



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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

Have you signed up for  
**SERVANT  
KEEPER?**

**Online Photo Directory.** As a way to welcome our new pastor, Rev. Laura Harris-Adam, and to allow us all to put faces with names and feel more at home in our congregation, we are encouraging everyone to update our online photo directory! We use Servant Keeper for our online directory, as we use this software already for our giving statements. [Register/login](#) to your account to update your information and add a photo to your profile. This portal is open to anyone who is connected to FBCA2 in a meaningful way and is not restricted to formal members of the congregation. If you're in our [Google Sheets directory](#), you're welcome to be in this one too! Reach out to [Christina Alaniz](#) if you need any help!

[Update your profile here!](#)

Thank you to everyone who has already updated their profiles! And congratulations to the LaFosse Family who were the winners of the Zingerman's gift card raffle!

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### Upcoming Preachers



#### **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.

**May 17, Youth Ministry Sunday:  
Lex and Cat DaSilva**



**May 24: Gretchen Sanewsky**

Rev. Gretchen Sanewsky, and her daughter Kylan, have been members of First Baptist for ten years. She is a graduate of Cornell University, Palmer Theological Seminary, and she holds a graduate certificate in Health Administration from Eastern Michigan University. Gretchen spent 23 years of her career as a Pastor, serving churches in New York State and First Baptist Church of Jackson, Michigan. Immediately following her ministry in Jackson, she was the Director of Outreach for Huron Valley PACE serving older adults with chronic health conditions. Gretchen currently serves as the Executive Director of The Arc of Northwest Wayne County, a nonprofit providing advocacy and support to people with disabilities. She is a native of Canada but has spent many years in New York State and Michigan. She has three adult children and a brand new daughter-in-law.

**May 31: Rolf Bouma**

Rolf Bouma is a retired pastor, serving as our Interim Worship Coordinator, who has served churches in Grand Rapids (MI), Framingham (MA), and Ann Arbor (the Campus Chapel). He has a J.D. from UofM, an M.Div and Th.M from Calvin Theological Seminary, and a PhD. from Boston University, focusing on eco-theology. Since 2004, he has taught in UofM's Program in the Environment. He continues to teach half-time, lecturing in environmental ethics as well as in ecology and religion. Rolf and Sandy have appreciated being a part of the First Baptist community since 2017. They have three children (all married), and four grandchildren.



**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](#).

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**Mission Sunday.** We'll be welcoming Lindsay Calka and Pony Bush, from Groundcover, on Sunday, May 24. Lindsay and Pony work with Groundcover, an organization that works to create economic opportunities for people affected by poverty through their street newspaper. This non-profit aims to amplify underrepresented voices in Washtenaw County and foster a more just, caring, and inclusive society through community connection and action. Please join us during and after service to learn more about the Groundcover and the impactful work they are doing in our community.

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So you were  
wondering



**Have you ever wondered what the function of the Personnel Committee is at FBC?**

The Personnel Committee, which is appointed by the Trustees, serves several key functions. Its primary responsibilities include organizing annual performance reviews and preparing the budget based on these assessments. Additionally, the committee oversees new hires by establishing starting salaries and designing an onboarding process, ensuring supervisors can facilitate a smooth introduction for new employees.

Performance Evaluations (PE) are typically distributed to staff in September or October. Employees complete their evaluations and submit them to both their Supervisor and the Chair of Personnel, who then schedules a meeting to review the evaluation. This meeting involves the employee, the Pastor or Supervisor, and the Chair of Personnel. At this point, the supervisor has completed their portion of the evaluation, allowing for an interactive discussion about the employee's progress throughout the year. After the salary is determined, the Chair of Personnel prepares the budget submission for the budget committee, leading to presentation at the Annual Budget Meeting for approval. Once approved, the employee receives a formal letter notifying them of any salary adjustments.

Church members can access salary details. Anyone interested in specific salaries may review them in the office with a personnel committee member to address any questions or concerns.

Paula Burton is the current chair of the committee.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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**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!

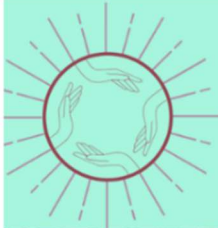
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**PRAYER REQUESTS.** Praying together is a core element of our life together. Each Sunday during worship (10:00a on our [Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#), and in person), we pray for those we know to pray for by name during the Prayers of the People. You are invited to share prayer requests/praises using [this form](#).

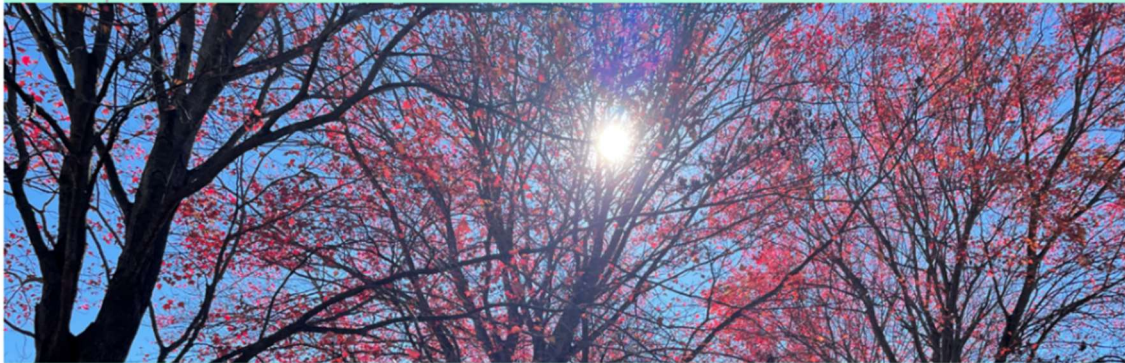
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**NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE AND DEADLINE.** The next newsletter will be Thursday, May 21. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, May 19.

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# Queerly Beloved Retreat



**Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in Ortonville, MI**  
**At the Tamarack Adventure & Retreat Center**



Embrace queer  
joy, gender  
euphoria, and  
profound  
belonging in a  
beautiful nature  
retreat setting.

Celebrate the power and resilience of  
trans, gender-expansive, and queer  
folks in beloved spiritual community.

**QueerlyBelovedRetreat.Org**

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