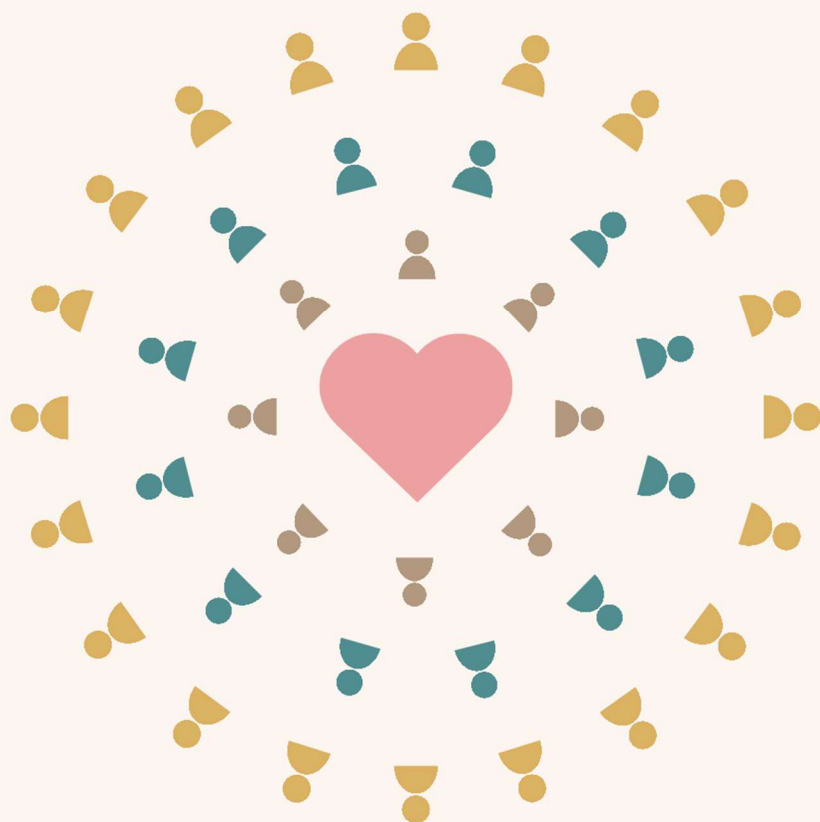




BE KNOWN · BE STILL · BE LOVE

*I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another just as I have loved you.*

JOHN 13:34

October 25, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Xan Morgan

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 731

Johann Sebastian Bach

*OPENING PRAYER

Chris Grapentine

*HYMN #64 (see insert)

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

NICAEA

*RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 90:1-6, 15

Chris Grapentine

One: Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Many: Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

One: You turn us back to the dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth."

Many: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night.

One: You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

Many: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

All: Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us and as many years as we have seen evil.

*GLORIA (Hymn 72, sung twice)

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Chris Grapentine

ANTHEM

Assurance

arr. by John Ness Beck

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 22:34-40 Pastor Laura
One: The Word of God for the People of God
All: Thanks be to God!

CONGREGATIONAL SONG *They'll Know We Are Christians* (refrain) *ST. BRENDAN*

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.)

STEWARDSHIP ENGAGEMENT
Throughout the Stewardship Season, we'll engage with the theme during worship. Today's theme is Be Known. We invite you to fill out the "I Am Someone Who..." card in your bulletin and bring it forward while we sing the first verse of They'll Know We are Christians twice.

SERMON *The Greatest Commandment* Pastor Laura

SILENT REFLECTION

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #526** (see insert) *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*
(Collecting of prayer cards) *CONVERSE*

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

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION Toni Burton

CALL FOR THE OFFERING Pastor Laura

OFFERING OF GIFTS *If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments* Thomas Tallis
If ye love Me, keep My commandments, and I will pray the Father
And He shall give you another Comforter
That He may abide with you forever.
Even the Spirit of truth.

OLD 100TH

Pastor Laura

Pastor Laura

Response: And also with you.

GIFT OF LOVE

Pastor Laura

Théodore Salomé

*Please stand in body or spirit

*The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God
in appreciation of the beautiful Michigan autumn.*

~ The Bowens ~

We pray for **David Robbins, Noreen Wolcott, Cindy Harrison, 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 welcome **Takeshi Nagayasu** to the organ this morning. He is a pianist from Japan who previously studied at Juilliard and Yale, currently pursuing a doctoral degree at University of Michigan. He holds a Colleague Certificate from the Organist Guild. As an organist, he performs regularly at the Emanuel Church, First Methodist United Church, in the Division Pipe concert series, and with the Ann Arbor Community Orchestra and Choir.

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. Starting today at 11:30a in the Lounge, Pastor Laura begins 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!

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. We invite all to participate.

Volunteers Needed for Fellowship Time. Hosting fellowship time is a fun, low-pressure way for families and individuals to serve! Many of our volunteers love getting to catch up with and meet members during the time after church. We especially need volunteers as we head into the end of the year and the holiday season. Sign up at fbca2.org/connect or email Christine Hwang (christinehw3@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

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.

Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series presents "Piano Concert" on Friday, November 6 at noon, performed by Takeshi Nagayasu. The program includes music by Granados, Haydn and Scriabin. Takeshi has won prizes at several national international piano competitions in recent years. This will be an exciting concert which is free and open to all. Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors to get refreshed and re-energized through music in our beautiful sanctuary!

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!

Contribution Statements. You can access your contribution statements anytime on your Servant Keeper profile. If you need help setting up or accessing your profile, please reach out to Christina Alaniz (cnalaniz@umich.edu). Third quarter statements are available. If you would like a hard copy sent in the mail, please let the church office know.

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.

2026 Stewardship Season: Be Known. Be Still. Be Love. We're excited to kick off our stewardship season in worship today! We look forward to meaningful moments in worship over the next four weeks and to sharing more information in all our regular communication channels. Our Budget Committee has set a pledge goal of raising \$493,081 (6% increase of our 2026 pledged giving) based on the ministry budget requests made by our seven boards. Throughout the season, you can make your 2027 pledge commitment online at fbca2.org/connect or with the hard copy pledge card that will will receive in the mail this week. The Stewardship Team will also be sharing one-time gift opportunities (see below) each Sunday that highlight our ministry goals in the new year. These gifts provide an opportunity to give in 2026 for the 2027 ministry budget. Feel free to connect with members of the Stewardship Team - Pastor Laura, Amanda Shutko, Martin Magers, Robbie Stapleton, Toni Burton, Valerie Francia, and Xan Morgan - at any time! Copies of the 2026 Financial Report (originally shared in January) are at a Ministry Station in the hallway if you'd like one. Kat Becker (office@fbca2.org), our office admin can email you an electronic copy as well. Specific questions about the budget, can be directed to our Budget Committee chair, Bill Foster (wm.foster1201@gmail.com).

One-Time Gift: Today, the Stewardship Team invites you to make a one-time "**REACH OUT**" gift (\$50) as we celebrate the theme, **Be Known**. This donation is in honor of our 2027 goal to get the word out to our community about who we are at First Baptist and to introduce our new pastor! This donation will be made in 2026 and go towards our 2027 operating budget. You can make your donation with a check/cash and place it in the offering plate at the doors or through PayPal, using the QR code below. We ask that one-time donations be made by the end of our Stewardship season, November 15th.



**“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another
just as I have loved you.” - John 13:34**



Seek, serve, and grow with us! More information about these opportunities at fbca2.org/connect or use the QR code.

Calendar

October 25	Worship Service @10:00a
October 28	The Gathering @6:15p Evening Bible Study @7:00p
October 29	Choir Rehearsal @7:30p
November 1	Worship Service @10:00a
November 6	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00p

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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*