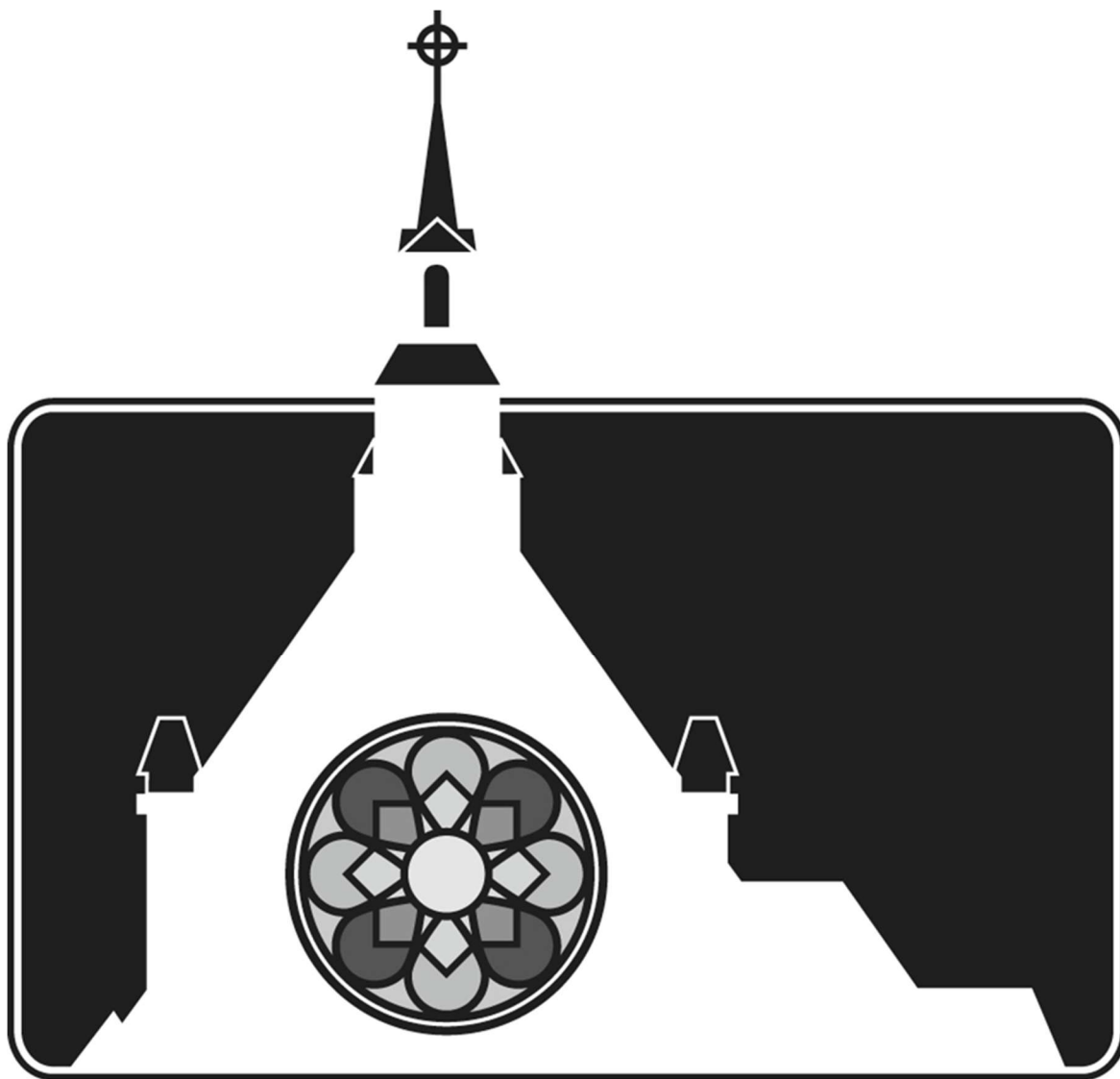




FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Xan Morgan

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord
(Tune: Land of Rest)

George Shearing
(1919-2011, English)

*OPENING PRAYER

Piper Morgan

* HYMN (see insert)

Gather Us In

GATHER US IN

*RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 103:8-13

Piper Morgan

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Many: The Lord will not chide, nor harbor anger.

One: The Lord does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our sinfulness.

**Many: For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is the Lord's steadfast love toward the faithful.**

One: As far as the east is from the west,
so far does the Lord remove our sins from us.

**Many: As a parent shows compassion to their children,
so does the Lord care for the faithful.**

*GLORIA (Hymn 72, sung twice)

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 14:1-12

Piper Morgan

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Sing to the Lord a New Song

Robert Lau

People and tongues of ev'ry nation sing to the Lord a new song.
Bring him a song of jubilation, sing to the Lord a new song.
All God's creatures, old men and children, voices raise in hymns of love.
He crowns the humble with salvation. Sing to the Lord a new song.

Mountains and hills and all creation sing to the Lord a new song.
Join in a hymn of adoration. Sing to the Lord a new song.
Praise His name, sing “Alleluia!” Praise him for his mighty deeds.
This is our song, our supplication: “Sing to the Lord a new song.”

Praise him, shining stars, and praise him highest heavens.
Oh, all kings and princes praise his holy name.
Angels above make melody to him.
Now lift your voice, lift up your heart, and sing, and sing!

Come, Christians all, now raise your voices, sing to the Lord a new song.
Praise and thanksgiving be your choices, sing to the Lord a new song.
Sound the trumpet, play on the lute and harp; dance your dance, and shout for joy.
Make music now as heav’n rejoices, sing to the Lord a new song.
Sing! Sing! Sing a new song.

*GOSPEL READING	Matthew 18:21-35	Pastor Laura
One: The Word of God for the People of God		
All: Thanks be to God!		

*CONGREGATIONAL SONG	Seek Ye First (v.1)	<i>SEEK YE</i>
-----------------------------	---------------------	----------------

TIME AS CHILDREN	Xan Morgan
(Children in 6 th grade and younger come forward.)	

BLESSING OF OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAMS
(Following the blessing, kids in 6th grade and younger will leave for Children’s Ministry.)

SERMON	<i>The Practice of Forgiveness</i>	Pastor Laura
---------------	------------------------------------	--------------

SILENT REFLECTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #549 (w. 1, 3, 4, 5; see insert)		
(Collecting of prayer cards)	Where Charity and Love Prevail	<i>ST. PETER</i>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Pastor Laura
The Lord’s Prayer (“debts” – hymnal page 896)	

OFFERING OF GIFTS *We Would Offer Thee This Day* Jane M. Marshall

Jane M. Marshall

We would offer thee this day, O God, with sobered minds what we are: that to the enrichment of our life, and of all life, thou mayest make of it what thou wilt. Grant us to be weary of our own too safe and cautious lives, and from thy certain Presence here to bring back into this defeated world some liberating sense, some sense of that inheritance which has always been ours, except for our poor dealing with it. So fulfill in us what thou didst intent when thy hands shaped us, and of thy grace fit us for thy service. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow *OLD 100TH*

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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Pastor Laura

Pastor Laura

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** Pastor Laura

Pastor Laura

Greeting: May the peace of Christ be with you.
Response: And also with you.

***HYMN #664** (see insert) Sent Forth By God's Blessing *THE ASH GROVE*

THE ASH GROVE

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Laura

Pastor Laura

POSTLUDE *How Firm a Foundation* William Bolcom

William Bolcom
(b.1938, American)

William Bolcom

(b.1938, American)

*Please stand in body or spirit

*The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God
in gratitude for our church family.*

~ The Alaniz family ~

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.**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

517 East Washington Street

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-2015

Telephone: 734/663-9376

Email: office@fbca2.org

Website: fbca2.org

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*

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 for our Coming Home Celebration after worship! We'll gather outside for live jazz music, a delicious popcorn bar, and face painting! It's good to be back together after summer travels and schedules! Please stop by the Sunday Morning Ministry table under the portico to sign up to read, greet, provide flowers, host fellowship time, make a meal for our campus ministry, and serve communion this fall.

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. All children in 6th grade and younger, leave for Children's Ministry following Time as Children. Please pick up your children after worship to join you for the Coming Home Celebration. 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 or send a financial contribution to the church.

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.

Evening Bible Study. Last year a group of us worked through the Yale Bible Study's lessons on Genesis and Mark. We are returning to the YBS this fall to work through the lessons on Exodus, and we would be glad to have you join us. The study will involve 8 weekly meetings that will take place on Wednesdays, from 7-8 pm at the church. The time commitment is 1-2 hours of reading and reflection in advance of each meeting, plus the meeting itself. The first meeting will occur on Wednesday, September 23. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Clay Scott or the church office.

Membership Matters! Membership is about responding to God's call to take the next step in your spiritual journey, and to belong to a community of people who are striving together to do the work of God's limitless love with purpose and passion. By becoming a member of First Baptist Church, you are making a commitment to partner with us as we seek together to claim, cultivate, and proclaim the good news of God's love for our world. Your commitment will make a positive difference in your life, in the life of this church, and in the world around us. How do I become a member? That's a great question, and we're glad you asked! **Join us on Sunday, September 20th at 8:45a in the Campus Center living room** to connect with Pastor Laura as we share more about membership and hear from you too! We'll have a **Blessing of New Members during worship on Sunday, October 4.** Contact Pastor Laura (Laura@fbca2.org) with questions or to express your interest.

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 13	Coming Home Sunday Children's Church School begins
September 16	Bible Study @1:00p The Gathering @6:00p
September 17	Choir Rehearsal @7:30p
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 Executive Council @7:00p
October 11	Service of Installation for Pastor Laura @10:00a