



# *The Spire* First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

*April 2023*  
*Volume 69, No. 4*

## **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.*



## **HOLY WEEK**

**We invite you to join us for Holy Week worship:**

### **Palm Sunday, April 2**

Worship with Palm Processional, 9:45 am

### **Maundy Thursday, April 6**

Worship with communion, 6:30 pm

### **Easter Sunday, April 9**

Easter Breakfast, 8:30 am  
Celebration Worship, 9:45 am



We will once again have our traditional Easter Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome! If you plan to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board, note on the registration pad, or e-mail the church office. This will help us as we prepare for the meal.

## Pastor's Word

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, I attended the Prairie Pastors Conference in Omaha. This was the first opportunity since the pandemic began to attend this conference for American Baptist pastors from Iowa, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas. A number of national representatives were there, including our friend Soozie Ford. Some of our international missionaries served as the keynote speakers, including Toya Richards, who preached at our church back in October. Toya is preparing to go South Africa to serve at the Cape Town Baptist Seminary. It was great to see a number of folks I had not been with in a while and to meet new colleagues.

But even before arriving in Omaha, it felt like the trip was already worth it. Rather than take I-35 and I-80 for the entire trip, I headed west on Highway 30 and mozied over to Omaha largely on state and county highways. It was a sunny day with a blue sky, there wasn't much traffic, and the landscape was beautiful. I would come up over a hill and see the fields and trees and remaining snow along the north side of a creek bank lit up in sunshine. It was good for my soul.

Sometimes it's the small things that can have a big impact. When our college students gather, we regularly take time to share highs and lows. I thought of some of the other "highs" of the last week. While we don't play that often, our instrumental ensemble has played the past two Sunday mornings. I really enjoy getting out my saxophone, and since it is often months before I pick it up, I'm usually somewhat surprised I can still play. I got to church early last Sunday and was the only one in the sanctuary. I warmed up by playing one of our songs for the morning, "Holy God We Praise Thy Name," an old and rather regal hymn. In the quiet of the morning, with no one around, and with the wonderful acoustics of the room, there was a great resonance that I hadn't experienced before – I was kind of stunned. And then there was a real feeling of joy as musicians of all ages played together in worship.



Another "small" highlight of the week: the crocuses and daffodils are coming up at our house. They were peeking up from the snow last Sunday – the first green shoots and first signs that spring is on the way. They serve as a promise of what is to come.

These small things can mean a lot. Some of us have been reading Diana Butler Bass' book, *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence*, through Lent. At one point Butler Bass talks about Jesus accompanying us in the ordinariness of life - of God's presence in our day-to-day and often mundane world. She quotes Phyllis Tickle: "Our everyday tasks, whether we perceive them as drudgery or essential, life-supporting work... have a considerable spiritual import, and their significance for Christian theology, the way they come together in the fabric of faith, is not often appreciated."

If we are paying attention, God may speak to us through small, everyday things that can be both experiences and reminders of hope and joy – and point us to the great hope and joy of our faith. Holy Week begins this Sunday. As we recall the events of that week, we will be reminded of the pain and brokenness of this world. But that is not the last word. We will gather a week from Sunday to celebrate the hope and joy of resurrection on Easter Sunday. I hope you will join us!

Blessings,  
Dave



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Work Day on March 26. We ran cable from the balcony to the front of the sanctuary in preparation for video screens, cleaned and organized the kitchen and the kitchenette off the lounge, did some deep cleaning in the sanctuary, painted radiator covers in the sanctuary, painted and repaired trim in the first floor rest room, and scraped loose plaster from the second floor bathroom in preparation for further repairs and improvements. Thanks to Wes, Erin, Abby, Lucy, and Kent Johnson; Randall O'Brien, Sadie Searl, Julie Johnston, Barbara Woods, John Anderson, Scott Anderson, Rodney Barto, Bob Parrish, Joe Parrish, and Dave Russell.



### Call for Graduates

If you or someone you know will be graduating this spring, please let us know. We will recognize graduates in next month's Spire.



# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:45a Worship with Palm Processional/ Communion 10:45a Church School 	3	4 8a Men's Breakfast 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United	5 2p PD Singing	6 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Dance/ Exercise 6:30p Maundy Thursday Worship	7 	8 
9 8:30a Easter Breakfast 9:45a Celebration Worship 11a Church School	10	11 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United 7p Trustees	12 2p PD Singing	13 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Dance/ Exercise	14	15
16 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	17	18 8a Men's Breakfast 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United	19 2p PD Singing	20 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Dance/ Exercise	21 	22
23 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	24	25 2p PD Boxing	26 2p PD Singing	27 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2p PD Dance/ Exercise 7p Deacons	28	29
30 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School						



**April 2:**

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

**April 9:**

*Worship Leader* Susan Russell  
*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

**April 16:**

*Worship Leader* John Whitaker  
*Ushers:* Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

**April 23:**

*Worship Leader*  
*Ushers:* Stephanie Goodman,  
Jon Pritchard

**April 30:**

*Worship Leader* Barbara Woods  
*Ushers:* Jan Thompson,  
Barbara Woods



Zoe Russell	2
Becca Whitaker	7
Jacelyn Rudderow	9
Rosemary Coffey	18
Elijah Phomvisay	20
Neil Logue	22
Alissa Parrish	26
Dawn Doerr-Johnson	28



Dianne and Fred Borgen 4

**NURSERY, KITCHEN AND FURNITURE ITEMS**



There are some “vintage” nursery, kitchen and furniture items on the stage downstairs. They are available for anyone who can use them. Please check with Pastor Dave, Barbara Woods, or Bob Parrish if you have questions and act soon before they are gone!



**Board and Committee Chairs**

Our board and committees have met and chosen new leaders for 2023. They are:

**Deacon Chair:** Barbara Woods

**Moderator:** Barbara Woods

**Trustee Chair:** Wes Johnson

**Christian Education Chair:** Erin Johnson

**Pastoral Relations Committee Chair:**  
Joe Parrish



## New in the Library

***Feminist Prayers for My Daughter: Powerful Petitions for Every Stage of Her Life***  
by Shannon K. Evans.

Evans wrote *Feminist Prayers for My Daughter* as a gift to mothers and women everywhere. It offers short prayers that affirm the unique challenges and embrace the natural abilities embodied by our daughters, young and old alike. Categories of prayers include embodiment, relationships, wholeness, justice, equality, and milestones. This book encompasses all of life from birth to death while imagining God in ways that resonate with the feminine experience.

Shannon is the daughter of Kay and Randall O'Brien. The author of *Rewilding Motherhood* and *Embracing Weakness*, she is an editor for *National Catholic Reporter* and a frequent retreat leader.

***Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence***  
by Diana Butler Bass.

Her secular friends often ask her “How can you still be a Christian?” In the book, Diana Butler Bass explains that her experience of Jesus has changed over the years, viewing him in different ways at different points, and that while she is still a Christian, she isn't the same kind of Christian she used to be. Butler Bass writes in a style she calls “memoir theology,” reflecting on her own experiences of faith in an engaging style.

Our Lenten Study was based on this book, and our study group appreciated the way that the author shared honestly from her own experience and the way that it helped us to reflect on our own faith.

**breadfortheworld**



HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

**Bread for the World** is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. It encourages decision makers to craft and pass legislation toward the end of ending hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

One of the ways Bread works toward this goal is through an annual “Offering of Letters.” Individuals of all religious backgrounds and all people of good will are encouraged to join in this effort. This year’s Offering of Letters will focus on the Farm Bill. Our local Bread for the World group is encouraging letters be sent to

Sen. Grassley, Sen. Ernst, and Rep. Feenstra asking that as Congress renews the Farm Bill,



**First Baptist Church**

**AMES**

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### **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

### **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. See Pastor Dave or a Christian Education Committee member if you are planning to go. Dates and information for various camps are posted on the bulletin board.



**Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM**

**Details for connecting via ZOOM at [fbcomes.org](http://fbcomes.org)**