

The Spire

November2026

Volume 78, No. 10

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

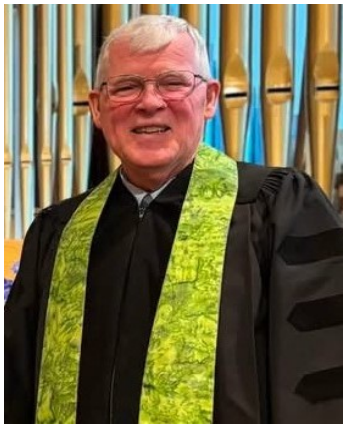
200 Lynn Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188
Worship Sundays 9:45 am

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.

Pastor's Word



Well, I've been here a month, and no one has asked for my resignation. I guess I'll count that as a win. This has been a great time getting acquainted and beginning to discover some of the remarkable things about our church and this interesting and beautiful community.

Some things I have discovered about First Baptist Church:

- This church has an incredible music presence. The choir is exceptionally good and Mindy does an amazing job selecting the hymns we sing each Sunday. Some have been songs I've never heard (but want to hear again, and often) and others have been old favorites. Either way, our congregation sings them beautifully and with a great heart.
- This church has some wonderfully friendly and gracious people. Some of my conversations with my newly discovered sisters and brothers in Christ have been delightful. Stories have been shared, questions asked, information divulged and conversations engaged that have been helpful, interesting, informative, welcoming and loving. You are a gracious people.
- Those who have stepped up to leadership positions in this congregation are exceptionally steadfast and industrious. Work gets done! People step up in incredible ways and, so far, I have heard no complaints. This is something I have particularly appreciated as I know I have challenged the skills of some by asking to do things in ways that have not been done before. I appreciate, too, the ways your leaders have been so willing to embrace doing things differently and working hard to solve problems and keep us moving forward.
- This church has an incredibly beautiful spot in this community. The grounds are gorgeous and welcoming. It could almost be one of the beautiful parks in Ames.
- This church has a beautiful and well-kept building. The sanctuary is lovely and more than adequate for a congregation that enjoys being together for worship. The classrooms are spacious and give plenty of space for people to gather and learn. I've seen the beautiful banners you have made over the years and look forward to seeing them on display for different occasions.

But I've seen some other things as well. Perhaps you've seen them too, or maybe they have escaped your notice altogether.

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- I don't see very many children in our congregation.
- I don't see very many college students in our worship services. I see a lot of college students walk by our church, but they don't seem to know we're here.
- I was surprised that an event we sponsor had only three people from our church attend, and that included me.
- I have noticed some of our spaces hold a lot of clutter, everything from yard tools to old sound equipment to music folders, sometimes all in the same space.
- I have lights in my office that don't work appropriately, and I wonder what other lights in the building have equally charming inabilities.
- Our church constitution seems a bit unwieldly for a congregation of this size.
- The bulletin boards are attractive, but out of date.
- I see several of the same people on a number. of different committees.

So, what do all these things mean? First, I believe we have some wonderful assets. First Baptist Church is a wonderful Community of Faith. You have a lot going for you and God continues to bless the church that was planted here 158 years ago. You continue to have an impact in this community, region and world that is proof that God is not finished with you and has more for you to accomplish for God's glory. You are in a place where the opportunity for life-changing ministry has never been more apparent and needed. You are a people God can use to make a difference! …. But this also means you have work to do. There is the need for us to become serious, active and diligent about reaching out to people and inviting them to come and see what First Baptist Church is about and what we have to offer. There is a need for us to clean out the clutter and make our building more welcoming and engaging for those who walk through the doors. There is a need for more people to engage in the ministries of this church and not just sit on the sidelines and let others carry the load. There is a need to pay attention, ask questions, and look for ways and places where you can use the gifts God has given you to serve God, to serve one another, and to serve this community.

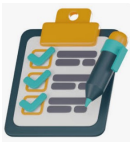
As you have heard me say before; we are at the beginning of an incredible journey together. It is a journey of discovery, challenge and response. It is the journey to which God is calling us in this time of transition and change. And it is a journey that requires your attention and involvement.

Buckle up, Beloved. We are on the move.

Pastor John

Rhythm of the First Baptist Church Year November - December 2026

November 1 - Budget Forum
November 15—Fall Festival
November 22 - Pledge Sunday
November 29 - First Sunday of Advent, Hanging of the Greens
December 6 - Budget/Election Business Meeting
December 12 - Christmas Dinner
December 20 - Christmas baskets
December 24 - Christmas Eve service





Reminder: Daylight Savings Time Ends November 1 at 2 a.m.
Set your clocks back one hour!

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Sunday School 	2	3 8:00a Men's Breakfast	4 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 6:00p Choir	5	6 	7
8 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 2:00p GNEA Choral Concert 	9	10 4:30p Executive Council	11 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 6:00p Choir	12	13	14
15 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fall Festival combined with College Student / Young Adult Lunch 	16	17 8:00a Men's Breakfast	18 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop 6:00p Choir	19	20	21 
22 9:45a Worship 10:45a Sunday School	23	24	25 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop	26 	27	28
29 9:45a Worship 10:45a Hanging of the Greens & Soup Lunch 	30 5:30p Deacons			*Poinsettia plants for the sanctuary will be available to purchase in December. More information coming soon!*		





The Fall Festival will be held after worship on **Sunday, November 15th**. We're combining our College and Young Adult Lunch with The Fall Festival so *everyone* can join us in the activities this year! All FBC members, visitors, children and friends are invited to:

*** Pumpkin Decorating * Cookie Decorating * Games * Lunch**

Invite a friend, all are welcome!

The Hanging of the Greens and Soup Lunch

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, November 29

immediately following the

9:45 a.m. Worship Service





On November 29, we will decorate our lovely church for the Christmas season in an annual ritual that we have termed **"Hanging of the Greens"**. On that day, we will not have Sunday School so that after the morning service, folks attending can help in ways they wish to as we get ready for the advent season . Following our beautifying efforts, we will enjoy fellowship together over a soup lunch around noon. Please join us for this anticipatory time.



Communication! (office@fbcames.org)

Help keep First Baptist Members and Friends informed by submitting information with the Office to be shared in our congregational communications! Thanks everyone!

The Spire: Deadline is the Monday of the last full week of the month for the next month's publication. The next deadline is **Monday, November 23**.

The Sunday Bulletin and Projected Messages: Submission deadline is **Wednesday at noon**.

All congregation email: Contact the office for more information.



Community Events

Sunday
November 8
2:00 PM
Bethesda Lutheran Church

Good Neighbor's 2026 Annual Choral Concert is happening! It will be held on Sunday, November 8th at 2pm. This is a celebration of seasonal music, and all are invited to attend! Our host this year will be:

Bethesda Lutheran,
1517 Northwestern Ave.
Ames, IA 50010

This year, we have choirs from:

- First Baptist Church/ Parkinson's Disease Singing Group
- Golden K Singers
- Ames Chamber Artists
- Ames Youth Choir
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Voices
- Northminster Presbyterian and Collegiate Presbyterian Choirs
- Bethesda Lutheran Church
- Nevada Memorial Lutheran Church

good neighbor emergency assistance, inc.

You are personally invited to attend to hear these wonderful and talented area choirs perform their own individual pieces, and then join together for the mass choral performance of "You Do Not Walk Alone" by Iowa composer Elaine Hagenberg. The mass choir piece will be directed by Bethesda's Music Director Randy Ewing. There is no admission to hear this wonderful music, but we will take a free will donation during the Concert. All are welcomed!

First Baptist Church is a founding member and continuing supporter of this interfaith nonprofit that was formed in 1997 to offer Story County Residents *Hope and Help in Times of Need*. In FY 2026, GNEA helped 830 households with $401,000+ in rent, utility, food, and gasoline assistance. Thank you!

First Baptist Church
AMES

Our Church Staff

Rev. John Williams	Interim Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
Emma Phomvisay	Music Intern
Elizabeth Stegemöller	Choir Accompanist
Lori Allen	Office Manager
Erin Topp	Custodian

November



Morgan Ambourn	2
Lyndsay Whitaker	4
Abby Johnson	8
Lucy Johnson	8
Marilyn Peterson	13
Jill Grauman	13
Brian Starrett	24

November



Catherine and Joe Parrish



We offer a monthly lunch for college students and young adults. Our next lunch will be during our Fall Festival (see page 4) following worship on **Sunday, November 15.** All are welcome!

If you are a First Baptist Church member and you'd like to provide a meal for this group - that is providing funds for pizza or preparing a simple menu - please contact Kaylinn Nugent for more information at **kaylinntaggart@gmail.com**

Serving in November

Nov 1: *Daylight Savings Time Ends*

Worship Leader: Jere Maddux

Ushers: Julie Johnston

Nov 8:

Worship Leader: Beth Douglass

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

Nov 15:

Worship Leader: Alex Parrish

Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

Nov 22:

Worship Leader: John Whitaker

Ushers: Daniel Echedon, Erin Johnson

Nov 29:

Worship Leader: Rita Parrish - Hanging of the Greens

Ushers: Beth Douglass, Jan Thompson



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!

Church Office Hours

Monday	11:30am to 1:30pm
Tuesday	11:30am to 1:30pm
Thursday	9:30am to 11:30pm

Other hours available by appointment

office@fbcames.org

515-292-9612



Worship Sunday Mornings 9:45

in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcames.org

First Baptist members gathered on October 25th for our annual **Day of Service**. This year, 27 FBC family and friends participated in the following activities: Assembling 100 hygiene kits (containing personal care items) to be distributed by the Church World Service for people experiencing disaster recovery, refugee situations and poverty; creating and writing 20 "Thinking of You" cards to send out to family and friends that are unable to attend live services; making 18 fleece baby blankets for the local Primary Care Clinic; and collecting litter covering 9 square blocks of Campustown!

On behalf of the Missions Committee, we offer our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed time, financial resources, the necessary items to complete these projects and their shepherding skills. Special thanks as well for the great pizza lunch we were given!! Your smiles, jump right into it-ess, ideas and laughter made our day a holy success!

Beth Douglass and Lucille Taylor (Missions)





