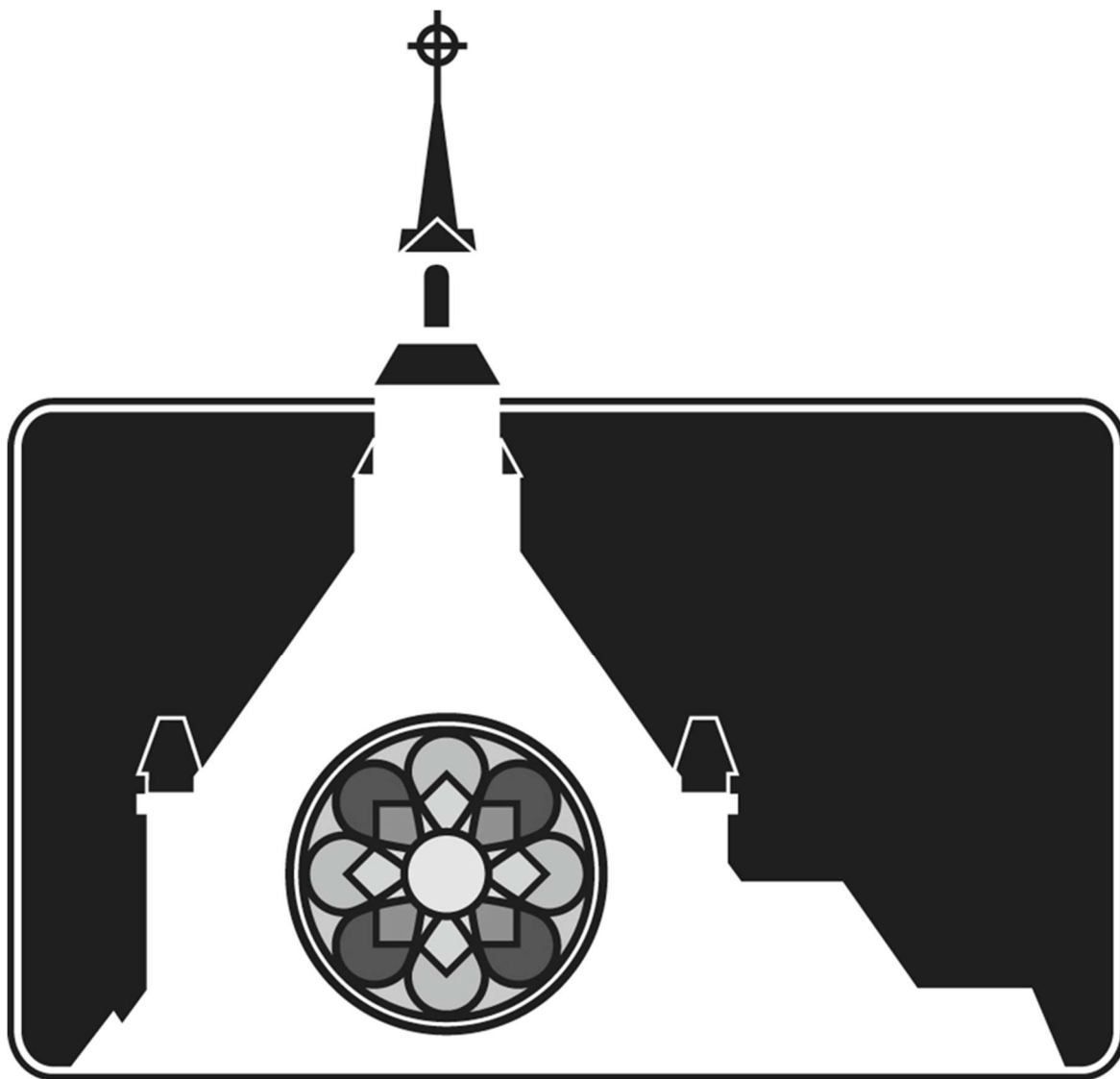




FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Xan Morgan

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend (Variation 4)* Georg Böhm
(Lord Jesus Christ, Turn to Us) (1661-1733, German)

*OPENING PRAYER

Amelia Mills

***HYMN #127** (see insert) Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

***RESPONSIVE PSALM** Psalm 78:1-4 Amelia Mills

One: Listen, my people, to my teaching: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

Many: That which we have heard and known, and what our ancestors have told us, we will not hide from their children.

One: We will recount to generations to come

Many: the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works God has done.

***GLORIA** (Hymn 72, sung twice)

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 17: 1-7

Amelia Mills

ANTHEM *Be Thou My Vision*

Arr. by Dan Forrest

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart,
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art,
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my True Word,
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor men's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always,
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'ns Sun,
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 21: 23-32 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 *It's Okay to Change Your Mind* Pastor Laura

SILENT REFLECTION

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #398** (see insert)
(Collecting of prayer cards) *Jesus Calls Us* *GALILEE*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Laura
The Lord's Prayer ("debts" – hymnal page 896)

OFFERING OF GIFTS *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
arr. by Eric Nelson

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above. Amen.

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.

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

POSTLUDE *Ich dank dir, lieber Herre, Op.65, No.37* Sigfrid Karg-Elert
(*I Thank You, Dear Lord*) (1877-1933, German)

~ Harvey & Phyllis Slaughter ~

We pray for **David Robbins, Noreen Wolcott, Grange Burnside, 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 on Sundays. We 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. Join us after worship for 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!

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 Today. 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 today 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.

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.

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 AD LIBITUM Concert Series presents a concert "Piano" on Friday, October 16, at noon. John Mortensen, Professor of Music at Cedarville University, will perform his own improvisations in a variety of historical styles which is his specialty along with music written by Bach, Rameau, Couperin, Scarlatti, and Royer. This will be a rare opportunity to see and hear how a musician's mind works as he improvises. It is a free concert and open to all. Mark your calendar! Invite your friends and neighbors to listen to beautiful music in our sanctuary!

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!

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 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 Afternoon Bible Study. Anyone is welcome to join our Bible Study from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in the Lounge. Pastor Laura will lead a discussion of the lectionary readings for the Sunday in two weeks.

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 involves 8 weekly meetings that take place on Wednesdays, from 7-8 pm at the church in the Lounge. Our first meeting was on September 23. The time commitment is 1-2 hours of reading and reflection in advance of each meeting, plus the meeting itself. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Clay Scott (clayscot@umich.edu) or the church office.

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!

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 27	Worship @10:00a Blessing of the Animals @4:00p
September 30	Bible Study @1:00p The Gathering @6:15p Evening Bible Study @7:00p
October 1	Choir Rehearsal @7:30p
October 4	Worship @10:00a Blessing of New Members CROP Walk @1:00p
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

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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*