



**First Baptist
Church of Ames**
Proposed 2026 Budget

In response to God’s love and grace, we seek to be faithful, hopeful and loving as we offer our gifts of time, talent, and resources to further Christ’s work through our church. This Narrative Budget describes how we plan to move forward in ministry in the coming year, looking at our work in four areas: **Worship, Care, Learning, and Mission.** *(Please note that staff salaries, utility costs, etc. are apportioned over these four areas.)*

This budget includes 3.5% salary increases for staff, a large increase in church property insurance (an industry-wide reality), and maintains our strong mission support while economizing where possible to limit our overall increase.

WE WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER \$101,052 (35%)

Worship is the center of our life together as a church. Thoughtful and challenging preaching, inspiring music, shared prayer and participation by worshipers of all ages help to make our worship of God a life-giving experience.



We are blessed by many worshipers who join us each week on Zoom, and we seek to make our services an engaging experience both for those in person and those at home.

We continue to work to improve our technology. We have added microphones to allow those on Zoom to better hear the choir and plan for more improvements in 2026. Our gifts support our worship staff who serve us so well and faithfully, allow us to purchase music for our choir and instrumentalists and licenses to copy hymns and broadcast music over the internet.

Over the past year, we have added a monthly worship service at Independence Village, a senior living community in Ames. And in 2025 our fabulous Music Camp returned, providing a great week for kids in our church and in the community. We look forward to another great camp in 2026!



WE CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

\$66,405 (23%)

We like to think of ourselves as a family of faith. Welcoming others to the family and caring for those in our church is important to us, and we support one another both in times of loss and in times of joy. Caring ministry is expressed as our staff, deacons, and others reach out to those who are in need with home and hospital visits and caring support.

As a part of weekly worship, we take time to share prayer concerns and pray for one another, and we include those worshipping at home. Shared communication through various print and electronic formats helps to build community and allow members to stay in touch.

Fellowship events of all sorts help us connect in a more personal way and provide opportunities to express care. We especially appreciate the many intergenerational relationships built in our congregation.

We are mindful that because of health or distance, not everyone can attend these in-person opportunities. We offer a weekly Virtual Coffee Shop and continue to look for ways to help everyone stay connected.

WE LEARN TOGETHER

\$57,744 (20%)

Christian discipleship is a life-long calling, and our church provides opportunities for members of all ages to grow in faith. Church School classes include opportunities to learn the stories of the Bible, find encouragement and support, and discuss current issues in light of our faith. Our college students and young adults meet regularly for meals, connection, and support. Our adult classes have an online option so those at home can join a class.



Learning opportunities include special studies during Lent and at other times, guest speakers on timely issues, and training opportunities both in our region and at our national conference center at Green Lake, Wisconsin. Children and youth attend our regional camps at Dayton Oaks and Forest Lake.

Our gifts help provide learning materials, camp and conference registrations, outreach to college students, and support activities for our children and youth.

WE MINISTER TO OTHERS

\$63,518 (22%)

The Christian life involves both worship and service. Our mission extends far beyond the walls of our building. We are among the leading churches in our region in support for American Baptist United Mission, supporting mission and ministry throughout the US and around the world. Our church provides leadership to local groups and helping agencies, with numerous volunteers. FBC members are involved in denominational leadership on both the regional and national levels.



We recently held our Great Day of Service, making a difference in our community and beyond as we cleaned up our neighborhood, made blankets for infants in low-income families, and assembled hygiene kits for refugees and victims of natural disasters. We participate in the annual CRCOP Walk, raising money to fight hunger in Ames and around the world.

A singing group for persons with Parkinson’s disease meets weekly at our church and we continue to assist the Center for Creative Justice in their work of helping people get their lives on track. Through AMOS, we work to build a community that works for everyone. Through our gifts of time, money, and prayer, we continue to reach out to God’s people in need.

TOTAL BUDGET

\$293,370 (3.2% increase from 2025)