



The Spire

Pastor's Word

For our Lenten study this year, we were planning to focus on hymns, with a conversation about a different hymn each week. The first week, we looked at "The Summons" by John Bell. Bell is a member of the Iona Community in Scotland. The first week, we learned a little about Iona and about Bell. We sang the first verse of the hymn together, and then started our conversation, looking at that verse.

"The Summons" is a hymn we sing in worship fairly regularly. It is very interesting in that the first four verses are entirely made up of questions. Instead of statements of belief or words of inspiration, there are questions posed in the voice of Jesus about what it means to be a disciple. For example, the second verse goes:

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

There are some deep questions in this song, and it elicited a lot of conversation. So much, in fact, that it took us four weeks to get through discussion about a 5 verse hymn. It was a rich conversation – and the meals were wonderful. We had delicious soups made by Joyce Davidson, Rita Parrish, and Beth Douglass. And the emergency pizzas the second week weren't too bad either.

We enjoyed the fellowship and I'm still thinking about some of the questions raised in this hymn. So often, we can learn more from questions than we can from answers. This song has been helpful for me in thinking about what it means to follow Jesus in a difficult world.

The last verse is our response to all of the questions:

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

I look forward to seeing you on Easter morning as we celebrate resurrection!

Blessings,
Dave

Easter Breakfast 8:30
Worship 9:45



April 2026
Volume 74, No. 4

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.

Upcoming Events

MUSIC CAMP 2026



Music Camp is a hands-on experience in music and related arts for children grades K-6 (completed). Campers will experience a wide variety of music. In past years, we have learned about jazz, gospel, Caribbean, Celtic, brass, folk, rock, classical, bluegrass, and more, with great special guest musicians. Our goal is to provide campers with a wide variety of fun musical experiences, including our annual Campers' Talent Show.



- Special guests
- Choir groups
- Musical games
- New friends
- Great snacks
- Cool camp T-shirt



We invite you to join us for a great week! The registration deadline is June 1. You may register up to the start of camp, but t-shirts are not guaranteed after June 1. Please call if you have any questions at 515-292-9612 or email office@fbcomes.org. Registration is \$20 with scholarships for anyone who would like one. More information and online registration is available on our website at fbcomes.org, or you may use the QR code to register.



June 15—19

9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome!
Invite a friend!

We need help with Music Camp! If you can serve as a counselor, kitchen staff, or general helper, please see Mindy or Pastor Dave. You can also invite friends and neighbors to attend the camp!



-HELLO-

April

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|--------|---|
| | |  | 1 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing 6:30p Choir | 2 6:00p Maundy Thursday Service | 3 | 4 |
| 5 EASTER 8:30a Easter Breakfast 9:45a Worship/Communion | 6  | 7 8a Men's Breakfast | 8 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing 6:30p Choir | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11a Church School | 13 | 14 7p Trustees | 15 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing 6:30p Choir | 16 5:30p Trustees | 17 | 18  |
| 19 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 11:45a College/Young Adult Lunch | 20 | 21 8a Men's Breakfast | 22 Earth Day 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing 6:30p Choir  | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School | 27 | 28 | 29 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 2:00p PD Singing 6:30p Choir | 30  | | |



Spring Graduates If you are graduating this spring or know of graduates in our church and extended family, please contact the office.

APRIL

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Zoe Russell | 2 |
| Becca Whitaker | 7 |
| Jacelyn Rudderow | 9 |
| Rosemary Coffey | 18 |
| Elijah Phomvisay | 20 |
| Ann Hinds | 22 |
| Neil Logue | 22 |
| Alissa Parrish | 26 |
| Dawn Doerr-Johnson | 28 |

AMOS We the People 30th Anniversary Convention

📅 **Sunday, August 30, 2026** at 3:00 PM
📍 **Horizon Event Center, Clive, IA**

AMOS | WE the PEOPLE
30 years of organized power

Thank you to all who participated in the **“We the People” House Meetings** on March 29. In small groups we shared stories about barriers to safety and happiness. We joined with 2000 Iowans taking part in similar gatherings in Central Iowa. The concerns we raised will help form the issue agenda for the AMOS We the People Campaign. These concerns will be presented at AMOS 30th Anniversary Convention in Urbandale on August 30. At our house meetings, several folks signed up to attend the August 30 event. To learn more about AMOS, contact Beth Douglass.




Persons age 60 or older are invited to the 2026 **Senior Variety Show Auditions** at Northminster Presbyterian Church 20th St. Ames, IA on April 11 (12:30-4 pm). This year’s theme is

“STARSTRUCK: Stage & Screen.” Show dates are August 14 & 15 For more information: call 515-337-1713 or visit our website: www.seniorvarietyshow.org or find us on Facebook.

Summer Camping

Our region has two camps, [Dayton Oaks](#) and [Forest Lake](#). Both have summer programs with camp for children and youth. Our church will pay half of the cost of camp registration, and if there is financial need the church will pay the full cost. Information on camps is posted on the bulletin board. See Dawn Doerr-Johnson or Pastor Dave for more information.



 **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 |

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



We offer a monthly lunch for college students and young adults. Our next lunch will be following worship and fellowship on **Sunday, April 19**.



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!

Serving This Month

April 5:

Worship Leader: Susan Russell

Ushers: Dawn Doerr-Johnson, Julie Johnston

April 12:

Worship Leader: Erin Johnson

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

April 19:

Worship Leader: Kay O'Brien

Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

April 26:

Worship Leader: Rita Parrish

Ushers: Daniel Echedon, Erin Johnson



Easter Breakfast 8:30

Worship 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at

fbcomes.org