



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa



**Everyone is Invited to the
Music Camp Concert
on the Lawn
Monday, June 15 at 7:00 PM**

June 2026

Volume 74, No. 6

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 female, gay and straight, rich and poor, single and married. We are all God's children, and all are welcome here.



L U C I A N O A N T O N I O

Brazilian Jazz Guitarist & Vocalist

June 15, 2026 7:00 PM

*First Baptist Church
200 Lynn Avenue, Ames*

Free Concert on the Lawn







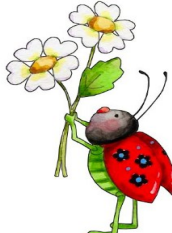
An offering will be received for
Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance

Bring a chair if you can (Folding chairs provided)

Concession Stand Open 6:30 PM

JUNE

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|--|
| | 1  | 2 | 3 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop | 4 | 5 | 6 12:30—4:00p Senior Variety Show Preview  |
| 7 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Craft & Hobby Show | 8 | 9 8:00a Men's Breakfast | 10 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing | 11 | 12 | 13 9:00a All Church Work Day  |
| 14 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 1:00p Music Camp Staff Meeting | 15 Music Camp 9:00a—11:30a  7:00 Luciano Antonio Concert at First Baptist | 16 Music Camp 9:00a—11:30a | 17 Music Camp 9:00a—11:30a 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing | 18 Music Camp 9:00a—11:30a | 19 Music Camp 9:00a—11:30a  10:30a Closing Music Camp Program | 20 |
| 21 <i>Father's Day</i> 9:45a Worship  | 22 | 23 8:00a Men's Breakfast | 24 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:45a Worship | 29 | 30 | | |  | |



Enjoy

Pastor's Word

Dear Friends,

The church held a planning meeting on Saturday morning, May 9. We encouraged all board and committee members to attend, but everyone was welcome and I was pleased by the good group of participants. I know that a number of folks wanted to be here but were unable to make it.

Part of the morning was given to a conversation with our Regional Executive Minister, Jackie Saxon. Jackie filled us in on the process for securing an interim pastor and some of what to expect in the months following my retirement. It was helpful information and I am sure you will be hearing more about this.

Before Jackie met with us, we spent some time thinking together about both our assets as a congregation and the challenges we face. I would like to share the responses and make a few comments.

First, what do we have going for us? How has God blessed us as a church? We took a few minutes to jot down our responses and then shared with the group. Many of these responses were reported by multiple people.

Assets – Reasons for celebration

Continuing appeal of the church - many have left town and continue to worship on Zoom
Dedicated members
Participation
Technology and tech support
Adaptability
Innovation
"we can make lemonade out of lemons"
Location near the campus
University community
Beautiful building and grounds
Beautiful sanctuary
Making our facility available to other groups – CCJ, PD groups
Great music
Music leadership including choir members and others who "step in" when needed
Stable leadership
Long-time pastors
Great staff, Continuity
College students who bless us

Education level of membership
Commitment to community involvement
Our people – loving, supportive
Open-minded
Not judgmental
Warmth, fellowship
Welcoming
Accepting congregation
Our church "culture"
Members are friends
Concern for peace and justice
Environmental concern
"The Parrishes" (many who give time and effort)
Feeling of family
Generosity - and not only in \$
Financial support and stability
A rich history
Church traditions, especially events
Sound system and recordings of services
Opportunities for youth, children i.e. Music Camp
American Baptist connection
Zoom – large number of people who worship online

I was struck that the responses came easily. We have a lot for which to be thankful, and we are aware of the ways we are blessed. In the midst of the day to day struggles we may face and those more difficult seasons of church life, it is good to reflect on what we have going for us. Some of the responses voiced by multiple people that stood out to me were the care and commitment of our members, the culture of welcome and openness, the willingness and ability to innovate, a beautiful and usable facility, and strong financial support. We have a rich history, and excellent music and strong leadership are part of that history. *(continued next page)*

After we reflected on these strengths, we did the same exercise thinking this time about challenges we face – both the larger societal and cultural challenges as well as those that may be more specific to our church. Here is the list we came up with:

Challenges we face

Fewer raised ABC/denominational ties are weaker
(fewer Baptists move to Ames and join our church)

Aging congregation, demographics

We are not well known in the community

Church attendance, view of religion in general is declining

Need for membership growth

Lower in person attendance since COVID

More difficult finding people to serve on board and committees

Organizational structure needs to be streamlined

Does our church appeal to young people?

Worship not seen as “exciting” by some

Larger building than we need

Increasing utility and insurance costs

Facility and grounds can be a challenge

Pastoral search ahead

“Baptist” has negative connotations

We no longer get Baptist student names from university

The relatively large sanctuary with smaller attendance can be intimidating for visitors

Students bless us but they keep graduating and leaving!

Would like more children

Need more tenors

Need a “critical mass” of children and college students to attract more

Are we willing to change?

Passing on institutional knowledge

Ways for older people to contribute

How to be more engaging for those who worship on Zoom

Support for staff

Two things struck us all right away. First, we definitely had a longer list of assets than we did challenges. That’s a good thing! And secondly, there are a number of things that can be both a strength and a challenge. Our building is a great strength and we have a beautiful sanctuary. At the same time, maintenance can be challenging and we have more space than needed at this time. The closeness of our church is an asset, but newcomers may find a smaller congregation intimidating. Our attendance is actually as great or greater as it was before COVID, but the number of folks who are here in person is less.

Another thing we noted was that most of these challenges are not new – many of them have been challenges literally for decades.

As we look back over 158 years of rich history, God has led us to meet so many challenges with faith and hope and the power and creativity of God’s spirit. And so often, the way forward is found in building on the strengths and blessings that we already have.

As we met together that morning, I was yet again so thankful for this church. We had a very productive time together. Please join me as we plan and dream and pray together for our ministry ahead.

Blessings,
Dave

Summer Music Camp

at First Baptist Church of Ames

June 15-19, 9:00-11:30 am each day

A fun, hands-on experience in music and related arts **for grades K-6 (completed)**. We will enjoy special musical guests, fun games, crafts, our annual campers' talent show, and great snacks! We will also learn music that we will present in a closing program on Friday.

Everyone is welcome!



Registration is \$20 - includes camp t-shirt
Scholarships are available to all who would like one

**for more info or to register,
go to fbcames.org or call 515-292-9612**



Registration QR

Everyone is welcome to the Closing Program!

Friday June 19, 10:30 am



WORK DAY

On June 13 at 9 a.m., we will have an all church work day. Bring your gloves, rakes, and other tools to spruce up the outside and inside of the church building and get ready for Music Camp!



Every Wednesday at 10 am, FBC has our Virtual Coffee Shop. It is an opportunity to visit with friends over Zoom. Participants include regular attenders 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!



June

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Tom Gleason | 1 |
| Mya Logue | 7 |
| Dianne Borgen | 9 |
| Susan Russell | 15 |
| Jim Hinds | 21 |
| Tyler Anderson | 23 |
| Serena Parrish | 27 |



I have from time to time based summer sermons on suggestions from the congregation, using a “Sermon Suggestion Box.” I have enjoyed this and I know many of you have as well. For this last go-round of summer preaching I will again be offering the suggestion box. You can place a question, sermon topic or idea in the suggestion box and I will use the suggestions as the basis for some of the upcoming sermons. I can’t promise to get to all of the suggestions, but I will do my best!

- Pastor Dave



June

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Carol & Don Pady | 1 |
| Nancy & Gary Maydew | 2 |
| Jerilyn & Tom Logue | 9 |
| Gretchen & Scott Anderson | 14 |
| Mary & John Anderson | 17 |
| Jan & Michael Thompson | 30 |



Lucas Anderson is leading a church landscaping project for his Eagle Scout project. We have lost several trees over recent years, and Lucas worked to design a landscaping plan for the church yard. Lucas and other volunteers (including Scott, Gretchen, and John Anderson) met at the church on May 23 to begin the work. They planted 3 Pagoda Dogwoods (small ornamental trees) in the CCJ side yard. They also planted a Tulip Tree and a Linden in the front yard closer to Lynn Avenue. Lucas and volunteers will also be cleaning up the area and planting native plants behind the garage. Thank you Lucas and volunteers!



Serving This Month

Our Church Staff

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

Office Hours

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Tuesday | 9:30am to 1:30pm |
| Wednesday | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| Thursday | 9:30am to 12:30pm |
| Friday | 9:30am to 11:30am |

June 7:

Worship Leader: Kay O'Brien

Ushers: Dawn Doerr-Johnson, Julie Johnston

June 14:

Worship Leader: Jere Maddux

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

June 21:

Worship Leader: John Anderson

Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

June 28:

Worship Leader: Susan Russell

Ushers: Daniel Echedon, Erin Johnson



Bring a craft or hobby to display!

Hobbies and crafts of all types welcome!

sponsored by Christian Education Committee

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is the annual offering that supports emergency disaster relief and development assistance - throughout the US and Puerto Rico and around the world. We work with partners around the world in getting assistance to places that need it the most.

Whether tornados and flooding in the Midwest, fires in the west, earthquakes in Asia, or refugees of war in Europe, Africa, or the Middle East, we respond through our gifts to OGHS. We also support development projects around the world and here in the US such as water projects for villages in need of drinkable water, farming projects that help people grow food to sustainably support themselves and their neighbors, and food and shelter projects for persons for those in great need. We invite you to give generously to OGHS.