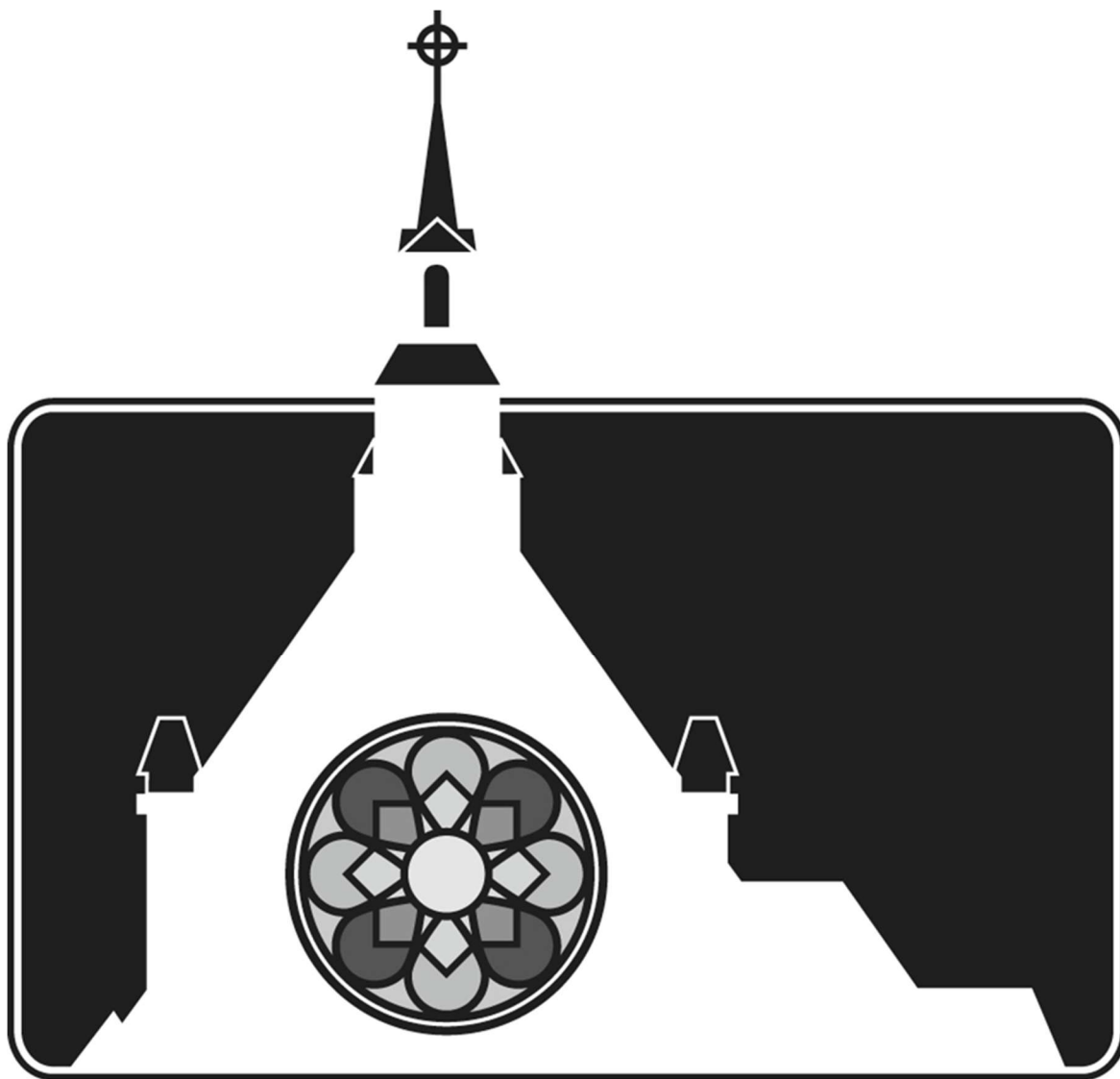




# FIRST BAPTIST

## CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

**THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 23, 2026**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## GREETING

Xan Morgan

## PRELUDE

*Fantasia super on Meine Seele, laß es gehen (Excerpt)*

(My Soul, Let It Go)

W.H. Pachelbel  
(1686-1764, German)

## \*OPENING PRAYER

Scott Diels

**\*HYMN #546** (vv. 1, 3-5; see insert)  
(The receiving of Prayer Concern cards)

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

## \*RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 138

Scott Diels

One: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart.

**Many: I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name.**

One: For you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

**Many: When I called, you answered me.**

One: You increase my strength within me.

**Many: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe.**

One: You stretch forth your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

**All: O Lord, you will make good your purpose for me; your love endures forever.**

**\*GLORIA** (Hymn 72, sung once)

(Children through 5th grade come forward to sing Gloria and then for Time As Children)

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## TIME AS CHILDREN

Xan Morgan

(Following Time as Children, kids through 5th grade will leave for Summer Children's Ministry in the Play Space.)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Laura

The Lord's Prayer ("debts" – hymnal page 896)

## \*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

Scott Diels

One: The Word of God for the People of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*The Ultimate Question*

Pastor Laura

## SILENT REFLECTION

## INVITATION TO GIVING

Pastor Laura

## OFFERING OF GIFTS

*How Great Thou Art*

Arr. by Charles Szczepanek

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Laura

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

**Response: And also with you.**

\*HYMN #402 (see insert) Lord, I Want to Be a Christian *I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN*

## \*BENEDICTION

Pastor Laura

## POSTLUDE

*Count Your Blessings*

Dan Miller

(b.1954, American)

*When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!*

\*Please stand in body or spirit

*The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God  
in gratitude for all the bounty we are granted by the love of God.*

*~ Astrid Beck ~*

We pray for **Noreen Wolcott, Donna Tipton, Grange Burnside, Pidgey Karolyi, Bob Shannon, Judy Burton, Jon VanderVliet, Mary Margaret Hatt, Erica Diels, Marilyn McKenzie, Keith Pickelmann, Marlene Francis, Roberta Hause, Mervyn Juchartz, Esther Floyd, Marilyn Marsh, Helga Mortensen, Cindy Okarski, Greg DuBois, Keith Maurer, and Beth Granberry.**

**We're glad you're here!** Please take a moment to fill out the Connection Card in your bulletin and place it in an offering plate when it comes by later in the service. You can indicate any prayer requests you have and let us know if you'd like a name tag and/or our bi-weekly communication about the life of the church.

You may place your offering in one of the plates when they are passed. Or make your offering online using this QR code or via PayPal (@fbca2) and place a Connection Card indicating so in the offering plate.



**Join us outside for lemonade after the service.** We'd love to connect!

**Children's Ministry.** All children are welcome in worship; Worshipful Play Bags are available as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery care is available for children (infant through 3 years) upstairs. Children who have completed 5th grade and younger, leave for Summer Children's Ministry following Time as Children in the Play Space upstairs and should be picked up after worship. If you are visiting and would like more information about Children's Ministry, please connect with Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

**Children's Ministry Focus Group.** It's an exciting time at FBCA2 as we move into this new season. The Board of Christian Education (BCE) and Xan Morgan are eager to touch base with our Children's Ministry families to see how things are going and brainstorm future ideas. We are hosting a focus group on Sunday, August 30th, from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. for coffee, donuts, and conversation! We'll gather in the Campus Center living room, and childcare will be provided. Please take a moment to sign up at [fbca2.org/connect](https://fbca2.org/connect) so we know who to expect. The BCE will send out discussion questions this week. Thanks for partnering with us as we envision and plan for the children and families at FBCA2!

**Youth Group Back-to-School Lunch.** Youth group participants (students in grades 7-12), gather with youth group friends and team leaders for lunch after church (around 11:30am) on Sunday, August 30th. We'll walk to Chipotle for lunch, share summer stories, and get ready for the new school year! For more information, contact Marissa Alaniz ([marissacalaniz@gmail.com](mailto:marissacalaniz@gmail.com)). Youth Group on Sundays will resume in the fall.

**Join us for Coming Home Sunday on September 13!** The Sanctuary Choir will already be back, Children's Ministry classes will begin, and after worship it will be time to party! Join us outside for live jazz music, a delicious popcorn bar, and face painting, too. You won't want to miss this festive regathering of our community after summer travels and summer schedules! Youth Group and our Adult Formation class will begin the following Sunday, September 20th.

**You are invited to Tea with Pastor Laura!** During these next several months, Pastor Laura hopes to meet with everyone connected to our community. Yes, even you! Meet up at your favorite coffee shop, visit in the FBCA2 office, or gather in your home. To sign up, go to the link at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect) and find a time that works for you on the calendar. When you sign up, please let Pastor Laura know where you'd like to meet. Let's share our stories of life and faith over a cup of tea!

**Board and Staff Retreat.** We look forward to gathering on Wednesday, August 26th from 5:00-8:00p to connect, reflect, and plan with all FBCA2 board members and staff! We've got a fun and meaningful evening planned; we hope you're able to join us. We'll enjoy dinner from Jerusalem Garden and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP at [fbca2.org/retreat](http://fbca2.org/retreat) by Sunday, August 16th. Questions? Connect with Pastor Laura, Mary Davis, or Xan Morgan.

**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](http://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.

**Sign-up for Altar Flowers.** It is a treat to have flowers for worship! Would you like to help make this happen? If so, select a Sunday by going to [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect), scrolling down to Flowers and clicking the link to the sign-up genius. Then, by the Wednesday before, email Kat ([office@fbca2.org](mailto:office@fbca2.org)) with the dedication for the bulletin. Also by the Wednesday before, let Dana Larson of the Board of Worship know if you would like to have a floral arrangement (\$50) ordered from a local florist or if you prefer to bring your own flowers. If bringing your own flowers, please have them at church on Sunday morning by 9:40am.

**Young Adult Dinner.** If you consider yourself to be a young adult (roughly 20s-40s), come celebrate the start of the new school year with lake life and a taco bar. We will gather at Hamburg Lake at 7660 Tharp Drive, Sunday August 23rd, 5-7 pm for dinner, s'mores, fishing, swimming, paddle boarding, kayaking and more. Connect with Jamie Mills 925-324-4456 or [jamie.mills08@yahoo.com](mailto:jamie.mills08@yahoo.com) for more information.

**First Half Contribution Statements.** In an effort to conserve paper use and save on postage, the contribution statements are now being emailed using the Servant Keeper. It is yet another reason to set up a profile if you haven't already done so or check that information is up-to-date. The statements will go to the email address on file and you can even use the profile to check your contributions as needed. If you need a hard copy mailed, please email the church office ([office@fbca2.org](mailto:office@fbca2.org)).

**Our Hope Clinic Meal Service is moving!** We will now be cooking and serving dinner at the Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Did you know that FBCA2 has been in partnership with the Hope clinic since 2019? We have served over 13,000 meals over 83 months--amazing and we have FUN doing it! We couldn't do it without our amazing volunteers--join us! Please contact Karen Brummett Rayner ([rayner.kar@gmail.com](mailto:rayner.kar@gmail.com)) or sign up at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect) if you are able to help out!

**Summer Hours.** For the month of August, the main office and building will be open Monday through Thursday from 8:30a-12:30p and Friday from 9:00a-1:00p.

**Land Acknowledgement.** We acknowledge that we are gathered on the ancestral homeland of the Anishinaabe people of the Three Fires Confederacy - the Ojibwe, Ottawa & Potawatomi - and the Wyandot, and that this unceded land is still sacred to them.



Seek, serve, and grow with us! More information about these opportunities at [fbca2.org/connect](http://fbca2.org/connect) or use the QR code.

### **Calendar**

|              |                                        |
|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| August 23    | Worship @10:00a                        |
| August 26    | Board and Staff Retreat                |
| August 30    | Children's Ministry Focus Group @8:30a |
|              | Worship @10:00a                        |
|              | Youth Group Lunch @11:30a              |
|              | Sexton Orientation @11:45a             |
| September 7  | Labor Day: Church Office closed        |
| September 13 | Coming Home Sunday                     |

### **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR**

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Rev. Laura Harris-Adam, *Senior Pastor*

Xan Morgan, *Director of Community Life*

Christina Alaniz, *Associate for Communications*

Bonnie Kidd, *Sanctuary Choir Director*

Dr. Shin-Ae Chun, *Organist*

Kat Becker, *Administrator*

Lindsay Duke, *Childcare Supervisor*

Lee Foley, *Buildings & Grounds*