



August 2025
Volume 71, No. 8

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.

The Spire First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

Pastor's Word

In 2019, our church held its 20th annual Music Camp. It had become a great tradition and a fun and meaningful ministry to children and their families in our community – most of those who took part were from outside our church, and of course it was a great week for our kids.

Then came COVID, and we did not hold the camp for a couple of years. And then the long drive for Mindy while living in southeast Iowa made it difficult to hold our camp. But six years since our last camp, we held Music Camp again this year. We had forgotten how much fun and what a joy it is! The energy and enthusiasm and interest of the campers was amazing. And it was good to see them interact with the counselors and with each other.

On Monday, our special guest was the Onion Creek Band. They played old-time music with fiddle and guitar and led us in some barn dances that were great fun. Phyllis Schrag led us in creative dramatics that the kids loved. On Tuesday, special guests included Tyler Anderson, John Anderson, and Ryan Smith on trombone, oboe, and euphonium, respectively. Lucy Stegemöller led an art project. The rest of the week included more special guests including Elizabeth Stegemöller on music and the brain, Lucy Stegemöller with French horn, Ryan Smith with mandolin, Dave Russell with saxophone, and Emma Phomvisay with her ukulele. Our camper talent show on Thursday was a big hit! Both campers and staff took part!

Of course, a lot of effort went into learning a musical that the campers performed at the closing program. They did a fantastic job!

Thank you to all who helped make this a great week and a wonderful ministry for our church:

Counselors: Julie Johnston, Lucy Stegemöller, Emma Phomvisay, Lorrie Whitaker, Lyndsay Whitaker, Ryan Smith

Registration: Susan Russell

Office: Sierra Livengood

Tech: Elijah Phomvisay

Drama: Phyllis Schrag

Snack Team: Rita Parrish, Bob Parrish, Joe Parrish

Directors: Mindy Phomvisay and Dave Russell

I hope to see you this Sunday for our outdoor service with First Christian and Ames UCC! Our campers will help lead a song at the service.

Blessings,
Dave



Scenes from Music Camp



MUSIC ALERT!!

For our outdoor service with First Christian and Ames UCC on **August 3**, we will have a pick-up choir. We will practice in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** and sing during the service. Everyone is welcome to join in, whether you are a regular choir member or not! Join us at 9:30 and help us make a joyful noise!

Coming in September!

September 7

Worship under the Trees

Pot Luck Meal with Hickory Park BBQ to follow!

September 14

Church School classes begin!

Parkinson's Disease Singing Festival August 9

The Parkinson's Disease Singing Festival will be held on Saturday, August 9th, at 6:30pm at First Baptist! All are welcome! We are excited to share our favorite music that we sing during our group each week with friends and family. It is a concert you do not want to miss!

Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians Conference

The 60th annual Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians (FABM) Conference was held July 13-19 at Green Lake Conference Center, our national American Baptist Assembly in Wisconsin. Our church has a long history of attending the conference, and we had 10 people attend this year, participating in children, youth, and young adult programs, adult choir, handbells, string ensemble, and orchestra as well as the “leisure track.” Our own Mindy Phomvisay serves as president of FABM. Pastor Dave was one of five worship leaders, preaching at one of the worship services and leading a workshop. Lucy Stegemoller coordinated the string group and Emma Phomvisay coordinated the young adult group.

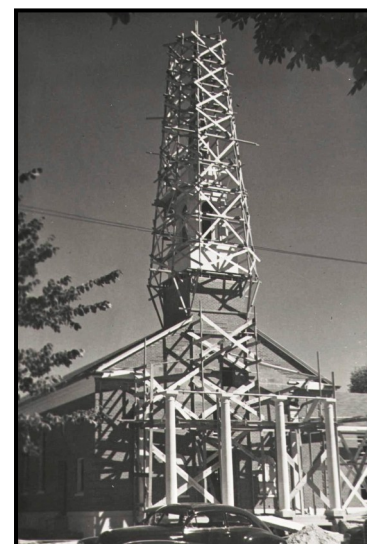
Mark Grizzard, who wrote a choir anthem for our church’s 150th anniversary, wrote an anthem for the 60th anniversary of FABM. Our participants had a great week of music, learning, fellowship, and enjoying the beauty of Green Lake. We would love to have more folks join us next year! The dates for 2026 are July 19-25.



75th Anniversary of Our Building

The year 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of our current church building. Our previous church building was downtown. We sold that building to Fareway in 1949 and after a year of meeting for worship in the Memorial Union, the first service in the new building was held on Maundy Thursday. The formal dedication was held on May 14, 1950.

In our service on August 24, we will celebrate this anniversary and remember some of the significant happenings in this building. But we won't just be looking back; as a new school year begins we will be welcoming students and looking forward. We invite you to join us for this special service.





AUGUST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:30a Music Camp Program	2 9a Workday
3 10a Outdoor Worship with FCC and UCC, Car Show 	4	5 8a Men's Breakfast	6 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	7 	8	9 6:30p PD Singing Festival
10 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	11	12 7p Trustees	13 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	14	15	16 
17 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	18	19 8a Men's Breakfast	20 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	21	22	23
24 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	25	26	27 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	28 7p Deacons	29	30
	First Week of ISU Classes					
31 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship						



Serving this month

August 3:

Worship Leader Shared service with FCC/UCC

Ushers: Aaron Stegemöller, Julie Johnston

August 10:

Worship Leader Becca Whitaker

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

August 17:

Worship Leader Jan Thompson

Ushers: Jerilyn and Tom Logue

August 24:

Worship Leader Susan Russell

Ushers: Aaron Stegemöller, Larry Schrag

August 31:

Worship Leader Ryan Smith

Ushers: Beth Douglass, Jan Thompson



Lorrie Whitaker	7
Scott Anderson	13
Gary Maydew	13
Maurine MacBride	13
Don Pady	17
Johnie Hammond	22
Gabe Whitaker	22
Bob Parrish	24
Carol Pady	28
Randall O'Brien	29

Happy Anniversary

Phyllis and Larry Schrag

August 9



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 or visit SeniorVarietyShow.org. Tickets are available at the door or see Phyllis Schrag.



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	Music Intern
Elizabeth Stegemöller	Choir Accompanist
Sierra Livengood	Office Manager



Join us for our annual shared service with Ames United Church of Christ and First Christian Church!

The service will be in our front yard on August 3 at 10 am. Bring a chair if you can (folding chairs will be available.) Our rescheduled Car Show will follow.



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcames.org