



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

January 2025
Volume 71, No. 1

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.

Pastor's Word

More than a few columns will be written this month about the year ahead, about beginnings and clean slates and resolutions and new opportunities. This is certainly a time for new beginnings, and I have written columns and preached sermons on this theme. But here I want to reflect a bit on the past month. December was wonderful and exciting - and terrible and difficult. All together.

I love all of the seasonal festivity and the rich traditions that we have at First Baptist. The music in worship was wonderful. Our choir presented a glorious Christmas cantata including an instrumental ensemble made up of Iowa State students. As usual, Mindy pulled everything together and it was a wonderful morning. The following Sunday, we were able to present portions of the cantata at Northcrest at our annual Christmas Vespers service there, another lovely tradition that has continued for more than 50 years.

And then I love playing saxophone in our Yuletide Orchestra. We had a great group this year, with 12 participants. Among other things, we had four saxophones - 2 altos, a tenor and a baritone sax! We all thoroughly enjoyed playing, and the variety of ages and instruments made it a fun experience for the group, and hopefully for the church.

Our children made Christmas cards in Church School. Members brought fruit, nuts, candy, and cookies and then our children helped assemble Christmas baskets that included the cards they had made. These were distributed to folks who really appreciated both the baskets and the love behind them.

I could go on and on, but from the Hanging of the Greens to the Christmas Dinner and program to the beautiful Christmas Eve service, the month of December was special at First Baptist.

And yet it was a hard month for a lot of people. It was hard for those who have experienced loss. We had members in the hospital in Des Moines and Iowa City for extended stays with challenging health concerns, and this weighed heavily on many of us. I made more trips to the hospital in Des Moines in a couple of weeks than I had in the previous few years.

I was impressed that through all of this, people showed up. Many of you filled in for those who could not be there, taking on new roles. You visited folks in the hospital, made phone calls and sent cards and texts and emails, took care of household details for others, offered a place to stay for out of town hospital visitors, and offered lots of prayers. We expressed care and concern and did what we could to take care of one another. As much as the celebration, this too is a part of Christmas - and a part of what it is to be a community of faith.

I am praying for a happy, healthy, joyful New Year for all of you. And I know that in those times that are not 100% joyful, God will be with us still, and we can serve together and bless one another as the hands and feet of Christ.

New Year's Blessings,
Pastor Dave

Scenes from December Events

2024 Christmas
Cantata



Yuletide Orchestra



Christmas Program

 AMOS | A Mid-Iowa
Organizing Strategy

Housing is a rising concern in Ames. There is an increasing number of homeless persons, many have trouble paying rent, and purchasing a home is beyond the reach of a lot of people. Many who work in Ames cannot afford to live here. The AMOS institutions in Ames will kick off a Housing Organizing Campaign on Thursday, January 23 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Ames United Church of Christ. This will be an opportunity to learn about how AMOS works, learn more about housing issues in Ames, and be in on the ground floor as AMOS begins a process to listen, learn, research, and take action. If you would like to attend this gathering or have questions, please see Pastor Dave.

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	3 	4
5 9a Choir 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School	6	7 8a Men's Breakfast	8 6:30p Choir	9 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	10	11
12 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship Time 11a Church School	13	14 7p Trustee's Meeting	15 6:30p Choir	16 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons Meeting	17 	18
19 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	20	21 8a Men's Breakfast	22 6:30p Choir	23 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p AMOS Housing Kickoff, Ames UCC	24	25
26 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 12p Annual Meeting	27 	28	29 6:30p Choir	30 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	31 	



January 5:

Worship Leader John Anderson
Ushers: Julie Johnston and Aaron Stegemöller

January 12:

Worship Leader Lorrie Whitaker
Ushers: Jere Maddux and Bob Parrish

January 19:

Worship Leader Jere Maddux
Ushers: Jerilyn Logue and Tom Logue

January 26:

Worship Leader Randall O'Brien
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman and Larry Schrag



Jefferson Ndjele	10
Alex Parrish	19
Jere Maddux	20
Alice Clemons	22
TJ Nugent	24
Stacy Starrett	29
Sierra Livengood	29
Kay O'Brien	31

Annual Meeting Set for January 26



Our church annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 26 at 12 noon. We will hear reports on our ministry through the past year and conduct some other business. Board and committee chairs and anyone with a report to submit: we ask that you get reports to the office by Friday, January 17 for inclusion in the Book of Reports.

Greetings from the FBC Financial Secretary!

If you submitted a pledge for 2025 and/or gave a donation during 2024, an envelope should be coming your way by mail. All reports were printed, consolidated, folded, and stuffed into envelopes (each needed a stamp, return label, and address of the recipients). The envelopes were dropped at the Campustown post office on Sunday, Jan. 5.

If you believe you should have received a letter and it has not arrived in a week, please let me know as soon as possible.

If you have not pledged for 2025 and wish to do so, there is still time.

A shout out to Joe Parrish, the assistant financial secretary, for his continued weekly dedication assisting me with the counting of donations. Thank you Joe!

- Jerilyn Logue

Christian Sympathy

Our love and prayers are with Joyce Davidson, Annalee O'Connor, Alex O'Connor and family in the loss of Lee Davidson, who died on December 28 at MercyOne Medical Center in Des Moines. Lee had persevered through a series of health challenges with faith and determination. Here is a link to [his obituary](#).

The memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 18 at 11 a.m. here at First Baptist. The service will be available at our regular [Zoom link](#). A lunch at the church will follow.



Our annual Super Bowl Party is set for February 9 at 5:15 pm (kickoff 5:30). Bring a snack/dish to share and join us for an exciting game! (The exciting game could be on the screen - or it could be a board game!) If you are not much of a football fan, feel free to bring a game with you! All ages are welcome!

***You are invited to attend the 2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Service,
presented by the Ames Area Religious Leaders Association***

AARLA Interfaith Service Honoring
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



A Network of Mutuality

**January 19, 2025, 2:00 PM
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Ames
1015 Hyland Ave.**



Join online:
bit.ly/AARLA-MLK-2025



**Supporting the YSS/AMP
Dream Seed Scholarship Program**
Scan the code to donate online -
enter "AMP Dream Seed" in comment box.



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
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcomes.org