



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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

Dear Friends,

It is a thrill to rejoice with all of you at the call of Rev. Laura Harris-Adam as our next Pastor here at First Baptist of Ann Arbor! On candidating weekend, you all showed up and voted overwhelmingly to call her to serve among us. One especially meaningful moment was walking with Pastor Laura into the sanctuary as you stood and sang Amazing Grace, followed by your standing ovation. It was a powerful and memorable beginning to our shared ministry. After that weekend, Pastor Laura shared with the search committee, "I cannot put into words how full I feel of God's love and grace tonight." We wholeheartedly echo that! If you missed the service you can [see it here](#).

The Pastor Search Committee thanks you for trusting us, praying with us, and allowing us this incredible opportunity to serve God and this church family. During the search process we deeply felt the movement of the Spirit guiding us toward Pastor Laura. With a fierce certainty we know that she is the Pastor whom God called to serve alongside all of us.

As we look ahead, we want to share a few important details. Pastor Laura will begin her full-time ministry with us on July 1, 2026, and will start preaching and leading worship on July 5. Her family has a prior commitment during the last two weeks of July, and she will return on the first Sunday in August. In keeping with our American Baptist tradition, and the practice of our church, we will hold an installation service for our new Pastor. We anticipate this will happen in the fall.

While we want to give Pastor Laura time and space to settle in, we also want to embrace her with a warm welcome. Please make sure to introduce yourself and wear your name tag in worship to help her get to know our church family. The Pastor Search Committee will help to organize meals and other support for the Harris-Adam family as they move into their new home.

One of Pastor Laura's references described her as someone who "leads with wisdom, grace, and breath." These are gifts we deeply need and eagerly welcome. May we open our hearts to God's vision and guidance as Pastor Laura joins us in shaping the future of our church together.

With gratitude,

The Pastor Search Committee

LJ Brazier, Toni Burton, Bill Foster, DJ Reed, Gretchen Sanewsky, Julie Smith, David Suell



### **Happy Easter! Yes, And!**

It's Easter week 4! Alleluia! And we have called Rev Laura Harris-Adam to be our next Pastor.

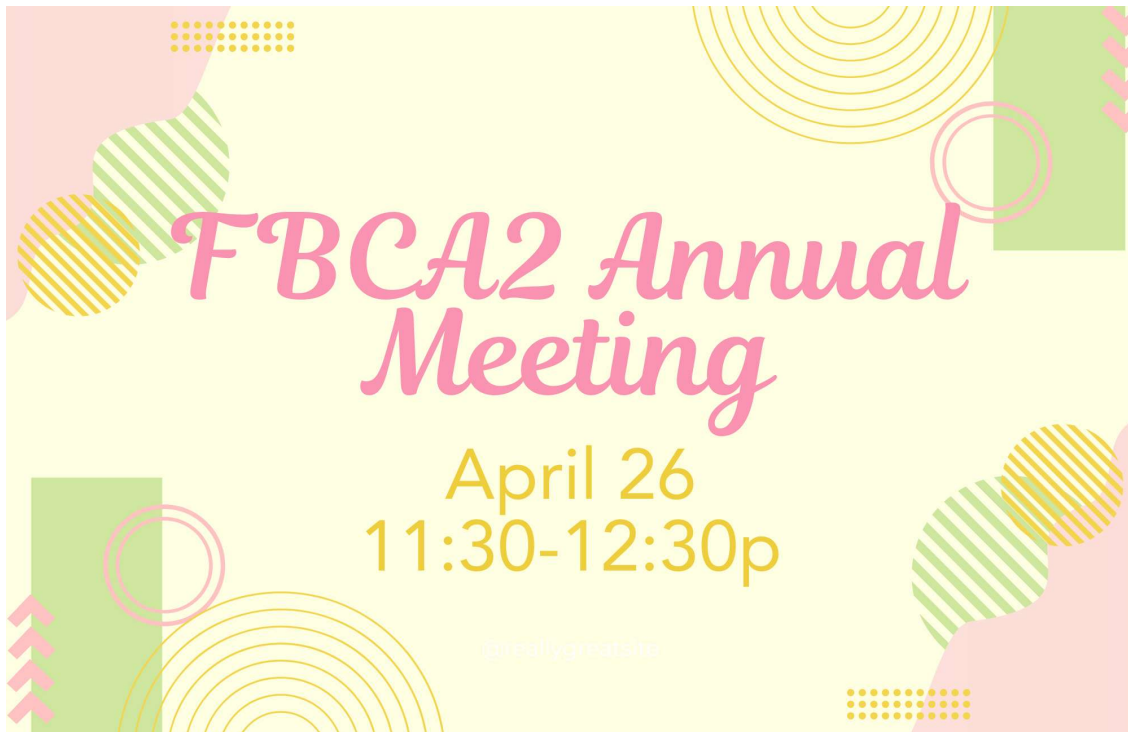
It was so exciting to be part of our church family the weekend of her candidacy. Lots of people participated in the Friday/Saturday gatherings, and even more came on Sunday. She and her family were shown wonderful hospitality, and I was so happy to see so many in the sanctuary with even more online. Thank you to all who helped with organizing, with food, with counting and managing the meeting. The PSC, to whom we owe much gratitude, will be sharing more information about specifics of Pastor Laura's arrival and beginning of her

ministry.

Join the family for our annual program meeting on April 26 right after worship for more about what the family has been up to, elect church officers, and break bread together!

Mary Davis,  
Moderator





**Our Annual Program Meeting** will be held after worship next week (11:15a), April 26 with lunch following the meeting. We will elect officers and board members, review the past year, learn more about Servant Keeper, and create a welcome video for Pastor Laura and her family! Children and youth will have their usual programming and will join us for lunch. The Board of Care and Community will be providing food. They are looking for some volunteers to help with set-up between the meeting and lunch and clean-up after lunch. Please contact [Hayley Heaton](#) if you'd like to help.

---

## Upcoming Preachers



### **April 26, Campus Ministry Sunday: D.J. Reed**

D.J. and his wife Heather have lived in Michigan since 2010. He has been a member at FBCA2 since 2022 and is currently involved in the Livestream Team, the Recruitment Team, the Mission Action Board and the Pastoral Search Committee. Prior to FBCA2, D.J. served as Senior Pastor at Chilson Hills Church in Howell, Michigan for 11 years. DJ. is currently employed as a chaplain for Abigail Hospice and has been a chaplain at Trinity Health hospitals for 2 years. He has over 25 years of church ministry experience. D.J. and Heather have two sons, Lincoln (Jr. at Pinckney High School) and Dani (2nd year at Michigan Tech) who really enjoy being involved at FBCA2. D.J. is a native of Chicagoland, but has been a resident in Pennsylvania, California and Michigan as well. He enjoys writing, sketching and photography.

### **May 3, Children's Ministry Sunday: Callie Feyen**

Callie lives in Ann Arbor with her husband Jesse, and their two daughters, Hadley (Freshman and Michigan), and Harper (Junior at Pioneer). She is the author of three books, *The Teacher Diaries*, *Twirl*, and *When We Swung From Church Bells: Stories That Shape Our Faith*, and *Faith That Shapes Our Stories* (the foreword was written by Xan Morgan). Callie teaches English Composition, Children's Literature, and Creative Writing and Washtenaw Community College.





**May 10: Beth Foster**

Beth Foster is a retired American Baptist minister and chaplain. Most of her career was spent in long term care and hospice chaplaincy. She and her husband, Bill, have been members of FBCA2 for 23 years. She enjoys spending time with grandchildren, reading, and exercising. She's a native of North Carolina.



# SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

**Scholarships available!** New this year, we will be accepting scholarship requests for church camps, higher education, and continuing education through a singular [Google form](#). The Scholarship Committee (Marissa Alaniz, Robbie Stapleton, and Toni Burton) will review requests and recommend allocations from three available funds (Johnson, Fullerton-Loucks, and Chadsey-Keivit) on behalf of the Board of Christian Education. (Note: For church camp requests, parents may fill out this form on behalf of children; please fill out and submit

one form per child.) The 2026 scholarship application deadline is Friday, May 15th. Questions? [Contact Marissa Alaniz](#).

---



**We're looking forward to Children's Ministry Sunday on May 3rd!** The kids will lead the prayers, share the Scripture readings, play music, and greet. We will have a rehearsal on Saturday, May 2nd from 10:00-11:30 for children in PreK through 5th grade. To help us plan, could you please take a moment to fill out this [Children's Ministry Sunday form](#). You'll be asked to share about your availability and whether your child(ren) would like to play an instrument and/or have a speaking part during worship. Xan is looking forward to the time planning and leading worship with your kids!

---

## ADULT FORMATION

**Adult Formation May 10 and 17.** Elizabeth Oldfield's book Fully Alive: Tending to the Soul in Turbulent Times is, as the title implies, a gentle meditation on rectitude and flourishing in a world that tries to knock us off

balance. Using the framework of the Seven Deadly Sins, recontextualized for the 21st century, Oldfield offers a playful yet substantive guide for turning toward what matters. Join Phil Christman and Sorbie Richner for a discussion of this book.

**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](#).

**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

We're looking for golfers who enjoy casual, friendly nine-hole rounds at affordable local courses. Groups are mixed each week, so you'll play with different golfers. Scheduling is flexible, based on what works for most of the group. After golf, we gather at a local restaurant for fellowship and conversation. The group is open to both church attenders and friends, and we currently play best ball, shooting in the low 40s, so you don't have to be that good to join us. If interested, please [email Paul Larson](#) with your contact information.

---

**American Baptist Women's Ministries of Michigan Retreat.** 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!

---

**A big thank you to the local businesses who supported this year's Daytime Warming Center lunch effort!** Cottage Inn (at the West Stadium

location), Taystee's Burgers, and Jerusalem Garden all donated full meals to help care for our community. We also appreciate Meijer for their generous donation supporting the community wide Make-a-Meal event, and Busch's for their donation towards food needs for the Youth and Children's Make-a-Meal event.

We're grateful for their generosity!



---

**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, May 7. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, May 5.

---

*Copyright © 2026 First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you're a congregation member or expressed interest in First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor

**Our mailing address is:**

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor  
517 E Washington St  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2071

