



Upcoming Preachers:

Pastor Laura is away July 18-28 on a family trip to Chautauqua, NY. Pastor Laura is serving as the Baptist House Chaplain at [Chautauqua Institution](#). If you have any pastoral needs while she is away, please contact the church office. We welcome Grace VanderVliet and Rick Stravers to the pulpit while Pastor Laura is away.



Grace VanderVliet is the Curator for Teaching and Learning at University of Michigan Museum of Art. A former high school English teacher and art history instructor at Michigan State University, she enjoys thinking about how learning happens outside traditional classrooms. She works with a team of Gallery Educators to create interactive art museum tours for K-12 classes and community groups. Every museum experience is a collaborative endeavor with partner organizations, teachers, students, and colleagues. Her family -- partner Jon and kids Alice (16) and Ingrid (13) -- indulge her interests in cooking, reading, and outdoor sports.

Rev. Rick Stravers lives in Kalamazoo with his wife Laurel. He is an Episcopal priest and Zen practitioner. He regularly celebrates Eucharist with the people of Trinity Church in Marshall and facilitates a weekly Zen meditation group at St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo. Rick is proud to be Xan Morgan's dad and Emmanuel, Asher, and Piper's grandpa! He enjoys practicing TaiChi and QiGong, reading poetry, and studying the spiritual path.



SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY

**SIGN UP TO HELP MAKE SUNDAY
MORNINGS HAPPEN AT FBCA2!**

We need your help! Thank you to everyone who has signed up for Sunday Morning Ministry task. It takes a lot of us to make Sunday mornings go smoothly and we still have quite a few openings this summer. Please find our up-to-date signups online at fbca2.org/connect. We invite you to go check out what opportunities remain and sign up for a few in these summer months. You'll find detailed information about each ministry in the description on SignUp Genius.



Serve Alongside AMOS Health & Hope in Nicaragua! For many years, our church has been blessed to partner with AMOS Health & Hope in Nicaragua, walking alongside rural communities as they work toward improved health and well-being. We are actively recruiting for two upcoming opportunities to serve with AMOS in Nicaragua—from **October 9–18, 2026**, in partnership with the First Baptist Church of McMinnville (five spots available for adults of all ages)—and **May 21–30, 2027**, designed especially for young adults at FBCA2 (up to 15 spots available). As we have done in the past, the church will help offset a portion of the trip costs for individuals, and we will organize fundraising opportunities to help raise project costs. To express interest and/or receive more information, please contact Marissa Alaniz at marissacalaniz@gmail.com.



Save the Date for Pride! As a Welcoming and Affirming church, we have a commitment to offering a counter-witness to the messages of condemnation, exclusion, rejection, and even hatred the LGBTQ+ community has historically received from churches and from Christians. We'll be hosting a table at Ann Arbor Pride on Saturday, August 1 to help offer a public witness to love and welcome for all, especially for those who have not felt welcomed elsewhere. [Sign up here](#) to help host! All are invited to stop by our FBCA2 tent!



Habitat for Humanity FBC Workdays. As in past years, our congregation has committed financial support to the Good News House projects. We are asking you to contribute as you have in the past to aid this effort to provide affordable housing in our community. We have committed to raising \$2500 in 2026 and are still needing about \$1200 to reach our goal! Checks can be written to FBC, with H4H in the memo line. Reach out to [Scott Diels](#) if you have any questions about Habitat or about volunteering for our second work day on Friday, August 21.



Each year our congregation helps equip the students in the seven locations served by Community Action Network (CAN) for the new school year. This year 300 backpacks are needing to be filled! Please give generously to this special ministry. [Here is the link](#) to the Amazon wishlist or if you'd prefer to give a financial donation, please send a check made out to Sue Ellen Glover c/o First Baptist Church, 517 E Washington, 48104. All donations are needed by August 5 in order to be sorted and distributed to the seven communities.

FLAMY & GRANT



**August 8th
7pm**

Zion Lutheran Church



 Tickets

Tickets on sale now!



Join Pastor Laura and Xan for dinner and the Flamy Grant concert! On Saturday, August 8th, artist [Flamy Grant](#) will be in town and signing at Zion Lutheran Church. We hope you'll join us for the concert ([buy tickets here](#)) and if you're able, dinner beforehand too! We'll gather at [HOMES Campus](#) at 5:00

and then head over to the concert at 6:30p. Please note that there are two HOMES locations; we'll be at the 112 Jackson Road location. See you there!

ADULT FORMATION

Adult Formation and Wednesday Bible Study will resume in the fall!

Sunday Young-ish Adult Gathering. If you consider yourself to be a young-ish adult (roughly 20s - 40s), there's a small group for you! While the group is not officially meeting regularly over the summer, there will be occasional gatherings planned as folks are available. If you'd like to join our email list to get notified of our gatherings, contact [Meg Suell](#), [Valerie Francia](#), or [Jamie Mills](#).

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Parking Lot Program Update. We will be switching our parking management program from AirGarage to Premium Parking on August 1. Please [see the attached file](#) for any FAQs you might have.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first Habitat for Humanity work day of the summer!



We had a great time at Church Camp! Thanks for your prayers and letters.



One Great Hour of Sharing 2026. During the month of July, we will be receiving contributions for the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). OGHS supports disaster relief, ministries to displaced persons, and development projects of the American Baptist Churches and its partners. A check can be written to FBC with OGHS in the memo line or cash can be put in one of the OGHS envelopes found in the pews. Please give generously.

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, July 30. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, July 28.

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