



July /Aug 2026
Volume 76, No. 7

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

200 Lynn Avenue

Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

Worship Sundays 9:45 am

PHONE: 515-292-9612

E-MAIL: office@fbcames.org

WEB: fbcames.org

First Baptist Church is an open and caring family of faith where worship is central and faith engages both heart and mind. We are warmly ecumenical, delight in our diversity, and cherish our Baptist heritage of freedom. We are called by Christ to share God's love with the campus, community, and the world.

As we seek to follow the way of Jesus, we welcome all people to fully participate in our fellowship: all ages, colors, backgrounds, political affiliations, and physical and mental abilities; male and

The Spire

Pastor's Word
(or "Dave's Digest")

When Susan, Zoe and I moved to Ames in 1999, the church had not had a Vacation Bible School for a few years. We had been involved in an ecumenical VBS, but while we had supplied many of the teachers, in time we had very few students and eventually discontinued our involvement.

At that point there were not a lot of children in the church and no children in the neighborhood, as our immediate neighborhood is all Greek houses and student housing. But I thought of my friend Mike Waltenberger in Illinois – his church had run a Music Camp for many years. We did not have kids in the neighborhood, but we had a wealth of musical talent in our church (beginning with Mindy!) and in the community. And parents like to have their children involved in the arts. So we planned our first Music Camp in the summer of 2000. I have shared this story before, but I thought that if 15 kids showed up and nobody got hurt, then we had tried a new thing and it would be a success. In the end, we had over 50 kids and a fantastic week – and a new tradition was born. I remember Lorene Hoover saying, "This is the best thing our church has done in a long time."

We stopped having the camp during COVID, and then with Mindy living in Eastern Iowa, we did not immediately restart it. We resumed the camp last summer and were reminded of what a blessing it is for not just the campers but for the staff. We held this year's camp June 15-19 with a total of 25 campers attending. It was a wonderful week!

(cont. p.2)





We had awesome special guests including Luciano Antonio, a Brazilian jazz musician from Chicago. In addition to working with the campers, Luciano put on a beautiful concert on the lawn on Monday night. Reggie Greenlaw, who had been a special guest 20 years before, came back and shared about 25 different instruments including a hammer dulcimer, guitar, ukulele, and an amazing assortment of drums and rhythm instruments. This was a hands-on presentation! And then marching band students from our church (Lucy Johnson, Abby Johnson, Tyler Anderson, and Ruby King) shared about being in a marching band and played while our campers got to march. Add an art project, creative dramatics, musical games, great snacks, and our annual talent

show, as well as a closing program for parents and friends, and it was a full and exciting week.

Music Camp has been a tremendous ministry for our church. Mindy and I have been co-directors of the camp from the beginning. (I defy anyone to find a pastor and Music Director who have worked together for that many years!) We have had spectacular concerts on the lawn, we have painted pianos for use in the community, we have put on all kinds of musicals, we have had field trips in the neighborhood, and there have been probably 75 special guests who have sung and danced and introduced campers to all kinds of music. And just as important and valuable, kids have come and been made welcome, made friends, and learned that God loves them and God wants us all to love our neighbors.

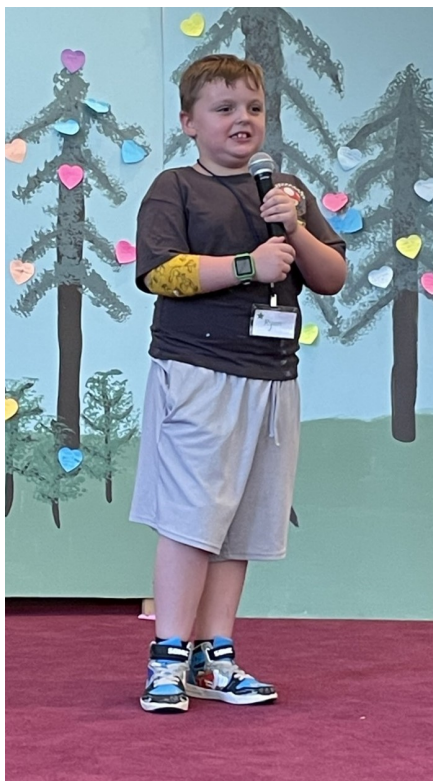


I have to admit there was sadness at this being my last Music Camp, at least as a director. But what I take away after all of these years is that with God's help, this church is capable of great things.

We were pretty uncertain about it that first year and to be honest, we felt a little iffy about it when we restarted last year, but the commitment and generosity of so many people have made this a wonderful ministry. The vast majority of campers this year, and over the years, have been kids from the community. Some are involved in churches and some are not. But they and their families know that this is a place where they are welcomed and they are valued and they are loved. The kids have a great time and many parents expressed how much they appreciate what our church does.

(cont. p.3)





I have written a lot of church newsletter articles over the years. I don't write one every month, but nearly every month. As a Campus Minister at Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan and then as a pastor in Arthur, Illinois, my columns had the heading of "Dave's Digest." When I came here, the Spire had been using the title of "Pastor's Word" for the minister's column. I guess I thought that sounded a little more professional than "Dave's Digest" and so I just stuck with it.

I am guessing that since becoming a pastor in 1992, I have written 350 monthly articles, first in Arthur from 1992-99 and then here at our church since 1999. That does not include articles I have written in e-newsletters to college students. That is a lot of words. Since this is a July-August newsletter, I have one more to go in September. But I am happy to use this penultimate* column to reflect on Music Camp. Music Camp has been all about welcome and fun and learning and cooperation and grace. If that is what we are known for, then we are doing pretty well.

Blessings,
Dave

*I searched on my computer and saw that I had never used the word "penultimate" in an article or a sermon, so this seemed like the time.



MUSIC CAMP 2026



30 years of organized power

**Join us to celebrate 30 years
of AMOS organizing in Iowa!**

Stand in solidarity as we
engage local, state, and
national candidates on
pressing issues impacting
our families:



Water quality



EMS response times



Silver alert for vulnerable
seniors



Public education



Immigrant & refugee
support

**Sunday,
August 30, 2026
3 - 5 PM**

**Horizon Event
Center
Clive, IA**

REGISTER:

tinyurl.com/Aug30AMOS



WE the PEOPLE
acting together to make
democracy work for all

Let's have a good group from FBC attend! A group from our church will carpool to the event. See Beth Douglass for more information.



Sunday *Monday* *Tuesday* *Wednes-* *Thursday* *Friday* *Saturday*

			1 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing	2 5:30p Deacons	3	4 
5 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Fellowship	6	7 8:00a Men's Breakfast	8 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing	9	10	11 9:30a United Women in Faith Guest Day at First Methodist Church
12 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	13	14 7:00p Trustees	15 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop	16	17	
19 9:45a Worship - 10:45a Fellowship	20	21 8:00a Men's Breakfast	22 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing	23	24	25
26 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	27	228	29 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing	30 5:30p Deacons	31	
						

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 9:45a Shared Worship with FCC and UCC at FBC Front Yard 10:45a Fellowship	3 	4 8a Men's Breakfast	5 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing	6	7	8 7p Parkinson's Singing Festival Concert 
9 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	10	11 5:30p Pastoral Relations Comm. 7:00p Trustees	12 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	13		
16 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	17	18 8a Men's Breakfast	19 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	20	21	22
23 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	24 ISU Classes Begin 	25	26 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	27	28	29
30 9:45a Worship Under the Trees 10:45a Meal Follows 	31					



Save the Date!

Pastor Dave is retiring after 27 years at First Baptist. His last Sunday in the pulpit is September 27. We invite you to join us that day to celebrate Dave and Susan's ministry.

Worship 9:45 am

Brunch 11:15

Program 1 pm

Dessert and reception to follow



Join us for Outdoor Worship in August!

both services in our front yard
bring a lawn chair if you can (folding chairs will be available)

August 2 – Shared Worship with First Christian and Ames UCC, 10 am

(note different time)
Join us as we worship together with friends!

August 30 – Worship under the Trees, 9:45 am

Join us as we welcome students at the end of the first week of class!
Meal will follow – Hickory Park barbecue provided; bring a dish to share



Basement Flooding Update

With up to 12" of rain in parts of Story County leading up to July 4, some homes were flooded and plenty of people had water in their basements. Here at the church, after we had water in the Fellowship Hall at Easter, Roto Rooter came out and cleared roots from tile around the church. After several inches of rain on July 2, the Fellowship Hall and kitchen were free of water on Friday, July 3. Yay!

But with several more inches of rain on Friday night and the ground completely saturated, we had a good deal of water on the lower level on the morning of July 4. A big thanks to Bob Parrish who stopped by early that morning to check and found water. And thank you to all who responded to the request for assistance with shop vacs, squeegees, fans, and labor: John Anderson, Scott and Gretchen Anderson, Julie Johnston, Rita Parrish, Becca Whitaker, Ryan Smith, Joyce Davidson, and Mark Reuber. We appreciate your effort! The Fellowship Time on July 5 was moved to the lounge and the lower level is now dry.

Mission Giving

Thank you to all who contributed to the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**, which provides emergency relief in times of natural disasters as well as development assistance. We have received a total of \$1185 to date. One Great Hour Funds recently went to assist in earthquake recovery efforts in Venezuela.



At the Antonio Luciano concert on June 15, concertgoers gave \$500 to the work of **Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance**. Our church is a founder and supporter of Good Neighbor, which provides Story County residents in need with housing, utility, and food assistance.

Financial Secretary Report – through June 30

Pledges received	\$94,151
Other contributions	\$1,640
Parking income	\$5,820
CCJ rent and utilities	\$6,691
Mission offerings	\$4,197
Harris Seidel memorial	\$130,000
Other income	\$2,070
Total received through 2 quarters	\$244,569





Green Lake Music Conference July 19-25

The Conference for Church Musicians, sponsored by the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians, will be held at Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin July 19-25. Our own Mindy Phomvisay serves as president of FABM.

We again have a good contingent of FBC members who will be attending the conference! Among them, Emma Phomvisay will be the facilitator for young adult activities, Lucy Stegemöller is coordinating the string ensemble, and Elizabeth Stegemöller will lead a workshop on "Singing and the Brain: The Benefits of Singing in a Choir for Older Adults." We are thankful for all of our dedicated musicians and the chance for them to learn and connect with others at Green Lake.

MUSIC CAMP 2026



A big thanks to all of our Music Camp staff!

Counselors

Emma Phomvisay
Lucille Taylor
Alyssa Duling
Rita Parrish
McKayla Fullem
Hunter Fullem
Ryan Smith
Julie Johnston

Registration

Susan Russell

Kitchen Crew

Bob Parrish
Rita Parrish

Drama

Phyllis Schrag

Art

Lucy Stegemöller

Special Guests

Luciano Antonio
Reggie Greenlaw
Abby Johnson
Lucy Johnson
Tyler Anderson
Ruby King
John Anderson

Concert Concession Stand

Wes Johnson
Erin Johnson
Kent Johnson
Abby Johnson
Lucy Johnson

Directors

Mindy Phomvisay
Dave Russell



United Women in Faith is hosting a Guest Day on **Saturday, July 11**, at First United Methodist Church, beginning at 9:30 a.m. David Thielen, Executive Director of the Ames Romeo House will talk about the assistance the Romero House offers daily to people experiencing poverty.



July

Wayne Shireman	2
Joelle Kenang	2
Nancy Maydew	3
Adde Stegemöller	3
Chris Parrish	3
Julie Johnston	5
Daniel Echedom	5
Michael Leininger	6
Jerilyn Logue	7
Rita Parrish	7
Mary Anderson	15
Joyce Davidson	16
Mindy Phomvisay	19
Aiddy Phomvisay	21
Kitty Vang	22
Randy Lambert	23
Jon Pritchard	23
Jan Thompson	23
David Starrett	24
Brian Parrish	29
Eleanor Martin	31

August

Lorrie Whitaker	7
Scott Anderson	13
Gary Maydew	13
Don Pady	17
Johnie Hammond	22
Gabe Whitaker	22
Bob Parrish	24
Carol Pady	28
Randall O'Brien	29



In Concert, One Night Only! *PD Singing Festival* *Saturday, August 8th at 7:00 P.M.* *First Baptist Church*

Join First Baptist Member Elizabeth Stegemöller as she directs the Parkinson's Disease Singing Group. Join in person or online using the Zoom link.

<https://https://iastate.zoom.us/j/96190635098?pwd=QzNnMlpTa0t1T3FTN1Nidlh2eWILZz09>



July

Stephanie and Brian Starrett	July 4
Serena and Alex Parrish	July 9
Rosemary and Patrick Coffey	July 16
Beth Douglass and Jere Maddux	July 18
Jill and Dale Grauman	July 19
Lorrie and John Whitaker	July 23

Starstruck: Stage & Screen

Ames Senior Variety Show

August 14 at 7:00 P.M.

August 15 at 2:00 P.M.

Ames City Auditorium

Mark your calendars and save the dates August 14 and 15, when our own Carol Pady, Lucille Taylor, and Phyllis Schrag will be in the 30th anniversary of the Senior Variety Show. You will be entertained by persons 60 and older dancing, singing, joke-telling and much more. Special appearance will be with Dr. Elizabeth Stegemöller leading the Parkinson's Singing Group in "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning". See Phyllis, Lucille, or Carol for tickets to the show. Bring friends and family! For more information call 515.337.113 or go to www.seniorvarietyshow.org or find us on Facebook. This annual event raises money for organizations and groups that directly impact persons 60 and older in Story County.





First Baptist Church

AMES

200 Lynn Avenue

Our Church Staff

Rev. Dr. David Russell	Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
Emma Phomvisay	Musical Intern
Elizabeth Stegemöller	Choir Accompanist
Lori Allen	Office Manager

Church Office Hours

Tuesday	9:30am to 1:30pm
Wednesday	1:30pm to 4:30pm
Thursday	9:30am to 12:30pm



Every Wednesday at 10 am, FBC has our Virtual Coffee Shop. It is an opportunity to visit with friends over Zoom. Participants include regular attendees who generally cannot be here in person. We always welcome new folks to join us! Use the regular Sunday morning Zoom link and join us!

Serving July & August

July 05:

Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Russell

Ushers: Dawn Doerr-Johnson, Julie Johnston

July 12:

Worship Leader: Erin Johnson

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

July 19:

Worship Leader: Jan Thompson

Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

July 26:

Worship Leader: Joyce Davidson

Ushers: Daniel Echedon, Erin Johnson

August 02:

Worship Leader: Shared Service with FCC and UCC

Ushers: Dawn Doerr-Johnson, Julie Johnston

August 09:

Worship Leader: Julie Johnston

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

August 16:

Worship Leader: Randall O'Brien

Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

August 23:

Worship Leader: Becca Whitaker

Ushers: Daniel Echedon, Erin Johnson

August 30:

Worship Leader: Worship Under the Trees

Ushers: Beth Douglass, Jan Thompson



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM