



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

DO JUSTICE. LOVE KINDNESS. WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.
—MICAH 6:8

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

*Invites you to a Service of Worship and Installation
for Reverend Laura Harris-Adam*

October 11th at 10:00am

Reception to follow
517 E Washington St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104



Livestream at
fbca2.org

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!



Learn More About Membership

this Sunday, Sept 20
at 8:45a

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 this 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.



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](#) as part of our gathering together. Questions? Connect with [Rayna Garcia](#), member of our Outreach Board.



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!



Join Our Youth Group for the 2026 CROP Hunger Walk! You are invited to join the youth of First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor as we participate in the **52nd Annual Ann Arbor Area CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 4, 2026**. Proceeds from the walk help combat hunger both locally and around the world through Church World Service and local hunger-relief partners.

The walk will be hosted at **First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor**. Registration begins at **1:00 PM**, with the outdoor send-off at **2:00 PM**. This year's route is a little over one mile, and walkers may complete the route multiple times if they wish.

Whether you walk, donate, or both, your participation will make a difference in the fight against hunger. We would love to have members of all ages join our youth as we walk together in faith and service.

Join the First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor team or make a donation [here](#).

Learn more about the Ann Arbor Area CROP Hunger Walk [here](#).

[Register or donate here!](#)



Meals for the Gathering. The Gathering, our campus ministry led by Pastor Laura, meets each Wednesday evening for dinner and conversation. Our hope is for the congregation to support this ministry by providing dinner – home-cooked or otherwise! Please choose a date that works for you to provide a meal for 6. Dinners should be dropped off in the Campus Center kitchen ready to serve by 6p. Not a cook? That's OK! Contributions to arrange for a meal from a local restaurant are also greatly appreciated! [You can sign up here!](#) Feel free to contact Pastor Laura if you have any questions.



**AD LIBITUM
CONCERT SERIES**
Celebrating its 14th year, 2026-2027
Free Concerts and Open to the Public
Fridays at noon

“Salute to Bach”

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

**September 25, 2026
Friday at Noon**

Ad Libitum Concert Series. The 14th season of our AD LIBITUM Concert Series features four piano concerts as well as one organ concert and two lecture-performance concerts. The guest musicians who will perform this season have inspired many people with their music at various places not only in this country but also around the world. Music is a universal language indeed any one can enjoy anywhere. You can check out the programs [here](#). All concerts are free and open to the public. Mark your calendar! Invite your friends and neighbors so they can have First Baptist as their place to hear beautiful music!

The Pastor Search Committee has been transformed! FBC of Ann Arbor's church moderator, Mary Davis, has appointed this group to serve as the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC). In American Baptist tradition, the PRC is a liaison and communication link between the congregation and pastor. Members of the

PRC are available to listen to ideas, affirmations, and concerns from the congregation that will be kept in confidence and shared appropriately with Pastor Laura. In the same way, the PRC will listen to and support Pastor Laura in her ministry, provide support for her family, and share communications with the congregation from Pastor Laura as appropriate. Our plan is to meet every other month. This group will convene for one year then a few members will rotate off and a few new members will join. Thank you for your continued confidence in us as a team! We are committed to healthy ministry and relationships among us all.

Your partners in ministry,

LJ Brazier, Toni Burton, Bill Foster, DJ Reed, Gretchen Sanewsky, Julie Smith, David Suell

FORMATION



Eat and Greet! Starting this Sunday, our kids (ages 4 yrs through 6th grade) are going to join the teens and adults at Fellowship Time (11:10-11:30)! We are delighted to have such an intergenerational community and we are hearing from the community that you would like opportunities to know one another. We'll have a cart of activities in the Fellowship Hall to help facilitate engagement. Pull a question out of the question jar and ask 2 people (who are not your age) the question. Grab a couple of mandalas and color at a table together. Use a Connect Bingo board to learn new things about people. Or give a puzzle a try!

Parents will pick up their children from the church school classrooms after worship and be responsible for supervision during these 20 minutes. When parents plan to stay for adult formation (11:30-12:30p), supervised play will be available in the Play Space upstairs.



Toni Burton and Gwen Mills learning Japanese together during Fellowship Time

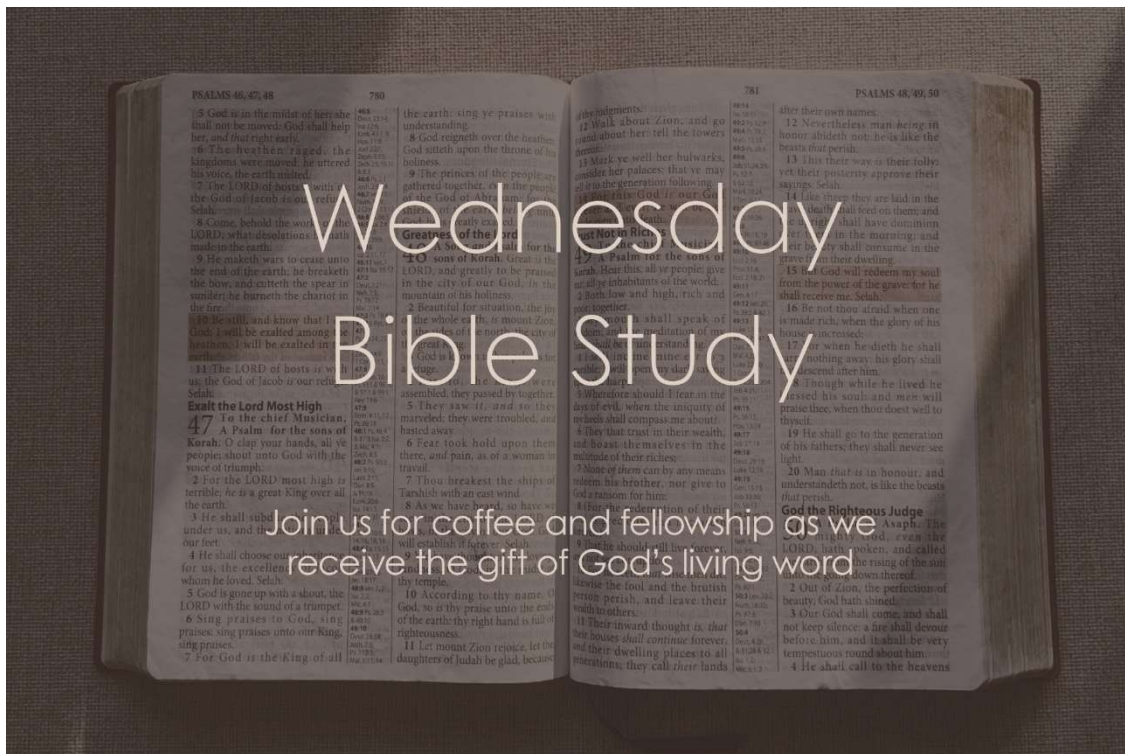
Adult Formation. Following church beginning Sunday, September 20, we will have a short series exploring the theme of covenant. We will consider the biblical covenants alongside our church covenant. These sessions will help us to understand what a pastoral installation service is all about as we make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

Youth Group (students in grades 7-12) starts back up on September 20. For more information, contact [Pastor Laura](#) or [Robbie Stapleton](#).

Young (ish) Adults Group: If you consider yourself a young (ish) adult (roughly 20s-40s), come join us for fellowship and reflection in the Library (downstairs next to Fellowship Hall) for formation hour. Our kickoff meeting for this year is September 27th. Please contact Meg Suell (meghansuell@gmail.com), Jamie Mills (jamie.mills08@yahoo.com), or Valerie Francia (valerie1francia@gmail.com) for more information.



Yale Bible Study Group. 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.



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 these classes.

The Gathering. Our Campus ministry meets on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30p in the campus center living room. Join us for a free meal and conversation centered on reflections from the book *God Didn't Make Us to Hate Us* by Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail. No pre-reading required!

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Dear Church Family,

As some of you have been made aware, I will very soon (this Sunday evening, in

fact!) be embarking on a new phase in my life and education in Cambridge in the UK. I will be attending Westminster College in the city of Cambridge, which is a member institution of the Cambridge Theological Federation, which is associated with both the University of Cambridge and the University of Durham; it is not, however, a constituent college of either university, but an independent seminary which works with them, along with the other seminaries in the Federation. I will be, for the following year, pursuing a Graduate Diploma in Theology, Ministry, and Mission, which will serve as a "bridge program" to introduce me to the world of academic theology and biblical scholarship before I pursue a Master in Divinity and/or a PhD -- this was recommended to me as I had no formal training in theology or biblical studies in my undergraduate studies. I will be studying everything from Christian Doctrine, the Hebrew Bible, and Koine Greek, to interfaith relations in the UK and the theology of trauma. I am very excited to begin this new journey, and I will keep you all updated as regularly as I can, and you will be in my heart always as I am across the sea.

Peace,
Isaac





Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to host our Coming Home Sunday! And a special shoutout to Bob and Bonnie Kidd and Xan Morgan for these great pictures!

ABWM Announcement. Our Central Area ABWM (American Baptist Women of Michigan) are hosting an event on Saturday October 17th at Immanuel Baptist Church, [1565 E. Forest Ave., Ypsilanti, MI](#). It is a fun day of fellowship - we will have puzzles and games for those who wish to come and fellowship and get to know other Christian women in our area and state. It includes a lite breakfast and lunch! Just \$15 per person. See the posters up in church, and/or ask [Carolyn Grapentine](#) about the details. I hope you will join us and meet up with old or new friends!

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](#).

Limited Office Hours this week. Kat will be away from the office until September 28 and the office will be open Monday (9-21) and Friday (9-25) from 9am to 1pm. Please email or call/leave a message for [Pastor Laura](#) or [Xan Morgan](#) if urgent.

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, October 1. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 29.

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