



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

December 2025
Volume 71, No. 12

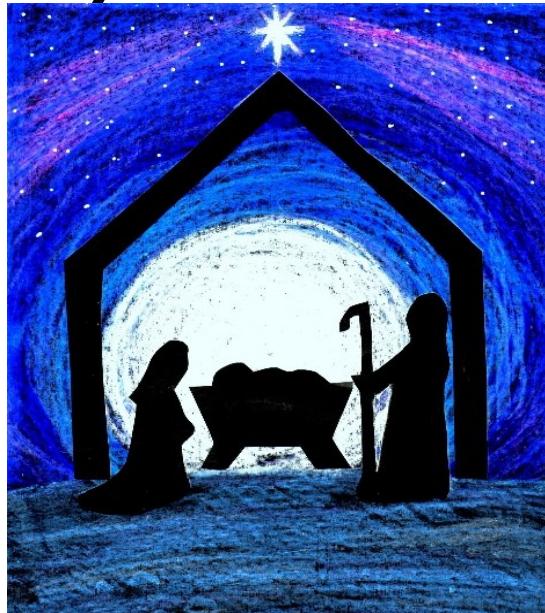
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

200 Lynn Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188
Worship Sundays 9:45 am

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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.



Celebrate the Season at First Baptist!

December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent

"A Great Light," Isaiah 9:2-7

Yuletide Orchestra plays

Election/Budget Business Meeting follows worship

Hanging of the Greens 11:00 am

December 13 - Church Christmas Dinner and Program, 6 pm

December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

"Home for the Holidays," Zephaniah 3:14-20

Yuletide Orchestra plays

December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

"One of Us," John 1:1-14

Yuletide Orchestra plays

December 24 - Christmas Eve

Social Hour 5 pm

Candlelight Service 6 pm

December 28 - First Sunday after Christmas

Rev. Jim Hinds

Upcoming Events

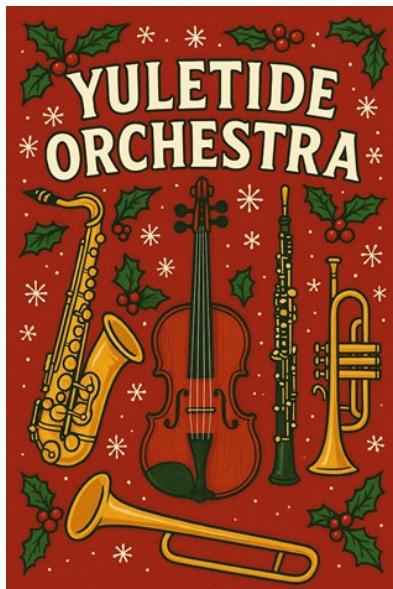


Our **Church Christmas Dinner** is a wonderful tradition at First Baptist with good food and warm fellowship with church family and guests. We look forward to a delicious meal and to our children and youth sharing with us in the Christmas Program that follows.

This year's Christmas Dinner will be **Saturday, December 13 at 6 pm**. The meat, dressing, rolls, beverages and table service will be furnished by the church. Please bring a dish to share. If your last name starts with A-E, please bring a potato dish. F-L is asked to bring a dessert. M-P is asked to bring a vegetable and Q-Z should bring a salad. (If instead of your "assigned" dish there is something special that you would like to prepare, please feel free to do so!)

Students, you do not need to bring a dish - please come as our invited guests!

Our **Yuletide Orchestra** will be playing this month! We welcome all instruments to join us. We will be accompanying carol singing in worship services and the arrangements are easy. Contact Pastor Dave if you would like to join in!



Along with our worship service, the Hanging of the Greens was canceled due to snow on November 30. It has been rescheduled to December 7. The Budget/Election meeting will be held following worship, and then we will proceed with decorating the church for the season. A simple lunch will follow.



Christmas Baskets

Each year our church assembles Christmas baskets that are delivered as a way of saying that our church cares. Members provide fruit, candy, cookies, etc. and our children assemble the baskets. If you would like to provide items for the baskets, please sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office. We will assemble and deliver the baskets on December 21.



Poinsettias

If you would like to provide a poinsettias for the sanctuary, please sign up on the bulletin board or contact the office. We have already ordered the poinsettias but have a few “unsponsored” plants available! The cost is \$20 and the poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. You may designate the poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

Special Offerings in December

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

The **RMMO** is a tangible way of saying “Thank You” to those who have served us. The offering supports those who have devoted their lives to God’s service by providing emergency assistance in times of need. The offering also provides Thank You checks to more than 3,300 retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses. The offering will be highlighted on December 7 and received throughout the month.

The **Christmas Offering** is an opportunity to help provide for those most in need in our community. Half of the offering goes to The Bridge Home (formerly the Emergency Residence Project), which provides a homeless shelter and housing services in Ames. The other half goes to our Benevolence Fund, which is distributed to those coming to our church seeking assistance. The Christmas Offering will be highlighted on December 14 and will be received throughout the month of December.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 8a Men's Breakfast	3 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Singing 6p Choir	4 5:30p Deacons	5 	6
7 9:45a Worship 10:45a budget/ Election Meeting 11a Hanging of the Greens	8	9 7p Trustees Meeting	10 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Singing 6p Choir	11	12 	13 6p Christmas Dinner
14 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11a Church School	15	16 8a Men's Breakfast 2-3p PD Boxing	17 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Singing 6p Choir	18	19	20 
<i>ISU Finals Week</i> -----						
21 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 	22	23	24 Social Hour 5p Christmas Eve Service 6p	25 	26	27
28 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	29	30 	31			

Serving this month



December 7:

Worship Leader: Ryan Smith
Ushers: Dawn Doerr-Johnson, Julie Johnston

December 14:

Worship Leader: Becca Whitaker
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

December 21:

Worship Leader: Susan Russell
Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

December 28:

Worship Leader: Jere Maddux
Ushers: Daniel Echedon

Financial Report through October 31

INCOME

2025 pledges received 10 months	\$157,682
<i>2025 pledges received in 2024</i>	<i>\$6,000</i>
pledges expected for 10 months	\$156,567
other contributions	\$19,785
parking lot + building rental	\$33,805
non-budgeted mission offerings	\$3,270
memorial gifts	\$6,490
other income	<u>\$2,902</u>
total received 2025	\$223,935
<i>total incl. 2025 pledges rec'd in 2024</i>	<i>\$229,935</i>

EXPENSES

budget for 10 months	\$235,025
budget expenses 10 months	\$215,824
Memorial Fund expenditures	\$1,560
non-budgeted mission offerings	<u>\$3150</u>
total expenses	\$220,534

Birthdays of the Month

Quinn Whitaker	7
Sadie Searl	7
Tonia McCarley	12
Noel Hassler	24
Killian Murphy	26
Jill Leininger	28
Stephanie Starrett	28

Happy Anniversary!

Susan & Dave Russell	20
Stephanie & Greg Goodman	21
Kay & Randall O'Brien	21

Pledge Update

Thank You to all who have made a pledge of financial support to First Baptist for 2026! We are grateful for so many who faithfully support our work. So far we have received 31 pledges, including 4 new pledges, totaling \$177,320. If you have not yet made a pledge, we invite you to do so.

Budget/Election Meeting

Our annual Budget/Election Business Meeting will be Sunday, December 7 immediately following worship. We will adopt a budget for 2026 and elect board and committee members and officers for the coming year. The meeting will be available on Zoom for those who will not be here in person.

Welcome, New Members!

We welcome two new members who officially joined FBC on October 12. **Carol Beavers** moved to Ames from Dallas, Texas a few years ago after a career as an accountant. Carol lived in Ames for a time as a child and was a member of our congregation in the early 60's. Carol's parents lived in Newton and retired in Ames, rejoining our church. Some of you may remember Carol's mother Nell. Carol went to college at Iowa State and then went to Iowa for a master's degree before her career in Texas. She now lives in The Crawford – in the building where she at one time went to grade school! We are delighted that she is “back home” in our church.

Lucille Taylor is a native of Aberdeen, Idaho and grew up in the Mennonite faith. Her grandfather started the church in Aberdeen. She attended Bethel College and the Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Newton, Kansas. She and her husband Elwyn lived in Hutchinson, Kansas and raised three children: Jeff, who lives in England; Mike, who lives in Wichita; and Amy, who lives here in Ames. Lucille and Elwyn moved to Ames on the last day of 2000. Elwyn died in 2020. Lucille was part of the Mennonite fellowship in Ames as long as that group was active and then began attending First Baptist. Lucille is very interested in peace and justice issues. Both she and Carol are a part of the Library Church School class. We are so glad they are now “official” members of our church!

Thank You, Sierra!



Sierra Livengood has served as our Office Manager since August 2023, when she came to Iowa State after receiving an Associate degree from DMACC-Newton. Sierra is the first student to serve as our Office Manager and she has done a great job with our publications (bulletins, newsletters, annual reports, etc.) as well as managing our rental parking. The parking can be a headache at times, but Sierra has worked with our rental parkers and parking coordinators at several Greek houses and stayed on top of things. One of our neighboring fraternity houses even brings her cookies!

I have appreciated that Sierra is helpful, cheerful, quick to laugh, and has been a warm and friendly presence in our office. We have had to adjust the office hours each semester based on her class schedule, but we have all been flexible and it has worked well.

Sierra is studying history education and next semester she will be student teaching at Pella High School. This means that her time with us is ending this month.

Our Christmas Dinner and Program will be Saturday, December 13 at 6 pm. Sierra will be with us that evening. We will recognize our staff during the Christmas program, and this will be a chance for us all to say Thank You to Sierra. I hope you will join us!

Blessings,
Pastor Dave



200 Lynn Avenue
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Our Church Staff:

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



May God's Blessings Be With You in This Holy Season

The First Baptist Staff

Pastor Dave, Mindy, Emma, Elizabeth, Sierra, and Erin