



A Message From Pastor Laura

September marks the beginning of our program year here at First Baptist Church and the energy and busy-ness are palpable! Last Sunday after church, we had 10 youth and 5 adult leaders participate in our Youth Group lunch outing and fun with a photo booth at Potobox on Liberty. There was lots of silliness and plenty of excitement for the new year ahead. I sense that good positive energy throughout our community. We've got lots of plans already in place for learning and growing together in faith this fall. Please peruse the rest of this newsletter for all the details and mark your calendars to participate!

This Sunday, September 6 we will shift into our program year order of worship. In mid-August our staff team gathered to thoughtfully plan together an order of worship that would meaningfully honor and glorify God while attending to various needs.

We've structured our worship into four movements. The first movement is our gathering time as we prepare ourselves for worship, turning our attention to God. During the second movement, we will hear God's word through scripture readings and anthems and we will consider our understanding of God's word through interpretation and storytelling in Time As Children and the Sermon. In the third movement, we all have the opportunity to respond to God's word through song, prayer, giving of our gifts, and in gathering at the table on first Sundays. Finally, the fourth movement sends us out into the world to serve by greeting one another, singing a sending hymn, and being blessed for the week ahead.

We hope this fall's order of worship will feel familiar with some careful tweaks included. The staff team is excited for our children to remain in worship through

both a choir anthem and the scripture readings. There will be more time to fill out prayer cards, which will be collected during a hymn following the sermon. We're also looking forward to the opportunity for the prayers of the people to build on the themes from the sermon. My hope for worship is that we each find moments of connection, opportunities to ponder, and a deepening of our faith in worship. May God be glorified in our worship this fall!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Laura
Laura@fbca2.org
cell: 773-562-5891



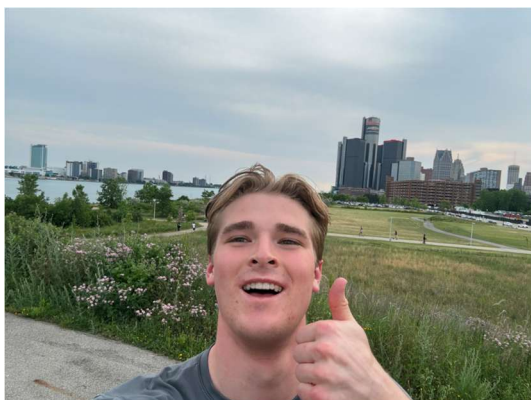
Join us for Coming Home Sunday on September 13! Join us for Coming Home Sunday on September 13! The Sanctuary Choir will already be back, Children's Ministry classes will begin, and after worship it will be time to party! Join us outside for live jazz music, a delicious popcorn bar, and face painting, 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.



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!

Fall 2026 FBCA2 Sextons

Meet the Sextons! Our FBCA2 Sextons are wonderful additions to our church community each school year. They live in the church and help us keep our building open to the community by assisting with all sorts of tasks both on Sundays and during the week. Take a moment to say hi and learn about them if you see them around! This year we have three new and two returning Sextons. Here's a little bit about them:



Kyle Schlaff is a senior at the University of Michigan studying Environmental Engineering and is excited to return for his second year as a Sexton at FBCA2. Kyle grew up in Muskegon, MI, and still enjoys swimming and skimboarding on Lake Michigan during the summer. In his free time, he enjoys playing guitar, lifting weights, and playing sports such as volleyball and basketball. Kyle is grateful to be part of the FBCA2 community and looks forward to another wonderful year assisting at the church!

Emilio Uribe Botero is a senior this year studying Economics at U-M. A graduate of Community High School just a few blocks away, Emilio is familiar with the area and happy to be back. In his free time, he enjoys working out, perfecting his French and spending time with friends and family. This past semester was spent studying abroad in Madrid, followed by a summer internship in New York.



Arsalan Alavi is a sophomore studying Economics at U-M. He has lived in Ann Arbor all his life, having graduated from Pioneer High School. In his free time he likes to work out, watch movies, read, cook, and is always open to learning something new! He is very grateful to be here and can't wait to form new connections.



Emmanuel Morgan is a Sophomore at the University of Michigan where he is studying Musical Theatre. Emmanuel is from Ann Arbor and has been a member at FBCA2 since 2017. He is excited to continue being a part of this church family in this new role. In his free time he loves to play the guitar and spend time with friends and family.



Giancarlo Santiago is a junior getting his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre. He was born and raised in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and is the son of two Puerto Rican parents. He's passionate about helping others and cultivating an environment of meaningful connection and fellowship. He's super excited to serve as a sexton and be a part of this incredible community.

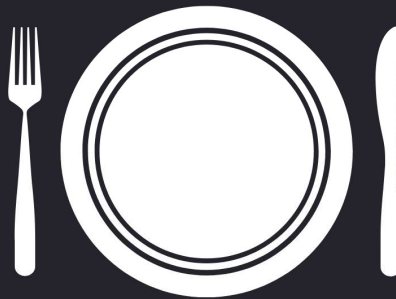


Membership Matters! Membership is about responding to God's call to take the next step in your spiritual journey, and to belong to a community of people who are striving together to do the work of God's limitless love with purpose and passion. By becoming a member of First Baptist Church, you are making 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.



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.

SUPPORT THE GATHERING



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 5:45p. 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.



Crop Hunger Walk. This year's CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 4. CROP Hunger Walks are community-based fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization that supports global responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts. Contact [DJ Reed](#) for any questions about the walk.

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



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!



Sign-up for Altar Flowers. It is a treat to have flowers for worship! Would you like to help make this happen? We are looking for 8-10 people to sign up for altar flowers to get a jump on fall sign ups - so if you're able to help, please select a Sunday by going to fbca2.org/connect. Scroll down to Flowers for Worship and click the link to the sign-up genius. Then, by the Wednesday before, [email Kat](#) with the dedication for the bulletin. Also by the Wednesday before, let Dana Larson of the Board of Worship know if you would like to have a floral arrangement (\$50) ordered from a local florist or if you prefer to bring your own flowers. If you're bringing your own flowers, please have them at church on Sunday morning by 9:40am. Thank you!



AD LIBITUM CONCERT SERIES

Celebrating its 14th year, 2026-2027
Free Concerts and Open to the Public
Fridays at noon

2026

SEPTEMBER 25

Salutz to Bach

Shin-Ae Chun, organ

Organ Music by J.S. Bach
Prelude and Fugue in D, Trio Sonata in c,
Concerto in d and Fantasy and Fugue in g

NOVEMBER 6

Piano

Takeshi Nagayasu, piano

Sonata in C by Joseph Haydn and
Etudes by Alexander Scriabin

OCTOBER 16

Piano

Improvisations in a variety of
historical styles and Music by Bach,
Rameau, Couperin, Scarlatti, and Royer
John Mortensen, piano

DECEMBER 15 (Tuesday)

Poems and Music 

for Winter and Christmas

Susan Schilperoort, Reader
Shin-Ae Chun, piano

2027

(Dates to be announced)

March – *What Is Organ* by Shin-Ae Chun

April – *What Is Harpsichord* by Shin-Ae Chun and Edward Parmentier

May – *Piano Duet* by Ling-Ju Lai and Shin-Ae Chun



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

517 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor
734/663-9376 / www.fbca2.org

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!

**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

FORMATION

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!

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

Sunday Young-Ish Adult Gathering. If you consider yourself to be a young-ish adult (roughly 20s - 40s), there's a small group for you! Our first meeting after our summer break will be on September 20th, gathering in the library after fellowship time. If you'd like to join our email list to get notified of our gatherings, contact [Meg Suell](#), [Valerie Francia](#), or [Jamie Mills](#).

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 will begin again on Wednesday, September 9 from 6-8p, in the campus center living room.

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

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](#).

First Half Contribution Statements. In an effort to conserve paper use and save on postage, the contribution statements are now being emailed using the Servant Keeper. It is yet another reason to set up a profile if you haven't already done so or check that information is up-to-date. The statements will go to the email address on file and you can even use the profile to check your contributions as needed. If you need a hard copy mailed, please email the church office (office@fbca2.org).

A Message from Community Action Network.

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you for helping to create brighter futures for children, youth, and families in under-resourced Washtenaw County neighborhoods. CAN envisions the closing of socio-economic gaps by providing educational and enrichment programs for children and teens, supportive services for families who are under-resourced, and challenging systems rooted in racism and inequality. Your donation of backpacks and school supplies will support CAN's high-impact, year-round programs that focus on Education, Stabilization, and

Community Building.

If you haven't already, we invite you to [visit our website](#) and subscribe to our newsletter to see how your contribution makes a difference. You are also invited to follow us on social media! We are on Instagram at /canannarbor and /canartdesign and Facebook at /canannarbor.

Thank you for being a part of the CAN community. We are excited about what we can accomplish together. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to info@canwashtenaw.org.

Sincerely,
Your friends at CAN

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, September 17. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 15.

