

### Who We Are

**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.



200 Lynn Avenue  
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

### Our Church Staff:

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

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# The Spire

**First Baptist Church of Ames, Iowa**

July 2025

Volume 71, No. 7

## Pastor's Word

After a long pause, we will be starting up our Music Camp again this month! We began our camp in 2000 and in 2019 we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> annual Music Camp. Then came COVID. Logistical problems kept us from restarting the camp before now, but after a long break, we are back!

Over the years, we have had so many campers, both from our church and from the wider community. We have had all kinds of special guests - steel drums, marimba players, fiddle players, jazz musicians, bagpipers, drum circles, guitarists, and so much more. We have had square dancers, Lao dancers, Indian dancers, Irish dancers, and Scottish dancers. We have painted pianos, tie-dyed T-shirts, created banners for the sanctuary, made cut-out versions of ourselves, and made sets for our musicals.



Our campers have a fun talent show each year and we have had all kinds of tasty snacks. We have put on some great closing programs, showcasing what the campers have learned. The campers experience a wide variety of music and learn new things.

But the most important thing about the camp is the relationships. New friends are made. Older campers help younger ones. And the week is a great opportunity for our church to show love and kindness and genuine interest to the children and their families.

If you would like to volunteer with Music Camp, please see Mindy or me. One of the best ways you can all help is by inviting neighbors and grandkids to camp and we can all pray for this outreach effort of our church.

Blessings,  
Dave

## Worship in July



July 6 – Phyllis Schrag will be our preacher. Phyllis is a choir member and Church School teacher at FBC. She is an educator, quilter, thespian, singer, Sunday School teacher, grandmother, occasional preacher, and more! She and Larry are natives of South Dakota and joined our church in 2016 after moving to Ames. In the Ames community, she has been involved in KHOI radio, ACTORS Theatre, the Senior Variety Show, and more. Phyllis will present a first person account as the Biblical character Rahab.



July 13 - Rev. Jim Hinds will bring the message on July 13. We Jim and Ann officially became FBC members on March 9. Since COVID, they have worshiped with us faithfully from their home received in Keene, New Hampshire. Jim is a retired American Baptist pastor who served at First Baptist in Gardner, Massachusetts. In his previous career he provided computer support at Northeastern University.

Ann and Jim joined our church via Zoom. While here in person, we will give them a warm in-person welcome as new members! His message will be "Rejoice Always" from Philippians 2 and 4.



July 20 – Pastor Dave will share the message that he will give as Worship Clinician at the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians Conference at Green Lake. His sermon will be “Repertoire.” (Look for some good popular music references.)

July 27 – We will continue our once or twice a month summer series from the book of Revelation, looking at Revelation chapter 4.

## Car Show Rescheduled!

Because of brutally hot weather, our Car Show scheduled for June 22 was postponed and we enjoyed worship indoors that morning. The Car Show has been rescheduled for August 3, following our shared service with First Christian Church and the Ames United Church of Christ, held in our front yard. We hope you can join us for this shared service, and you are invited to bring a car to the show!



American Baptist Churches USA  
**BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT**  
July 3-6, 2025 | Omaha, NE



Our American Baptist Biennial Meeting is July 3-6 in Omaha, Nebraska. John and Lorrie Whitaker, Dawn Doerr-Johnson, and Susan and Dave Russell will be attending from our church. This is the “Family Gathering” of American Baptists from around the US and Puerto Rico, held every two years. Please be in prayer for our American Baptist family.





## Senior Variety Show

FBC members will be performing in the Senior Variety Show on Friday, August 15, 7 pm and Saturday, August 16, 2 pm in the Ames City Auditorium. For more information call 515-292-9394. Tickets are available at the door or see Phyllis Schrag.



*Don and Carol Pady in a rehearsal moment. Carol will accompany the Green Birds in the 2025 Senior Variety Show*



*The "Where Are My Keys?" Gospel Quartet ready to perform. L-R Steve Bellin, Bill Watson, Larry Schrag, Gina Spohnheimer.*



*Mother Superior (Phyllis Schrag) and the "Waywards" L-R Cathy VanBrocklin, Paula Huett, Connie Sweeney, and Pat Meek, performing "There's Only One Way To End Your Prayers."*



Wayne Shireman	2
Nancy Maydew	3
Adde Stegemöller	3
Chris Parrish	3
Julie Johnston	5
Michael Leininger	6
Jerilyn Logue	7
Rita Parrish	7
Mary Anderson	15
Joyce Davidson	16
Mindy Phomvisay	19
Aiddy Phomvisay	21
Randy Lambert	23
Jon Pritchard	23
Jan Thompson	23
David Starrett	24
Brian Parrish	29
Eleanor Martin	31

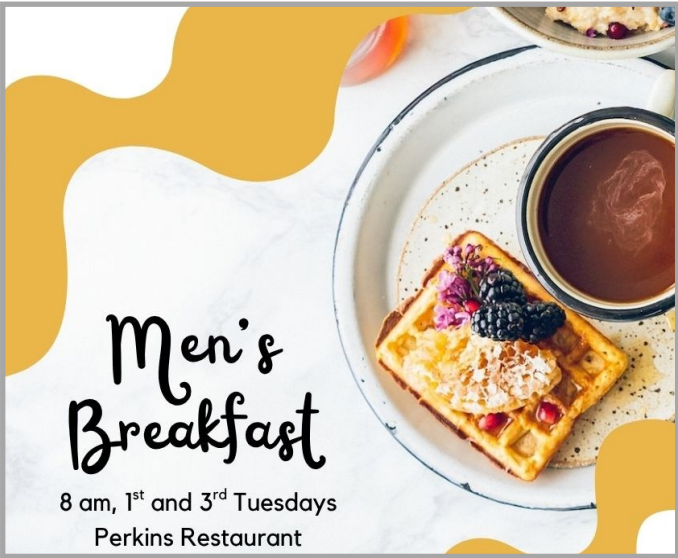


Serena and Alex Parrish	9
Rosemary and Patrick Coffey	16
Beth Douglas and Jere Maddux	18
Jill and Dale Grauman	19
Lorrie and John Whitaker	23



# Serving this month

<b>June 6:</b>	
<i>Worship Leader</i>	Larry Schrag
<i>Ushers:</i>	Aaron Stegemöller, Julie Johnston
<b>June 13:</b>	
<i>Worship Leader</i>	Ann Hinds
<i>Ushers:</i>	Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish
<b>June 20:</b>	
<i>Worship Leader</i>	John Anderson
<i>Ushers:</i>	Jerilyn and Tom Logue
<b>June 27:</b>	
<i>Worship Leader</i>	
<i>Ushers:</i>	Aaron Stegemöller, Larry Schrag



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8a Men's Breakfast	2 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	3	4 	5
6 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Fellowship	7	8 7p Trustees	9 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	10 	11	12
13 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	14	15 8a Men's Breakfast	16 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	17	18	19
20 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	21 	22	23 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	24 7p Deacons	25 	26
27 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	28 9:00-11:30a Music Camp	29 9:00-11:30a Music Camp	30 9:00-11:30a Music Camp 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	31 9:00-11:30a Music Camp	1 9:00-11:30a Music Camp	