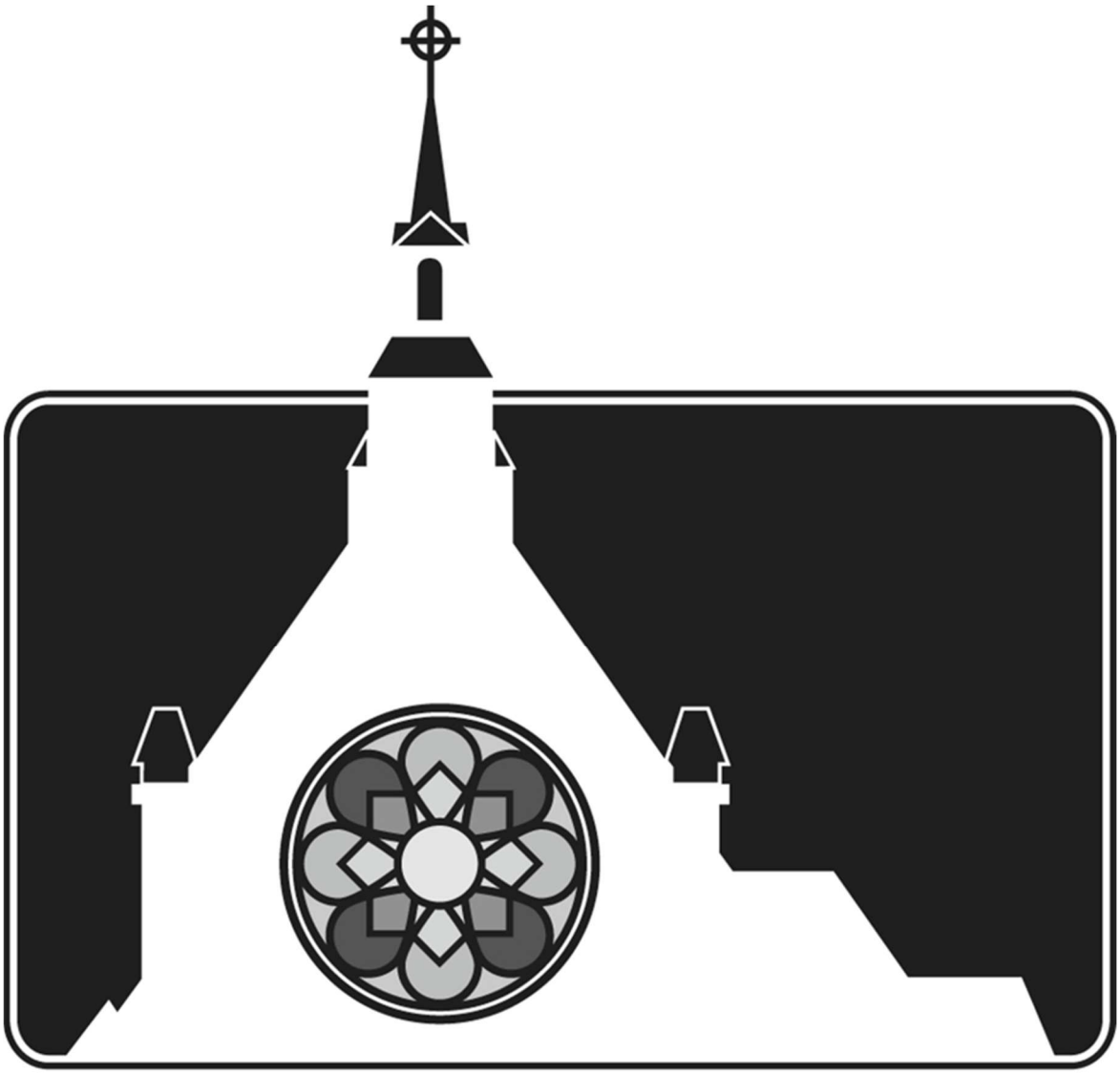


FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Reign of Christ
November 22, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS Xan Morgan

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Crown Him with Many Crowns* *DIADEMATA*
George J. Elvey

***OPENING PRAYER** Dani Reed

***HYMN #66** (see insert) *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* *LAUDA ANIMA*

***RESPONSIVE PSALM** *Psalm 100* Dani Reed

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Many: Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing.
One: Know that the Lord is God. The Lord made us, we did not make ourselves.
Many: We are God's people. We are the sheep of God's pasture.
One: Enter God's presence with thanksgiving and praise. Give thanks and blessing to our God.
Many: For the Lord is good. God's steadfast love endures forever.
***All: God's faithfulness extends to all generations*.**

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

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 34:11-16 Dani Reed

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

ANTHEM *To Christ Be Glory* Austin C. Lovelace

Now to Christ, who by the power at work within us, is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think.
To Him be glory in the church to all generations, forever and ever, Amen.

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 25:31-46 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 (v.1)* *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.)

SERMON *The Face of Jesus* Pastor Laura

SILENT REFLECTION

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #184** (see insert) *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

(Collecting of prayer cards) *DIVINUM MYSTERIUM*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Laura

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

OFFERING OF GIFTS *God Is Seen* Arr. by Alice Parker

Through all the world below God is seen all around,
Search hills and valleys through, there He's found.
The growing of the corn, the lily and the thorn,
The pleasant and forlorn, all declare, God is there,
In meadows drest in green, God is seen.
See springing waters rise, fountains flow, rivers run,
The mist that veils the sky hides the sun.
Then down the rain doth pour, the ocean, it doth roar
And beat upon the shore, and all praise, in their ways,
The God who ne'er declines his designs.
The sun with all his rays speaks of God as he flies
The comet in her blaze "God", she cries;
The shining of the stars, the moon, when she appears,
His awful name declares; see them fly through the sky,
And join the solemn sound all around.

***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 #154** (vv. 1,2,5,6; see insert) *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*
CORONATION

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Laura

POSTLUDE *Toccata in F Major, BuxWV 157 (Excerpt)* Dieterich Buxtehude
(1637-1707, German)

*Please stand in body or spirit

The flowers on the chancel are given to the glory of God
in gratitude for the many blessings bestowed on us.

~ The Board of Worship ~

We pray for **Joyce Robbins, 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!

We're Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas today! Come decorate the sanctuary 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!

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 **today** 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. Today we conclude 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. Today we look at chapters 6, 7, and the Epilogue. Beginning next week and throughout the Advent Season, Phil Christman and Sorbie Richner will lead sessions on music and poetry for the season. How can the arts of music, poetry, and storytelling deepen your experience of Advent? Through an investigation of a few key works in various media, and maybe a writing exercise or two, Sorbie and Phil will help you to anticipate the incarnation of God in the birth of Christ from, hopefully, a few angles that will be new to you.

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)

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. No class on November 25; we will resume on December 2.

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 today! 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).

ABWM Bake Sale! Sunday Dec 6th - during fellowship time. One and all, kids of all ages - don't miss our Annual Bake Sale. We have some great bakers among our congregation! This is the one ABWM fundraiser for their local and statewide mission giving. So please come with a little extra cash and pick out some great goodies for yourself, your family or even for your friends and neighbors. We look forward to sharing our gift of baking with you. See you Dec 6th! - If you have any questions - call, text or talk with me at church, Carolyn Grapentine (csgrape@aol.com).

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.

Distributions from Retirement Accounts and Charitable Funds. In addition to paying by check or with credit card, some church family and friends authorize distributions from their retirement accounts or charitable funds. This is a great way to make contributions, but **please make sure that the check is issued with enough information that we can determine the name of the sender and any specific direction for the funds** (i.e. pledge or special designation)**.** We recently received a check from an asset manager with no identifying information and the manager, for privacy reasons, is not allowed to say who sent it. If you recently authorized a payment from an investment account, please email the church office (office@fbca2.org). Thank you.

2027 Stewardship Season: Be Known. Be Still. Be Love.
We have wrapped up 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.

Pledge Update:

- 42 pledges have been made (57% of last year's number of pledges)
- $321,964 has been pledged (65% of the Budget Committee's goal)

Stewardship and Budget Timeline:

- Stewardship Season wrapped up on Sunday, November 15th
- Stewardship Team contacts folks they haven't heard from between November 15-29th

- Stewardship Team gives the Budget Committee the pledged total for 2027 ministry on December 1st
- Budget committee meets on December 2nd to adjust budget as needed
- Budget committee shares updates with church boards regarding their budget requests
- Boards modify proposed budgets as needed
- Church Accountant finalizes the 2026 numbers in January
- Updated proposed 2027 budget is shared with congregation at the end of January
- Congregation votes on 2027 budget at Annual Financial Meeting on February 7

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 nonprofitswe 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 22	Worship Service @10:00a
	Pie Making (Youth) @11:30a
	Hanging of the Greens @12:30p
November 26 & 27	Thanksgiving Break/Church Office closed
November 29	Worship Service @10:00a
	Countdown to Christmas @4:00p
December 1	Executive Council @7:00p
December 2	Bible Study @1:00p
	Budget Committee @7:00p
December 3	Choir Rehearsal @7:15p
December 6	AB Women's Ministries Bake Sale @11:15a
December 15	AD LIBITUM Concert @12:00noon

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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*