



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

December, 2017
Volume 63, No. 11

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
200 Lynn Ave.
Ames, IA 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.

Advent/Christmas Worship at First Baptist

We invite you to join us for worship on Sundays at 9:45 as we celebrate a season filled with music, comfort, joy, and hope

December 3 – First Sunday of Advent, 9:45 am

“Prepare the Way of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:1-4, Matthew 3:1-12)
Baptismal Service for Lauren Peters; Yuletide Orchestra will play
Hanging of the Greens following worship

Saturday, December 9

Church Christmas Dinner, 6:00 pm
Program led by our children will follow

December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent, 9:45 am

Cantata: “What Sweeter Music” by John Leavitt
featuring our choir, musicians, and guest instrumentalists

December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent, 9:45 am

“Home for the Holidays” (Zephaniah 3:14-20, Luke 2:1-7)
Yuletide Orchestra will play

December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:45 am

“The Gift of Love” (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Matthew 1:18-25)

December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 pm - Social Hour (you are welcome to bring goodies to share!)
6:00 pm - Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols



Worship Leaders

December 3

Worship Leader: Kaylinn Taggart
Ushers: Bob Parrish*, Kent Johnson
 Jan Thompson, Wallace Sanders
Sound System: Bob Parrish

December 10

Worship Leader: Susan Russell
Ushers: Michael Thompson*, Jill Grauman,
 Nancy Maydew, Kaylinn Taggart
Sound System: Tom Logue

December 17

Worship Leader: Phyllis Schrag
Ushers: Dianne Borgen, Jerilyn Logue
 Tom Logue, Jon Pritchard
Sound System: Kent Johnson

December 24

Worship Leader: Barbara Woods
Ushers: Scott Anderson, Julie Johnston,
 Jere Maddux, Tiffany Nugent
Sound System: Tom Logue

December 31

Worship Leader: Jere Maddux
Ushers: Jeanine Cole, Lee Davidson,
 Mark Reuber, Barbara Woods
Sound System: Kent Johnson

Flowers for December: Church Family



Irene Shireman	2
Tolani Clottey	4
Walter Fehr	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



Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner and Program

The **Christmas Dinner** is a long-held tradition at First Baptist with good food and warm fellowship with church family and guests. This year's **Christmas dinner** will be **Saturday, December 10 at 6 pm** with a program following the meal. 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 salad. F-L is asked to bring a potato dish. M-P is asked to bring a dessert and Q-Z should bring a vegetable 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!

Budget and Election Meeting



Our annual Budget/Election Business Meeting will be held Sunday, December 10 at 12 noon. We will approve a budget for the 2018 year as well as elect officer, board members, committee members, and representatives to various community groups. All are invited for this important meeting.

Northcrest Vespers Service

Our long tradition of holding a special worship service at Northcrest Community during the Advent season continues with the annual Northcrest Vespers Service. The service will be on Sunday, December 17 at 5 pm in the Green Room, on the lower level of the main building at Northcrest, 1801 20th Street. The service will feature selections from our Christmas Cantata, and a fellowship time will be held in the dining room afterwards. Vespers is held at Northcrest as part of our ministry to residents there, but everyone is welcome to attend!



Carol Sing December 17



Long ago, when people were not so scheduled and life was simpler, singers of like mind would join their voices in joyous renditions of traditional Christmas Carols. Revisiting that love of singing is the purpose of an up-coming afternoon of Christmas Carol Singing. The event will be Sunday, December 17, beginning at 2 pm in the Farwell T. Brown Auditorium, Ames Public Library. This holiday musical opportunity is a joint effort by Ames Public Library, Ames Mennonite Church and First Baptist Church of Ames.



Mindy Phomvisay, Director of Music at Ames First Baptist Church, will be at the keyboard. Leading the singing will be Phyllis Schrag, a member of both churches. Several musicians from the sponsoring churches will add their instrumental talents to the mix. At this writing, persons who play flute, violin, trumpet, and oboe are expected, making the event even more festive. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this family friendly Yuletide Carol Sing. Those attending are invited to bring a plate of holiday treats to share following the Carol Sing. Come, relax, and sing the songs of the season! For more information, see Phyllis Schrag.

WELCOME New Members

New Members

We are delighted to welcome four new members to First Baptist! **Carol and Don Pady** join us by transfer of membership from First Christian Church in Topeka, Kansas. Some will remember the Pads from the time when they were members here in the late 1960's. They moved from FBC to First

Christian Church in Ames when Carol became the organist there and eventually moved from Ames to Rochester, Minnesota where Don, a librarian, worked at the Mayo Clinic. The Pads later moved to Kansas, where they have cared for family in recent years, before moving back to Ames this year. We are glad to have them back!

Becca Whitaker comes transferring her membership from the Hillsboro Baptist Church, in southeast Iowa. Becca was very involved in our church as a college student at ISU (like her parents and both of her brothers before her), and moved back to southeast Iowa for a job following graduation. She is now back in Ames, working at Renewable Energy Group. Becca has been involved in American Baptist life at the regional and national level and has led ABGirls mission trips to New Orleans. She lives with her boys Fred and Walter. (They are cats.)

Lauren Peters will become a member of our church through baptism. She will be baptized in worship on December 3. Lauren is a freshman at Iowa State majoring in Animal Science. She is from Carpentersville, Illinois, northwest of Chicago. We are so glad to have her as part of our fellowship and excited that she will be professing her faith in Christ through baptism. We look forward to walking alongside her, and all of our new members, in their journeys of faith.

Congratulations!

Patricia Izbicki was named one of two student winners of the annual Women of Innovation Awards presented by the Technology Association of Iowa. Patricia is a doctoral student and research assistant in Iowa State's Neuroscience Graduate Program, and choir accompanist here at First Baptist.

She was recognized for her research into how music impacts the nervous system. She hopes the results of her work lead to more support for music programs. "If we're really able to understand what's going on at the level of the brain and nervous system in terms of music, music therapy, music education, we can further influence and advocate for medical and educational policy involving music," she says. She uses technology in her research to measure brain activity.



Congratulations to Patricia! You can read the full story on the [Iowa Public Radio website](#).

Stewardship Report

Thank you for your generous response to our 2018 Stewardship Appeal and our 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign. So far we have received pledges totaling \$90,639 toward our capital campaign, which will reconstruct our parking lot and fund other improvements including carpeting and new rear doors. Our campaign goal is \$150,000, including the use of \$50,000 in existing funds. We would love to exceed the goal in order to fund additional improvements including front porch painting and window repair, a canopy cover for the ramp entrance, window well repair, and more. If you have not already made a pledge, we encourage you to do so. Pledge cards for both the 2018 Stewardship Campaign and for the 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign are available in the narthex or church office.



Special Offerings in December

In this season of giving, First Baptist receives two special offerings.

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 received on December 3 and throughout the month of December.

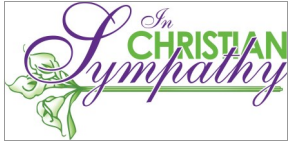
The **Christmas Offering** is an opportunity to help provide for those most in need in our community. Half of the offering goes to the Emergency Residence Project, our homeless shelter in Ames. The other half goes to our Benevolence Fund, which is distributed to those coming to our church seeking assistance. The offering will be received on December 10 and throughout the month of December.

Costa Rica Mission Report

I had a wonderful trip to Costa Rica, serving as part of a group of American Baptists who visited a variety of churches and mission efforts of the Federation of Baptist Churches of Costa Rica. The opportunity to visit with brothers and sisters in a wide variety of settings – inner city, small town, rural and suburban – and to have conversations with pastors and church leaders in these places was both inspiring and a good learning experience. I want to thank the church for the opportunity and support to take part in this trip. With a full schedule in December, I will schedule a time in January to make a presentation about the trip. - Pastor Dave



Christian Sympathy



Our love and prayers go out to Bob Englehart and family in the loss of Sandra Englehart, who died on November 29 at Israel Family Hospice House. Sandra was a long-time member of our church. She was the sister of Rosemarie Starrett and mother of Stephenie Keat. Funeral services will be held at the church on Saturday, December 2 at 10:30 am.

**STRONG CITIES ARE BUILT ON
STRONG FAMILIES IN STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

MECHANICS OF STRENGTH



**An Institutional
Development Training
presented by AMOS**

Saturday, January 13, 2018
Registration at 8:30 a.m.
Sessions from 9:00 a.m. through 5 p.m.
Bethesda Lutheran Church
1517 Northwestern Avenue

Cost \$20/person (with scholarships if this is a hardship). Lunch included.


RSVP to your institution's core team,
including dietary restrictions,
by Tuesday, January 2, 2018.



AMOS will sponsor a one-day training on building strong institutions (in our case, a strong church!) The event will be held on Saturday, January 13 at Bethesda Lutheran Church. Cost is \$20 including lunch; our church will pay half of the cost for all who register from First Baptist. To sign up, contact the church office or see Jill Grauman or Pastor Dave.

December 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 (December) 9:45a Worship	<div> Regular Office Hours Tuesday—9am-Noon and 1-3pm Wednesday—9am-1pm Thursday—9am-Noon and 1-3pm Friday—8am-Noon </div>				1	2
3 9:45a Worship/ Baptism 11a Hanging of the Greens 12p Lunch	4	5 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins 4:00p Parkinson's Music & Move- ment Group	6 3:00p Parkinson's Singing Group 6:30p Choir	7	8	9 9a Cantata rehearsal 6p Christmas Dinner & Program
10 9:45a Cantata 11a Fellowship Time 11:15a Church School 12p Budget/Election Meeting	11	12 4:00p Parkinson's Music & Move- ment Group	13 11:30a Women's Lunch, Mandarin 6:30p Choir	14	15	16
ISU Finals Week						
17 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 2p Prayer Shawl Circle 2p Carol Sing @ Ames Public Library 5p Vespers @ Northcrest	18	19 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins	20 6:30p Choir	21	22	23
24 9:45a Worship	25 Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins	28	29	30

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200 Lynn Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

Our Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. David Russell	Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
Patricia Izbicki	Accompanist
Janelle Keltgen	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian
Karina Anderson	Child Care
Hanna Saville	Child Care

May God's Blessing Be With You In This Holy Season



The First Baptist Staff

Pastor Dave

Mindy

Patricia

Janelle

Kathy

Karina

Hanna