



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

*December 2022*  
*Volume 68, No. 11*

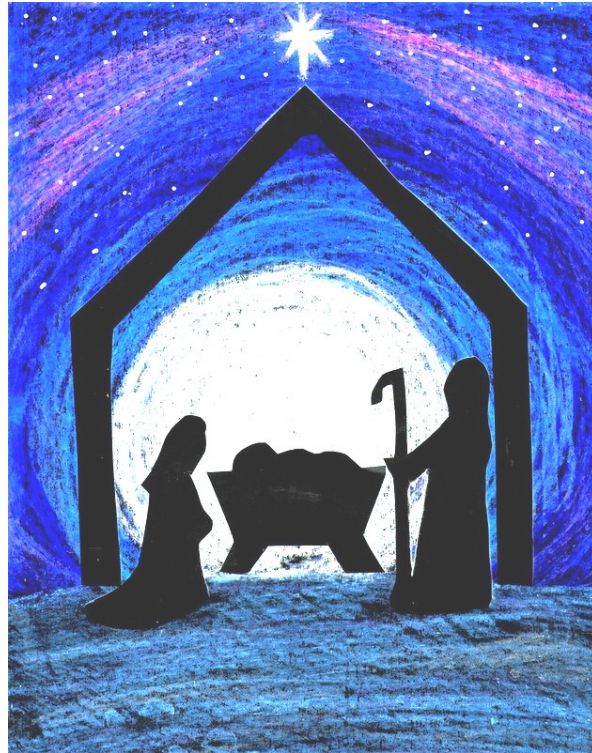
## **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

PHONE: 515-292-9612  
E-MAIL: [office@fbcomes.org](mailto:office@fbcomes.org)  
WEB: [fbcomes.org](http://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!**

**November 27, First Sunday of Advent**  
Hanging of the Greens Following Worship

**December 4, Second Sunday of Advent**  
Yuletide Orchestra plays

**December 10**  
Church Christmas Dinner and Program, 6 pm

**December 11, Third Sunday of Advent**  
Yuletide Orchestra plays  
Northcrest Vespers, 3 pm

**December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Christmas Cantata: "Festival of Christmas" by Mary McDonald

**December 24, Christmas Eve**  
Social Hour, 5 pm  
Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 6 pm

**December 25, Christmas Day**  
informal worship in the lounge, 9:45 am

## Pastor's Word

In September I made the trip to St. Louis to see a Cardinal baseball game. This was the last season for Cardinal veterans and future Hall of Famers Albert Pujols and Yadier Molina, and I wanted to see them play in person one more time before they retired. Adam Wainwright, another Cardinal veteran nearing the end of his career, was the starting pitcher. It was a perfect setup. I met up with friends at the ballpark.

I grew up in church with Kevin. We both went to college at Evansville, and Kevin still lives there. Roy was our pastor during our teenage and college years and now lives in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Ten or 12 years ago we all decided to meet for a ballgame in St. Louis and have done so several times now. Kevin's dad Terry joined us this time.



As it turned out, the Cardinals did not have a great game. The highlight was that Molina hit two home runs (he only hit 5 for the whole season), but the Cardinals lost.

Well, I guess the real highlight was not so much seeing Yadi hit a couple of homers, but spending time with friends. Kevin and I go way back. We see each other once or twice a year when I am back in my hometown. I had not seen his dad in a long time. Terry was great fun and added a lot to the day (including giving me some 5 Hour Energy to stay awake on the drive back to Ames).

My thoughts went back to that day because of Roy. We received materials for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) recently. When I looked over the materials, I thought of him. Roy was my pastor during some of the more formative years of my life and was a great model of care, faithfulness, thoughtfulness, and integrity.

After Kevin and I graduated from college, Roy went to serve on denominational staff in Missouri and is now retired. But through the years we have kept in touch, and he officiated at the graveside service for my dad. I was going to lead that service – the cemetery was 75 miles away from where the funeral was held - but Roy was planning to be there and I was glad for him to officiate so I could simply be a family member. Whenever we get together, Roy always expresses how proud he is of Kevin and me, and encourages both of us in our work. Kevin is a faithful church member and an attorney who serves as the director of Legal Aid in Evansville.

I was blessed with some great pastors as a young person, and when I thought about ministers who have made a difference in my life, Roy came to mind. I would invite you to think about ministerial leaders who have made a difference in your life – those who prayed, listened, baptized, married, buried, comforted, welcomed, accepted, guided, counseled, and celebrated with you. The RMMO is a way to say Thank You to those who, like Roy, have made a difference. The offering is distributed to retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses in the form of Thank You checks. These go to folks like our own Wayne and Irene Shireman, who served churches in Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Iowa and on region staff in Kansas before moving to Ames in retirement and serving as members of our church. A portion of the offering also goes to retirees with emergency needs.

We will receive the offering on December 4 and throughout the month of December. RMMO offering envelopes are available in the pews, or simply note "RMMO" on your check or when you give online through the church website.

Thankfully,  
*Dave*





# CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The **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 11 and will be received throughout the month of December.



The **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** 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 through-out the month.



BLESSED <sup>TO BE</sup>  
A BLESSING

**Thank You** to all who have made a pledge of financial support to First Baptist for 2023! We are grateful for so many who faithfully support our work. If you have not yet made a pledge, we invite you to do so. You can view our Narrative Budget [here](#) and download a pledge card [here](#).



**December 4:**

*Worship Leader* Barbara Woods  
*Ushers:* Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

**December 11:**

*Worship Leader* Kay O'Brien  
*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

**December 18**

*Worship Leader* Susan Russell  
*Ushers:* Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

**December 25:**

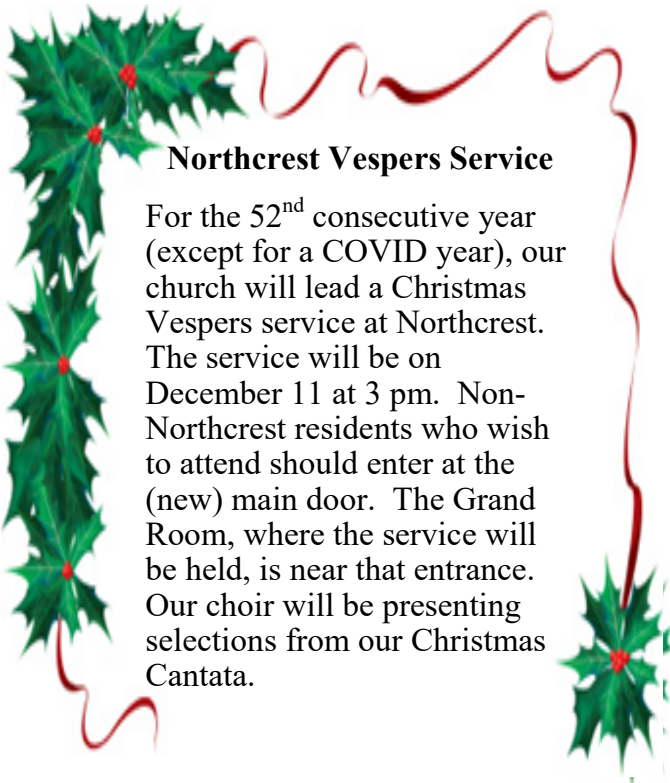
*Ushers:* Stephanie Goodman,  
Julie Johnston



Irene Shireman	2
Tolani Clotey	4
Quinn Whitaker	7
Jim Demarest	8
Tonia McCarley	12
Jeanette Gee	13
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



**Northcrest Vespers Service**

For the 52<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year (except for a COVID year), our church will lead a Christmas Vespers service at Northcrest. The service will be on December 11 at 3 pm. Non-Northcrest residents who wish to attend should enter at the (new) main door. The Grand Room, where the service will be held, is near that entrance. Our choir will be presenting selections from our Christmas Cantata.

**Budget/Election Meeting**

Our annual Budget/Election Business Meeting will be held at noon on Sunday, December 11. We will be electing officers and board and committee members as well as adopting a church budget for 2023. All are welcome to attend this meeting. We will make this meeting available on Zoom for those who are not here in person.

**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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	2 12 Noon <i>PD Ping-Pong Tournament</i>	3
4 8:45a Choir 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast <i>1p PD Boxing</i>	7 <i>2p PD Singing</i>	8 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	9	10 1p Choir Retreat 6p Christmas Dinner/Program
11 8:45a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 12 Noon Business Meeting 3p Vespers at Northcrest	12 <i>ISU Finals Week</i> 	13 <i>1p PD Boxing</i> 7p Trustees	14 <i>2p PD Singing</i>	15 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2-4p PD Singing Holiday Extravaganza</i> 	16	17
18 8:45a Choir 9:45a Worship Christmas Cantata 10:45a Church School	19	20 8a Men's Breakfast	21	22	23 	24 5p Social Hour 6p Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
25 9:45a Informal Worship in the Lounge 	26	27 	28	29	30	31

## Advent Worship Notes

Our theme for Advent is “The Message of the Carols.” Sermons will revolve around themes from familiar carols and the choir will present the cantata “Festival of Christmas,” which incorporates traditional carols to share the message of Christ’s coming.

**November 27** - Advent 1: “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”-  
*Hope of All the Earth Thou Art.* Isaiah 40:1-5, 28-31

**December 4** – Advent 2: “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” -  
*Peace on Earth and Mercy Mild.* Luke 1:46-55

**December 11** – Advent 3: “How Great Our Joy” -  
*Joy! Joy! Joy!* Luke 2:8-14

**December 18** – Advent 4: Christmas Cantata, “Festival of Christmas”  
by Mary McDonald

**December 24** – Christmas Eve: “Silent Night” -  
*Dawn of Redeeming Grace*

**December 25** – Christmas Day: “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” -  
*Wild and Sweet the Words Repeat*

**January 1** – Phyllis Schrag will serve as our preacher

Our Christmas morning worship will be held in the lounge and will be very informal – come as you are! We will have a creative congregational-participation reading of the Christmas story and there will be a part for everyone. It should be “wild and sweet”!



### Christmas Dinner!!



The **Christmas Dinner** is a long-held tradition at First Baptist with good food and warm fellowship with church family and guests. After two years of foregoing an in-person Christmas Dinner because of COVID, we are so glad to be joining together again this year. Our children and youth will lead a program following the meal.

This year’s **Christmas dinner** will be **Saturday, December 10 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 dessert. F-L is asked to bring a vegetable. M-P is asked to bring a salad and Q-Z should bring a potato dish. (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!



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

**The First Baptist Staff**

***Pastor Dave, Mindy, Emma, Elizabeth, Charyl, 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
Emma Phomvisay	Music Intern
Charyl Winterink	Office Manager



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

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