vacation is very tough on low-income families because children are not in school to receive their breakfast and lunch so more food is needed at home. And as you are aware, prices keep rising for basic household and hygiene supplies which are not covered by the Bridge card/food stamps. The families at Hikone have been so grateful because your donations help stretch their limited budgets so that there may be extra funds in which to buy gifts and special foods for the holidays.

We have **four** Sundays to gather your donations – November 16, 23, & 30 and December 7. We are providing for 30 families so please consider donating multiples of the same item and please donate individual family-size quantities (e.g. 3-4 regular size jars of pasta sauce rather than one giant jar; 4 regular-size boxes of pasta rather than a giant bag, etc.)

- **Kid-friendly foods:** cereal, oatmeal, canned pasta, mac-and-cheese, chili, peanut butter, soup, tuna, granola and protein bars, fruit cups, yogurt pouches, etc.
- **Food and hygiene supplies that aren't commonly available in the food pantries:** baking soda, baking powder, spices, sugar, cooking oil (32 oz), shampoo, razors, menstrual products, etc.

- **Financial donations:** Your financial donations are so important! We purchase items throughout the year when they are on sale. We already have thirty 100 oz. containers of laundry detergent, 30 packages of toilet paper, 30 bottles of toilet cleaner and dish detergent, 30 boxes of garbage bags, etc. Your financial donations cover these purchases.
- **New or Gently used books for children and youth:** These are highly valued by the families to use as holiday gifts.

Bring your donations each Sunday, beginning this Sunday, November 16. Please mail your financial donation to the church before December 7 or place it in the offering plate with a notation it is for Hikone. (Please address the check/envelope to Sue Ellen Glover, First Baptist Church, 517 E Washington, Ann Arbor 48104)

**We need all donations by December 7 in order to sort, box, and deliver to Hikone on December 9.**

Thank you for your continued generosity!!  
 - Sue Ellen (gloverse@hotmail.com)



AD LIBITUM  
**CONCERT SERIES**  
 Celebrating its 13<sup>th</sup> year, 2025-2026 / IV  
 Free Concerts and Open to the Public

**Christmas Organ Music**

from Germany and France  
 Bach, Bruhns, Buxtehude, Reger,  
 Daquin, Guilmant and Dupré

**Shin-Ae Chun, organ**

**December 5, 2025**  
**Friday at Noon**

**Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series** presents "Christmas Organ Music from Germany and France" on Friday, December 5 at noon. Celebrating the Advent and Christmas season, Shin-Ae Chun will perform on our Robert Noehren

organ chorale preludes by J.S. Bach, Bruhns, J.M. Bach and Buxtehude, Wiehnachten by Reger, Noël by Daquin, Prière et Berceuse by Guilman and Dupré's famous Variations sur un Noël. Come and join us in celebrating this beautiful season through music. Bring your friends and neighbors. This is a free concert and open to all.

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**ABWM Bake Sale.** We are planning a Bake Sale December 7th to help support our ABWM mission projects for the year! If you are willing and able, please let [Carolyn Grapentine](#) know if you would like to bring something! Our Bake Sale is based on donations, so no need to price your items. If you are looking to pick up some goodies for December - make sure you are here on December 7th!!

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## ADULT FORMATION

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**Sunday Young-Ish Adult Gathering.** If you consider yourself to be a young-

ish adult (roughly 20s - 40s), there's a new small group gathering for you in the Campus Center (office wing) on the first and third (and sometimes fifth) Sundays of the month after Fellowship time (11:30a). We'll plan to attend congregational meetings. Come share about your week and what's happening in your life, discuss current events, or just relax and listen. On the first Sunday of the month, we plan to share a meal together. Questions? Contact [Meg Suell](#), [Valerie Francia](#), or [LJ Brazier](#).

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## CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

### **A Message from Beth and Bill Foster, Interim Pastoral Care Coordinators**

Dear Church Family,

You may be aware that in this continuing interim period, at least until we have called a new senior pastor to serve us, your church leadership has asked us to coordinate Pastoral Care ministries. For those of you who may not know us - or who don't know us well - we are both retired Baptist ministers who spent our careers in various forms of healthcare chaplaincy.

As retirees, we have the time to provide this service on a part time basis. We were inclined to accept this role out of love for our church, and we feel honored to be asked.

### **What is pastoral care and why might you, or anyone, want to call on us?**

Pastoral care stands in the long tradition of the church as the ancient "cure of souls," or care for the human spirit. It predates and has informed modern mental health treatment, and while contemporary "spiritual care" draws on insights from the behavioral sciences, it remains a faith-based form of ministry. The hallmarks of good pastoral care include deep and nonjudgmental listening, identification of a central pastoral need or issue, and, if allowed, a collaborative way of helping another to make important choices in the midst of a stressful situation.

**If you have a concern or a situation you would like us to know about please contact us:**

**Beth:** cell 734-904-2592 or [williamfoster102@comcast.net](mailto:williamfoster102@comcast.net)

**Bill:** cell 734-9042593 or [wm.foster1201@gmail.com](mailto:wm.foster1201@gmail.com)

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**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](#).



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**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](#).

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**NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE AND DEADLINE.** The next newsletter will be Thursday, December 4. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, December 2.

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