



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

February 2024
Volume 70, No. 2

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.

Pastor's Word

The season of Lent is a time of repentance, reflection, and spiritual renewal of 40 days preceding the celebration of Jesus' resurrection at Easter. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14 – Valentine's Day. This does not happen very often. It occurred in 2018, but the last time it happened before that was 1945.

If we try to combine Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday, this would be a time for flowers, chocolate, and romantic dinners, as well as remembering that we all fail God and one another, and that we will all return to dust.

It is admittedly an awkward combination. The two days don't really seem to work together. And yet there is a sense in which it actually makes sense.

On Ash Wednesday we are marked by ashes. The ashes can be a deep and personal reminder, as much as jewelry or flowers, that we are loved and that our beloved's commitment is constant and true, even when we are not. The ashes are a mark of our fallenness and imperfection and yet God loves us anyway and always.

And then knowing that life is fleeting can actually be helpful. We will only have so many opportunities to show care for those we love, so we need to take hold of those opportunities.

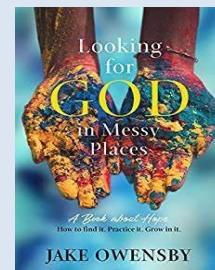
So maybe the two days can go together. Or maybe I'm just trying to make them fit. But either way, Ash Wednesday is coming on February 14. We will have a Soup Supper and study on Wednesday evenings in Lent at 6 pm, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14. On that evening, we will have a very brief Ash Wednesday service before our study.

Blessings,
Dave

Lenten Soup Supper and Study

Wednesdays 6 pm, Beginning February 14
soup supper with study following

Study book: *Looking for God in Messy Places:*
A Book About Hope by Jake Owensby



Senior Moments

Be sure to tune in to KHOI radio and listen to Senior Moments Saturdays at 11:00 am on 89.1 FM. The program explores topics of interest with interesting senior adults telling out them.

Saturday programs and guests are listed below:

February 3: Barb and Dave Splett, a retired Lutheran ministry team talk about their ministry, moving, and volunteering

February 10: Rev. Deb from Unity Church talks about her call to ministry and later, Sam Stanton discusses end of life issues.

February 17: Two Ames artists, Jeanine Strodman and Susan Norris talk about their interest in the visual arts.

February 24: Two KHOI Local Hosts share their interest in nature and volunteering.



ABC-USA Calls New General Secretary



Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain was called as General Secretary of American Baptist Churches USA by the Board of General Ministries. She is the first woman and first person of color to serve in this role. As General Secretary, she will provide overall leadership to our denomination that includes 1.3 million members in 5,000 churches, with 33 regional bodies.

Dr. Jacobs-Strain previously served as Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) for six years. Under her guidance, ABWM introduced the AB GIRLS program, "Building Bridges and Gateways to Girl's Future, empowering girls to recognize God's creative potential within them. ABWM has also broadened its Beloved Community and Domestic Violence ministries and now offers seminars and webinars tailored for young adult women nationwide.

Dr. Jacobs-Strain has held various pastoral roles including Transitional Pastor at First Baptist Church of New Market in Piscataway, N.J., Interim Pastor at St. Paul Baptist Church in Atlantic Highlands, N.J., Associate Regional Pastor for American Baptist Churches of New Jersey, and Associate Minister of Christian Education at St. Paul Baptist Church in Montclair, N.J.

Rev. Jacobs-Strain has been invited as a guest preacher/lecturer at institutions such as Drew University Theological School, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, ABC-NJ Academy, and the Wellness Lounge Webcast. She contributed to leadership and devotional publications and led workshops and training events on topics including Christian Education and Leadership.

Jacobs-Strain earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Rutgers University and a Master of Divinity degree from Drew University Theological School, where she was honored with the Old Testament Scholar Award. In May 2020, she received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Duke University. She is married to Clifton Strain, and together they have three sons. They currently reside in Morristown, N.J.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 5:30p Women United	2 	3
4 9a Choir 9:45a Worship/Communion 10:45a Church School	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast 2-3p PD Boxing	7 2-3p PD Singing	8 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dance 5:30p Women United	9	10
11 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship Time 11a Church School 5:15p Super bowl Party	12	13 2-3p PD Boxing 7p Trustees	14 2-3p PD Singing 6p Ash Wednesday Service, Soup Supper and Lenten Study 	15 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dance 5:30p Women United	16	17 
18 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	19 	20 8a Men's Breakfast 2-3p PD Boxing	21 2-3p PD Singing 6p Soup Supper and Lenten Study	22 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dance 7p Deacons	23	24
25 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 6p Church Cookoff	26 	27 2-3p PD Boxing	28 2-3p PD Singing 6p Soup Supper and Lenten Study	29 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dance		



February 5:

Worship Leader Erin Johnson
Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

February 12:

Worship Leader Larry Schrag
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

February 19:

Worship Leader Kaylinn Nugent
Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

February 26:

Worship Leader Randall O'Brien
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Jon Pritchard



Aaron Stegemöller 6
Tom Logue 9
Patrick Coffey 12
Emma Phomvisay 17
Kaylinn Nugent 20
Michelle Hassler 27



Rosemarie and David Starrett 23

Church Planning Gathering

Life is filled with change. Sometimes it is so sudden and dramatic that we can't miss it. At other times, it is slow and gradual, so much so that we barely notice.

As a church, we are aware of the big, dramatic changes. COVID caused us to pivot and do a number of things differently. Those more gradual changes, however, may take some reflection.

We will have a Church Planning Gathering on Saturday, March 23 from 9 am to roughly noon. We will take time both to reflect on the challenges of change in our neighborhood and community and world as well as to do some needed nuts and bolts planning for the months ahead. All members and friends are invited to attend – your input and reflection is needed! More details to come—save the date!



**Sunday, February 11
5:15 pm in the lounge
Everyone Welcome!**

Join us for our annual Church Super Bowl Party! We invite you to bring a snack to share. We will watch the big game in the lounge, cheering on local favorites the Chiefs and 49ers. (And if you are not really a football fan, you are welcome to bring cards or a board game!)



VS



Center for Creative Justice Celebrates 50 Years!



Back in 1974, a small group including Johnie Hammond, Jenna McCarley, and Rev. Bill Belli from our church were looking at ways to help those who were released from prison be reintegrated into society. 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. It was called the Committee on Criminal Justice, or CCJ. From the beginning, CCJ was a community-based organization that provided probation supervision to lower level offenders. 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 the 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 in an 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. From the event promotional:

Join the Legal Aid Society of Story County and the Center for Creative Justice in commemorating 50 years of dedicated public service at the 2nd Annual Jazz for Justice Celebration! This milestone celebration promises an evening filled with delectable cuisine, live music, and a myriad of surprises.

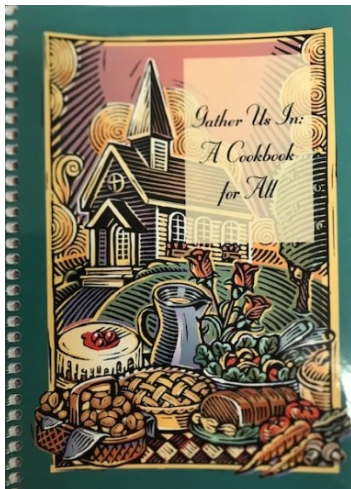
Don't miss out on this extraordinary occasion! Reserve your spot now and be part of our legacy of service. Your presence will contribute to the continued success of each organization and their mission. Secure your tickets and join us for an evening of jazz, joy, and justice!

We would like to support CCJ and Legal Aid by purchasing tickets for a table at the event. Please see Pastor Dave for more information or if you would like to be a part of this.

FBC COOKOFF 2024

Sunday February 25, 6 pm

Theme: "I Found It in a Church Cookbook"



There are all kinds of church cookbooks out there. For this year's FBC Cookoff, we are asking contestants to make a dish with a recipe from a church cookbook.

For those who may not have church cookbooks at home, those who have an excess of these cookbooks are invited to bring them to our Fellowship Time on February 11 and make them available for lending out. We will also have copies of our FBC cookbook from several years ago available (pictured here).

We need both contestants and "testers" for the Cookoff. The way it works is that we sample as many dishes as we wish and then vote for our favorites with cash, with all proceeds going to a mission effort. This year the funds will go to the America for Christ Offering, received in the month of March to support ABC mission work in the US and Puerto Rico. This includes support for ministries in our region including camps, retreats, and training events. Come join us on February 25 for a great evening!

First Baptist Cook-Off History

This year's cookoff will be our fifteenth! The Cookoff has been held every year since 2008 with a two year break for COVID. Here are the themes and winners from our cook-offs through the years. (We have the Grand prize winner as well as other winners for most years.) Proceeds each year have gone to a mission cause including the America for Christ Offering, disaster relief following earthquakes and floods, and our church's mission trips.

2008: "Fish and Loaves" – Chris Richter, Herb and Almond Bread (shaped like a fish, it was a work of art!)

2009: "Patience in a Dish" – Andrew Perrine, Chicken Lips with Maytag Blue Cheese Dressing.

2010: "Foods from Around the World." Winners were Joyce Davidson, Samosas; Katy Seidel, Steamed Pudding; Bob Parrish, BBQ Pork; and Marilyn Peterson, Carrot Cake.

2011: "Childhood Favorites." Grand Prize: Lee Davidson, Chocolate Wafer Dessert. Other winners: Johnie Hammond, banana pudding; Barbara Woods, lemon meringue pie; Joyce Davidson, Indian Pilau; and Marilyn Peterson, Dressing Bundles.

2012: "A Dish for Company" – Jim Sassaman, Sweet Potato Casserole.

2013: "Plentiful Parishioner-Prepared Palate Pleasing Plates" (dishes starting with the letter P) – Grand Prize: Johnie Hammond, Paella. Other winners: Main Dish: Joyce Davidson, Pilau with Poultry and Peanuts; Snack/Appetizer: Katy Seidel, Cheese Pennies; Dessert – Jan Thompson, Paso a Paso (Three Milks Cake).

2014: "Beans and Things" – Grand Prize: Catherine Parrish, Vanilla Bean Cream Cheese Spread. Other winners included Main Dish: Dave Russell, Italian Sausage and White Bean Chili; Side Dish: Jenna McCarley, Southern Fried Okra; Dessert: Dianne Borgen, Pinto Bean Pecan Pie.

2015: "Creatively Concocted Congregational Cooking Contest" (foods that start with the letter C). Grand prize: Kaylinn Taggart and TJ Nugent, "Crack-a-lackin' Cheese and Cool Veggie Tray." Other Winners: Jere Maddux, "Connoisseur's Choice Calico Corn Casserole." Barbara Woods, "Cherries Jubilee." Joyce Davidson, Chicken Curry with cabbage, celery, carrots, cauliflower, coconuts, craisins, cashews and crushed chilies.



2016: "Crock Pot – or Not." Grand Prize: Jared Diehl, Virginia Style Pulled Pork. Other winners were Jim Sassaman for his baked beans (side dish), Jeanine Cole for her cinnamon almonds (snack), Marilyn Peterson for her peach cobbler (dessert), Rita Parrish for her "Pot-O-Mint" frozen dessert (most unique), and Julie Johnston in the Not Crock Pot category for her Key Lime pie.

2017: "Test Kitchen" (a dish you have never made before). Grand prize: Phyllis and Larry Schrag, Sadie's Rhubarb Delight. Other winners: Annalee O'Connor, Stuffed Mushrooms; Barbara Woods, Baklava; Catherine Parrish, Scratch Angel Food Cake; Dale Grauman, Baked Rice with Shallots, Garlic, Curry Leaves and Saffron; and the Stegemöller family, Lavender Cupcakes. (*Photo of winners on left.*)

2018: "Come and See" (a dish with a surprise element). Grand Prize: Dave Russell, Tropical Fruit Smoothies with Guanabana.

Other winners included Dianne Borgen, Swedish Meatballs; Jeanine Cole, Burgundy Beef with Noodles; Jenna McCarley, Burgundy Mushrooms; Stephanie and Greg Goodman, Baked Beans with Cherry Pie Filling; Buck Peterson, Surprise Brownies.

2019: "Around the World" (highlighting world dishes with proceeds toward our Puerto Rico mission trip). Grand Prize: Tina Sanders, Mexican lasagna. Other winners: Stephanie Goodman, Taco Soup; Phyllis Schrag, Nigerian Betrothal Gift; Dave Russell, pastelón (Puerto Rican Plantain Lasagna); Luke Rustin, Rice and Pigeon Peas.

2020: "Made with Love" (Valentine theme). Grand Prize: Dave Russell, Heart-Shaped Stromboli Sliders. Other winners: Steve Babcock, homemade ice cream; Annalee O'Conner, Spinach Artichoke Dip; Marilyn and Buck Peterson, Rhubarb Butter Crunch with a heart-shaped design. Lucy Stegemöller won the Creativity Award for her artistic Sugar Cookies and display.

2023: "Quick Fix Foods." Grand Prize: Greg Goodman, Quick Chicken Ramen. Other winners included Becca Whitaker, Cherry Pineapple Dump Cake; Buckley Peterson, Sausage Potato Balls; Stephanie Goodman, Gumbo Sloppy Joes; Phyllis Schrag, Irish Stew (green jello); and Marilyn Peterson for her Thanksgiving Casserole.



Greg Goodman
2023 champion



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



Student Lunch February 18

All college students are invited to our next Student Lunch on Sunday, February 18 following worship! Please join us for good food and good fellowship! We will be in the college lounge, on the second floor.



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcames.org