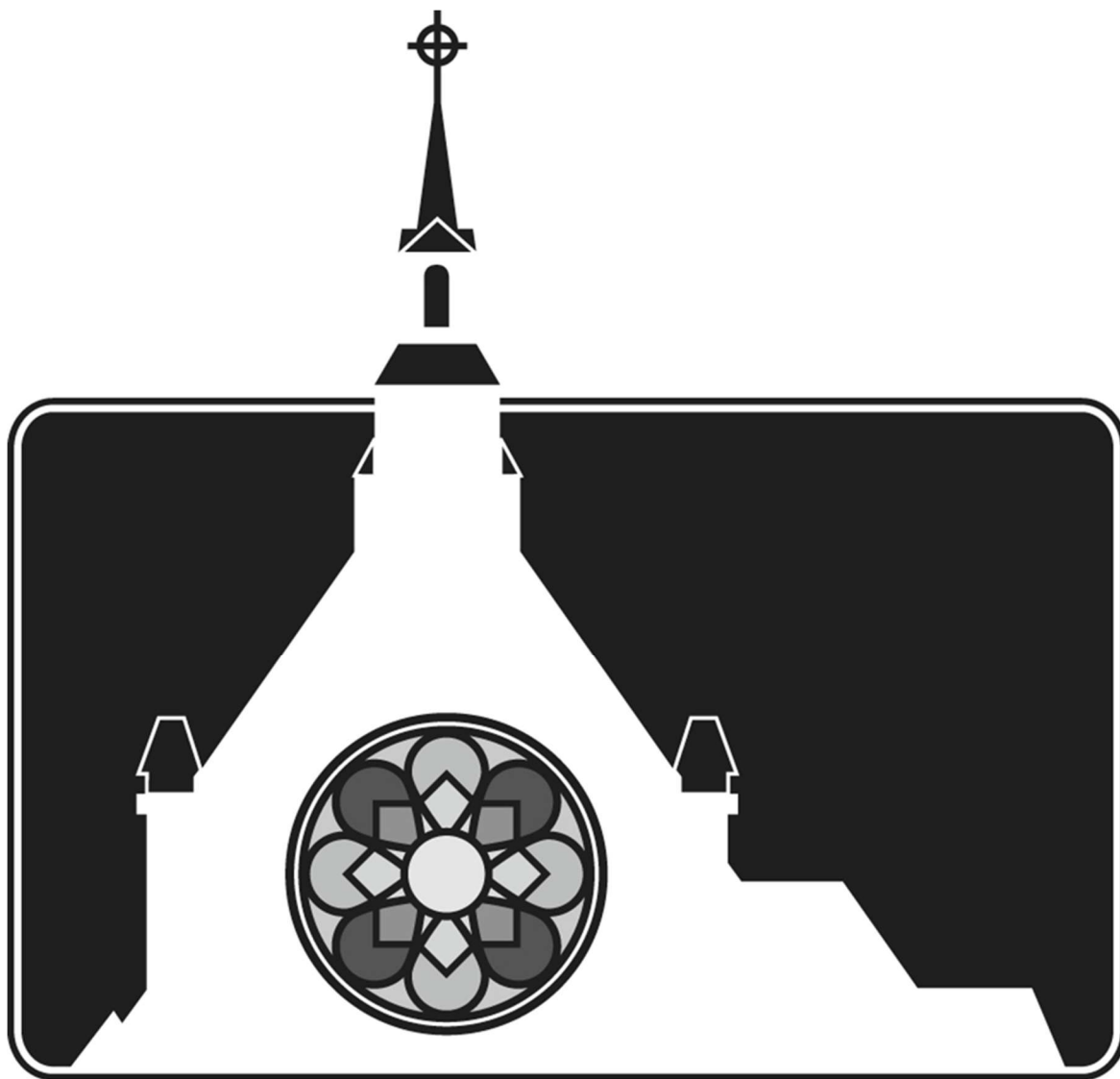




FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Xan Morgan

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Communion on Alleluia

Pierre Camonin
(1903-2003, French)

*OPENING PRAYER

Mary Davis

* HYMN #577 (vv. 1, 3, 4; see insert)

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

*RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 119:33-35, 38, 40

Mary Davis

One: Teach us, O Lord, the meaning of your laws,

Many: and we will keep them at all times.

One: Give us understanding,

Many: and we will keep it with all our hearts.

One: Make us go in the path of your commandments,

Many: for in them we find joy.

One: Fulfill your promise to us –

Many: the promise you make to those who trust you.

One: Behold, we long for your commandments;

Many: give us new life, for you are righteous.

*GLORIA (Hymn 72, sung twice)

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 13:8-10

Mary Davis

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honour of his name,
make his praise to be glorious.

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 18:15-20

Pastor Laura

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!**TIME AS CHILDREN**

Xan Morgan

(Children through 6th grade come forward)

Seek Ye First (v.1)

*See ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!*

(Following Time as Children, kids through 6th grade will leave for Summer Children's Ministry in the Play Space.)

SERMON*Covenant Community*

Pastor Laura

SILENT REFLECTION***HYMN OF RESPONSE #432** (w. 1, 3, 5; see insert)

Jesu, Jesu

CHEREPONI

(Collecting of prayer cards)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Laura

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

OFFERING OF GIFTS*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Harold W. Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether;
For when humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together,
Thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluya! Alleluya!
Touch we now thy garment's hem.

All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving,
We may true disciples be.
Alleluya! Alleluya!
We will serve thee faithfully.

As the brethren used to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluya! Alleluya!
So knot thou our friendship up.

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above you heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Pastor Laura & Xan Morgan

As the plates are passed, please remain in your seats and hold the bread and cup until you are invited to partake in unison with the whole congregation.

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession

All: Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

The Bread *Communion on How Sweet Is Thy Spirit*, Lord by Pierre Camonin

The Cup *Dove of Peace* by David M. Chewien

The Prayer of Blessing

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor Laura

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

***HYMN #557** (see insert, v. 1)

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

DENNIS

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Laura

POSTLUDE

Allegro
from *Fantasia in G Major, BWV 571*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750, German)

*Please stand in body or spirit

*The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God in memory of Jasper,
for all the love he taught me about. Until we meet next, I will miss him
and he will have space in my heart until I return to stardust with him.
He was the most loving dog I could have had the honor of having in my life.*

~ Sterling Spasoski ~

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!

Signup Sunday Today! Please stop by the ministry stations in the hallway to sign up for Sunday morning Ministry tasks for the fall. Take your pick of the patch and enjoy some pumpkin candy!

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).

Youth Group. All students in grades 7-12 are welcome to join the youth group beginning Sunday, September 20. We will gather in the Youth Room (in the library wing below the sanctuary) from 11:30-12:30 for snacks, games, and meaningful discussion. This fall our amazing team of adult youth leaders will facilitate conversations ranging from "How Do I Pray?" to "Jesus and Narnia." For more information, please contact Robbie Stapleton (robbiestapleton@gmail.com) or Pastor Laura (laura@fbca2.org).

The Gathering is our campus ministry on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. It's a safe, open space where undergraduate and graduate students can explore and express their questions and their doubts, learn from others, and be supported in their personal faith and growth. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Pastor Laura for details. If you can help with a meal for the group, you can sign up at fbca2.org/connect. The first Gathering will be on Wednesday, September 9, in the campus center living room.

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.

Second Hour Adult Formation. Following church beginning Sunday, September 20, we will have a short series exploring the theme of covenant. We will consider the biblical covenants alongside our church covenant. These sessions will help us to understand what a pastoral installation service is all about as we make covenant commitments to one another as pastor and congregation on October 11. Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday Bible Study. Starting on September 16, anyone interested is welcome to meet on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in the memorial lounge. Pastor Laura will lead.

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 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!

Come One, Come All! The choir has openings for singers in every section. We have wonderful singers with us now, but we need to build each of our sections, soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. We have section leaders to help you learn your parts too! If you love to sing, or know anyone who does, can read some music (don't need to be an expert), want to worship God through music, desire to help the congregation sing the hymns more fully, and have lots of fun, you could be in the choir! I will admit it takes commitment though, but don't we want to give our best in the worship of the living God? We rehearse together each Thursday night from 7:30p to 9:00p, starting September 10. We warm up and rehearse on Sunday mornings starting at 9:15am. We sing the Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols Service from King's College, Cambridge. If you or anyone you know would like to join us, please let me know, come to a practice, see how you do, experience singing in the choir! You might find you love it and think, "why have I waited so long? This is GREAT!" You can see me on any Sunday after worship if you would like to chat about it! - Bonnie Kidd, Choir Director

AD LIBITUM Concert Series. Celebrating its 14th year, our AD LIBITUM Concert Series returns on Friday, September 25, at noon with an organ concert "Salute to Bach" performed by Shin-Ae Chun. The program features organ music in different forms written by Johann Sebastian Bach. This will be a great opportunity for the audience to hear our 3-manual Robert Noehren Organ in full action in our acoustically beautiful sanctuary. It is a free concert open to all. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors!

Blessing of the Animals. Join us for a short, festive, outdoor service celebrating the gift of relationship between humans and animals on Sunday, September 27th at 4:00p. Bring your pets for a special blessing here at First Baptist! Alternatively, bring a picture of your pet to be blessed. We'll have Washtenaw Dairy donuts, cider, and pup cups, too! You're invited to make a donation to Maryanne Wright Animal Adoption and Education Center (<https://www.metrodetroitanimals.org/>) as part of our gathering together. Questions? Connect with Rayna Garcia (raynangarcia@gmail.com), member of our Outreach Board.

Save the Date for a service of installation honoring Pastor Laura on Sunday, October 11 at 10am. Join us in worship as we celebrate and covenant together for this new season of ministry at First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor!

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 or use the QR code.

Calendar

September 6	Worship @10:00a
September 7	Labor Day: Church Office closed
September 9	The Gathering @6:00p
September 10	Choir Rehearsal @7:30p
September 13	Coming Home Sunday Children's Church School begins
September 16	Bible Study @1:00p
September 20	Worship @10:00a Youth Group begins Adult Formation Class begins
September 25	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00p
September 27	Blessing of the Animals @4:00p
October 6	Hope Clinic Meal
October 11	Service of Installation for Pastor Laura @10:00a

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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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*