



A Message From Pastor Laura

As Xan, Mary Davis, and I met earlier this month to make plans for our Board and Staff Retreat (all elected leaders are encouraged to join us on Wednesday, August 26), a theme of deeper connection and rootedness arose from our conversation. We landed on the words: **Be Known. Be Still. Be Love.**

This season of getting to know a new pastor is all about **being known**. This season is, of course, all about you getting to know me and me getting to know you. That's why I'm spending dedicated time each week in conversation with you over "Tea with Pastor Laura." This season is also about you all knowing one another. Sometimes we come to church and sit in the same pew and chat with the same people and we don't necessarily really know one another. We plan to do some getting to know each other activities at the Board and Staff Retreat, and in other fall church activities. More to come!

This season of new beginnings also includes **being still**. I plan to spend a lot of time listening and learning from you all about who First Baptist Church is and what matters to this community of faith. In this season, we're taking a collective breath, reflecting on what matters most, being thoughtful about any shifts we might make, and listening deeply to the movement of God's Spirit.

And, we hope, the work of the church is always about **being love**. Jesus urged his disciples to "love one another as I have first loved you." We are called to love one another. We are called to love our neighbors. And so, we continue to take bold action to share God's radically inclusive love with one another and with our neighbors both near and far. This is the work of our boards and staff and of our whole church: **Be known. Be Still. Be Love.**

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Laura

Laura@fbca2.org
cell: 773-562-5891



Tea with Pastor Laura. One of my main goals during my first year as your pastor is to get to know each of you on a deeper level than is possible shaking hands after worship. So, I would like to invite you to Tea with Pastor Laura! I'm not a coffee person, but you're welcome to have coffee if that's your preference. We can meet at a local coffee shop, at the church office, or in your home, whichever you prefer. If you are a couple or a family, it's up to you whether we meet all together or one-on-one.

To sign up, follow the link on fbca2.org/connect. On the linked calendar, simply find a time that works for you and let me know where you'd like to meet. If you have any issues signing up, please don't hesitate to email, text, or call me. Let's share our stories of life and faith over a cup of tea!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Laura
laura@fbca2.org
cell: 773-562-5891

Sign up here!



JOIN FBCA2 AT
Habitat
for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity FBC Workday Tomorrow! 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. 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 last work day *happening tomorrow, Friday, August 21.*

FBCA2 BOARD AND STAFF

Retreat

BE known • BE still • BE love

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH
FROM 5-8P**

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, elected officials, 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 \(click here\)](#) today! Questions? Connect with [Pastor Laura](#), [Mary Davis](#), or [Xan Morgan](#).



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 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](#). Youth Group on Sundays will resume in the fall.



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. Bring the family as we 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 for more information.

COME WONDER, PLAY,
AND CREATE WITH
FBCA2 KIDS!

We're looking
for teen and adult
volunteers for
children's ministry
this year!



Join our Children's Ministry. We need a robust team of folks to make Children's Ministry flourish here at FBCA2 this fall! We have 7 ministry openings to fill. Please reach out to [Xan Morgan](#) to express your willingness to serve and to discuss which role - lead teacher, support teacher, nursery caregiver - is best for you. You'll be partnering with many experienced volunteers! Thank you in advance!



Sign-up for Altar Flowers. It is a treat to have flowers for worship! Would you like to help make this happen? We are looking for 8-10 people to sign up for altar flowers to get a jump on fall sign ups - so if you're able to help, please select a Sunday by going to fbca2.org/connect. Scroll down to Flowers for Worship and click the link to the sign-up genius. Then, by the Wednesday before, [email Kat](#) 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 you're bringing your own flowers, please have them at church on Sunday morning by 9:40am. Thank you!



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.



AD LIBITUM CONCERT SERIES

Celebrating its 14th year, 2026-2027
Free Concerts and Open to the Public
Fridays at noon

2026

SEPTEMBER 25

Salutz to Bach

Shin-Ae Chun, organ

Organ Music by J.S. Bach

Prelude and Fugue in D, Trio Sonata in c,
Concerto in d and Fantasy and Fugue in g

NOVEMBER 6

Piano

Takeshi Nagayasu, piano

Sonata in C by Joseph Haydn and
Etudes by Alexander Scriabin

OCTOBER 16

Piano

Improvisations in a variety of
historical styles and Music by Bach,
Rameau, Couperin, Scarlatti, and Royer

John Mortensen, piano

DECEMBER 15 (Tuesday)

Poems and Music 
for Winter and Christmas

Susan Schilperoort, Reader

Shin-Ae Chun, piano

2027

(Dates to be announced)

March – What Is Organ by Shin-Ae Chun

April – What Is Harpsichord by Shin-Ae Chun and Edward Parmentier

May – Piano Duet by Ling-Ju Lai and Shin-Ae Chun



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

517 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor
734/663-9376 / www.fbca2.org



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“Salute to Bach”

Organ Music by J.S. Bach
Shin-Ae Chun, organ

September 25, 2026
Friday at Noon

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

FBCA2 Ladies' Book Club. Like to read? Like to talk about books... and lots of other tangential topics? Then consider joining us at the next FBCA2 Ladies' Book Club meeting. We will meet on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30pm to discuss

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah, gathering at Mary Gregg's home. Other upcoming titles are The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald by John U. Bacon (October 27th meeting) and Absolution by Alice McDermott. Questions? Feel free to reach out to [Mary Gregg](#) or [Janice Stumpf](#).

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).

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, September 3. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 1.
