FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

DO JUSTICE. LOVE KINDNESS. WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.
–MICAH 6:8



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.

Make Pledge Here



STEWARDSHIP AND BUDGET TIMELINE:

- STEWARDSHIP SEASON WRAPPED UP ON **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**
- STEWARDSHIP TEAM CONTACTS FOLKS THEY HAVEN'T HEARD FROM **NOVEMBER 15-29**
- STEWARDSHIP TEAM GIVES THE BUDGET COMMITTEE THE PLEDGED TOTAL FOR 2027 MINISTRY ON **DECEMBER 1**
- BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETS ON **DECEMBER 2** 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.

Make One-Time Gift Here

As a way to be one church together and **be known**, we're sharing a bit about our FBCA2 family!





NAME: Joe Brummett

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DAILY HABIT)...*
Talk with a neighbor

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DEEP VALUE)...*
Work, Family

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A RANDOM SKILL)...*
Design



NAME: Eleanor

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DAILY HABIT)...*
gets Dressed, plays, haves fun.

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DEEP VALUE)...*
family, food, water, shelter, love.

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A RANDOM SKILL)...*
can turn my tongue upside down
can whistle in in and out

NAME: LARRY BATES

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DAILY HABIT)...*
TAKES DAILY WALKS (AVG 6 MILES/DAY)

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DEEP VALUE)...*
VALUES CONNECTION

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A RANDOM SKILL)...*
LOVES TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE



NAME: Si Harris-Adam

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DAILY HABIT)...*
Starts my day with NYT games and class puzzles

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DEEP VALUE)...*
Embraces the unknown mystery of the divine

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A RANDOM SKILL)...*
Has an encyclopedic memory for pop culture trivia





Tomorrow, November 20 is Transgender Day of Remembrance. We'll gather for a time of lament, remembrance, and celebration of life as we honor the transgender people whose lives have been lost to anti-trans violence. 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 this Sunday, November 22nd after formation hour (12:30-1:15p). We'll have 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!



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 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 or Christina Alaniz.



We'll make fresh Advent Wreaths.

And small pillowcases for our January Nap Church guests.





We'll prepare a tree Advent Calendar.

And homemade playdough with nativity figurines!





Children's Christmas Ensemble! All children (4 yrs-6th grade) are invited to participate in our special Christmas Ensemble led by Emmanuel Morgan. The ensemble will rehearse on four Sunday mornings (November 29-Dec 20) from 11:30-12:00p and will sing during the 3:30 Christmas Eve service. Please let us know here if your child(ren) will be participating.



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)



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.



Carol Sing. Following worship service on December 13, we'll gather together in the sanctuary to sing our favorite Christmas carols. We encourage everyone to dress festively and wear your silly Christmas gear - your Santa hats or reindeer antlers!



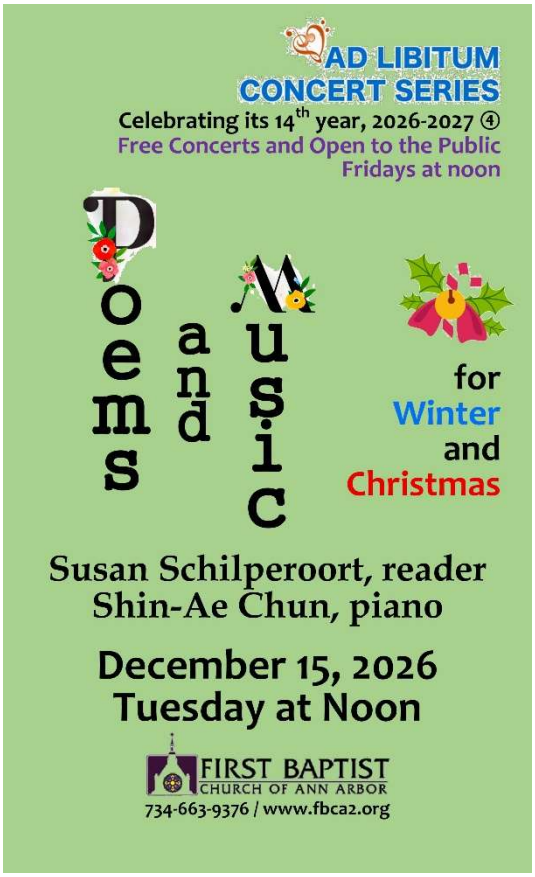
Christmas Eve at 3:30p: A Nativity Story. Come as you are to this simple, informal, family-friendly service. We'll sing carols and listen to the Christmas story with special music from our Children's Christmas Ensemble. The service will last less than an hour.



Christmas Eve at 7:30p: A Festival of Lessons & Carols. First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor presents a Festival of Lessons and Carols, modeled on the world-famous carol service from King's College in Cambridge, England. Come hear the Christmas story, join in singing beloved Christmas carols, and enjoy beautiful music from our choir and organist.



Poinsettias for Christmas Eve. Each year we decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias in honor/memory of those we love for the Christmas season. Poinsettias are $22.00 each. The deadline to order is Monday, Dec 14. You are welcome to take your poinsettia home with you after the Lessons and Carol service on Christmas Eve or the worship service on the following Sunday. Order online here!



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!

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 here and email Christine Hwang if you have any questions.



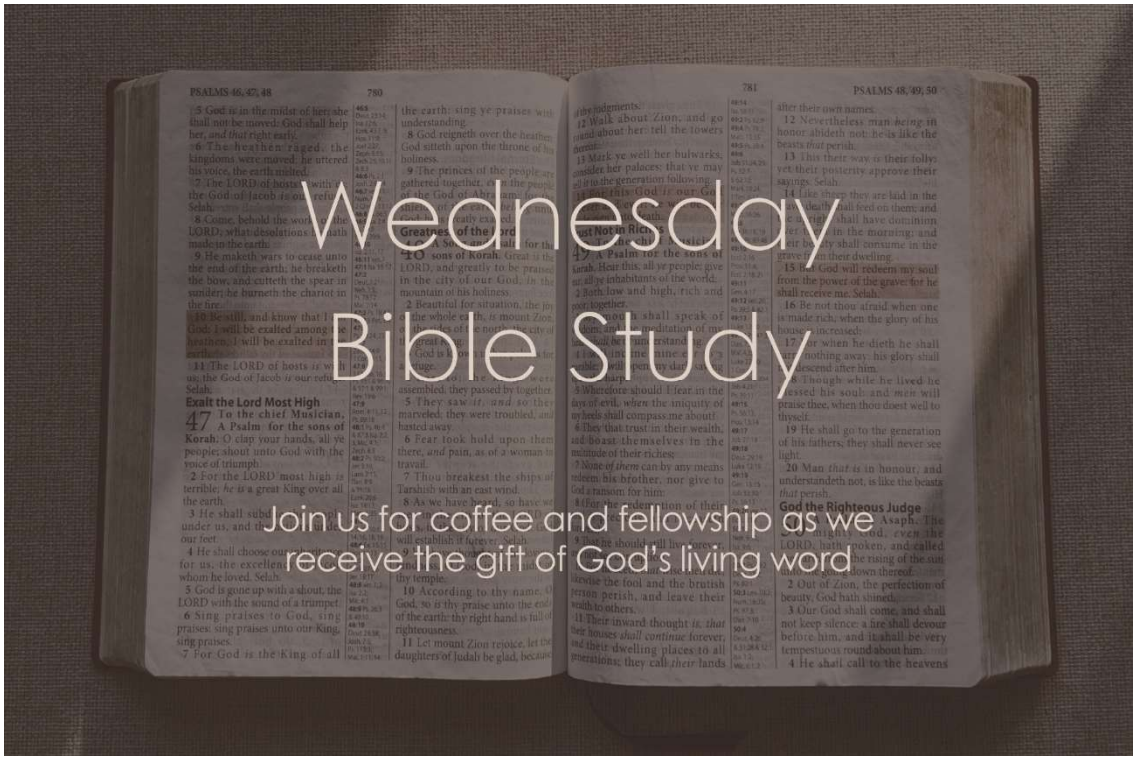
Tea with Pastor Laura. Let's share our stories of life and faith over a cup of tea! Meet up at your favorite coffee shop, visit in the FBCA2 office, or gather in your home. To sign up, go to the link at fbca2.org/connect and find a time that works for you on the calendar. When you sign up, please let Pastor Laura know where you'd like to meet.

FORMATION

Adult Formation.
On Sunday, November 22, 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 Richner and Phil Christman 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.



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 on **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 or Robbie Stapleton.



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 Young-ish Adult Group, designed for anyone who considers themselves in a young adult stage of life (roughly 20s-40s+), is taking a hiatus until the new year. During this time, we encourage ongoing connection through attending fellowship time and engaging in the adult formation hour, where we will also get to know our wonderful new Pastor through her teachings and discussions. Please direct any questions to Jamie Mills, Valerie Francia, or Meg Suell.

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!

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for all the love and support you showed us with the birth of Adrian. We feel very grateful for all of you and grateful to have this new little one in our lives.

With love,
Audrey, Jeremy, Henry, Lily, Georgia and Adrian

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.

We're excited to celebrate our own Alexandra DaSilva who was recently named a U.S. Presidential Scholar! Click here for the MLive article about Lexi and her classmate who both earned this great honor. We're so proud of you, Lexi!



Also, be sure to check out this MLive article sharing the news about our new pastor! We encourage you to share this article on your social media and with your friends. Help us spread the word about this new season of ministry at FBC!



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 or Mary Gregg with any questions.

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, December 3. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, December 1.

Copyright © 2026 First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, All rights reserved.