



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

October 2021
Volume 68, No. 9

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.

Pastor's Word

As we go into week 81 of the pandemic (but who's counting?), there is now a semblance of normalcy, or at least new-normalcy. We are now a hybrid church. Most Sundays, there are roughly equal numbers of folks online and in person, though that can vary. For example, last Sunday around 2/3 of those in worship were on Zoom. On a typical Sunday, around 20% of our congregation is out of state.

Some committee meetings are held in person, some are online, and some are both. Some Church School classes are in person, some are online, and some are both. It is such an interesting and unusual – and in many ways, difficult time. I appreciate that we have been able to make our way through this season with understanding, grace, and humor.

A recent case in point: our choir is singing at outdoor services. We had noticed that the microphones do not pick up the back row very well, and that those who were joining by Zoom were mostly hearing women's voices. So rather than women in the front row and men in back, last Sunday we had women on one side and men on the other. I thought this was a great idea - until I was told to stand in the front row.

As it turned out, proximity to the microphone on the stand was not my main problem. I was wearing a lapel mic and forgot to turn it off before the choir anthem. So unbeknownst to me and to the choir, everybody was treated to a Dave Russell bass solo. As far as our singers go, I am like the walk-on 5'9" point guard that you really don't want to put in the game. But there I was, mic'd up for the choir anthem.

We had a good chuckle about it. I'm glad that perfection is not expected. We have had more than a few blooper reel-worthy moments as we navigate unfamiliar territory, and people have taken it in stride. (I also appreciate that I can edit worship videos before they are posted to our YouTube channel!)

A word about worship for the weeks ahead: we have met outdoors every other week since school started, but for as long as the weather holds out, we will now be outside every Sunday. The thinking is that about half the time, we may wind up inside anyway due to cold or rain, but the default will be meeting outdoors. We will get out word as soon as possible if worship will be indoors.

We do this for several reasons. We have some folks who are not comfortable meeting inside (some who live with health-compromised family members), and this allows those persons to attend. This may also be helpful for families with children who cannot yet be vaccinated. We feel much better about our choir singing outside, and this gives the choir more opportunities to sing. And besides all of this, we have a beautiful setting for worship outdoors and some of the mornings have been just glorious. (Well, except for the occasional hot rod vehicle with the muffler issue driving by.)

I hope to see you out in the front yard this Sunday – it is World Communion Sunday!

Blessings,
Dave

Randall O'Brien to Preach

Our own Randall O'Brien will be our guest preacher on October 10. His sermon will be "Why Forgive?" from Matthew 6:12, 14-15. We look forward to Randall's message.



Our Music Intern, Emma Phomvisay, is a part of the Bridges to Harmony Gospel Choir at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines. The choir will have a concert on Saturday, October 9 at 7 pm. If you would like to attend the concert virtually, it will be streamed on the choir's Facebook page at <http://Facebook.com/bridges2harmony>.



Through International Ministries' World Mission Offering, thousands across the country celebrate and support ministries that God is using to transform the world.

For more than two hundred years, International Ministries (also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society), has combined resilience, adaptability, and creative approaches to faithful cross-cultural ministry. We serve together with and learn from our many local partners in ministry around the globe.

Our gifts support the ministry of [Kety and Vital Pierre](#) in the Dominican Republic, as they provide education, Bible studies, language classes, a micro-loan program, legal counseling, and more for Haitian immigrants facing inequity and maltreatment in the Dominican Republic. We support our Global Servants [Alise and Mark Juanes](#) who offer practical care and love for the hill tribe children in Chiang Mai, Thailand. We have a part in Global Servant [Ricardo Mayol-Bracero](#)'s ministry, as he serves and stands alongside communities in Latin America trying to access clean water and air.

Together we share in a ministry with 120+ global servants, 900+ volunteers, home staff, and 250+ international partners in 70 countries. We work cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.

We will receive the World Mission Offering through the month of October. We invite you to give generously. Offering envelopes are available in the pews. You may also send your check or give via our website with the memo "WMO." Thank you for your support of our shared mission to God's children around the world.

**Note: Our church has generously supported the Emergency Fund for Immigrants.
We are pleased to share this update.**



**COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND
FOR STORY COUNTY IMMIGRANTS**

Late September 2021

Dear Story County community:

Thank you for your support of the Covid-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants since its inception back in March 2020. Due to your generosity, we have raised an astonishing \$362,138.68 in 18 months. These dollars, the volunteerism of our 24-person strong Allocation and Steering committees, and the tireless work of the St. Cecilia Business Office, have enabled us to provide 889 rent and utility payments totaling \$349,724.20 to 123 unduplicated immigrant households. What an accomplishment!

It is with mixed feelings that we write to share our decision to end the Covid-19 financial assistance component of our Story County Immigrant Collaboration, effective December 31, 2021 (or when funds are exhausted). While we know the pandemic is not yet over, we have seen decreased donations for some time. To a lesser extent, we also have seen some decreases in applications for assistance. Susan Benner - one of our amazing, bilingual caseworkers – shared the following:

As someone who is in direct contact with applicants to our Fund, I have been able to see the progress applicants have made as they have been able to get back on their feet and off the Fund, and I don't know that that progress has been obvious to those not as closely involved with the day-to-day activities. So, I wanted all of us to recognize how incredibly helpful the Fund has been and how hard people have worked to get OFF the Fund when they can. Over the course of the past year and a half I have had a case load that totaled about 43 households. Of those 43 households, I now have just 16 left on the Fund.

The gratitude of those assisted is great. In fact, we have had numerous households offer to “repay” the community through volunteerism, by writing testimonials, and more. Households assisted have shared that the Immigrant Fund’s support made it possible to stay housed, to have dollars available to purchase food and medicine, and much more. At this time, we are planning for the end of our financial assistance work as follows:

- Working to ensure each immigrant household we have worked with is connected with longstanding financial assistance providers, including through the new “Centralized Intake System” housed at Story County Community Services.
- Collaborating with Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance. We are delighted to share we have reached an agreement to ensure that any funds remaining can be earmarked and allocated to immigrant households in Story County in 2022, using similar criteria as the Immigrant Fund.
- Working with United Way of Story County to explore a pilot “interpreter fund” to ensure that immigrant households with limited English proficiency can still/more easily access needed emergency services.
- Reconfiguring our Story County Immigrant Fund into an **ongoing Story County Immigrant Collaboration, tasked with advocacy**. We welcome any/all to join us! Email story.immigrants.fund@gmail.com or amundel@uwstory.org.

Thank you again for your partnership throughout this unexpectedly-long pandemic. Together, we have been able to help 123 immigrant households remain sheltered.

With appreciation,

The Covid-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants

P.S. Want to help us continue our work until December 2021? Tax-deductible donations are still very much needed and can be made to Covid-19 Immigrant Fund, c/o St. Cecilia, 2900 Hoover Avenue, Ames, IA 50010 or via our dedicated GoFundMe.



Jack Cleasby and Harris Seidel Inducted into Hall of Fame



Jack Cleasby

Harris Seidel receives award from our own David Sanders, current Chair of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering.

As part of the 150th anniversary celebration of ISU's Department of Civil Engineering, now called Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, Jack Cleasby and Harris Seidel were inducted into the department's Hall of Fame.

Jack joined the Iowa State civil engineering faculty in 1954 and received his Ph.D. in what was then called sanitary engineering in 1960. He taught at ISU until his retirement in 1994, receiving many awards for teaching and for his involvement with professional organizations.

Harris received his B.S. in civil engineering from Iowa State College in 1944. He worked in Minneapolis for several years before returning to Ames in 1951 where he worked for the city for 40 years. He received his Ph.D. in sanitary engineering from Iowa State in 1959.

As director of the water and pollution control plants, Harris made both facilities available to ISU civil or sanitary engineering graduate students to conduct research. In the summers of 1958 and 1959, when Jack was studying filtration rates in water treatment for his thesis, he spent time working for the Ames water department. His efforts resulted in significant improvement to the plant's flow rate capacity.

Jack and Harris both worked to promote treatment plant operator training and certification, an area which has become increasingly important as water treatment has become more and more sophisticated to meet new challenges. Jack taught operator courses, and Harris worked for the formation of the Association of Boards of Certification.

Both men's influence went far beyond Ames. Jack, known for his expertise in water filtration, taught short courses and consulted on water treatment in many countries in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Harris reviewed many water development projects in a variety of countries for the World Bank and other agencies. He was able to evaluate the financial viability of a project as well as its engineering aspects.

Aside from their professional achievements, Jack and Harris have both played key leadership roles in this church. It is a great pleasure to see them honored!

—Ann (Seidel) Hinds

AMOS Meeting with Candidates

AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) is a community organizing group composed primarily of churches and religions institutions including First Baptist. One of the issues that AMOS has been working on for some time is Affordable Housing. AMOS will hold a Public Action with candidates for mayor and city council on Monday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m. at Collegiate United Methodist Church. AMOS meetings with candidates are not like typical candidate forums. Rather than candidates presenting their positions, we will present our concerns for affordable housing and ask candidates to commit to work with us. This is a direct result of Affordable Housing being deprioritized in the ASSET process and the continuing need for affordable housing in our community. The more turnout for the event from AMOS institutions, the stronger statement we will make. The event will be in person as well as online - we encourage you to attend! (online link will be shared later)



AMOS has built an impressive track record of finding solutions to complex community problems through an intensive, win-win, non-partisan approach. Some of the results in Ames include equitable billing for uninsured persons at our hospital, the establishment of Primary Health Care clinic, the Story County Housing Trust Fund, and policies to support mental health care. Invest in AMOS and our ongoing work to find concrete, specific and winnable solutions to the problems plaguing families in our community.

Our church and other AMOS member institutions support AMOS through membership dues. Beyond this, a fundraiser is held each year to further the work of AMOS. The goal in this 25th Anniversary year is to raise \$25,000 in gifts from individuals. If you would like to contribute personally to AMOS, you may write a check to FBC with memo "AMOS" or give [on the AMOS website](#).



In 1914, the Burlington Chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic held its 40th annual meeting, officially known as an Encampment. At that meeting, the organization awarded my great grandfather, John Henry Bolton, a 48-star American flag, a memento to honor his Civil War service. John Henry served with the 49th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry from 1861-1865 and was wounded at Chicamauga. Following his injury, he took a 20-day furlough and returned to serve until the end of the war.

My parents, Milo and Martha Rice, owned a house in Danville, Iowa, earlier owned by John Henry's daughter and son-in-law. In the early 1980s, the Rices were adding a bathroom on the second floor of the house, and during the renovation, they discovered the flag which had been left behind the lath and plaster. The flag was tightly rolled on a dowel, and it bore the inscription of John Henry's Civil War service. In 2019, a family member found a brochure pertaining to the 1914 Encampment to include in the display.

The flag was restored, conserved, and mounted at the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha, Nebraska, in 2020. Our family donated it to Danville Station, the museum in Danville, near where John Henry Bolton lived the final years of his life.

— Marilyn Peterson



CROP Walk



The Ames Crop Walk is set for Sunday, October 10, at 1:30. Participants will walk a loop starting and ending at Brookside Park. See Dawn Doerr-Johnson for a sponsor sheet; you may also sign up or [sponsor walkers online](#). (To promote social distancing, walkers will depart any time between 1:00-2:00 after checking in rather than a mass departure at 1:30)



October 3:

Worship Leader: Barbara Woods
Ushers: Jon Pritchard, Aaron Stegemöller

October 10

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

October 17:

Worship Leader: Lorrie Whitaker
Ushers: Jerelyn Logue, Tom Logue

October 24:

Worship Leader: Erin Johnson
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Julie Johnston

October 31:

Worship Leader: Randall O'Brien
Ushers: Jan Thompson, Barbara Woods



Jeanne Williams	2
Kenneth Johnson	4
Marian Thompson	9
Fred Borgen	10
Joe Parrish	12
Dorothy Ewing	16
Martha Gleason	26
Greg Goodman	28
Lucas Anderson	29
Kyleigh Murphy	29
John Whitaker	29
Dale Grauman	30
Larry Schrag	30



Lyndsay and Gabe Whitaker 8

Budget Forum Set for October 24

Our annual Budget Forum will be Sunday, October 24 at 12 noon. This will be held at church and folks will be able to join via Zoom. The proposed budget for 2022 will be presented, with the opportunity for questions and discussion. We will vote on a goal budget for the coming year. Following our pledge campaign, the final budget will be adopted at our business meeting in December.

College Student News

Our college students and young adults will be meeting monthly for conversation, fellowship, and support. And FOOD! The next gathering is October 24 following worship – we will meet in the College Lounge for lunch. All students and similarly aged young adults are welcome to join us!

JOIN US AT MEMORY CAFE

Northminster Presbyterian Church is hosting a monthly gathering of individuals with memory loss and their care partners and/or friends and family in a safe, supportive engaging environment.

The Memory Café provides a welcoming break from the disease and an opportunity to remain socially engaged with others traveling the same journey. Join us each fourth Monday from 3:00 to 4:30. For more information, contact Jan Beran at 515-357-6432 or gberan@gmail.com.

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:45a Worship/ Communion 11a Church School	4	5 8a Men's Breakfast 2p PD Boxing	6 10a AARLA (Ames Area Religious Leaders Assoc.) 2p PD Singing 5:15p Stewardship Comm. (Zoom) 6:30p Choir	7 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 5-8p Women United	8	9 
10 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	11 	12 2p PD Boxing 7p Trustees	13 2p PD Singing 6:30p Choir	14 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 5-8p Women United	15	16
17 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 2p Executive Council (Zoom)	18 5-8p Women United	19 8a Men's Breakfast 2p PD Boxing	20 2p PD Singing 6:30p Choir	21 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 	22	23
24 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 11a Student Lunch 12p Budget Forum	25 5-8p Women United	26 2p PD Boxing 5:15p Pastoral Relations Comm.	27 2p PD Singing 5:15p CCJ Board 6:30p Choir	28 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	29 6:30p Trivia Night 	30
31 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 						



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 Winterin	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian

**TRIVIA
NIGHT**

You are invited to join us for our next Virtual Trivia Night on **Friday, October 29**, 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. You can find details on joining via Zoom [on our website](#).



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 am - in person or via ZOOM
Details for connecting on our church website at fbcomes.org.