



FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

4th Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING

Xan Morgan

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Heather Reed

One: If you need good news,

Many: we have good news to share.

One: If you need a word of hope,

Many: there is enough hope to go around.

One: if you need a glimmer of joy,

Many: joy abounds around us.

One: If you need to feel God's presence,

Many: then know that this is God's house.

PRELUDE

Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott, BWV 721
(Have Mercy on Me, O Lord God)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750, German)

*OPENING PRAYER

Heather Reed

*THE PSALM

from Psalm 23

Heather Reed

One: The Lord is our shepherd;

Many: Nothing shall we lack.

One: God guides us to pastures green,

Many: to quiet and clear waters.

One: God restores our souls,

Many: showing us the right paths.

One: No matter how dark and frightening the way,

Many: nothing shall we fear.

One: God sets a table before us

Many: even if enemies lurk.

One: Goodness and mercy follow us along life's path

Many: an open invitation to God's house will last a lifetime.

*HYMN (see insert)

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

CRIMOND

(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS:

RAYNA GARCIA, MARIO VILLEGAS, NICK MCLELLAN, MICHELLE DING, STERLING SPASOKI

Congregation: We gladly welcome you into this church home. We pledge to learn with you, to serve with you, and to grow with you in the family of Jesus Christ.

New Member: We accept your welcome and offer our lives to love and serve with you to the glory of God.

Congregation: We are all made richer in faith because of your joining us. May the Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us all to be good friends to each other and fully faithful to the calling of God on our lives together.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 31:7-9 Heather Reed
One: The Word of God for the People of God
All: Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG Jesu, Jesu CHEREPONI
*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

TIME AS CHILDREN Jesu, Jesu (v.3) Xan Morgan
These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. (*refrain*)

[Following Time as Children, kids (through 5th grade) will leave for Church School.]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Valerie Francia

SUNG LORD'S PRAYER (see insert)

***GOSPEL READING** John 9:12-41 Valerie Francia
One: The Word of God for the People of God
All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *Brother James' Air* arr. by Gordon Jacob

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie in pastures green,
He leadeth me the quiet waters by.
My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make within the Paths of Blessedness,
E'en for His own Name's sake.
Yea, though I pass through shadowed vale, yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy Rod and Staff me comfort still.
My table Thou hast furnished in the presence of my foes;
My head with oil Thou dost anoint, and my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me;
And in my Father's heart always my dwelling place shall be.

SERMON *The Spiritual Vision of Disability* Valerie Francia

SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO GIVING

Valerie Francia

OFFERING OF GIFTS

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Dale Wood

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by himself;
O nobody else could walk it for him, He had to walk it by himself.
We just walk this lonesome valley, we have to walk it by ourselves;
O nobody else can walk it for us, we have to walk it by ourselves.
Jesus walked the road to Calv'ry; He bore our sins upon the cross!
O nobody else is like our Savior, He died that we may live.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD 100TH

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

Valerie Francia

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

*HYMN (see insert)

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

*BENEDICTION

Valerie Francia

POSTLUDE

Praeludium in E Major, BuxWV 141 (Excerpt)

Dieterich Buxtehude
(1637-1707, German)

*Please stand in body or spirit

*The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God
with gratefulness for all God's mercies, great and small.*

~ Kathleen Ford ~

We pray for **Ed Parmentier, David Gebhardt, Celeste Weissinger, Jon VanderVliet, Erica Diels, Katherine Cartee, Marilyn McKenzie, Keith Pickelmann, Marlene Francis, Roberta Hause, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Marilyn Marsh, Betty Frieswyk, Tom & Tommi Orlando, Helga Mortensen, Cindy Okarski, Greg DuBois, Keith Maurer, Beth Granberry,** and the **Pastoral Search Committee.**

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. We'd love to connect!

I was... and You... Throughout the season of Lent, we have a weekly devotion on Matthew 25. It is included as an insert in this bulletin and will be emailed later today. These devotions will include a story of folks who know what it is like to be hungry, without clean water, or in prison. We'll sit with the scripture passage as we reflect using questions from the traditional monastic practice, Lectio Divina. Each devotion wraps up with an invitation to pray and respond. Over the next couple of weeks we are sharing more ways to offer hospitality to our Daytime Warming Center guests. **1. We're looking to host a March Madness watch party, Cookie Decorating on St. Patty's Day, and a Movie and Popcorn event. 2. We hope to provide socks, underwear, and undershirts for the guests. You can find the activity signup and the Amazon wishlist at fbca2.org/connect.** Questions? Connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

We welcome Valerie Francia (she/her) to the pulpit this morning. Valerie served on the staff of FBCA2 from 2023-2024 as the Associate for Youth Ministry and Communications. In this role, she led faith formation and activities for the Youth Group as well as supported other staff members with writing and graphic design. She has a BA and MA in Communications. Her ministry training has been mostly informal and on the job, volunteering in churches, detention centers, and in the community, as well as taking courses in the Bible and religious trauma recovery. She currently works in marketing, but is active in the life of FBCA2 with her three young children. Next Sunday, we welcome Rev. Jenaba Waggy to the pulpit.

Our Adult Formation Class, Stabat Mater Dolorosa. Come join us for a discussion of a Lenten cantata, Karl Jenkins' imaginative musical setting of the medieval poem *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*, about Mary's experience at the crucifixion. This class is led by Sorbie Richner and will be held in the Memorial Lounge from 11:30-12:30.

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. You may pick up your children at 11:30 from their Church School classrooms, at 12:00 from the choir room, or at 12:30 when our formation hour ends.

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).

Welcome to our Newest Members. We are all made richer in faith because of your joining us!

Mario Villegas (he/him) and Rayna Garcia (she/they) are Florida natives, and moved to Ann Arbor two years ago to study at the University of Michigan. Mario is in the second year of his Ph.D. program at the U of M Ann Arbor campus, studying political science. After he finishes his degree, Mario plans on becoming a professor of political science. He also has his purple belt in brazilian jiu jitsu. Rayna is getting their MS in Clinical Health Psychology at the U of M Dearborn campus. She is currently an intern at Sollars & Associates, working with kids and adults of all ages. Rayna also works as a part-time research assistant in the Psychiatry department at Michigan Medicine. Rayna serves in the Children's Ministry and, as a member, will soon serve on the Board of Outreach. Mario will be joining the Recruitment Committee upon becoming an official member of FBCA2. They have been together for 5 years and have two pets: a dog named Eevee and a turtle named Squirtle. They feel blessed to have been welcomed into such a loving church family, and appreciate the opportunity to continue serving and worshipping as official members of FBCA2.

Michelle Shan-Shan Ding (she/her) came to Ann Arbor in 2014 to pursue graduate studies at the University of Michigan, where she earned a Master of Music in Piano Performance in 2016 under the Charles Fisher Scholarship. She later received a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from Michigan State University in 2019 and a Master of Music in Vocal Arts in 2020. She is currently pursuing her second Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Arts at Michigan State University. Michelle has been singing with the Sanctuary Choir at First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor under the direction of Bonnie Kidd and Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, and this past

Christmas marked her fourth Christmas concert singing with the choir. In addition to her classical music background in piano and voice, Michelle enjoys sharing music and creativity through digital media, including dance and short-form videos. She is passionate about artistic expression, storytelling, and connecting with others through music and creativity.

Nick McClellan (they/them) is a Professional Student turned IT Professional. Holding an AAS in Computer Systems from WCC, a BA in Political Science from MSU, and an MS in Intelligence from U of D Mercy. They currently work as a Sr. Systems Administrator on public safety software and systems. Nick has been coming to FBCA2 (very sporadically since getting up is hard for a night owl) since before the pandemic and is excited to be a more regular face at church. They recently visited London and then took a transatlantic voyage back to the US on the world's last ocean liner, the Queen Mary 2. In their free time, Nick likes to play DnD, make and watch films, do photography, and work on many numerous art projects that need to be finished.

Sterling Spasoski (they/them) is an avid animal lover and crafter. They love to sew, crochet, crosstitch, paint, and so much more. Sterling's sweet Charlie is a 16.5lb orange fluffy ball that certainly makes their days more interesting. Sterling recently moved to Ypsilanti in December and is very grateful to have been taken to this church and met all the wonderful people who make it up. Always feel free to ask about their vegan baking recipes or sewing!

Wednesday Bible Study resumes at 1:00p on March 25. The group will read and discuss the Bible passages for the upcoming Sunday. Please join us.

Easter Flowers. Would you like to purchase an Easter lily or hyacinth in honor or memory of someone? The price for each is \$16 and the dedication will be in the Easter Sunday bulletin. You can order at fbca2.org/connect. Order deadline is March 22nd.

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm/Passion Sunday - March 29 @ 10a. We begin worship with the joy of Palm Sunday before making the turn towards the somber call of Holy Week. Join us for this special service as we reflect on the stories and meaning of both Palm Sunday and the Passion on March 29th.

Community Good Friday Service - April 3 @ 12p. We have a longstanding tradition of joining with sister churches First United Methodist and First Congregational to offer the community a midday Good Friday service. We'll gather in the sanctuary of First United Methodist this year.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service - April 3 @ 8p. Join us for our Good Friday service of shadows, as we sit together in the growing darkness to hear again the story of Jesus' Passion in word, song, and silence, and ponder its meaning for our lives.

Easter Sunday - April 5 @ 10a. Join us for Easter Sunday worship and an Easter Egg Hunt as we celebrate the good news of the resurrection!

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, 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.

Trans Day of Visibility is March 31. We are partnering with area churches and The Jim Toy Community Center to plan a way to honor TDOV. If you are interested in being part of the planning, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

The Pastoral Search Committee is beyond excited to share that we have a candidate for Senior Pastor to present to the congregation! We are so grateful to have felt God's guidance throughout this long process leading us to this exceptionally gifted pastor!! We are planning to host a special second hour session on Sunday, March 29 where the PSC will share information about the candidate, the process, and next steps. Due to matters of confidentiality, we cannot discuss the candidate until that date. We invite everyone to come share the joy with openness to God's leading and with any questions. We are incredibly thrilled to share this moment with you! Please continue to keep us, the candidate, and the church in your prayers.

Getting to Know Our Pastoral Candidate! This is an exciting time! Please make note of these two weekends and mark your calendars!

- **An Introduction to the Pastoral Candidate** - Sunday, March 29th. After Fellowship Time, we'll gather together for an update from our Pastoral Search Committee. They are ready to provide an introduction to who the candidate is and the next steps in the process.
- **A Weekend with Our Pastoral Candidate** - Friday, April 10-Sunday, April 12. On Sunday, April 12, the Pastoral Candidate will lead worship. There will be opportunities to connect with the candidate throughout the weekend. We'll

share more as plans are finalized. Following worship, a congregational meeting and vote will be held.

Land Acknowledgement. We acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral homeland of the Anishinaabe 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 or use the QR code to the right.

Calendar

| | |
|----------|--|
| March 17 | Bible Study @7:00p |
| March 18 | Your Spiritual Footprint @1:00p The Gathering @6:00p |
| March 19 | Choir Rehearsal @7:00p |
| March 25 | Wednesday Bible Study @1:00p |
| March 29 | Palm/Passion Sunday @10:00a PSC New Candidate presentation@11:30a |
| April 3 | Community Good Friday Service @12:00 noon at First United Methodist Church Good Friday Tenebrae Service @8:00p |

Daytime Warming Center continues through March 27
Monday to Friday, 8:00a to 4:00p

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

517 East Washington Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-2015
Telephone: 734/663-9376
Email: office@fbca2.org Website: fbca2.org

Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*
Kat Becker, *Administrator*
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*