



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

January 2023
Volume 69, 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.

Accounting, Doggy Day Care, and the Church

Maybe you have read the story circulating on the internet about a woman who was dropping her dog off for the first time at doggy day care. She mistakenly walked in with her dog not at the doggy day care, but at a nearby accounting office. As it happened, there was a small staff who worked in this office and virtually no clients came to this location in person. Because of this, the few employees were welcome to bring their dogs with them to work, and most did.

The woman looking for the doggy day care was in a big hurry and dropped off Otis, her Basset hound, along with his food. The employee she spoke with assumed that Otis belonged to one of the other employees and that because this woman was in such a hurry, she was just leaving him at the door. The employee soon learned that this was not the case. The dog did not belong to anyone in the office. This employee, however, loved dogs and could not have one at her apartment, so she was happy to keep an eye on Otis and let him out from time to time.

Otis was no trouble, got along with the other dogs in the office, and slept by her desk for the better part of the day anyway. At the end of the day, Otis' owner came to pick him up and asked how much she owed. The surprised employee came up with an amount – which was considerably less than the going rate – and Otis' owner paid and left. The staff at the accounting office had a good laugh about it and thought that would be it. But the woman came back with Otis a couple of days later. The employee didn't have the heart to tell Otis' owner that this wasn't really a doggy day care, and so it continued. Otis was dropped off 3 or 4 times a week for several months and became this employee's "work dog."



The owner finally figured out that this was not actually a doggy day care, but the arrangement continued – the employee loved Otis, who had become the office mascot; Otis' owner felt good about the care he got (and the price was right); and for his part Otis seemed to love working as an accountant.

I love this story. (I have some questions about whether or not it actually happened, but I love the story anyway.) There are several great themes here.

- You never know what the day is going to bring – a lovable Basset hound might show up at your door. Embrace it.
- There are kind and caring people out there who have the best interest of others – both human and canine – at heart. In a world where there can be so much selfishness and lack of concern, remember that, and be one of those kind and caring people.

(continued on p. 2)

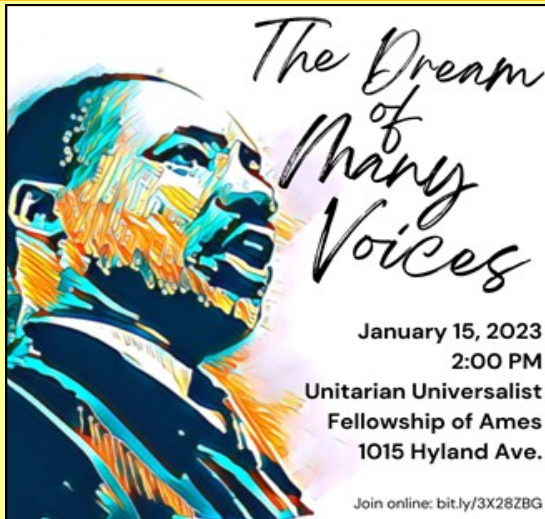
(continued from p. 1)

- There are those who turn up in our lives in wonderfully improbable ways. Be thankful.
- And maybe especially for those of us in the church, it is good to welcome and care for whoever shows up (even canines). “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

I don't have anything especially profound for you in this first week of 2023, but I'm thinking that an openness to new and unexpected opportunities and a warm welcome for whomever God puts in our path might be a good thought for us as we begin 2023.

Blessings in the New Year!

Dave



Community MLK Service

The Community Interfaith Martin Luther King, Jr. Service will be held on Sunday, January 15, at 2 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The theme will be “The Dream of Many Voices,” looking especially at King’s words from his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” An offering will be received for the Dream Seed scholarship, which goes to youth who have aged out of foster care, and a past scholarship recipient will speak. All are welcome! You can also join the service online at bit.ly/3X28ZBG.



We are in that season again! If it is necessary to cancel or postpone worship services or other events due to weather, we will send an email and post the cancellation on our Facebook page. We will also notify KCCI Channel 8. We will try to make the determination as early as possible, but at least by 7 am Sunday morning.

For smaller groups such as committees, choir, etc., each group will make determinations regarding weather-related changes and get out the word.



Super Bowl Party

After a two year break, we will have a church Super Bowl Party again this year! This year the game will be played on February 12. Watch for more details!

Online Worship

It is important that we provide a way for all who wish to join us in worship. For those who cannot worship with us in person, our services continue to be available online.

You may join us live on Zoom each Sunday. Information on connecting is available on our website at fbcames.org. A significant number of folks join us on Zoom each week!

Recordings of past services can be accessed from our [YouTube channel](#).

After delays, we still have plans to install video screens in the sanctuary. This will make a number of things possible both for worship services and other events. We will be able to show videos in worship (of church activities, news from missionaries, denominational information, announcements, etc.) and those who are at home may participate more fully in worship by leading elements of worship such as reading scripture.



Local Mission Funds Distributed

As a church we budget funds each year to assist local mission efforts and help those in need in our own community. In December we sent \$1000 each to three different organizations that address different areas of need.

[ACCESS](#) provides help for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence, including safe housing. We have long supported ACCESS and at one time served as a drop-off site for household item donations.

[Food at First](#) provides a free meal each day and a free community pantry with perishable meat and groceries. Food at First is housed at First Christian Church.

[NAMI-Central Iowa](#) is the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI provides support, education, and advocacy for those whose lives are affected by mental illness, including a drop-in wellness center.

Budget and Stewardship Campaign Update



Thank you to all who made a pledge of financial support to our church for 2023. We received a total of 34 pledges totaling \$197,180. Thank you for your generous support of our ministry together! Our budget is funded primarily through these pledges along with other offerings and gifts, rental income, parking lot rental, and investment income. In December we adopted a 2023 budget of \$268,232.



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School	2 	3 8a Men's Breakfast	4	5 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	6	7
8 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship Time 11a Church School	9	10 7p Trustees	11 <i>2p PD Singing</i>	12 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	13	14
15 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 2p MLK Service, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	16	17 8a Men's Breakfast	18 <i>2p PD Singing</i>	19 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	20	21 
22 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	23 	24 <i>2p PD Boxing</i>	25 <i>2p PD Singing</i> 5:30-8p <i>Women United Booster Session</i>	26 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Dance/ Exercise</i>	27 6:30p Virtual Trivia Night	28
29 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 12 Noon Annual Meeting	30	31 <i>2p PD Boxing</i>				



January 1:

Worship Leader Larry Schrag
Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

January 8:

Worship Leader Lorrie Whitaker
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

January 15:

Worship Leader Rita Parrish
Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

January 22:

Worship Leader Erin Johnson
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman,
Jon Pritchard

January 29:

Worship Leader Susan Russell
Ushers: Jan Thompson
Barbara Woods



Toyin Clotey	9
Alex Parrish	19
Jere Maddux	20
Alice Clemons	22
TJ Nugent	24
Lumi Clotey	25
Stacy Starrett	29
Kay O'Brien	31

Annual Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting is set for Sunday, January 29, following worship. We will receive annual reports from our various areas of ministry and conduct other items of business. We are asking board and committee chairs, representatives to community organizations, officers and staff to submit reports to the church office **by January 19** to allow time to put together the Book of Reports. Our annual meeting will be available on Zoom.



Trivia Is Back!

VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 – 6:30 pm

Trivia is back by popular demand! All are welcome! We will create teams and each team will discuss answers to each round's questions in breakout rooms. You can join us on our regular Sunday morning Zoom link. Not necessary, but helpful for planning: if you plan to play, send an email to Pastor Dave.



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



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcomes.org