



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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



Dear FBC Family,

The weekend of April 10–12 marks a significant milestone for our church family. There are several events happening at which congregants can engage with the candidate, but the most important is **Sunday April 12**, when the candidate will be leading the service followed by a congregational vote to call our new pastor.

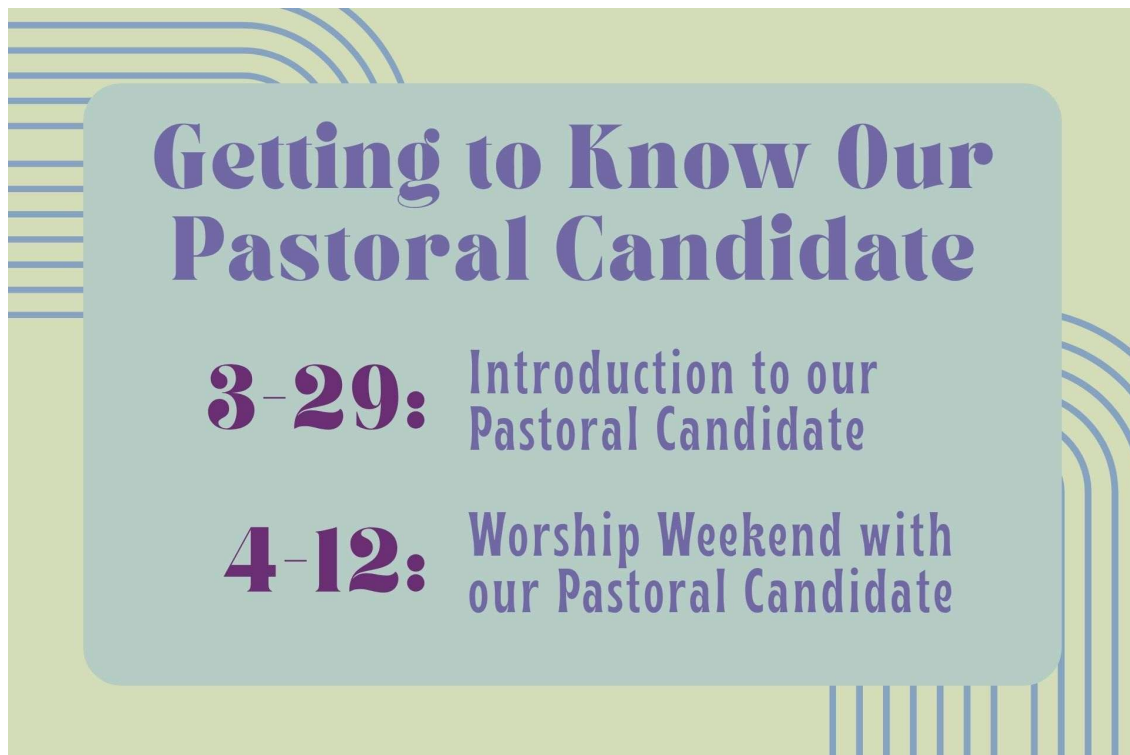
Our FBCA2 constitution requires a **75 member presence** for us to officially call a new pastor. That means all our wonderful children can't be counted for this. So, for their sake and for the church's future, I ask you to attend in person if at all possible. We will have a Zoom link for those who are home-bound or traveling, but, again, please come in person if you can. This isn't just about meeting a requirement—it's about our candidate feeling the full, vibrant welcome of the FBC family. (Let's all wear our name tags!)

Since you were wondering, our voting process is by paper ballot for the in-person folks. You will receive a folded ballot with places for your name and your vote. After your membership status is checked, your name will be torn off and

the ballot will be placed in a bin for counting. By nature of the methodology, the Zoom voters won't have quite as much secrecy, but only two people will know your vote. The procedure will be included in the email you receive with the link.

Can you help? I need 6 volunteers for tabulating and someone to monitor the Zoom meeting. Please [email me](#) if you are willing to do this (madrad@umich.edu).

Mary Davis , Moderator



The Pastor Search Committee met on Monday, March 23, to continue plans for introducing the congregation to our recommended candidate for Pastor. We will be giving initial information at a second hour session **this Sunday, March 29**. At that gathering we will share a brief overview of the search process, the background and qualifications of the candidate, and the many reasons we feel God led us to this pastor. We will leave ample time to answer your questions.

Candidating weekend will be **April 10-12**. We will have several opportunities for you to meet the candidate and ask questions. Members of the Pastor Search Committee will be present at each gathering to facilitate conversation.

Here is the schedule:

- Friday, April 10, 6:30-8:00p Gathering with youth and families for dinner at church
- Saturday, April 11 10:00-11:30a Brunch with young adults and children at church
- Saturday, April 11 12:00-1:30p Coffee and light sandwiches with Executive Council, boards, and church staff
- Saturday, April 11 3:00-4:00p Conversation with music staff, Boards of Music & Arts and Worship, and choir at church
- Saturday, April 11 5:00-6:30p Dinner with congregation at church
- Sunday, April 12 Preaching and worship followed by congregational meeting and vote

RSVP here

You are welcome to send questions for the candidate to the Pastor Search Committee ahead of time to our email address pcs@fbca2.org.
Thanks!





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

NOON ON FRIDAY APRIL 3
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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 at 10 am



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!



TDOV Dinner and Art Night! Join us on Tuesday, March 31st to celebrate Trans Day of Visibility. We'll have dinner here at First Baptist at 5:00p and shortly after 6:00p we'll head to the Downtown Library for their TDOV event, an interview with Bakpak Duren at 6:30p. Bakpak is a Detroit-based artist whose work fuses narrative and visual elements of the Baroque and Afro-Surrealist movements to create oil paintings and large-scale murals that depict subjects in transitional states with an emphasis on connecting to the surrounding communities. Please RSVP at fbca2.org/TDOV. Questions? Connect with [Xan Morgan](#) or [Nick McLellan](#).



Our Story. Let's gather together to sit with some good stories. "When We Swung from Church Bells: Stories That Shape Our Faith and Faith That Shapes Our Stories" just came out and it is written by a local author, Callie Feyen! In this book, Callie celebrates the holiness of ordinary living, often related to parenting. And then those parenting stories intertwine with formative experiences she had in church as a kid or through sacred stories. It's tender, funny, and reverent in all the best ways.

We'll gather on four Wednesday evenings - April 8, 15, 22, and 29 - from 7:30-9:00p. During the first two gatherings, Xan will lead a discussion about the book over Zoom. The second two gatherings, we'll have Callie, the author, lead us in a writers' workshop of sorts (hybrid). We will play and wrestle with some of our own stories. It will be a holy, life-giving, eye-opening, and fabulously fun time with other mamas.

Are you in? We hope so! [RSVP here](#). Pick up a book at the Ministry Station in the hallway.



Save the Dates!

- Rev. Kent Harrop (AMOS Board Member) coming to preach on April 19th
- Annual Program Meeting on April 26th

ADULT FORMATION

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](#).

The Gathering is our campus ministry during the academic year. If you can help with a meal for the group, contact [Mary Davis](#), sign up at fbca2.org/connect, or make a financial gift by check to the church or

via [PayPal](#). The Gathering meets on Wednesdays at 6:00p in the campus center living room.

Wednesday Bible Study meets at 1:00p in the campus center living room. The group will read and discuss the Bible readings for the upcoming Sunday. Please join us.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

THANK YOU! We wrap up our six weeks of hosting the Daytime Warming Center tomorrow. Thank you to everyone who planned a meal, bought food, made a meal, served a meal, and/or made purchases from the clothing wishlist. We showed up in a big way for “those who are often overlooked and ignored.” We are especially grateful for the team of people - Mary Davis, Tom Gebhardt, Sue Ellen Glover, Carolyn Grapentine, and Amanda Shutko - who faithfully recruited us to make sure every meal was covered. Well done, church family!

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, April 9. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, April 7.

American Baptist Women’s Ministries of Michigan Retreat. Attention Women! Please think about attending our annual conference June 5-7, 2026 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt Michigan! A wonderful place to rest and rejuvenate your spiritual health. For more information, see Carolyn Grapentine for details! The deadline for an early registration discount is **April 1st**.

Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor is hosting a Forum on Affordable Housing on Saturday, April 18 (8:30 AM–12:30 PM) to address the growing challenges

of finding affordable housing in Washtenaw County. Local experts will discuss causes, impacts, and solutions, and share ways individuals and congregations can get involved. All are welcome to attend and be part of the conversation.

Program Schedule:

-8:30-9:00 coffee/doughnuts/etc.

-9:00-10:00 first panel including Washtenaw Housing Alliance, Washtenaw County Government, Lord of Light Lutheran Campus Ministry, and Ann Arbor City Government

-10:00-10:30 question/answer period

-10:30-11:00 coffee break

-11:00-12:00 second panel including Avalon Housing, Norfolk Homes, Ann Arbor Housing Commission, and Habitat for Humanity

-12:00-12:30 question/answer period