



A Message from Pastor Laura

On Sunday, April 12, as I left Ann Arbor as your pastor-elect, I was filled to overflowing with joy and deep gratitude. I found myself humming Amazing Grace and trying to capture every moment to memory, knowing I would want to remember that special day, always. Now, several months later, as I prepare to join you for the first time as your Pastor on Sunday, July 5, my joy and gratitude remain just as strong.

Thank you all for your warm welcome to Ann Arbor. My family and I have felt so loved and cared for by your meals and offers to help! We are still working on getting settled in – a slow process while juggling the energy of two kids! But we are having lots of fun finding library codes all around town and trying new local food favorites. If you have favorites, please share them with us!

I look forward to getting to know all of you individually and as a community. I anticipate doing a lot of listening during these first weeks and months together. I want to hear your stories of life and faith, the ups and downs you have had on your journeys. Watch for specific opportunities to share your stories in the coming months.

In the meantime, know that I am simply thrilled to be joining with you in ministry! And if you have any pastoral needs, please don't hesitate to be in touch. My contact information is included below.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Laura
Laura@fbca2.org



We're excited

Dear Pastor Laura,

We're excited...

Welcome Pastor Laura! The Pastor Search Committee is thrilled to welcome Pastor Laura Harris-Adam as our new Senior Pastor! We invite the whole church family to celebrate God's leading and goodness as we enjoy the culmination of a long call process. We are more than ready for Pastor Laura's wisdom from the pulpit and strong leadership among us. As she, along with her spouse, Si, and their children, Tom and Lydia, gets settled in Ann Arbor, we look forward to helping them make this home. May God continue to guide us all as we boldly embrace this future of hope that is before us!



Yes And. As in the “Yes and” memorial banner to Stacey we see as we enter the building, YES! to Pastor Laura and family’s arrival and the start to her pastorate with us. We are indeed excited and are looking forward to her pastoral leadership. We are thankful that she has been called to be with us in ministry here in Ann Arbor. That’s where the And comes in. The AND is all of us. As you know I am so fond of saying, we are the church together. It is not for Laura and the other staff, only, to do the work of being the messengers of God’s love (Thanks, Robbie, for that term). It is our call as well. So, as we begin this new time of our life together, keep saying Yes when you are able. Sign up for something (greet, serve communion, acolyte, do a Habitat work day, take a shift at Pride, send a message to someone you haven’t seen in a while...). Also, if you weren’t able to be in worship this past Sunday, I recommend going to the website to hear Robbie’s eloquent sermon and Bonnie’s music both reminding us to “share the love of Jesus”.

- Mary Davis, Moderator



Welcome Party for Pastor Laura and her family! Join us for a celebration on Sunday, July 12th from 4-6p at County Farm Park (2230 Platt Rd). Please [RSVP here](#) so we can plan food accordingly. You're invited to bring a camping chair and/or a dessert if you're able!



Online Photo Directory. If you haven't already, please [add a picture](#) of yourself or your family to your household profile on Servant Keeper. Or send a photo directly to [Christina Alaniz](#) and she will add it for you! Reach out to Christina if you need any help logging into your account.

[Update your profile here!](#)



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 grateful for this ongoing partnership and the opportunity to continue serving together through mission trips that build relationships, strengthen community health care, and deepen our own faith.

We are excited to announce two upcoming opportunities to serve with AMOS in Nicaragua:

- **October 9–18, 2026:** We have been invited to join a team from the First Baptist Church of McMinnville on a mission trip to a rural community in Nicaragua. We have up to five spots available for adults who would like to participate.
- **May 21–30, 2027:** This trip will be designed especially for young adults at FBCA2, with up to 15 spots available. It will be a wonderful opportunity to serve, learn, and grow together while experiencing the incredible work of AMOS Health & Hope firsthand.

Our church is committed to making these trips accessible. 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. **If you are interested in either trip, we invite you to attend an informational meeting on Tuesday, July 14th from 12:00–1:00 p.m. on Zoom.** During the meeting, we'll share more about the trip experience and answer any questions you may have. If you are unable to attend the informational meeting but would like to learn

more or express interest in either trip, please email Marissa Alaniz at marissacalaniz@gmail.com.

We hope you will consider joining us as we continue our partnership with AMOS sharing God's love through service in Nicaragua!

Amor, amor, amor,
Christina Alaniz, DJ Reed, Marissa Alaniz, and Xan Morgan



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!

FBCA2 KIDS AND TEENS ARE OFF TO CAMP CHRISTIAN!



FBCA2 Kids and Teens are off to Camp Christian! We invite you to pray for Emma Francia and Lyra LaFosse while they are at church camp this week. Please also pray for our CITs - Lincoln Reed, Ingrid VanderVliet, Alice VanderVliet, Asher Morgan, and Piper Morgan. Xan is delighted to be directing camp with this fabulous group of kids and teens! May they have a great week filled with laughter, learning, and new tastes of God's love. Interested in sending them a note while they are at camp? Here is the address: 10335 Maple Dell Rd, Marysville, OH 43040.

parking lot volunteers at

FBCA2

for the ann arbor

ART FAIR

Art Fair Parking Lot Volunteers. We have eight artists who will rent spaces in our lot during the Art Fair this year (July 16-18). The artists will arrive to set up their booths on Wednesday, July 15th. From Thursday-Friday, when we have volunteers, we will rent out parking spaces to shoppers. In 2025, we were able to raise \$1044 from shoppers, and an additional \$1470 from the artists for their reserved spots, for a total of \$2514 – all of which was used for household goods for Hikone and for clothing for the Warming Center folks.

We currently have four volunteers but would love to have more! Shifts are for two hours: 11:00-1:00, 1:00-3:00, 3:00-5:00. Volunteers will greet each car and explain the cost and take their money – or explain that the lot is full. Volunteers receive a free spot to park if they wish to shop before or after their shift. FBCA2 people are very welcome to come to shop and we will find you a space, though if we do not have volunteers to manage the lot there might not be anything available. Come volunteer and then go shopping!

Contact Sue Ellen if you have questions or would like to volunteer [734-646-2639; gloverse@hotmail.com].



Habitat for Humanity FBC Workdays. Our FBC Friday workday is Aug 21st. The FBC volunteers will work with another Good News group congregation to provide labor and perhaps lunches on work days. If you have the time and wish to volunteer during the week go to the [Good News house website](#) and check out their [volunteer page](#) for signing waivers.

As in past years, our congregation has also committed financial support to the project. 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. Checks can be written to FBC, with H4H in the memo line. Reach out to [Scott Diels](#) if you have any questions.



**It's Back to School
Drive Time!**



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.

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

Dear church family,

Words cannot fully express how grateful we are for all the prayers, cards, visits, and thoughtful check-ins during my recent injury. Our FBC family has truly shown up for us, and we are eternally thankful. Many of you have heard me say life can change in an instant—and ours certainly did. Yet because of your love and support, we have endured and continue on the road to recovery. My follow-up appointment indicated I need to wear the brace for one more month which was a bit unexpected but I can begin physical therapy which means I am definitely making progress!

*With heartfelt gratitude,
Allen and Paula Burton*

We are saddened to share that Katherine Cartee, Greg's mother has died. She passed peacefully on Wednesday morning. Greg and May thank their church family for their prayers. Please continue to keep the Cartee family in your prayers.

So you were
wondering



Well, actually, you probably weren't really wondering about this... I hadn't thought about it until I started working on a catalogue of the hymns we have used over the last 10 years or so, ever since we started making large print bulletins. It turns out that we have sung over 425 different hymns. That number doesn't take into account the ones we sing almost every year, like the Advent and Christmas songs and "For All the Saints" and "Jesus Christ Is Risen

Today" and "Holy, Holy, Holy". I'd say we are an excellent singing congregation who can both learn new hymns and enjoy the familiar ones (Perhaps I should say, familiar to us old-timers). Well-done FBC family!
Mary Davis, Moderator



One Great Hour of Sharing 2026. This coming Sunday and 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 16. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, July 14.


FLAMY GRANT



August 8th
7pm

Zion Lutheran Church



 Tickets

Tickets on sale now!

