



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

November 2025  
Volume 71, No. 11

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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E-MAIL: [office@fbcomes.org](mailto:office@fbcomes.org)  
WEB: [fbcomes.org](http://fbcomes.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.*



I am continually amazed and blessed by this church. This past Sunday is a good case in point. A number of folks were away (we actually had more on Zoom than in person!) Our choir, not huge to start with, was missing a few members, and our choir director Mindy and song leader Emma were not there because of illness. There was some question as to whether we would sing the planned choir anthem as we had an especially small group, our two basses present had not practiced the song before Sunday morning, and we were missing our director.

When I say there was some question, what I mean is that there was some question in my mind but apparently not a lot of question for others. Instead, there was confidence. Elizabeth accompanied us, Joe sang the solo at the beginning, Phyllis directed us through a pause on the last line, and I think the technical term is that we “crushed it.” I am thankful for those who share their gifts and who do so with faith, hope and love. This is what stewardship is all about.

Our fall stewardship theme is “Faithful, Hopeful, Loving” from 1 Corinthians 13. As we worship, as we serve, and as we care for one another, for our community, and for all of God’s creation, we are living out the faith, hope, and love that are gifts from God.

In worship we will be hearing from church members who will share how support for our church helps to share faith, hope, and love. This past Sunday Elizabeth Stegemöller shared about the Parkinson’s disease singing group that meets at our church, and how that has made a huge impact in the lives of many people. Our church helps to make that possible, and this is one of the many ways we are on mission in our community.

You will receive a mailing this week with a letter from our stewardship committee, a pledge card, and a narrative budget telling about our planned ministry for the coming year. I invite you to prayerfully consider making a pledge of support to our church’s ministry for 2026. Our Pledge Sunday will be November 9 and our final budget will be adopted at the Business Meeting on Sunday, December 7.

With Faith, Hope, and Love,  
*Dave*

## CROP Walk 2025



This year's CROP Hunger Walk was held Sunday afternoon, October 12 at a new location – Moore Memorial Park. There were around 85 walkers representing 18 Story County congregations. Our own Julie Johnston serves on the planning committee.

FBC participants included Elijah Phomvisay, Ethan Phomvisay, Emma Phomvisay, Mindy Phomvisay, Dave Russell, Julie Johnston, Steve Babcock, and our canine walkers Benny and Willie B. Our FBC team has raised a total of \$718 to date. Twenty-five percent of funds raised support seven different food pantries and feeding programs in Story County. The remaining 75% goes to fight hunger throughout the US and around the world through Church World Service. Thank you to all of our walkers and sponsors!

## Great Day of Service

On October 5 we held our Annual Great Day of Service. This day was World Communion Sunday and we held a brief communion service in the sanctuary before doing service projects that helped people in our neighborhood as well as people around the world.

We participated in Make Campustown Shine, picking up trash in the neighborhood. We made 16 infant blankets for Primary Health Care and 41 Christmas stockings for Blue Star Mothers at Camp Dodge. We also assembled 100 hygiene kits for Church World Service that will go to those in temporary shelter across the US and around the world. Jere Maddux and Beth Douglass delivered these to a collection site in Boone, and extra hygiene supplies were donated to the Bridge Home. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a great day!



# November

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

## Serving this month



### November 2:

*Worship Leader:* Kay O'Brien  
*Ushers:* Julie Johnston

### November 9:

*Worship Leader:* John Anderson  
*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

### November 16:

*Worship Leader:* Jan Thompson  
*Ushers:* Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

### November 23:

*Worship Leader:* Phyllis Schrag  
*Ushers:*

### November 30:

*Worship Leader:* Beth Douglass  
*Ushers:* Jan Thompson



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

*Happy Anniversary!*



Catherine and Joe Parrish 20

*HAPPY Retirement!*

After 20 years of ministry at First Christian Church, Rev. Mary Jane Button-Harrison is retiring. A retirement celebration will be held on Sunday, November 9 from 10:30-3 pm. For more information, please see the poster on the community bulletin board.

WITH DEEPEST  
*Sympathy*

Our love and prayers are with the family of Jenna McCarley. Jenna died on Monday, October 13 at Green Hills Retirement Community. Jenna and Bob joined our church in 1956 and over the years Jenna served our church and community in all kinds of ways - from choir member to CCJ founder to deacon to church moderator. Jenna made trips with the Baptist Peace Fellowship to the Soviet Union and Nicaragua, and she served with love and humor and a warm welcome for everyone.

Visitation was held on October 17 at Grandon Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life will be held at the church on Saturday, May 23, 2026. The [obituary](#) may be found on the Grandon Funeral Home website.

Please continue to be in prayer for Tonia, Carlton, Kyanne, Maura, and all of Jenna's family.

## Reception and Memorial Service for Harris Seidel

Harris Seidel, our oldest and longest tenured member, died on September 19. Harris first attended our church in 1942 and blessed our church, our community, and our world in countless ways. A reception with Harris' family will be held on Friday, November 7 from 3-6 pm at Northcrest in the Grand Room.

The memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 8 at 11 am at First Baptist, with a lunch following. The service will be available on Zoom at [our regular Sunday morning link](#).

The [obituary](#) is available at the Adams Funeral Home website.

**AMOS  
VARIETY  
SHOW**

**NOVEMBER 16  
3:00 PM**

TICKETS:

ANKENY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER  
710 NE 36TH ST | ANKENY

The **AMOS Variety Show** is Sunday, November 16. Enjoy fun entertainment, a silent auction, and good food together with folks from other AMOS congregations and institutions as we raise money to fund the work that is more important than ever—making our communities places that work for everyone!

Let's learn to disagree better,  
**TOGETHER.**

Join us for a FREE workshop in Ames!

Feeling tired of the constant political division?  
What if we could build the skills to communicate  
across our differences with respect and clarity?

This **FREE** in-person workshop is a  
Braver Angels event designed to do just that.  
“**Skills for Disagreeing Better**“ is about learning  
practical skills to listen so others feel heard, and to  
share your own views in a way that others can hear.

**WHEN:** Sunday, November 2nd, 2 - 4 PM CST  
**WHERE:** Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave., Ames  
**COST:** FREE (Donations welcome)

Scan the code below to register! Use promo code "**BRAVER**"  
and select "**Free Ticket**" at checkout to reserve your spot.



**HOSTED BY**  
Ames Public Library  
Indivisible Ames  
The League of Women Voters Ames & Story County  
Democracy Every Day  
Ames Area Religious Leaders Association (AARLA)



**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
Sierra Livengood	Office Manager



Our choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6 pm. We are now working on a Christmas cantata. We would love to have new voices join us for the cantata! If you are not a member of the choir but would like to sing in our cantata, we would love to have you join us! Join us on Wednesday or see Mindy if you have questions.



**College Student/Young Adult Lunch  
November 16**

We invite all college students and similarly aged young adults to join us for lunch on Sunday, November 16 following worship. This will be a chance to get to know each other better and enjoy a good meal. Please join us!



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

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