



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

April, 2021
Volume 67, No. 4

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.



Palm Sunday, March 28 worship 9:45 am
worship includes a virtual Palm Procession

Maundy Thursday, April 1 worship 7 pm
scripture, music, prayer, communion

Good Friday, April 2 worship 12 noon
Community service with speakers including Pastor Dave on "The Seven Last Words of Christ." Link will be emailed prior to the service.

Easter Sunday, April 4 Sunrise Service, 7 am
Outdoor, in-person (only) service at the Stegemöllers' home. Look for email with directions or contact the church office.

Easter Sunday, April 4 Easter Worship, 9:45 am
Celebrate Resurrection!

All services online, except for Easter Sunrise.

[Zoom worship link](#)





Remembering Jack Cleasby

We were all saddened by the loss of Jack Cleasby, who died Wednesday, March 24 at Northcrest Healthcare Center. Jack and Donna moved to Ames in 1954, and God certainly blessed us when they joined our church.

Jack was a key leader in our church for decades, and at age 93 was active as ever, serving as a trustee and joining in all kinds of Zoom events over this past year. He was in his 68th year as a member of our choir, an almost unimaginable record, and has participated in our virtual choir videos during the pandemic. Jack was the first person I met in Ames—he was chair of the

Pastoral Search Committee when our family moved here in 1999. He was without fail a supportive and encouraging friend to me over these last 21+ years.

As a church, we were all blessed by his kindness, commitment, and generous spirit. Our love and prayers are especially with his children, Rick and Lynne, and their families. Jack had 7 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren. Jack and Donna's daughter Teri died in 2017, and Donna died in 2019.

Visitation will be Friday, April 9 from 5-7 pm at Adams Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 10 at 11 am. Because of COVID-19, only family will be in attendance at the church, but the service will be made available on Zoom. The link for the service will be sent in an email.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

P.S. David Sanders, a son of our church who is now chair of the Civil Engineering Department at Iowa State, alerted me to a video interview with Jack conducted just weeks before his passing. The interview was part of a project on the history of the department. This is posted on the department's website, along with an interview with Wallace Sanders. You can check those interviews out [here](#).

New in Our Church Library:

The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song

by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; reviewed by Rev. Dr. Wayne Shireman

We are given a look at the Black Church in the United States from the beginning of the slave trade until "Black Lives Matter" today. Methodist churches were the first to allow slaves to attend worship. The services did not meet the needs of Black folk, and they formed the African Methodist Church. Later, Baptist churches were formed, and Baptist conventions established. Dr. Gates leads us through the pre and post Civil War experience and the place the Black Church had in the lives of slaves and freed Black people. He points out that the Black Church was the only place that they were made to be important and could control their lives.

Dr. Gates takes us through centuries of the Black Church to its place today. He lists the church leaders who have had an important place in the church. This book is important to understanding modern history. I was educated and enriched in reading it.

(You can call the church if you would like to stop by the library, or we would be glad to deliver books to you.)

COVID-19 UPDATE

Our Re-Opening Committee will meet April 13 to continue to plan for meeting again in person. We will have an outdoor, in-person Easter Sunrise Service and anticipate meeting again outdoors for our regular Sunday worship when it is warm enough. If all goes well in regard to virus levels, we hope to be able to meet again in the sanctuary before too long. In the meantime, we continue to upgrade our technology so that we can continue to offer online worship going forward. At this time, we continue to meet virtually and we are not allowing building use by outside groups. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the committee: Wes Johnson, Jere Maddux, Joyce Davidson, John Whitaker, Joe Parrish, Elizabeth Stegemöller, Aaron Stegemöller, Mindy Phomvisay, and Dave Russell.



Spring Graduates

Are you or someone you know graduating this Spring? If so, please let the church office know. We will be honoring college and high school graduates in worship and featuring graduates in the *May Spire*. Please call the church office at 292-9612 or email us at office@fbcomes.org.



| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Zoe Russell | 2 |
| Lorene Hoover | 5 |
| Becca Whitaker | 7 |
| Jacelyn Rudderow | 9 |
| Rosemary Coffey | 18 |
| Elijah Phomvisay | 20 |
| Neil Logue | 22 |
| Alissa Parrish | 26 |
| Dawn Doerr-Johnson | 28 |

Happy Anniversary

Fred and Dianne Borgen 4



This mattress was illegally parked at the church on Palm Sunday. Does it belong to you?



TRIVIA NIGHT

Our next monthly Trivia Night will be on Friday, March 26 at 6:30 pm, via Zoom. The questions come from a range of general knowledge topics, with a few “churchy” questions thrown in. We will form teams, and the teams can discuss their answers to each round’s questions in Zoom breakout rooms. We will use the same Zoom link that we use on Sunday mornings. We always have a fun time! Contact Pastor Dave for more information.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|--|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | | 1 7p Maundy Thursday Service | 2 12p Good Friday Community Service (online) | 3 |
| HOLY WEEK | | | | | | |
| 4 7a Sunrise Service at Stegemöllers 9:45a Easter Worship Communion  | 5 | 6 | 7 6:30p choir | 8 | 9 | 10 11a Jack Cleasby Memorial Service (Zoom) |
| 11 9:45a Worship 11a Church School | 12 | 13 6:15p Re-Opening Committee 7:p Trustees | 14 | 15 10a Virtual Coffee Shop | 16 | 17 9a Work Day |
| 18 9:45a Worship 11a Church School | 19 | 20 | 21 6:30p choir | 22 10a Virtual Coffee Shop | 23 6:30 Trivia Night | 24 |
| 25 9:45a Worship 11a Church School | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons | 30 | |



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 |
| Kathy Greiner | Office Manager Custodian |



Zoom Schedule Changes



Beginning in April, we will adjust our Zoom weekday schedule. The Virtual Coffee Shop on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday night devotion will be replaced by one gathering, a Virtual Coffee Shop on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am, beginning April 15. Everything has been experimental this past year, and we will be trying this new schedule. We invite you to join us for a chance to check in and have conversation with friends.