



Thank you to all who made the Service of Worship and Installation possible. Thank you to the Pastoral Search/Relations Committee for their participation in worship and preparation of the reception. Thank you to our staff team who made our worship holy and who made our guests feel welcome. Thank you to all our guests who joined us for this special day. Thank you to everyone for your presence and joyful spirit! What an incredible beginning to our shared ministry with Pastor Laura!









FBCA2 Church Family Dinner! As part of our goal to be an intentionally inter-generational church family, we invite you to an FBCA2 Family Dinner! The first will take place on Sunday, October 18th from 5-7 pm at the Mills' home (3144 Dexter Rd). Come as you are with no expectation to bring anything. Dinner will be chili, corn bread, and dessert and will take into account common allergens/restrictions. If you have concerns or really want to bring something, please get in touch with Jamie (925-324-4456 or jamie.mills08@yahoo.com). We will eat as a family and there will be entertainment for the children to facilitate fellowship among the adults. Looking forward to sharing a meal together!



All Saints Sunday

NOV 1

Sunday, November 1 is All Saints Sunday. Everyone is invited to participate in creating a space for remembering in the sanctuary. If you have a photograph or a small object to remember someone who has died, please bring it to the church on Sunday October 25 or November 1 for inclusion in the space of remembrance. Please be sure to label your photo or object. We look forward to a service of grateful remembrance, hope, and love; and we hope that the faces of many of the saints we have known will be visible to us all.

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. Invite your friends and neighbors to listen to beautiful music in our sanctuary!



AD LIBITUM CONCERT SERIES

Celebrating its 14th year, 2026-2027 ②
Free Concerts and Open to the Public
Fridays at noon

“piano”

Improvisations in historical styles
and Music by Bach, Rameau,
Couperin, Scarlatti, and Royer

John Mortensen, piano

October 16, 2026
Friday at Noon



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR
734-663-9376 / www.fbca2.org



AD LIBITUM CONCERT SERIES

Celebrating its 14th year, 2026-2027 ③
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“Piano”

Sonata in C by Joseph Haydn and
Etudes by Alexander Scriabin

Takeshi Nagayasu, piano

November 6, 2026
Friday at Noon



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For more information on the October
concert, please visit [here](#)

For more information on the
November concert, please visit [here](#)

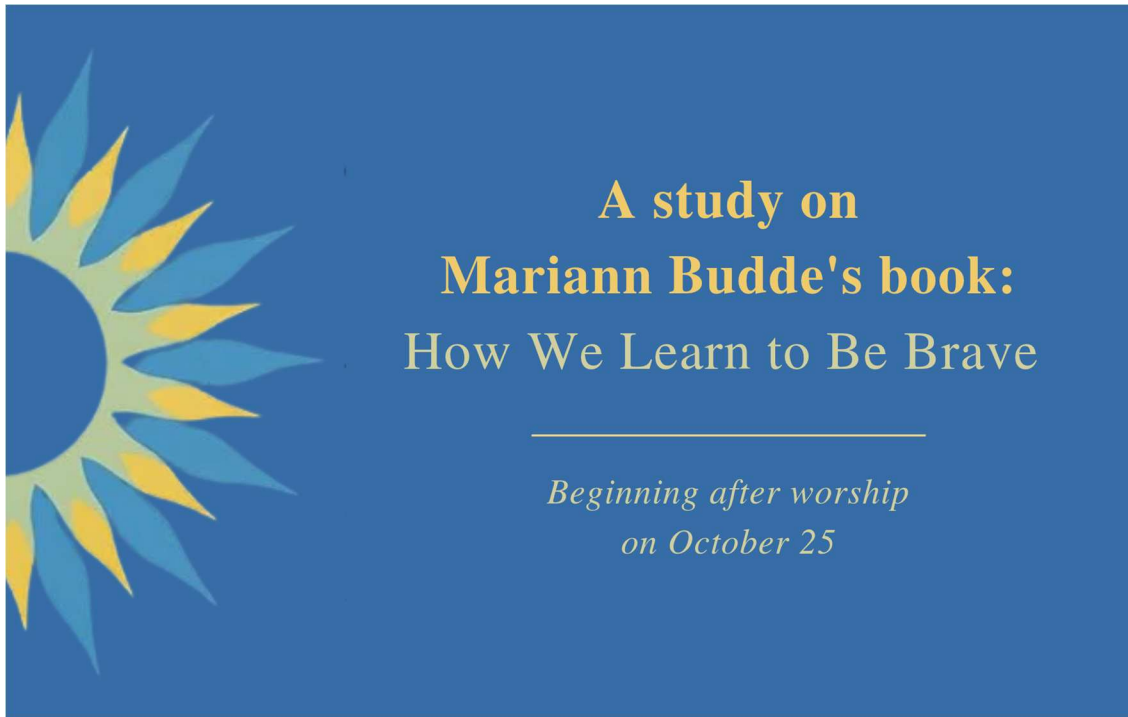


Tea with Pastor Laura. During these next several months, Pastor Laura hopes to meet with everyone connected to our community. Yes, even you! Meet up at your favorite coffee shop, visit in the FBCA2 office, or gather in your home. To sign up, go to the link at fbca2.org/connect and find a time that works 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!



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! *We have three more open dates this year.* 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.

FORMATION



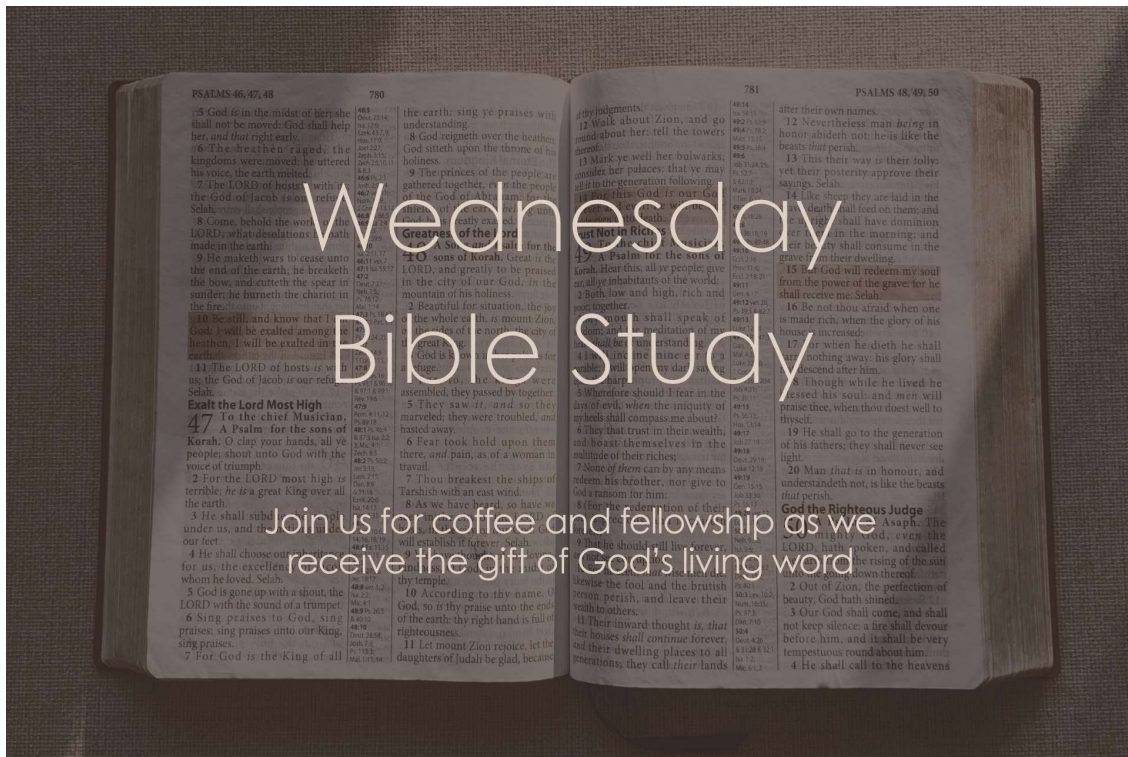
Adult Formation. Join Pastor Laura after worship beginning October 25 for a study centered on Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde's book *How We Learn to Be Brave*. We'll gather to discuss decisive moments in life when we're called on to push past our fears and act with strength. Books are available, please pick one up today!

Youth Group (students in grades 7-12) is back! 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. 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. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Clay Scott or the church office.



Wednesday Bible Study. Anyone interested is welcome to meet on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in the memorial lounge. Pastor Laura will lead a discussion of the lectionary readings for the Sunday in two weeks.

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

Letter of Congratulations from AWAB



October 11, 2026

Rev. Laura Harris-Adam
Members and Friends
c/o First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor
517 E. Washington St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Rev. Harris-Adam and Members and Friends of First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor:

On behalf of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, I am delighted to extend heartfelt congratulations to you as you begin this new season of ministry together.

It was an honor for me to visit First Baptist Church in July 2025 and to meet many members and friends of the congregation. I came away grateful for your hospitality and encouraged by the life, ministry, and witness of your church. It is especially exciting now to know that your Senior Pastor search and discernment process has brought you and Laura together.

Laura, your ministry at First Baptist Church of Indianapolis, along with the breadth of experience, wisdom, and commitment you bring from throughout your ministerial career, will be a wonderful gift to First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor. Likewise, the deep ministry experience, faithfulness, and gifts already present within the congregation offer such a strong foundation for your shared work. It seems a wonderful fit, and we celebrate with you.

AWAB is particularly grateful for the commitments you share to welcoming and affirming ministry and to creating a church where LGBTQ+ people are fully embraced within the life, leadership, and ministry of the congregation. Your witness matters, and we are grateful to count First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor among the congregations helping embody a more inclusive and expansive Baptist witness.

Please know of AWAB's prayers and encouragement as you fully engage this new season together. May your ministry be marked by joy, courage, imagination, deepening relationships, and a shared sense of God's presence and possibility among you.

Congratulations, Laura, and congratulations to the entire First Baptist Church community! We look forward to all that lies ahead and to continuing our ministry alongside you.

With gratitude and every good wish,

Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson
Executive Director

Thanks to all who supported this year's Crop Walk! And thanks to our walkers: Pastor Laura, Nancy Paul, Cynthia and Lizzie Redinger, and DJ and Heather Reed.





FBCA2 Ladies' Book Club. At the end of October, the FBCA2 Ladies' Book Club will discuss *The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald* by John U. Bacon. We will meet Tuesday, October 27th, 6:30 pm at Janice Stumpf's house for refreshments and polite conversation. Hope you can join us! Please contact [Janice](#) or [Mary Gregg](#) if you have any questions.

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!

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 21. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, October 19.



FETZER

M | RELIGIOUS, SECULAR
& SPIRITUAL LIFE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

PRESENT

Retelling Sacred Stories

A SHARED SACRED STORY
FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

PANEL DISCUSSION AND
COMMUNITY EXPLORATION

Thursday,
October 22, 2026
4:30 – 7:00 PM
Michigan League (Koessler Room)
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



**SCAN TO
REGISTER**

At a time when religious, cultural and political differences can feel increasingly difficult to bridge, the University of Michigan and the Fetzer Institute will bring scholars, spiritual practitioners, community leaders and musicians together in Ann Arbor to consider a provocative question: Can humanity find a shared sacred story without erasing the distinct stories and traditions that make us who we are? A Shared Sacred Story for the Human Family: A Panel Discussion and Community Exploration will take place Thursday, October 22, 2026, at the Michigan League's Koessler Room, 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. A community reception with light refreshments and live improvisational jazz begins at 4:30 p.m., followed by the program from 5:30–7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.
