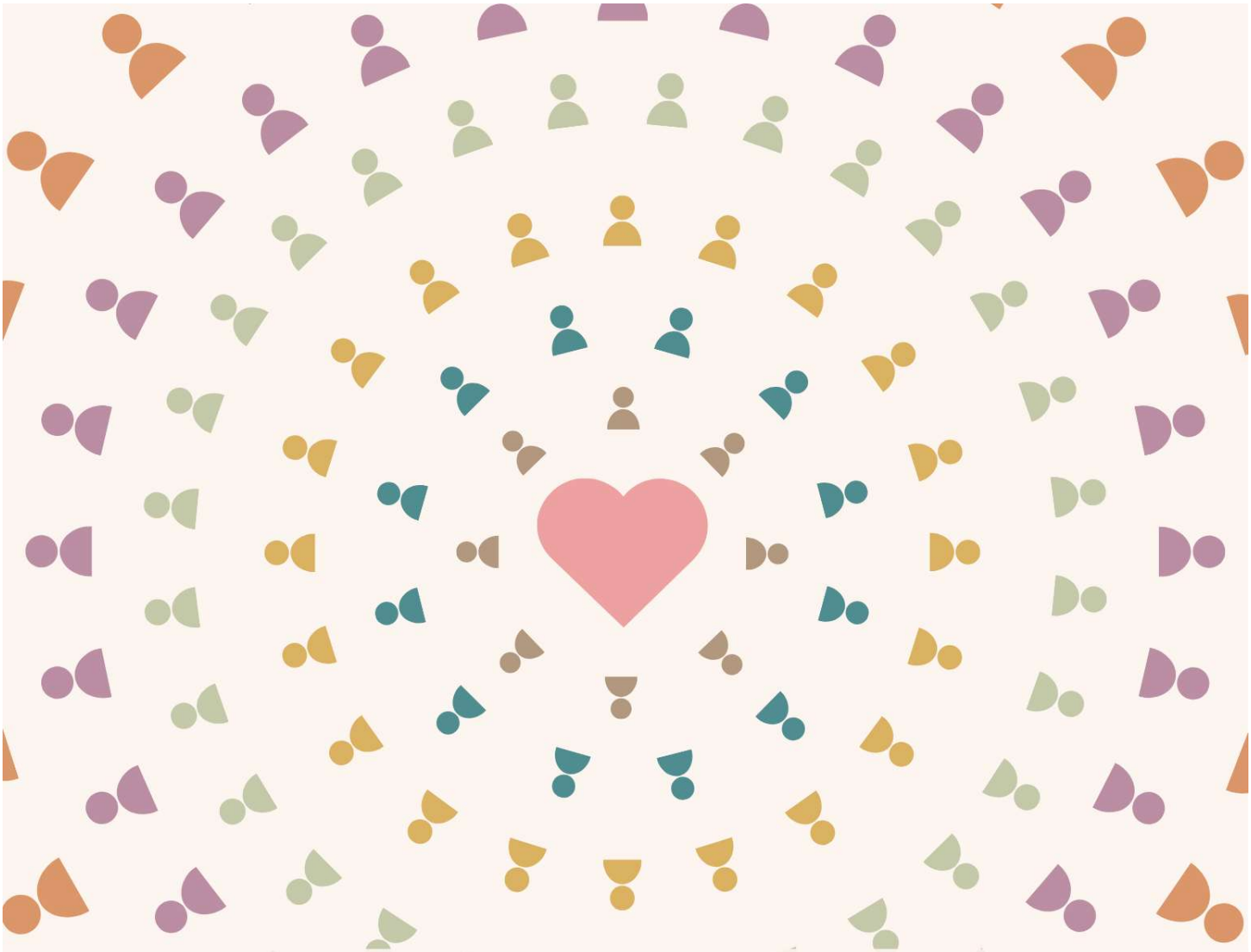


BE KNOWN · BE STILL · BE LOVE

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

JOHN 13:34

November 15, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Xan Morgan

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE *For the Beauty of the Earth* Neil Harmon
(b.1967, American)

***OPENING PRAYER** Tom Harris-Adam

***HYMN #694** (see insert) *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* *ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR*

***RESPONSIVE PSALM** Psalm 123:1,3-4 Tom Harris-Adam

One: To you I lift up my eyes,
Many: O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
One: Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy.
Many: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy.
One: For we have had more than enough contempt.
Many: We have had more than enough scorn.
One: We have had more than enough shame.
Many: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy.

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

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Tom Harris-Adam

One: The Word of God for the People of God
All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *Have Mercy on Me, O God* Carl Schalk

Have mercy on me, O God.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Have mercy on me, O God.
Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee.
Have mercy on me, O God.

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 25:14-30 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.)

IN-GATHERING AND TIME OF COMMITMENT

"They Will Know We Are Christians"

BLESSING OF OUR COMMITMENTS Pastor Laura

SERMON *Be Daring* Pastor Laura

SILENT REFLECTION

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #399** (see insert) *Take My Life, and Let It Be MESSIAH*

(Collecting of prayer cards)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Laura

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

CALL FOR THE OFFERING Pastor Laura

OFFERING OF GIFTS *Treasures in Heaven* Joseph W. Clokey

Jennie Rupp, soprano solo

Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth,
Where moth and rust doth corrupt,
and where thieves break through and steal.
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find.
Knock and it shall be opened unto you,
For everyone that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth,
And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* *OLD 100TH*

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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Pastor Laura

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** Pastor Laura

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

***HYMN** (see insert) *Let All Things Now Living* *ASH GROVE*

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Laura

POSTLUDE *Aus meines Herzens Grunde sag ich dir Lob und Dank*
(From the Bottom of My Heart I Offer You Praise and Thanks)
Sigfrid Karg-Elert
(1877-1933, German)

*Please stand in body or spirit

The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God
in celebration of Kevin's birthday and the light that shines through him.

~ XEAP Morgan ~

We pray for **David Robbins, Noreen Wolcott, Grange Burnside, 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 from 11:30a-12:30p for snacks, games, and meaningful discussion.
What is Thanksgiving without pies??? First Baptist youth and the youth ministry team will join Amanda Shutko in the kitchen next **Sunday, November 22,** to make pies (and eat some!) for the Blessing Shed in Jackson Michigan, a food pantry that serves food to folks in need, no questions asked.
On **December 20**, let's celebrate the season together by heading to Kerrytown for the Artisan's Market and treats. We'll leave right after church and return to church at the end of Adult Formation (11:15a - 12:30p). Church will provide the treats, but bring your pennies to buy that last-minute, artistic, token of love for someone special (like your mom) if you like. For more information, contact Pastor Laura (laura@fbca2.org) or Robbie Stapleton (robbiestapleton@gmail.com).

Adult Formation. We continue our 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. Our reading schedule is as follows:

- November 15 - Chapters 4 and 5
- November 22 - Chapters 6 and 7, Epilogue

Holiday Collection for the Hikone Community. For over 17 years we have collected food, hygiene, and household supplies for our friends in the Hikone housing community, one of the sites of Community Action Network. The December school vacation is very tough on low-income families because children are not in school to receive their breakfast and lunch so more food is needed at home. And as you are aware, prices keep rising for basic household and hygiene supplies which are not covered by the Bridge card (SNAP benefits). The families at Hikone are so grateful because your donations help stretch their limited budgets so that there may be extra funds in which to buy gifts and special foods for the holidays.

We are providing for 30 families so please consider donating multiples of the same item and please donate individual family sized quantities (e.g. 3-4 regular size jars of pasta sauce rather than one giant jar; 4 regular-size boxes of pasta rather than a giant bag, etc.)

- **Kid-friendly foods**: cereal, oatmeal, canned pasta, mac-and-cheese, chili, peanut butter, soup, tuna, granola and protein bars, fruit cups, yogurt pouches, etc.
- **Food and hygiene supplies that aren't commonly available in the food pantries:** baking soda, baking powder, spices, sugar, cooking oil (32 oz), shampoo, razors, menstrual products, etc.
- **Financial donations:** Your financial donations are so important! We purchase items throughout the year when they are on sale. We already have thirty 100 oz. containers of laundry detergent, 30 packages of toilet paper, 30 bottles of toilet cleaner and dish detergent, 30 boxes of garbage bags, etc. Your financial donations cover these purchases which in 2025 cost over $3000.
- **New or Gently used books for children and youth:** These are highly valued by the families to use as holiday gifts.

Bring your food and household donations each Sunday. Please mail your financial donation to the church before December 1 or place it in the offering plate with a notation it is for Hikone. (Please address the check and envelope to Sue Ellen Glover, First Baptist Church, 517 E Washington, Ann Arbor 48104). **We need all donations by December 6 in order to sort, box, and deliver to Hikone on December 15.** Thank you for your continued generosity!! Sue Ellen (gloverse@hotmail.com)

The Gathering, our campus ministry, is 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. We are on hiatus until next semester. We will be seeking a day and time to meet next semester that works for interested students. If you're a student curious about participating, contact Pastor Laura for more details!

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.

Friday, November 20 is Transgender Day of Remembrance. You are invited to a vigil to remember and honor the transgender people, gender-variant individuals, and those perceived to be transgender who have been murdered this past year. The vigil is hosted by local churches and will be held next door at First United Methodist from 12:15-12:45p. We will learn a bit about the history of Trans Day of Remembrance, pray, name aloud those who have died this year, and end with a benediction of hope. For more information, please connect with Pastor Laura (laura@fbca2.org) or Xan Morgan (xan@fbca2.org).

Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas! Come decorate the sanctuary for the season on Sunday, November 22nd after formation hour (12:30-1:15p). We'll provide some pizza to give us an energy boost and then we'll get to hanging garlands, putting up the Christmas trees, setting up the Advent wreath, and more!

Countdown to Christmas! We look forward to gathering together on Sunday, November 29th from 4-6 pm for Countdown to Christmas, our annual intergenerational Advent event. We'll enjoy a catered meal from Fed Up Ministries and create together in preparation for Christmas. RSVP here by Sunday, November 22nd! We are looking for volunteers to staff each station, join the kitchen team, and help with setup and cleanup. Please contact one of our coordinators, Xan Morgan

(xan@fbca2.org) or Christina Alaniz (cnalaniz@umich.edu).

FBCA2 Ladies' Book Club. The FBCA2 Ladies' Book Club will next meet on Tuesday, December 8th at 2pm at Toni Burton's home. We will discuss Absolution by Alice McDermott. We hope you will be able to join us at our new winter time slot. Please contact Janice Stumpf (jlstumpf@umich.edu) or Mary Gregg (mcooper@patientfocussystems.com) with any questions.

Our AD LIBITUM Concert Series will celebrate Winter, Advent and Christmas with a concert "Poems and Music for Winter and Christmas" on Tuesday, December 15 at noon in our beautifully decorated sanctuary. Shin-Ae Chun on the piano will be joined by Susan Schilperoort as a reader to offer a seasonally inspiring concert. The program includes Poems by Oliver, Cummings, Herrick, Field, Pickthall, Lewis and more along with music by Grieg, Mendelssohn, Rutter, Beach, Lyadov and more. It will be a meaningful way to celebrate this beautiful season. Mark your calendar! Invite your friends and neighbors!

You are invited to Tea with Pastor Laura! Let's share our stories of life and faith over a cup of tea! 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.

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.

2027 Stewardship Season: Be Known. Be Still. Be Love.

Today marks the end of our 2027 Stewardship Season. You can still make your 2027 pledge commitment online at fbca2.org/connect or with the hard copy pledge card that is available from the office or was received in the mail. Our Budget Committee has set a pledge goal of raising $493,081 (6.5% increase of our 2026 pledged giving) based on the ministry budget requests made by our seven boards. You can also continue to participate in our one-time gift opportunities (see below) that highlight our ministry goals in the new year. 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 Opportunities this Stewardship Season: These donations 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 plate at the doors or through PayPal, using the QR code below.

BE KNOWN: "REACH OUT" gift ($50) - 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!

BE STILL: "High-5 for the Team" ($105, $505, $1005) - This donation is in honor of our staff team and our commitment to giving a cost-of-living increase in 2027 and providing health insurance.

BE LOVE: "Solidarity Spark" gift ($180) - This donation is in honor of our commitment to care for our neighbors - folks experiencing homelessness, those empowered by the nonprofits we support, and our neighbors in Nicaragua who are in need of clean water. Our 2027 ministry budget proposal includes financial support for 18 nonprofits.

"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

November 15	Worship Service @10:00a
November 18	Bible Study @1:00
November 19	Choir Rehearsal @7:15p
November 20	Transgender Day of Remembrance @12:15p at First United Methodist Church
November 22	Worship Service @10:00a Pie Making (Youth) @11:30a Hanging of the Greens @12:30p
November 29	Countdown to Christmas @4:00p
December 1	Executive Council @7:00p
December 15	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00noon

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*