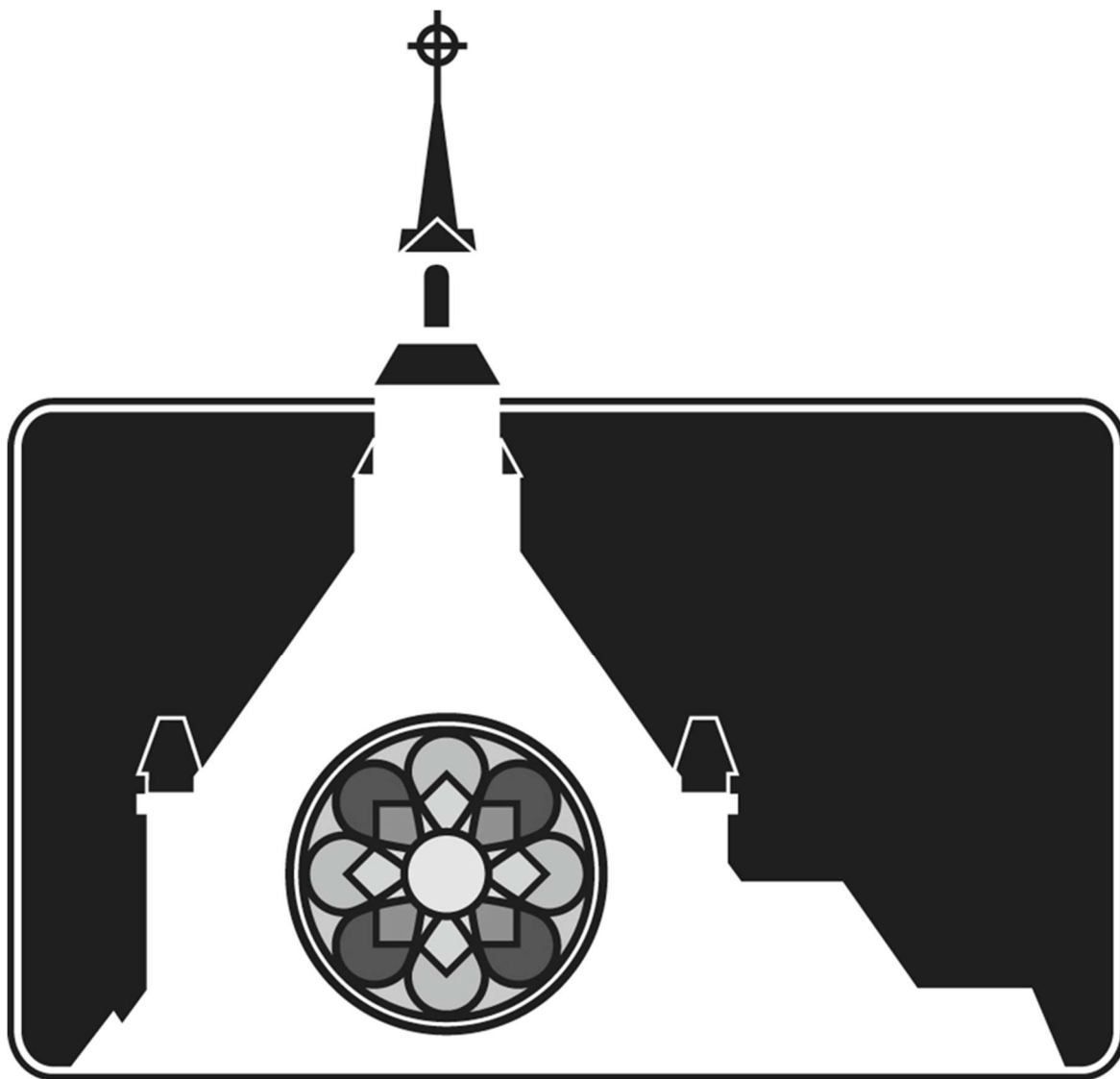




FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Xan Morgan

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Nicaea
(Holy, Holy, Holy)

Robert Buckley Farlee
(b.1950, American)

*OPENING PRAYER

Carolyn Grapentine

*HYMN #77 (see insert)

How Great Thou Art

HOW GREAT THOU ART

*RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

Carolyn Grapentine

One: We will exalt you, O God, and bless your name forever and ever.

Many: Every day we will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

One: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; there is no end to your greatness.

Many: One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

One: They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works we will meditate.

Many: They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds, and will declare your greatness.

One: They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

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

*GLORIA (Hymn 72, sung twice)

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 16:2-15

Carolyn Grapentine

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM*On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand*

Earlene Rentz

*On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possession lie.
O'er all those wide extended plains shines one eternal day
When love forevermore shall reign, and turn the night to day. Refrain
There David stands with harp in hand as master of the choir;
Ten thousand times was David blessed, the music ran with power. Refrain
No fear or sorrows or distress shall reach that blissful shore;
All sickness, suff'ring, pain, and death are felt and feared no more.
I'm bound for the promised land; I'm bound for the promised land;
Oh, who will come and go with me? I'm bound for the promised land!*

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 20:1-16

Pastor Laura

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God!**CONGREGATIONAL SONG**

Seek Ye First (v.1)

*SEEK YE***TIME AS CHILDREN**

Xan Morgan

(Children in 6th grade and younger come forward. Following Time as Children, kids will go to Children's Ministry. Grown-ups will pick up kids from their classrooms after worship.)

SERMON*But It's Not Fair*

Pastor Laura

SILENT REFLECTION

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** (see insert) For the Fruit of All Creation
(Collecting of prayer cards)

*AR HYD Y NOS***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor Laura

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

OFFERING OF GIFTS*Almighty and Everlasting God*

Orlando Gibbons

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth Thy right hand to help and defend us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

OLD 100TH

Pastor Laura

Pastor Laura

Response: And also with you.

BEACH SPRING

Pastor Laura

William Mathias
(1934-1992, Welsh)

*Please stand in body or spirit

*The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Annabel Erskine and Ivy Marzano.*

~ Elli Barron ~

We pray for **Noreen Wolcott, Grange Burnside, Pidgey Karolyi, 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 downstairs after worship for fellowship time. 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. All children in 6th grade and younger, leave for Children's Ministry following Time as Children. Please pick up your children (4 yrs through 6th grade) after worship to join you for Fellowship Time. There is supervised play upstairs in the Play Space for families who choose to stay for adult formation. 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 today, 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).

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!

The Gathering is our campus ministry on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:30 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. This fall our conversations will be centered on reflections from the book *God Didn't Make Us to Hate Us*, by Lizzie McManus-Dail. No pre-reading required. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry, contact Pastor

Laura (laura@fbca2.org) 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.

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, in the lounge. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Clay Scott (clayscot@umich.edu) 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! 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.

The Pastor Search Committee has been transformed! FBC of Ann Arbor's Executive Council 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.

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!

AD LIBITUM Concert Series. Celebrating its 14th year, our AD LIBITUM Concert Series returns this 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!

Young(ish) Adult 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. Supervised play for kids will be provided upstairs in the Play Space. Please contact Meg Suell (meghansuell@gmail.com), Jamie Mills (jamie.mills08@yahoo.com), or Valerie Francia (valerie1francia@gmail.com) for more information.

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.

Join Our Youth Group for the 2026 CROP Hunger Walk! I invite you to join me and 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 at fbca2.org/connect. Questions? Connect with DJ Reed (djayreed@gmail.com), chair of our Mission Action 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!

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!

Limited Office Hours This Week. Kat will be out of the office until Monday, September 28. The office will be open on Monday and Friday, from 9:00a to 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 or use the QR code.

Calendar

September 20	Worship @10:00a Youth Group begins Adult Formation Class begins Acolyte Training @11:30a
September 23	Bible Study @1:00p The Gathering @6:15p Evening Bible Study @7:00p
September 24	Choir Rehearsal @7:30p
September 25	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00p
September 27	Worship @10:00a Blessing of the Animals @4:00p
October 4	Worship @10:00a Blessing of New Members CROP Walk (1:00p register, 2:00p start)
October 6	Hope Clinic Meal Executive Council @7:00p
October 11	Service of Installation for Pastor Laura @10:00a

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*