



The Spire First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

February 2022
Volume 68, No. 2

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

PHONE: 515-292-9612
E-MAIL: office@fbcomes.org
WEB: 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.



Church Planning Retreat **Saturday, February 19** **9 AM – 11:30 AM (at the latest)** **Please join us!**

We will look back at all of the ways life has changed in the past two years, how this has affected us as individuals and as a church, and where God may be leading us next. We will be making some plans especially for the time of our pastor's sabbatical this summer so that it may be a renewing time for the church as well. All members and friends are welcome!

This event will be held in person. Please wear a mask. There will be future opportunities for Zoom conversations around the issues discussed at the planning meeting.

Pastor's Word

Permit me to talk football for just a moment. (You really don't have a choice, do you?)

The NFL playoffs have featured close game after close game, with numerous upsets and amazing come-from-behind victories. For me, this string of great games started with the last week of the regular season. If you play Fantasy Football, you know that the last week of the regular season is each league's championship week – its Super Bowl. (For those not familiar with Fantasy Football, participants draft the players on their team and score points each week based on how those players perform that week.)

We have been in a league with some close friends of our family for years. This year, it wound up being Zoe and me playing each other in the Super Bowl. It was so close that everything depended on the very last game of the NFL season, on a Monday night. Late in that game, it became obvious that the only way I could win the championship was if this game went into overtime, giving one of my players the chance to amass more points. And amazingly, the game went into overtime! For the first time in recorded history, Susan, Zoe and I all watched a Monday Night Football game all the way to the bitter end, even through overtime. (Congratulations to Zoe on the championship!)

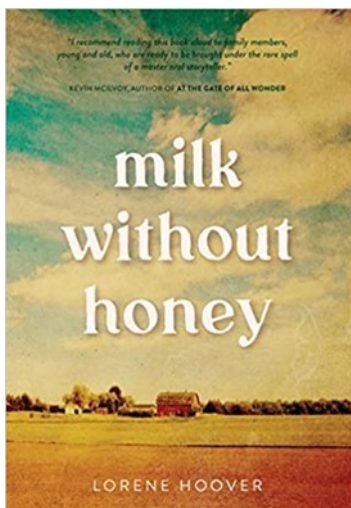
This was followed by the last few weeks of amazing games. The top seeded teams all lost, and the Los Angeles Rams and Cincinnati Bengals will play in the Super Bowl. No one could have predicted that. Two seasons ago, Cincinnati only won two games. (And by the way, the Bengals' quarterback, Joe Burrow, was born in Ames.)

OK, enough about football. My point here (I think there is a point!) is that things are a lot more interesting when the outcome is not known in advance. That certainly describes life. Life has a way of taking twists and turns that we could not have imagined. That can be scary sometimes, and we have all known setbacks and heartbreaks that we did not see coming. But the good news is that we have a say in the future. We can't control everything, but we can control our own actions. We have a part in writing our own story. We are not held captive by what has happened in the past. With God's help, the future is wide open.

We are all hoping and praying that when the Omicron wave of COVID recedes, we will be in a better place than we have been in many months. (Again, we can never know for sure, but there is reason to be hopeful). We have faced two hard years and have carried on our ministry in ways we could not have imagined. Many of you attended our Annual Meeting, and for me it was inspiring to hear reports of how we have continued to worship and serve together through challenging times. And now the question is, what comes next? How will we move forward? Where is God leading us?

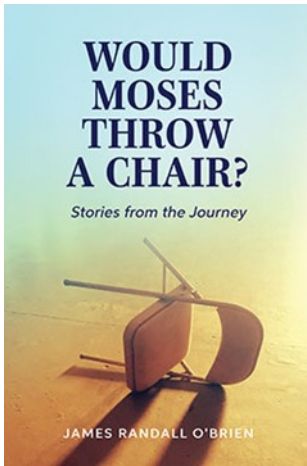
The early Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson said, "The future is as bright as the promises of God." I am looking forward to new opportunities in the days ahead. Who knows? The Super Bowl is not out of the question!

Blessings,
Pastor Dave



Lorene Hoover Receives Book Award

Writer's Digest recently announced the winners of its annual self-published book awards. Lorene Hoover won honorable mention in the Mainstream/Literary Fiction category for her book *Milk Without Honey*. It is an autobiographical novel set in Iowa in the depression. Copies of *Milk Without Honey* are available in our church library. Lorene was notified of the award before the official announcement was made, prior to her death.



Randall O'Brien's New Book of Stories Published

Our own Randall O'Brien has a new book out, *Would Moses Throw a Chair? Stories from the Journey*. This collection of stories, both from his own life and the lives of others, helps us to consider and process

our shared human experience. "We are all connected by our common needs, desires, failings, loves, disappointments, struggles, and hope, aren't we?" he says. Smyth and Helwys, the publisher, provided an interview with the author. You can [read it here](#).

Jared Diehl Named Young Alum of the Month

Our own Jared Diehl was named Young Alumni of the Month for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences! A native of Dayton, Virginia, Jared was very



involved in our church and served as a deacon before moving to Minnesota. He graduated from ISU with a degree in Culinary Food Science in 2018 (you may remember that he took first place at one of our cook-offs!) Jared works as the Innovation and Design Lead for the Convenience Store Channel at Buddy's Kitchen, a custom frozen food manufacturer in Burnsville (south Twin Cities suburb). You can read more details [on the ISU website](#).



Region News

Subscribe to the region newsletter for the latest info from Mid-American Baptist Churches! Subscribe to the BodyBuilder at www.mid-abc.org/news.

Keep our camps in prayer and check out their websites for upcoming events including 2022 Summer Camp details.

Dayton Oaks: www.daytonoaks.org

Forest Lake: www.forestlakecamp.org

The past year has put things into perspective. It's our friends, family, our home and our health that have helped us through. It has shone a light on the things that we often take for granted. The things that were right there in front of us all along.

**In your life, did this past
year include God, as well?**

Our Mid-ABC's

Discipleship & Spiritual Formation Team

would love to know what disciplines and spiritual practices you've been doing to cope with life during this pandemic.

We know it's been hard. We also know that we have access to gifts of the Spirit to see us through.

Please take a moment to describe what you've been doing and either e-mail it to Jack Saxon, our Executive Minister, at exec@mid-abc.org, with "DSFT Pandemic Survey" in the subject heading, or mail to:

Discipleship and Spiritual Formation Team
c/o Rev. Jackie Saxon
Executive Minister, Mid-American Baptist Churches
2400 86th St., Suite 15
Des Moines, IA 50322

We will report back later on the surprising thing God has been doing in our region.

Thank you!

February 3 Blog Post from Linda and Bruce Hanson in Honduras

School is starting next week for the first time in almost two years and the children are excited! Because of the lack of computer access and other technology there has been no distance education like we've found in the U.S. Instead, the system during the pandemic has been that children come to the school every week to pick up their homework and to return the work from the week before. Parents are to help them with their studies during the week - parents who are working more than full time and who may be minimally literate if not illiterate. It's an inadequate system for learning, but there was no alternative. We've tried to help a little with a reading group but this certainly didn't make up for two years without school and only addressed literacy, not math, science, social studies, or the arts.

The children have asked that we continue the reading group so we will, after school or on the weekend. And, this week we formally donated the school books we received while in the US to the school, other than the two that Charlie (Linda and Bruce's dog) chewed up, which we'll replace when we're in the US in a couple of weeks. He hasn't chewed up anything in weeks! Why now?!

Paying the costs to attend school is problematic for many children. The school supplies disposable workbooks/texts for each class but children need to supply notebooks, pencils, a backpack and purchase a uniform. We helped a few children out who are in our reading group with notebooks for each class at a cost of \$4/student. They were thrilled, although they really wanted pretty backpacks.

Then we heard from Katherine that she couldn't register because she couldn't afford her uniform. I told her I was sure the principal and teachers would understand, after all, the poverty level is high in Río Chiquito and made higher by the hurricanes and the pandemic so there had to be exceptions but she assured me that she had to have a uniform and her family couldn't afford it.

We checked with a teacher at the school and we were told that yes, students had to have uniforms, they just needed to plan ahead to pay for them and they give them a month after classes start to be in uniform. He said sometimes churches will help students with school costs.

Katherine has helped us with some work around the house so we decided to help her pay for a school uniform. It cost \$18.75 for skirt, blouse, knee socks and shoes. So, she's taken care of but, the rest?



Uniform store



The new uniform! It's the same for all public school students in Honduras.



**Bridges 2 Harmony Gospel Choir in Concert
March 25, 7 pm - First Baptist Church of Ames**

We are thrilled to welcome the [Bridges 2 Harmony Gospel Choir](#) from Roosevelt High School for a concert here at our church on March 25! Our own Emma Phomvisay is a member of this choir. Mark your calendars and save the date! The concert will be livestreamed.



Understanding Islam

A Free Online Event

Zen Fields and the Ames Jewish Congregation are sponsoring an exploration of Islam with Imam Jaily of the Darul Arqum Islamic Center in Ames on Monday, February 28 from 6-7:30 pm.

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, and the second largest. Yet Islamophobia fed by misinformation has become a stumbling block to appreciating and learning from this great tradition. Join us for this interfaith opportunity to learn and ask questions. To register, contact Rev. Eric Daishin McCabe of Zen Fields (Central Iowa Buddhist organization) at DAISHIN@ZENFIELDS.ORG. You will receive an email with an announcement and Zoom login prior to the event.

FEBRUARY

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------|
| | | 1 8a Men's Breakfast 5-8p Women United | 2 10a AARLA (Ames Area Religious Leaders Assoc.)  | 3 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:45a Worship/ Communion 11a Church School | 7 | 8 7p Trustees | 9 5:30p Christian Education Comm. 6:30p Choir | 10 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United | 11  | 12 10:00a Lorene Hoover Funeral |
| 13 9:45a Worship 11a Church School  | 14  | 15 8a Men's Breakfast | 16 5:30p Worship Comm. 6:30p Choir | 17 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United | 18 | 19 9a Church Planning Retreat |
| 20 9:45a Worship 11a Church School | 21  | 22 | 23 6:30p Choir | 24 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United 7p Deacons | 25 6:30p Trivia Night | 26 |
| 27 9:45a Worship 11a Church School | 28 | | | | | |



February 6:

Worship Leader: Lori Whitaker
Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

February 13:

Worship Leader: Randall O'Brien
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

February 20:

Worship Leader: Jan Thompson
Ushers: Jerelyn Logue, Tom Logue

February 27:

Worship Leader: Phyllis Schrag
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Jon Pritchard



| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Aaron Stegemöller | 6 |
| Anastasia Lee | 9 |
| Tom Logue | 9 |
| Patrick Coffey | 12 |
| Kathy Clotey | 15 |
| Emma Phomvisay | 17 |
| Kaylinn Taggart | 20 |
| Michelle Hassler | 27 |



Rosemarie and David Starrett....23

FBC Mission Giving

Our 2021 Annual Report showed that 19.3% of funds received in 2021 (outside of Memorial Gifts) went to mission causes outside of our church. This includes American Baptist United Mission, which supports ABC work in our region, the U.S. and internationally; camps, seminaries, housing ministries, ecumenical ministry, and more in our region and beyond, and support for local organizations that provide food and shelter for those in need.

Because of generous gifts and decreased expenses, our income exceeded expenses for 2021. At our Annual Meeting we voted to give from this surplus \$5,000 each to [Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance](#) and [The Bridge Home](#). Thank you for being such a caring and generous church!



Christian Sympathy

Our love and prayers go out to David, Lisa, Michelle, and the family of Lorene Hoover. Lorene died on January 13 at the Northcrest Healthcare Center at age 91. Lorene was a much-loved member of our church, a longtime choir member, and a talented writer who had her novel published at age 90. Visitation will be on Friday, February 11 from 6-8 pm at Stevens Memorial Chapel. The funeral will be on Saturday, February 12 at 10 am at First Baptist.



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 |
| Charyl Winterink | Office Manager |
| Kathy Greiner | Custodian |

**TRIVIA
NIGHT**

You are invited to join us for our next Virtual Trivia Night on **Friday, February 25**, at 6:30. Everyone is welcome to join us! We divide into teams at the start and teams discuss answers to each round's questions in breakout rooms.



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcomes.org