



# FIRST BAPTIST

## CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**February 1, 2026**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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**GREETING** Xan Morgan

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Piper Morgan

One: Come and let us worship God,

**Many: We return to serve the living Lord.**

One: Called by ever-loving God,

**Many: To listen close to God's own Word.**

One: Come to make our home in you,

**Many: Knowing that God's Word is true.**

**PRELUDE** *Meditation, Op.50, No.1* Arthur Foote  
(1853-1931, American)

**\*OPENING PRAYER** Piper Morgan

**\*THE PSALM** from Psalm 15 Piper Morgan

One: O Lord, what do you expect of those who enter your house?

**Many: Who is a thoughtful guest in your holy place?**

One: Those who watch their steps and do what is right,

**Many: Those who speak the truth from their heart;**

One: Those who guard their tongues and speak no lies;

**Many: Those who do no evil and bring honor to their neighbors.**

One: Those who despise wickedness and violence

**Many: Those who stand by their promises even to their own hurt.**

One: Those who are generous to those in need.

**Many: These are the ways of those in God's house.**

**\*HYMN 173** Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky *RATISBON*  
(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Leviticus 19:10-14, 17-18, 33-34 Piper Morgan

One: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**\*GLORIA** (Hymn 72, sung twice)  
**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG** He Came Down (v.4) *HE CAME DOWN*

**TIME AS CHILDREN** Xan Morgan  
(Following Time as Children, kids (through 1st grade) will head to Children's Ministry. On the first Sunday of the month, 2nd-5th graders remain in worship for Stay for the Service Sunday - S3!)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Ken Wilson

The Lord’s Prayer (“debts” – hymnal page 896)

**ANTHEM**

*Think on These Things*

Beth A. Elston

Whatever is true, whatever is lovely, think on these things.  
 Whatever is good, pleasant and holy, think on these things.  
*Fix your thoughts on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is love, he is beauty and light.*  
*Whatever is worthy of praise is of God.*  
 Whatever is just, whatever is righteous, think on these things.  
 Whatever is pure, noble and faithful, think on these things.  
*Fix your thoughts on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is love, he is beauty and light.*  
*Whatever is worthy of praise is of God.*  
 Oh Lord, I will sing of your goodness, and tell of your unfailing love.  
 You reign in splendor and majesty. May your name be blessed forever and ever.  
 Whatever is kind, whatever is gentle, think on these things.  
 Whatever is right, patient and gracious, think on these things.  
*Fix your thoughts on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is love, he is beauty and light.*  
*Whatever is worthy of praise, think on these things.*

**\*EPISTLE READING**

Romans 13:8-10

Ken Wilson

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: **Thanks be to God!**

**\*HYMN**

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

*BEECHER*

**SERMON**

*The New Christian Critique of Empathy*

Ken Wilson

**SILENT REFLECTION**

**INVITATION TO GIVING**

Xan Morgan

**OFFERING OF GIFTS**

Let Us Break Bread Together

Traditional Negro Spiritual  
arr. by Noah Francis Ryder

Let us break bread together on our knees, yes, on our knees,  
 Let us break bread together on our knees, yes, on our knees.  
 When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, Oh Lord have mercy on me.  
 Let us drink wine together on our knees, yes, on our knees,  
 Let us drink wine on our knees, yes on our knees.  
 When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, Oh Lord have mercy on me.  
 Let us praise God together on our knees, yes, on our knees,  
 Let us praise God together on our knees, yes, on our knees.  
 When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, Oh Lord have mercy on me.

**\*DOXOLOGY** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above you heavenly hosts;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Xan Morgan

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION** Ken Wilson & Xan Morgan

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

The Bread *When Jesus on that Night, BWV 1108* by J.S. Bach

The Cup *There Is a Balm in Gilead* by Gilbert Martin

The Prayer of Blessing

**Hymn 557 verse 1** Blessed Be the Tie That Binds DENNIS

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**Response: And also with you.**

**\*HYMN** The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me?) KELVINGROVE

**\*BENEDICTION** Ken Wilson

**POSTLUDE** *Ciacona in E minor, BUXWV 160 (Excerpt)* Dieterich Buxtehude  
(1637-1707, German)

\*Please stand in body or spirit

*The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Anne and Spencer Hurtt*

*~ Sue Johnson ~*

*The flowers at the lectern are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of my parents, Betsy and Bill Nummy.*

*~ Kathleen Mortensen ~*

We pray for **Bob Reynolds, Ed Parmentier, Celeste Weissinger, Jon VanderVliet, Erica Diels, Marilyn McKenzie, Keith Pickelmann, Marlene Francis, Roberta Hause, Betty Doman, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Marilyn Marsh, Betty Frieswyk, Tommi Orlando, Dakota Lawson, Helga Mortensen, Cindy Okarski, Greg DuBois, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry, the friends and family of Shirley Lane, and the Pastoral Search Committee.**

The **Fellowship Offering** today will go towards the ministry of Judson Memorial Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church in Minneapolis. You can learn about other ways to help in the announcements. Our Board of Mission Action will match gifts up to a total of \$500. Please give generously.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR**

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Rev. Rolf Bouma, *Associate for Worship Planning*  
Revs. Beth and Bill Foster, *Associates for Pastoral Care*  
Jillian Mast, *Associate for Youth Ministry*  
Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Communications*  
Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*  
Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*  
Lindsay Duke, *Childcare Supervisor*  
Michelle Ding & Isaac Thompson, *Children's Choir*  
Lee Foley, *Buildings & Grounds*

**We're glad you're here!** Please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card in your bulletin and place it in an offering plate when it comes by later in the service. You can indicate any prayer requests you have and let us know if you'd like a name tag and/or our bi-weekly communication about the life of the church.

You may place your offering in one of the plates when they are passed. Or make your offering online using this QR code or via PayPal (@fbca2) and place a Connection Card indicating so in the offering plate.



**Join us downstairs after worship for fellowship time for our annual financial meeting and chili cook-off.** We'd love to connect!

**We welcome Rev. Ken Wilson to the pulpit this morning.** Ken is the Co-Founding pastor with Emily Swan of Blue Ocean Church, Ann Arbor. Today he enjoys the responsibility-free status of Pastor Emeritus. Ken was the founding pastor of Ann Arbor Vineyard (long story) and is the author of *A Letter to My Congregation*—advocating for full LGBT inclusion as an evangelical pastor. Next Sunday, we welcome Rev. Rolf Bouma back to the pulpit.

**Children's Ministry.** All children are welcome in worship; Worshipful Play Bags are available as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery care is available for children (infant - 3 years). Children through 5th grade leave for Children's Ministry following Time as Children. Children's Choir (PreK-5th grade) meets from 11:30-noon. Please pick up your children at the end of the Annual Financial Meeting to join us for the Chili Cook-off.

**On the first Sunday of each month it's "S3 - Stay for the Service Sunday" when the 2nd-5th grade class will stay in worship for the whole service.** This gives the kids an opportunity to experience and participate in the second half of worship. This is a valuable step in their faith formation as worshipers! They are invited to sit with Xan and their classmates during worship. Following worship today, the 2nd-5th graders will head to Children's Choir until they join us for the Chili Cook-off.

**The Youth Group for students in grades 6-12.** Join us in the Youth Room (in the library wing below the sanctuary) from 11:30-12:30 for snacks, games, and meaningful discussion. We are focusing on the subjects of hospitality, emotions, relationships, and justice in the Bible and our Christian faith. We also have some fun afternoon/evening weekend activities! For more information, please contact Jillian Mast ([jillian@fbca2.org](mailto:jillian@fbca2.org)).

#### **Opportunities to Respond to ICE Presence in Minneapolis and Ypsilanti:**

- **Financial** - First Baptist's Mission Action Board is ready to match your giving up to \$500 for the ministry of Judson Memorial Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church in Minneapolis. You can donate with a check (made out to First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor - memo: MAB) or cash, online through PayPal ([paypal.me/fbca2](https://paypal.me/fbca2)), or on our website ([fbca2.org/give/](https://fbca2.org/give/)). Questions? Connect with DJ Reed ([djayreed@gmail.com](mailto:djayreed@gmail.com)).
- **Time** - Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a mutual aid group in the Twin Cities, needs two types of remote support. Veters are folks who vet volunteers (over the phone) who

are willing to offer rides and get groceries. Connectors help make connections (electronically) between needs of neighbors and Carers, the volunteers. More information at <https://nhn-tc.org/>. Interested? Connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

- **Alternatives To Violence Project (AVP) workshop** - The congregation is invited to participate in this workshop being hosted by the Ann Arbor Unitarian Universalist Church Feb. 6th - 8th. AVP workshops seek to assist people in personal growth and change to integrate nonviolence in their activism. Recognizing that healing ourselves and supporting the healing of others is an important part of interrupting cycles of violence, participants will partake in small and large group discussions, reflective art making, journaling, games and activities to support healing while growing our skill sets to engage nonviolence as a source of transformative power for good in the world. More information and to register online go to <https://tinyurl.com/AVPFeb2026>. Questions? Connect with LJ Brazier (lbrazier@umich.edu).
- **Clergy Training** - There is a half-day training on Thursday, February 12 that will offer a practical, faith-rooted introduction to Nonviolent Direct Action for clergy discerning how to show up faithfully in these troubling times. Co-led by Dr. Sarah Nahar and Jonathan Breneman. Interested? Connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).
- **Prayer** - Set time aside to pray each day. Pray for an end to state violence, for our immigrant neighbors, for all those who have been impacted by the violence, for neighbors caring for neighbors, for reunification of families, for our state and national leaders, for communities around the country preparing responses

**Adult Formation.** Join us on February 8th and 15th for *A Whisk Worth Taking*, our next adult formation series led by Xan Morgan and Toni Burton. For some of us, it may feel risky to cook in our big church kitchen but it's a *whisk* worth taking! This coming Sunday, February 8th, we'll gather to reflect on hospitality as a spiritual discipline and then we'll learn all the ins and outs of our church kitchen. On February 15th, we'll put that knowledge to use while we prepare a meal for our Daytime Warming Center guests.

**Tuesday evening Bible Study – Mark.** Last fall a group of five of us worked through the Yale Bible Study's lessons on Genesis. We enjoyed it so much that we are returning to the YBS this winter to work through the lessons on Mark, and we invite you to join us. The study will involve 8 weekly meetings that will take place on Tuesdays, from 7-8 pm at the church. The time commitment is 1-2 hours of reading and reflection in advance of each meeting, plus the meeting itself. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Clay Scott or the church office.

**The Gathering is our campus ministry during the academic year.** It's a safe, open space where undergraduate and graduate students can explore and express their questions and their doubts, learn from others, and be supported in their personal faith and growth. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Mary Davis for details. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact Mary Davis (madrada@umich.edu), sign up at [fbca2.org/connect](https://fbca2.org/connect), or make a financial gift by check to the church or via PayPal (@fbca2). The Gathering meets on Wednesdays at 6:00p in the campus center living room.

**Explore Your Spiritual Footprint.** A ten-week workshop entitled *Explore your Spiritual Footprint* meets on Wednesdays at 1:00p in the Lounge. Understand how the Holy Spirit manifests itself in you. Learn about your faith and how to express yourself in spiritual matters. For more information contact Paul Larson (lapd4larson@gmail.com).

**Open Board Positions.** The Recruitment Committee is looking for volunteers for open Board/Committee positions, with terms beginning May 1st. Please consider participating more fully in the work of the church in this way. Descriptions of general Board activities as well as a sign-up form are linked within the January 22nd FBCA2 Newsletter. Let us know if you are interested by Sunday, February 15th. Or, for further information, do not hesitate to contact any member of the Recruitment Committee: Beth Foster, Louisa Laidlaw, Ashley Magers, Asher Morgan, DJ Reed, Meg Suell, and Janice Stumpf.

**The Pastor Search Committee** met for a half-day meeting on Saturday, January 24. We spent our time discussing the outcome of in-person interviews and next steps. We are prayerfully discerning God's leading as we use our collective wisdom, input from our church's leaders and staff, and information in the church profile regarding qualities needed in our next pastor. We will be doing individual homework and collecting further information on the candidates in our process over the next couple of weeks. Please be in prayer as we move toward the completion of the search process and look to a possible candidating weekend in the spring.

**Land Acknowledgement.** We acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral homeland of the Anishinabae people of the Three Fires Confederacy - the Ojibwe, Ottawa & Potawatomi - and the Wyandot, and that this unceded land is still sacred to them.



**Seek, serve, and grow with us! More information about these opportunities at [fbca2.org/connect](https://fbca2.org/connect) or use the QR code to the right.**

### Calendar

February 1	Annual Financial Meeting @11:15
February 3	Bible Study @7:00p
February 4	Your Spiritual Footprint @1:00p The Gathering @6:00p
February 5	Choir Rehearsal @7:00p