



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

February 2026
Volume 72, No. 1

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

The season of Lent begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. Our Ash Wednesday service will include meditative music, scripture, prayer, silence, and ashes. We will also have a weekly soup supper and study through the season of Lent. Observing Lent as a time of reflection and renewal makes the joy of Easter all the greater.

Frederick Buechner writes:

In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.

If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?

If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.

I invite you to join us at 6 pm on Ash Wednesday, February 18, as we begin our journey through Lent.

Blessings,
Dave



Upcoming Events



Faith-Rooted Climate Action: A Meet & Greet

Friends and members of the Ames faith community are warmly invited to a **Meet & Greet Fundraiser with Iowa Faith & Climate Network** on **Thursday, Feb. 5, from 5:30 – 7 pm** at **Labyrinth Coffee (159 Sheldon Ave., Ames)**. Join their staff and other local climate advocates for an informal evening of conversation, connection, and light refreshments as we reflect on faith-rooted responses to the climate crisis and share hopes and plans for the year ahead. The coffee bar will be open for purchases. **Registration is requested** to help ensure adequate seating and food: <https://iowafaithandclimate.org/ames-event>.



2026 Senior Variety Show

Persons age 60 or older are invited to attend an informational meeting to learn all about the 2026 show theme, *Star-Struck: Stage & Screen*. This meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 12, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm** at **Northminster Presbyterian Church**. For more information call 515-337-1713 or visit www.seniorvarietyshow.org. You can also find info on Facebook.

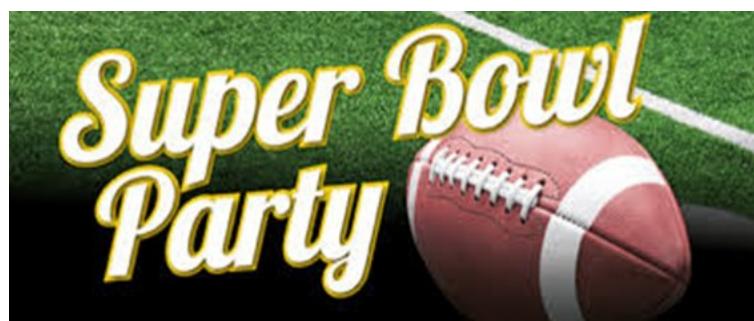


Our Annual Cook-off is Sunday, February 22 at 6 pm

In honor of our nation's 250th birthday, this year's theme is "Red, White and Blue." Entries must include red, white, and/or blue ingredients. The possibilities are wide open – main course, side dish, dessert, appetizer, whatever you would like to bring. Contestants are only limited by needing to include red, white, and/or blue ingredients.

We need both contestants and "testers" for the cookoff! Everyone is welcome, whether they bring a dish or not. And this is a good chance to invite a friend!

The way it works is that we sample as many dishes as we wish and then vote for our favorites with cash, with all proceeds going to a mission effort. Bring coins, bills, and checks (but no pennies please.) The proceeds go to a mission cause each year – we have supported church mission trips, denominational offerings, disaster relief, and local causes. This year the funds will go to SHOP, the food pantry for Iowa State students. Come join us on February 22 for a great evening!



Sunday, February 8 – 5:15 (kickoff 5:30)

Bring a snack to share!

If you are not a big football fan,
you are welcome to bring a board game!

Everyone is welcome!

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45a Worship/ Communion	2 	3 8a Men's Breakfast	4 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Singing</i> 6p Choir	5	6	7
8 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11a Church School 5:15p Super Bowl Party 	9	10 6p Pastoral Relations Committee 7p Trustees	11 210a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>p PD Singing</i> 6p Choir	12	13	14 Happy Valentines Day! 
15 9:45a Worship 3p AMOS Delegate Assembly, Plymouth Church, Des Moines	16 	17	18 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Singing</i> 6p Ash Wednesday Service Choir follows Service <i>Lent Begins</i>	19 5:30p Deacons	20	21
22 9:45a Worship 6p Cook-Off 	23	24 8a Men's Breakfast 7p Trustees	25 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Singing</i> 5:30p Lenten Service/Soup Supper 6:30p Choir	26	27	28

AMOS "We The People" Campaign

2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It is also the 30th anniversary of AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy). Our church is one of 40 institutional members of AMOS, a community organizing group that seeks to build a community where everyone can flourish.

For its 30th anniversary, AMOS is embarking on a "We the People" campaign. Across our AMOS institutions we will be launching small group "house meetings" - listening sessions to engage people both within and beyond the walls of our organizations.

From the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their ***Safety and Happiness***.

250 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we will be asking Iowans to share their own stories about barriers to **safety and happiness** facing their loved ones today. These small group house meetings will generate AMOS' issue agenda and build organized people power for our August 30, 2026 We the People Convention in Clive, where we will gather 1000 Iowans from FBC and other AMOS member institutions.

Our church will be holding house meetings in the near future – be watching for details. We will hold these small groups gatherings following worship on a Sunday morning. If you have questions or would be willing to help lead one of these meetings, please see Beth Douglass, Lucille Taylor, or Pastor Dave.



Serving this month



February 1:

Worship Leader: Beth Douglass

Ushers: Dawn Doerr-Johnson, Julie Johnston

February 8:

Worship Leader: Phyllis Schrag

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

February 15:

Worship Leader: Susan Russell

Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

February 22:

Worship Leader: Ryan Smith



Aaron Stegmöller	6
Tom Logue	9
Patrick Coffey	12
Emma Phomvisay	17
Kaylinn Taggart	20
John Hassler	21
Michelle Hassler	27



Every Wednesday at 10 am, FBC has our Virtual Coffee Shop. It is an informal 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!

We offer a monthly lunch for college students and young adults. Our next lunch will be following worship on Sunday, February 1. If you would be willing to provide one of our monthly lunches, you can sign up on the bulletin board or see Pastor Dave for more information.



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
Lori Allen	Office Manager
Erin Topp	Custodian

Office Hours

Tuesday 9:30am to 1:30pm
Wednesday 1:30pm to 4:30pm
Thursday 9:30am to 12:30pm
Friday 9:30am to 11:30am



Ash Wednesday Service

February 18, 6 pm
In the church lounge

meditative service with music,
prayer, candles and ashes

Lenten Soup Supper and Study Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

(choir follows at 6:30)

February 25
March 4
March 11
March 25



We will share a simple meal each week, followed by our Lenten Study. We will be using the resource *Will You Come and Follow Me: A Lenten Study on Hymns*. Our conversation will focus around a different hymn each week including the background of the hymn and information on the hymn writer. Of course we will sing each hymn, and our conversation will include how each hymn speaks to us now in our daily lives and in our community.



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcames.org