



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

December 2023
Volume 69, No. 12

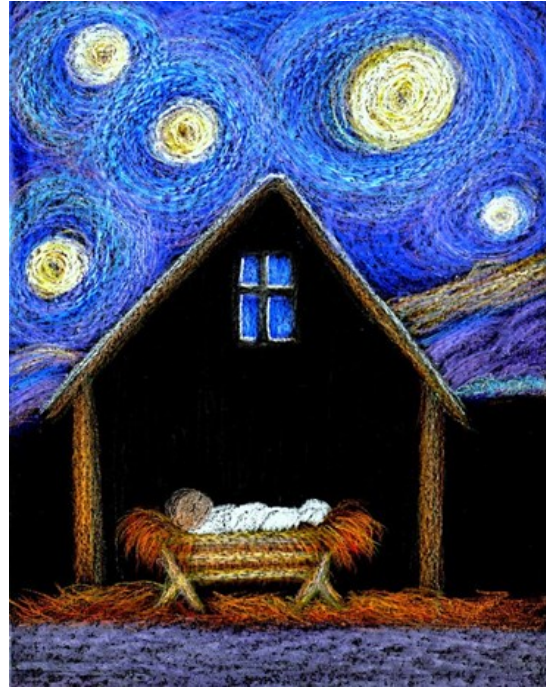
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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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.



Celebrate the Season at First Baptist!

December 3, First Sunday of Advent

Yuletide Orchestra plays
Hanging of the Greens after worship, simple lunch follows

Saturday, December 9

Church Christmas Dinner and Program, 6 pm

December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

Yuletide Orchestra plays

December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

Yuletide Orchestra plays
Northcrest Vespers, 3 pm

December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Morning worship, 9:45 am

December 24, Christmas Eve

Social Hour, 5 pm
Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 6 pm

December 31, First Sunday after Christmas

Rev. Jim Hinds, Guest Preacher

Upcoming Events



Join us this Sunday, December 3 as we decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season! There are wreaths to hang, trees to decorate, and more! After the Hanging of the Greens, we will have a simple lunch in the Fellowship Hall.



Our **Church Christmas Dinner** is a long-held tradition at First Baptist with good food and warm fellowship with church family and guests. We look forward to a wonderful meal and to our children and youth sharing with us in the Christmas Program that follows.

This year's Christmas Dinner will be **Saturday, December 9 at 6 pm**. The meat, dressing, rolls, beverages and table service will be furnished by the church. Please bring a dish to share. If your last name starts with A-E, please bring a vegetable. F-L is asked to bring a salad. M-P is asked to bring a potato dish and Q-Z should bring a dessert. (If instead of your "assigned" dish there is something special that you would like to prepare, please feel free to do so!)

Please let us know if you can come by emailing or calling the church office, or using the friendship pads in the pews and marking Event 1. Please also let us know if you can help in the kitchen or with table set-up. Students, you do not need to bring a dish - please come as our invited guests!

Budget/Election Meeting

Our Budget/Election Business Meeting will be on Sunday, December 10 at 12 noon. We will elect officers and board and committee members for the coming year and adopt a 2024 budget. The meeting will be held in the lounge and available on Zoom.

Senior Moments

Be sure to tune in to KHOI radio and listen to Senior Moments. The program explores topics of interest with interesting people telling out them. This month's Senior Moments includes our own Buck Peterson along with a writer's group living at Windsor Heights Retirement Community. That program airs December 2 at 11:00 am on 89.1 FM. Other Saturday December programs and guests are listed below:

- December 2: Windsor Oaks Retirement Community writers with Buck Peterson
- December 9: Rev. Deb of Unity Church, call to ministry, and Sam Stanton End of Life Issues
- December 16: Christa Andersen and Terry Potter, A Rich and Wonderful Life
- December 23: Lucille Taylor and friends Memories of Christmas
- December 30: Memories of Christmas repeated from December 23



New Steps Installed

The steps near the library entrance were repaired/replaced on November 28-29. After the existing "vintage" steps were removed, forms were built and new concrete was poured. New handrails will be installed and the handrails for the steps in front of the church will also be reinstalled.



Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

The **RMMO** is a tangible way of saying "Thank You" to those who have served us. The offering supports those who have devoted their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in times of need. The offering also provides Thank You checks to more than 3,300 retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses. The offering will be highlighted on December 4 and received throughout the month.

Christian Sympathy

Our love and prayers are with Malcolm, Lynette, and all the family of Pat Johnson, who died at Northcrest on Thursday, November 30. Pat was our longest tenured member. She was enrolled in the cradle roll at our church in 1929 and other than two years in Iowa City and a year in Columbia, Missouri, she attended our church her entire life. Services will be on Monday, December 4 at 11 am with visitation from 10-11. Burial will be in the Ames Municipal Cemetery at 2 pm.



Northcrest Vespers

First Baptist will hold our 53rd annual Christmas Vespers service at Northcrest. The service will be on December 17 at 4 pm. The service will be in the Grand Room, near the main entrance. Our FBC musicians will bring special music and Pastor Dave will share a Christmas story. Refreshments and a time of fellowship will follow.

Christmas Eve at First Baptist

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will have our regular morning service, and that morning we will observe the Fourth Sunday of Advent. There will be no Church School classes that day.

We will meet again at 5 pm for a Social Hour in the lounge – feel free to bring goodies to share! And then our Christmas Eve service with candles and carols will be at 6 pm. We invite you to join us for this special service as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

Christmas Offering

Our Christmas Offering is an opportunity to help provide for those most in need in our community. Half of the offering goes to The Bridge Home (formerly the Emergency Residence Project), which provides a homeless shelter and housing services in Ames. The other half goes to our Benevolence Fund, which is distributed to those coming to our church seeking assistance. The Christmas Offering will be highlighted on December 10 and will be received throughout the month of December.



Advent Worship Notes

Our theme for Advent is “God with Us.” Sermons will focus on some of the characters from the Christmas story – some very familiar and some maybe not so much - and how God was with them, just as God is with us.

December 3 – Advent 1: “God with Zechariah.” Luke 1:5-20, 57-64, 76-80

December 10 – Advent 2: “God with Joseph.” Matthew 1:18-25

December 17 – Advent 3: “God with Mary.” Luke 1:26-38

December 24 – Advent 4: “God with the Shepherds.” Luke 2:1-20

December 24 – Christmas Eve: “God with All of Us.” We will celebrate God coming to us in Jesus through music, readings, and candles.



DECEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School 11a Hanging of the Greens	4	5 8a Men's Breakfast 2-3p PD Boxing	6 2-3p PD Singing	7 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dancing	8	9 6p Christmas Dinner
10 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11p Church School 12p Budget/ Election Meeting	11 <i>ISU Finals Week</i>	12 7p Trustees Meeting	13	14 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	15	16
17 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 4p Northcrest Vespers Service	18	19 8a Men's Breakfast	20	21 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	22	
24 9:45a 4th Sunday of Advent 5p Social Hour 6p Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27	28	29 	30
31 9:45a Worship Rev. Jim Hinds						



December 3:

Worship Leader Kaylinn Nugent
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Jon Pritchard

December 10:

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

December 17:

Worship Leader John Anderson
Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

December 24:

Worship Leader Beth Douglass
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish



Tolani Clotey	4
Quinn Whitaker	7
Jim Demarest	8
Tonia McCarley	12
Killian Murphy	26
Jill Leininger	28
Stephanie Starrett	28



Susan and Dave Russell	20
Stephanie and Greg Goodman	21
Kay and Randall O'Brien	21



Pledge Update

Thank You to all who have made a pledge of financial support to First Baptist for 2024! We are grateful for so many who faithfully support our work. As of November 26, we have received 31 pledges totaling \$170,620. If you have not yet made a pledge, we invite you to do so. You can [view our Narrative Budget](#) and [download a pledge card](#) from our website.



The Secret Place

Our daily devotional booklets for the winter quarter are now available. You can pick up a copy on the table in the narthex or contact the church office if you would like to have your copy delivered to you.

Financial Report through 10-31-23

INCOME

2023 pledges received 10 months	\$143,447
<i>2023 pledges received in 2022</i>	\$33,199
pledges expected for 9 months	\$163,233
other contributions	\$9,174
parking lot + building rental	\$26,780
other income	\$1,462
non-budgeted mission offerings	\$5,925
total received 2023	\$187,108
<i>total incl. 2023 pledges rec'd in 2022</i>	\$220,307

EXPENSES

budget for 9 months	\$233,592
budget expenses 9 mos.	\$211,280
Memorial Fund expenditures	\$7,867
Non-budgeted mission offerings	\$5,925
Total expenses	\$225,251





May God's Blessings Be With You in This Holy Season

The First Baptist Staff

Pastor Dave, Mindy, Emma, Elizabeth, Sierra, Kathy



First Baptist Church

AMES

200 Lynn Avenue

Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

Our Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. David Russell	Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
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