



# *The Spire* First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

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## Pastor's Word

We traveled to Indiana for post-Christmas with my family. It was good to be with my mom and to see my sisters and their families including nieces and nephews and their young children. My almost 3 year old great-niece Wrennie delighted in the gift opening. Before she would open a present, she would say with wonder and excitement, "What's it gonna BE?" This became the catchphrase for the next few days (and honestly I am still saying it, as Wrennie did): "What's it GON' BE?"

We are now in a new year. While every day is an opportunity for a new beginning, we especially think of a new year as a time for a new start - a fresh beginning with a clean slate. The future is filled with possibility. As we stand at the beginning of this new year, we can say with Wrennie, "What's it GON' BE?"

The difference between unwrapping a Christmas present and journeying into a New Year is that we have some say in what this new year will bring. There will be challenges and frustrations and disappointments, no doubt, but we can determine how we will navigate them. And we can make choices to live with gratitude, open to God's joy and grace. We can make choices to love our neighbors and shine God's light. We can be open to the surprises and opportunities that lie before us.

What's it GON' BE? The future is not set in stone; it is an adventure that awaits us. My prayer for you and my prayer for our church is that even in the midst of challenging times, this will be a happy, healthy, joyful year full of good surprises.

Blessings,  
*Dave*



*January 2026*  
*Volume 72, No. 1*

### **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

PHONE: 515-292-9612  
E-MAIL: [office@fbcames.org](mailto:office@fbcames.org)  
WEB: [fbcames.org](http://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.*



## 2026 Senior Variety Show

Persons age 60 or older are invited to attend an informational meeting to learn all about the 2026 show theme, *Star-Struck: Stage & Screen*. This meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm at Northminster Presbyterian Church. For more information call 515-337-1713 or visit the website [www.seniorvarietyshow.org](http://www.seniorvarietyshow.org). You can also find info on Facebook.



## Faith-Rooted Climate Action: A Meet & Greet Event

Friends and members of the Ames faith community are warmly invited to a **Meet & Greet Fundraiser with Iowa Faith & Climate Network** on **Thursday, Feb. 5, from 5:30–7 pm** at **Labyrinth Coffee (159 Sheldon Ave., Ames)**. Join their staff and other local climate advocates for an informal evening of conversation, connection, and light refreshments as we reflect on faith-rooted responses to the climate crisis and share hopes and plans for the year ahead. The coffee bar will be open for purchases. **Registration is requested** to help ensure adequate seating and food: <https://iowafaithandclimate.org/ames-event>.



We offer a lunch for college students and young adults on a monthly basis. Our next lunch will be following worship on Sunday, February 1. If you would be willing to provide one of our monthly lunches, you can sign up on the bulletin board or see Pastor Dave for more information.



Every Wednesday at 10 am, FBC has our Virtual Coffee Shop. It is an informal 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!

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3
4 9:45a Worship/ Communion	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast	7 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	8	9	10
11 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11a Church School	12	13	14 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 6p Choir	15 5:30p Deacons	16 	17
18 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School <i>MLK Interfaith Service 2:00p Unity of Ames</i>	19 	20 8a Men's Breakfast  7p Trustees	21 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Singing</i> 6p Choir	22	23	24
25 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 12:00p Annual Mtg 2:00p Service @ Independence Village	26 <i>6:30p AMOS Training @ St. Cecilia</i>	27	28 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Singing</i> <i>5:15p CCJ Board</i> 6p Choir	29 	30	31



## AMOS “We The People” Campaign

2026 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It is also the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy). Our church is one of the 30+ institutional members of AMOS, a community organizing group that seeks to build a community that works for everyone.

For our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, AMOS is embarking on a “We the People” campaign. In February, we will be launching small group "house meeting" listening sessions to engage people both within and beyond the walls of our organizations.

From the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their ***Safety and Happiness***.

250 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we will be asking Iowans to share their stories about barriers to **safety and happiness** facing their loved ones today. These small group house meetings will generate AMOS' issue agenda and build organized people power for our August 30, 2026 We the People Convention.

FBC will schedule house meetings for members and friends (which may occur here at the church.) Our past experience of participating in these meetings has been very positive – an opportunity to share with friends and neighbors about things that matter to us. You will hear more about our house meetings soon. In the meantime, if you would like more information or would be willing to help lead one of these house meetings, please see Pastor Dave. There will be a training event for house meeting leaders at St. Cecilia Catholic Church on Monday, January 26 at 6:30 pm.



Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25 at 12 noon. We will hear reports from the last year of work from our staff and various areas of ministry and attend to a few business items.

Staff, officers, board and committee chairs, and representatives to outside groups are asked to submit your annual report to the office by Friday, January 16. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.



## Serving this month



### January 4:

*Worship Leader:* Erin Johnson

*Ushers:* Dawn Doerr-Johnson, Julie Johnston

### January 11:

*Worship Leader:* Kaylinn Nugent

*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

### January 18:

*Worship Leader:* Joyce Davidson

*Ushers:* Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

### January 25:

*Worship Leader:* Randall O'Brien

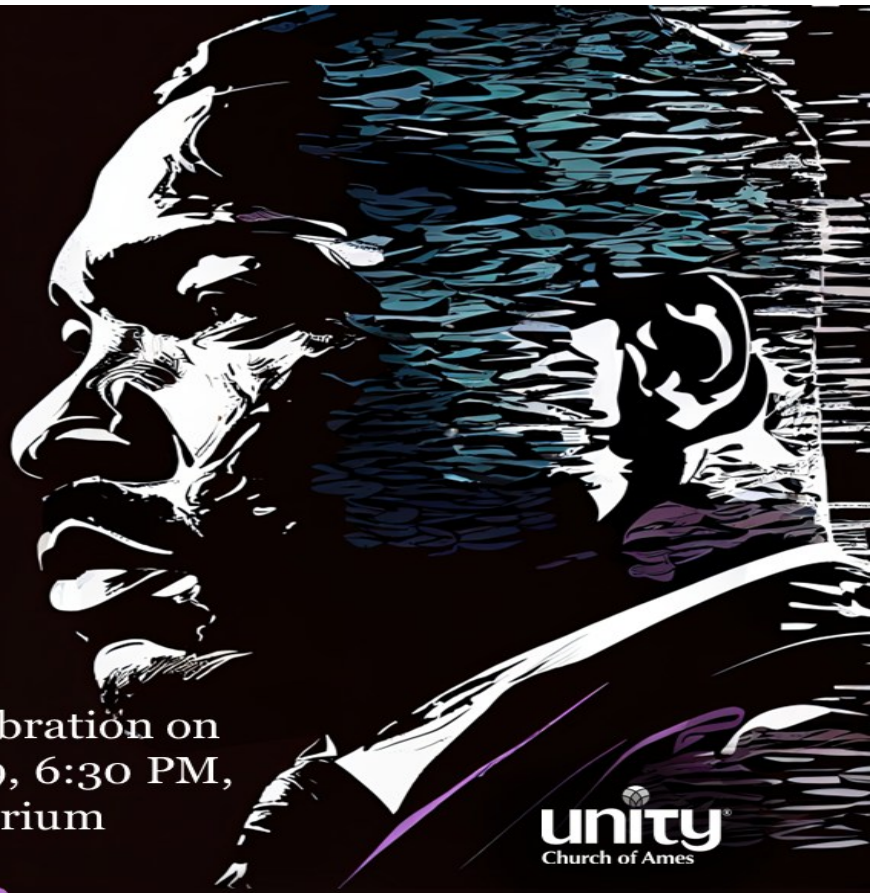
*Ushers:* Daniel Echedon



Jefferson Ndjele	10
Alex Parrish	19
Jere Maddux	20
Alice Clemons	22
TJ Nugent	24
Stacy Starrett	29
Kay O'Brien	31

**Sunday,  
January 18**  
@ 2:00 PM  
at Unity of  
Ames 226 9th  
Street

- ✓ Dream Seed  
Scholarship Love  
Offering
- ✓ Time of Fellowship  
after the service
- ✓ Ames Citywide Celebration on  
Monday, January 19, 6:30 PM,  
at Ames City Auditorium



**unity**  
Church of Ames

*We Are Somebody*

2026 Interfaith Service honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**First Baptist Church**

**AMES**

**200 Lynn Avenue**

**Ames, Iowa 50014-7188**

**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
Erin Topp	Custodian



*Welcome Lori!*

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

We welcome our new Office Manager, Lori Allen! Some of you know Lori as the retired director of Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance. Prior to her work at Good Neighbor, she was the ISU Campus Liaison for ACCESS. She came to Ames in 2007 for her role as Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames. Most of her career was spent in Unitarian Universalist churches in the Midwest. Coming to work at First Baptist feels a bit like coming home for her. Lori has three adult children and four teen grands who all are based in Ames. We are excited to have Lori as part of our team, staffing our church office 12 hours each week.



**Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM**

**Details for connecting via ZOOM at [fbcomes.org](http://fbcomes.org)**