



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

March 2024
Volume 70, No. 3

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.



LENT & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Lenten Soup Suppers

Our Lenten Soup Supper and Study continues on Wednesdays March 6 and March 20 at 6 pm. We will enjoy a simple meal followed by conversation around Jake Owensby's book, *Looking for God in Messy Places: a Book About Hope*. You are welcome to join in whether you have read the book or not.

Palm Sunday, March 24

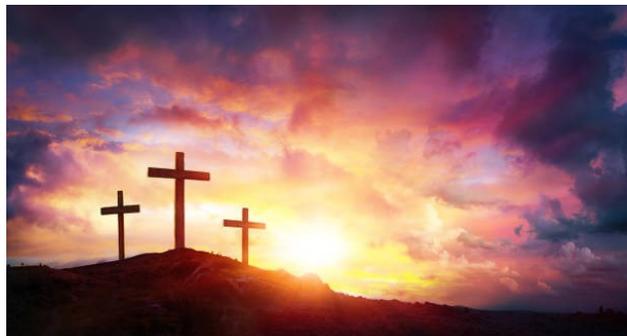
Worship will include a palm procession and special music by our choir.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Worship at 6:30 pm will include scripture readings, music, and communion as we remember Jesus sharing the Passover meal with his disciples in the Upper Room.

Easter Sunday, March 31

We will have our traditional Easter Breakfast in the fellowship hall at 8:30 am. Easter Worship is at 9:45 am as we celebrate resurrection!



March Senior Moments

Interesting guests are featured in March on Senior Moments on KHOI Radio, hosted by Phyllis Schrag.

March 2: an Iowa born writer, Jim Heynen, will be the guest explaining the rural influence on his writing.

March 9: our own Lori and John Whitaker will share from their life experiences and recent retirements.

March 16: our listeners will take an audio tour of the Cedar Rapid Iowa Museum of Art.

March 23, 30: The month ends with two segments featuring the National Czech and Slovak Museum also located in Cedar Rapids.



Senior Moments airs every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. on KHOI Community Radio 89.1 FM.

Cookoff Report

We had a wonderful time at our 15th Annual Cookoff, held on February 25. There were around 35 dishes entered under the theme of “I Found It in a Church Cookbook.” We raised over \$450, which will go toward the America for Christ Offering, supporting ABC mission and ministry throughout the US and Puerto Rico.



The winners included:

Grand Prize – Bob Parrish, Barbecued Sauerkraut

Second Place – Dave Russell, Smoky Casserole

Third Place – Julie Johnston, 22-Minute Cake

Other Awards:

Kent Johnson (the young one!) – Rookie of the Year, Cherry Coffee Cake

Rita Parrish – Best Presentation, Miss American Pie

Barbara Woods – Sweet and Sassy Award, Strawberry Pretzel Salad

Jere Maddux – Better Than Its Name Award, Mom’s Tomato Soup Cake

Center for Creative Justice Celebrates 50 Years!



Back in 1974, a small group that included Johnie Hammond, Jenna McCarley, and Rev. Bill Belli were looking at ways to help those who were released from prison be reintegrated into society. It was called the Committee on Criminal Justice. After some research, they came up with a plan to try to keep offenders from being incarcerated in the first place, and help them get their lives on track. CCJ was established as a community-based organization that provided probation supervision to lower level offenders, who were sentenced to probation with CCJ by the court. It began with a \$15,000 grant from American Baptists. In time CCJ added community-based mediation services and the name became the Center for Creative Justice.

Our church has had close ties to CCJ from its beginning back in February of 1974. Many members have served as volunteers and board members, and the pastor of our church is an *ex-officio* board member.

The Story County Legal Aid Society also began in 1974, offering legal services on civil matters to those who could not afford them. CCJ and Legal Aid will be celebrating their 50th Anniversaries together on **April 20** at a fundraising event held at Christy Hall, 220 H Avenue in Nevada at the Story County Fairgrounds. The event will run from 6-10 pm and there will be food, music, and a program celebrating the history of both CCJ and Legal Aid.

Our church is supporting CCJ and Legal Aid by sponsoring a table at the event. If you would like to attend, we have a few seats available at our FBC table. Please see Pastor Dave for more information, or if you would like to be a part of this.

Church Planning Retreat Saturday Morning, March 23 Begins 9 am – ends before noon

The world is changing. How have we experienced change in our community, neighborhood, places of work, schools, and in the wider culture? How have we experienced change in our church? And how can we as a church be proactive as we minister in a changing world?

We will spend a morning celebrating, sharing, dreaming, discussing, and planning as a church family. We will take time for some consideration of these bigger picture questions as well as some more nuts and bolts planning for our ministry in the year ahead. Everyone is welcome to take part, and we especially encourage all board and committee members to attend.

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9a Choir 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School	4	5 8a Men's Breakfast 2-3p PD Boxing	6 2-3 PD Singing 6p Soup Supper and Lenten Study	7 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dance	8	9 
10 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11a Church School 	11	12	Spring Break Week		15	16
17 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 	18	19 8a Men's Breakfast 2-3p PD Boxing 	20 2-3 PD Singing 6p Soup Supper and Lenten Study	21 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dance	22	23
24 9a Choir 9:45a Worship with Palm Procession 10:45a Church School 	25	26 2-3p PD Boxing 7p Deacons	27 2-3 PD Singing 5:15p CCJ Board	28 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dance 6:30p Maundy Thursday Worship	29 	30
31 8:30a Easter Breakfast 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 						



March 3:

Worship Leader Phyllis Schrag
Ushers: Jan Thompson, Barbara Woods

March 10:

Worship Leader Kay O'Brien
Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

March 17:

Worship Leader Barbara Woods
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

March 24:

Worship Leader John Anderson
Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

March 31:

Worship Leader Susan Russell
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Larry Schrag



Phyllis Schrag	5
Michelle (Leininger) George	8
Caimbrie Parrish	8
Joseph Core	9
Gretchen Anderson	18
Wes Johnson	18
Stephanie Goodman	25

2024 FBC Leadership

Our boards and committees have chosen leadership for the 2024 year.

Deacon Chair and Moderator – Barbara Woods
 Christian Education Chair – Erin Johnson
 Trustees Chair – John Anderson

Summer Camp News

Our region has two camps: Forest Lake, just south of Ottumwa, and Dayton Oaks, near Dayton (45 minutes northwest of Ames). Both offer a variety of summer camps for children, youth, and families. Last summer we had youth attending both camps.

Our church will pay half the cost of camp for any youth, or more if there is a financial need. There is information and a list of the camp weeks for each camp on the bulletin board. For more information see Pastor Dave or a Christian Education Committee member.





AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

GRACE upon GRACE

Because of God's great love we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

—LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 (NIV)



American Baptist Home Mission Societies



www.abhms.org/afc

America for Christ Offering

We will receive the America for Christ Offering throughout the month of March. The offering supports ABC mission and ministry throughout the US and Puerto Rico.

What does this look like? The offering supports some of the places our church has sent mission teams, including the Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, Kansas; Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma; and the Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico project that involved many mission teams repairing and rehabbing homes and churches following the hurricane there.

AFC supports regional ministries, allowing our Mid-America Region to support our two camps, provide training opportunities for clergy and lay leaders, and support for congregations as they seek pastoral leaders.

The offering helps support our ABC colleges and seminaries and fund scholarships for American Baptist students. AFC funds grants for local projects that provide youth programs, school supplies, food programs, and care for seniors.

AFC supports training and endorsement for chaplains, new church starts, grants for innovative ministry efforts, and more. These are just some of the ways our gifts help provide hope and healing. We invite you to give generously!



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