FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

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



Be Still: Our Stewardship Engagement during worship service on All Saints Sunday on November 1.

Dear First Baptist family,

Last Sunday we sang about walking with each other, hand in hand. This week we want to emphasize some of the people who walk beside us every week: our staff team.

The heart of our budget is people
Most of the good things we do together at FBCA2 happen because someone

on our staff is leading it. They plan and lead worship, care for our members, welcome our neighbors, and keep the building running. Like at most nonprofits, the bulk of our budget goes to supporting them. That is exactly where we want it to go.

Pastor Laura and her family
Pastor Laura Harris-Adam joined us this summer, and we are better for it. When she was hired, she waived health insurance coverage because she and her family were already covered. However, her family no longer has health insurance, so the church will now begin providing health insurance for her family. We are glad to do it, and we hope you are too. It is a basic way of saying, "We want you here, and we want you well."

Caring for the whole team
Prices have gone up for everyone, including those who serve us. The 2027 budget also includes cost-of-living increases for the rest of our staff, so their pay keeps pace with the world they live in.

A hope for our young people
Right now, First Baptist does not have a youth minister. Our young people are a gift to this church, and we would love for them to have a caring adult whose role is to walk with them. We want to do that well, which means making sure we are on solid financial footing first. Your pledges and gifts this season help us get there. Last year, you celebrated 22 of our youth, and we believe this church wants to keep showing up for them.

Ways to give beyond your pledge
Pledges, due by Ingathering Sunday on November 15, are how we plan together. You can return the pledge card from your mailing or pledge online at fbca2.org/connect. If you'd like to do more at the end of 2026, here are two one-time gift ideas to support our 2027 general budget:

- **High-Five for the Team** (gifts of $105, $505, or $1,005). Support our staff as they work together with their new leader, including health care and cost-of-living increases.
- **Reach Out** ($50). Help us get the word out to our wider community about First Baptist, now that we have a pastor.

Next week, we'll look at what it means to Be Love and the missions and justice work we do together.

Thank you for being a church that takes care of its people.

With gratitude,
Valerie Francia (Stewardship Team) and Meg Suell (Budget Team)

Make Pledge Here

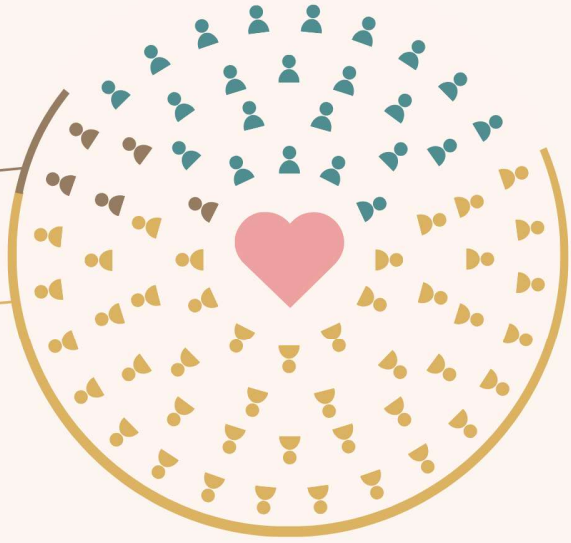
STEWARDSHIP AND BUDGET TIMELINE:

- STEWARDSHIP SEASON WRAPS 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 2**
- BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETS IN **EARLY DECEMBER** TO ADJUST BUDGET AS NEEDED

- BUDGET COMMITTEE SHARES UPDATES WITH CHURCH BOARDS REGARDING THEIR BUDGET REQUESTS
- BOARDS MODIFY PROPOSED BUDGETS AS NEEDED
- CPA 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**

LAST YEAR'S PLEDGES:

- 72 HOUSEHOLD PLEDGES WERE MADE
- 5 WERE NEW PLEDGES
- 68% WERE INCREASED PLEDGES
- **$17,900** WAS GIVEN IN ONE-TIME GIFTS



BE KNOWN · BE STILL · BE LOVE

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

NAME: Dana Larson

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DAILY HABIT)*...
Loves to drink coffee

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DEEP VALUE)*...
gets to know my neighbors

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A RANDOM SKILL)*...
loves to create beauty



NAME: Tom

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DAILY HABIT)*...
plays video games

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DEEP VALUE)*...
values family

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A RANDOM SKILL)*...
Is good at finding kyler bricks



NAME: Jamie Mills

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DAILY HABIT)*...
loves my hot tub

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DEEP VALUE)*...
cares about justice, equity, and love for all

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



NAME: Toni Burton

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DAILY HABIT)*...
Walks

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DEEP VALUE)*...
Campaigns + Votes

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A RANDOM SKILL)*...
loves math!





NAME: Astrid

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DAILY HABIT)*...
admires the sunrise every morning

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DEEP VALUE)*...
loves music

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A RANDOM SKILL)*...
loves to cook & garden



NAME: Dave Rosenbaum

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DAILY HABIT)*...
Manages the day via checklists ☑

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A DEEP VALUE)*...
Believes in asking questions

I AM SOMEONE WHO *(A RANDOM SKILL)*...
Writes songs



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 or Xan Morgan.



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!



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 or Christina Alaniz.



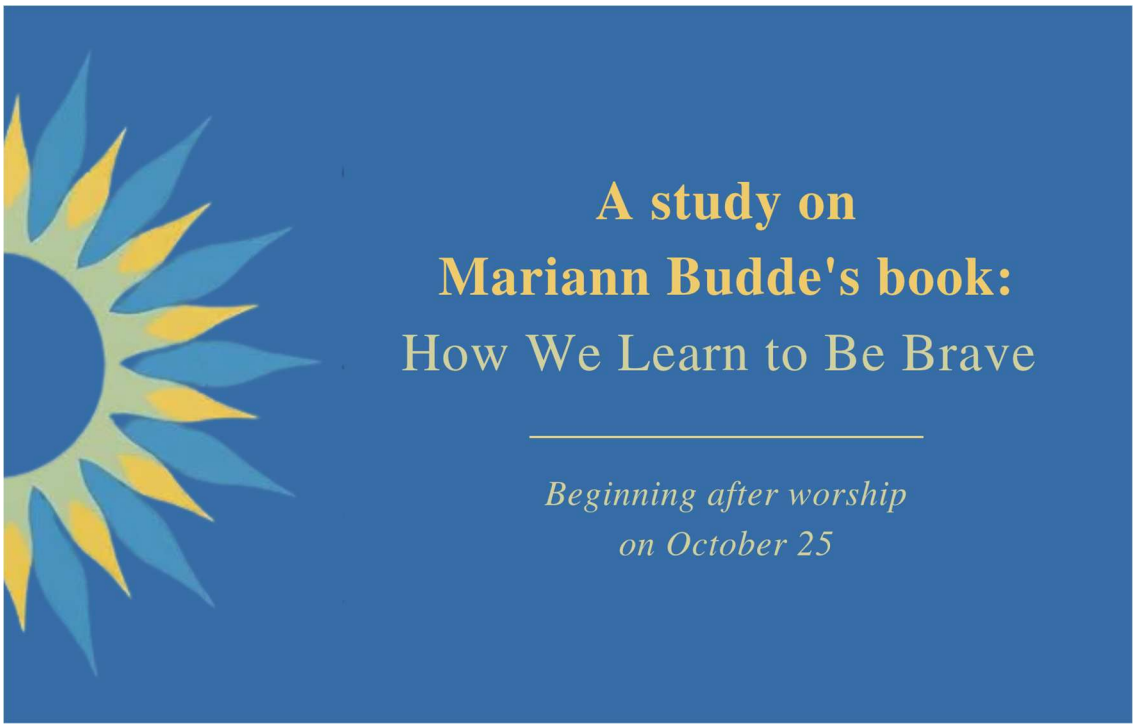
Volunteers Needed for Fellowship Time. Hosting fellowship time is a fun, low-pressure way for families and individuals to serve! Many of our volunteers love getting to catch up with and meet members during the time after church. We especially need volunteers as we head into the end of the year and the 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.


AD LIBITUM
CONCERT SERIES
Celebrating its 14th year, 2026-2027 ③
Free Concerts and Open to the Public
Fridays at noon
"Piano"
Sonata in C by Joseph Haydn and
Etudes by Alexander Scriabin
Takeshi Nagayasu, piano
November 6, 2026
Friday at Noon
FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR
734-663-9376 / www.fbca2.org

FORMATION



Adult Formation.

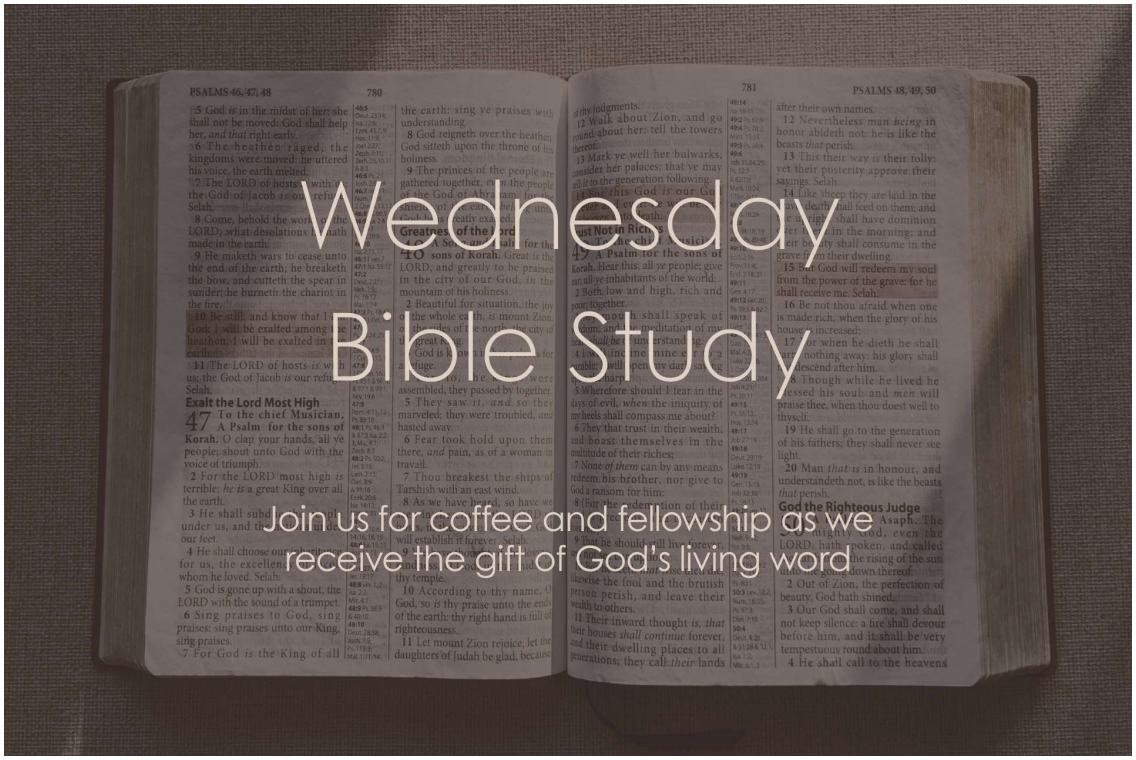
Next week we resume our study centered on Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde's book How We Learn to Be Brave. We'll gather to discuss decisive moments in life when we're called on to push past our fears and act with strength. Our reading schedule is as follows:

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

Join us at 11:30a this Sunday, November 8, in the Lounge to hear from Rev. Dr. Theodore Turman, president of Ecumenical Theological Seminary, about what's happening at ETS. Located in Detroit, ETS provides a multi-confessional Christian theological education within an urban context. ETS is one of the many local ministry partners we support.



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. **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

We are saddened to share that **Rev. Dr. Larry Greenfield**, former interim pastor at First Baptist (1990s) died on November 2nd. You can read the obituary here. Please keep his family in your prayers.

We are saddened to share that **Janice Beck**, longtime organist at First Baptist died this past Saturday, October 31. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Scam Email Alert. Several of you have let us know that you received an email that appeared to be a request for gift cards from Pastor Laura, including instructions to scratch off and email pictures of the cards. We are using this opportunity to send out a periodic reminder that staff at FBC will never send out an email asking for gift cards and asking you to keep it a secret from others on staff. If you do receive an email like this, please let the church office or someone on staff know asap so that we can alert the congregation.

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, November 19. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, November 17.

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