



The Spire First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

September 2025
Volume 71, No. 9

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.

Worship under the Trees



outdoor worship on the front lawn

Sunday, September 7 — 9:45 a.m.

**Join us as we kick off the church program
year and welcome students!**

- Meal featuring Hickory Park barbecue to follow – please bring a dish to share. Students and newcomers, please come as our guests!
- Bring a lawn chair or blanket (folding chairs available)
- We can use some help with set-up that morning at 8:30 a.m.
- Card tables needed for the meal – contact the church office if you can bring a table
- This is a great day to invite a friend!



I was in Milwaukee last month for an American Baptist Homes of the Midwest board meeting. ABHM has a number of senior living communities in 6 states. They do good work in providing housing and nursing care as a Christian ministry. Wallace Sanders, Barbara Woods, and Jere Maddux have all served on the ABHM board. One of the ABHM communities, Tudor Oaks, is in a Milwaukee suburb.

After the meeting was over on Saturday afternoon, several board members headed to the airport. Four of us had a

connecting flight to Chicago. Our flight was delayed repeatedly by storms in the area and as the afternoon became evening, we were not feeling optimistic.

Susan and I were planning to drive to Illinois the next day and stay at a friend's house before heading on to Indiana to visit my family. So as the possibility of making it out of Milwaukee seemed less and less likely, I started to look at options. I could have made it to O'Hare via Amtrak, but it was now too late for that. About then, United Airlines staff brought out bottles of water and snacks for those waiting for a flight. I knew this was a bad sign. And sure enough, a few minutes later the flight was canceled.

So many flights in and out of Chicago had been canceled that there was a huge backlog. I would not be able to get home until Monday.

Another board member from Des Moines and I went to the rental car counters, most of which were already closed for the night. We managed to get the very last car available, a screaming red Kia Soul. Bruce and I left Milwaukee around 8:45 pm and drove through scattered thunderstorms on into the wee hours. We stopped at a Kwik Star or two and I had a bag of Wonderful Pistachios and a semi-delicious gas station chicken sandwich for supper (along with caffeinated drinks). We enjoyed visiting as we traveled through the night. I picked up my car at the Des Moines airport and made it home about 4:15 am. I was very glad that I was taking that Sunday off! And we made it to Indiana more or less on schedule.

All in all, it worked out OK - much better than it did for John Candy and Steve Martin. Don't get me wrong, I hope that all my future travels are smooth sailing. But that is not the way life works. Often as not, life is about moving forward when things do not go the way we would want.

The church is about traveling together along the journey, following the way of Jesus - even when there are roadblocks. Even when the road is difficult. We travel together knowing that God goes with us. I am thankful to be traveling this road with all of you.

Blessings,
Dave

Fellowship Time Signup

Through the school year, we will have a Fellowship Time following worship on the second Sunday of each month. You may sign up to provide refreshments for one of our monthly fellowship times on the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to all who have provided refreshments over the summer months!

Choir News

As we start a new choir season, this is a great time to join our choir! All are welcome! Choir rehearsals have moved to 6pm on Wednesdays. For more information, please see our director, Mindy Phomvisay.



GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

Our annual Great Day of Service is set for Sunday, October 6. We will gather at the regular time of 9:45 am, have a very short worship service in the sanctuary, and then spend the morning in service projects – working both in our building and out in the community. We will conclude with lunch together. One of the projects involves putting together hygiene kits for Church World Service that are distributed throughout the country and around the world as needs arise to victims of natural disasters such as flooding, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornados as well as those who are refugees because of war or political upheaval. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to help provide some of the items for the kits. Be watching for more details and plan to join us on October 6!



Photo of 2024 CROP Walk Participants

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Ames
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 12, 2025

AMES, IOWA

The annual CROP Walk for Hunger will take place at **Moore Memorial Park** this year on October 12. Our FBC team is walking to fight hunger in Story County and around the world. Registration begins at 1 pm and the walk starts at 1:30. [Click here](#) to register online or make contributions to our FBC team. You can also see our recruiter Julie Johnston to register and pick up a paper sponsor form. Join our FBC team!

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 8a Men's Breakfast	3 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 5:20p Worship Comm. 6p Choir	4	5 	6
7 9a Choir 9:45a Worship under the Trees 11:00 Meal 3:00 Larry Schrag Celebration of Life	8	9 7p Trustees	10 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 6p Choir	11	12 	13
14 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11:00a Church School	15	16 8a Men's Breakfast	17 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 6p Choir	18	19	20
21 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	22	23 	24 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 6p Choir	25	26 	27
28 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	29	30	1 	2 7p Deacons		



Serving this month

September 7:

Worship Leader Kaylinn Nugent
Ushers: Aaron Stegemöller, Julie Johnston

September 14:

Worship Leader Joyce Davidson
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

September 21:

Worship Leader Jere Maddux
Ushers: Jerilyn and Tom Logue

September 28:

Worship Leader Erin Johnson
Ushers: Aaron Stegemöller



Lyndsay Ndjele	1
Katherine Thompson	2
Stephanie Keat	3
Lucy Stegemöller	10
John Anderson	12
Jenna McCarley	19
Ethan Phomvisay	22
Dave Russell	22
Rosemarie Starrett	24
Kent Johnson	29
Elizabeth Stegemöller	30

Happy Anniversary

Jill & Michael Leininger 6

With Sympathy

Our love and prayers are with Phyllis Schrag and her family in the loss of Larry, who died on August 31. Larry was serving our church as a deacon and had previously served as a trustee. He loved music and was a member of our choir, frequently singing in duets, quartets, and ensembles. He had persevered through a long illness with grace and strength and faith. A service celebrating his life will be held this Sunday, September 7 at 3 pm at the church. This service will also be available [on Zoom](#).



Fall Kickoff September 14: Church School News

On September 14, we begin our regular fall schedule, with Church School at 10:45. On the second Sunday of each month, there will be a Fellowship Time after worship with Church School following. We offer classes for all ages:

Children K-6 will meet in the downstairs classroom with Jan Thompson and assistants. They will also have Music Time with Mindy.

Youth 7-12 will meet with Becca Whitaker in the youth room upstairs.

College Students/Young Adults will meet in the College Lounge on the second floor. On September 14 they will meet and make plans for the semester, including study, fellowship, and meals together.

The Library Class will meet (where else?) in the library with Phyllis Schrag as facilitator. This is a Bible Study class using the *Salt and Light* curriculum. This fall's theme is "We Will Follow Jesus." The class will be available via Zoom.

The Theology Class will meet in the lounge and on Zoom. The class will share leadership and begin the semester with the video/discussion series "Free Exercise," looking at religious liberty and the separation of church and state.



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
Erin Topp	Custodian

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

**Details for connecting via Zoom
at fbcomes.org**

Welcome, Erin!

We welcome our new custodian, Erin Topp. Erin began with us on August 26. She will generally be working during the school day. We are delighted she has joined our staff!

Service Recordings Available Online

Recordings of past services are available on our website at fbcomes.org. Recent videos posted include the slide show played at the service commemorating the 75th anniversary of our building.

We are continuing to rebuild our website after having to move to a new system recently.

