



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

October 2020

Volume 66, No. 9

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.

## What is Normal?

My first ministry position out of seminary was serving as a Campus Minister at Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan Universities. My office was across the street from a large dorm on the ISU campus in Normal. But I lived in Bloomington (Bloomington-Normal are twin cities). I liked to say that I lived "just south of Normal."

Geographic humor aside, I have been thinking a bit about the concept of "normal." We talk about "getting back to normal," or "the new normal." As far as churches go, there was at one time a fairly standard way of doing things, but that has not really been the case for a long time. Each congregation is different – the context is different, traditions and customs may be unique and beliefs and practices and emphases can vary. This is true even for churches of the same denomination or religious tradition.

What is interesting to me is that out of the churches I am familiar with and clergy I have interacted with online, every church seems to be proceeding through this pandemic a little differently. Our church met entirely via Zoom for 6 months. During that time, our attendance actually increased and about 25% of our virtual congregation lives outside of Ames – most of those out of state. Most of the out of town folks have a history and connections to our church, but we have also had first time visitors who live out of town.

We never would have imagined this scenario. And I am not sure what normal will be like going forward, or if "normal" is even that helpful of a designation. (As I have said before, "normal" is overrated.) I do know that even in the midst of a lot of pain and uncertainty, there have nevertheless been many joyful moments, and God has been at work. That is one thing we can count on.

On September 20, we met for worship outside. It was so good to be together and see one another in person! Air hugs are not the same as actual hugs, but it was still good. That morning, we had about 30% of worshipers on the front lawn and 70% on Zoom. The "hybrid" approach seemed to work, and we will continue with Hybrid Worship through October as the weather allows. This Sunday, October 4, will be too cold (so we will be Zoom only), but we anticipate more outdoors services this month.

Even in such unusual circumstances, God's work goes forward. Church School classes are meeting by phone or video. Our Stewardship campaign will go forward virtually. The CROP Walk will be DIY rather than a large group experience. Our regional gathering and AMOS gatherings continue, online. The Christian Education Committee is planning an online "Fun Freaky Friday Fall Festival." And we continue to look for ways to care for one another, share the gospel, and work for justice in our community.

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This is a time of year when there are a number of extra appeals to fund important ministries. The CROP Walk, AMOS' annual fundraiser, the World Mission Offering, and our church's stewardship campaign all take place in the coming weeks. You can read about each of these opportunities in this month's *Spire*. We recognize that a lot of folks have been economically impacted, directly or indirectly, by COVID-19. What this means is that the need is even greater, and as you are able, I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you may be a faithful steward of God's gifts.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Blessings,  
Dave

*Please Join Us!*

# CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION

*AMOS Action with Congressional and Senate Candidates*

HEAR REAL STORIES FROM  
CENTRAL IOWANS

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND GAIN  
NEW CONNECTIONS

MOVE INTO ACTION TOGETHER

October 4th, 2020 Via Zoom | 3:00 - 4:30 PM

*Please Register in Advance at:*

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAscuhqDopGdJnr-dTkEYzVbbWTn6C5QPn>

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.*

If you have any questions or did not receive the registration email, please email [amosiowa@gmail.com](mailto:amosiowa@gmail.com)

 **AMOS** | A Mid-Iowa  
Organizing Strategy

## Invited Candidates

*U.S. Senate:*

Joni Ernst

Theresa Greenfield

*Congressional District 4:*

Randy Feenstra

J.D. Scholten

*Congressional District 3:*

Cindy Axne

David Young

**AMOS** is a non-partisan organization. At this action, we will hear stories from our neighbors about the issues that matter to us, as reported in our recent CCC Campaign. We do not endorse candidates but rather ask candidates to endorse our efforts as an organization. This is a chance to build relationships so that regardless of who wins in the election, we can continue to work for the good of our community.

## Voting Information

Did you know that when our nation was founded, the vast majority of people were not eligible to vote? Voting is a hard-earned right and we encourage everyone to exercise your right to vote as an act of Christian citizenship and as a participant in our democracy. In this time of pandemic, voting is more difficult. Here is some helpful information:

**Voter Registration:** You may register to vote

1. by calling your county auditor's office and requesting the registration application or
2. [requesting online](#) to have the registration application to be mailed to you, or
3. if you have an Iowa driver's license or DOT issued ID, you can [register electronically](#).
4. You can register to vote on Election Day. [More info](#)
5. The Ames Public Library has copies of Story County Voter Registration Forms available.

The deadline to register by mail or online is October 24<sup>th</sup>; in person until and including November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Absentee Ballots:** All registered voters were sent a ballot request form. You may also request a form from your county auditor or download a form from the Story County auditor [here](#). The request must be filled out correctly and completely to be valid. You must use your full and complete name as shown on your Driver's License / State ID or on your voter card.

The completed ballot requests may be returned in person to your County Auditor or by mail. The actual ballots will be sent out by mail on October 5. If you return your voted ballot by mail, your ballot must be postmarked by November 2, 2020. Completed absentee ballots returned to the Auditor's office in person must be received on Election Day (November 3, 2020) no later than the close of polls (9:00 p.m.).

**Early Voting:** Begins October 5, every Monday-Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm at the County Auditor's Office in the Administration Building, 900 6th St in Nevada.

**Satellite Voting:** Ames Public Library, October 10, 17, 24 and 31, 9 am - 4 pm  
Scheman Building Room 004, October 12, 13, 19, and 21, 9 am - 4 pm



Through the month of October, we will receive the World Mission Offering, which supports American Baptist mission work including Discipleship, Theological Education, Peace and Justice, Education, Health and Wellness, and Economic Development. Our church knows personally some of our mission personnel who work overseas. Based in Amsterdam, [Lauran Bethell](#) fights human trafficking around the world. Her current work focuses on grass-roots efforts to address exploitation and abuse of women and children. [David and Laura Parajon](#) continue their amazing health ministry in Nicaragua, bringing medical care to rural areas and establishing health, hygiene, nutrition, and clean water projects. [Ray Schellinger](#) is our Global Consultant for Immigrants and Refugees. Ray works with U.S. and global partners to bring compassion, hope, and the love of Christ to some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Our gifts to the WMO support the work of these [global servants](#) and much more. We will receive this offering through the month of October, and invite you to give generously. As you mail checks to the church or give via PayPal, please designate that gifts are for WMO.

## In Christian Sympathy

Our love and prayers are with the family of Wilma Robinson, who passed away September 9. Wilma and Ike came to First Baptist in 1965 and she was a faithful and much-loved member of our church family for 55 years. She and Ike moved to Minnesota several years ago to be near their daughter in the Twin Cities; Ike died in 2016.

You may send condolences to Renee Robinson, 2284 Kentucky Lane, St. Louis Park, MN 55426. Services will be held on October 15 at Ft. Snelling Memorial Chapel, 1 Tower Avenue, Minneapolis with visitation at 11 am and services at 12 noon. Burial is at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.

## October Anniversaries

Gabe and Lyndsay Whitaker	8
Michelle and Noel Hassler	21

## October Birthdays

Jeanne Williams	2
Kenneth Johnson	4
Marian Thompson	9
Fred Borgen	10
Joe Parrish	12
Dorothy Ewing	16
Martha Gleason	26
Greg Goodman	28
Lucas Anderson	29
Kyleigh Murphy	29
John Whitaker	29
Luke Rustin	29
Dale Grauman	30
Larry Schrag	30



### Virtual Choir "Rehearsal"

The choir will meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 for fellowship, games, and conversation/planning for our music ministry. Everyone welcome!

## Mid-American Baptist Churches 50th Anniversary Celebration October 3, 10 am



Our regional gathering includes a celebration of 50 years as an Iowa-Minnesota region, keynote speaker Soozi Ford, and a closing communion service. Folks from our church are involved in production, music, worship, and region leadership, so we hope to have a good turnout from First Baptist. You must [register in advance](#) (free) and will then receive a link to join on Saturday morning.

A few notes on the program and registration:

- The meeting lasts about three hours. Feel free to take breaks as needed! A schedule with approximate times will be sent after you register.
- Only one person can register per email account (this is a security measure). If you are registering for more than one person, reply "yes" to "Will more than one person be attending from this location?" during the registration process.
- Please register as a delegate. We are allotted a large number of delegates and this will allow you to vote during the business session.
- If you have any questions please contact the church office.



### Ames CROP Walk

Because of COVID-19, participants are encouraged to walk anytime October 1-15, wherever is convenient, remembering those who have to walk each day for food and clean water. [CLICK HERE](#) to register to walk or make donations to support our FBC team.

## Library Update: New Books!



**White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism**, by Robin DiAngelo (donated by Jere Maddux): "The *New York Times* best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality."

**A Portrait of Loyalty**, by Roseanna M. White (Book 3 of The Codebreakers series)

"Lily Blackwell sees the world best through the lens of a camera and possesses unsurpassed skill when it comes to retouching and re-creating photographs. With her father's connections in propaganda, she's recruited to the intelligence division, even though her mother would disapprove if she ever found out."

**The Killing Tide**, by Dani Pettrey

"When one Coast Guard officer is found dead and another goes missing, Coast Guard Investigative Service special agent Finn Walker faces his most dangerous crime yet. His only clues are what little evidence remains aboard the dead officer's boat, and the direction the clues point to will test Finn and the Guard to their limits."

*For our young church members:*

**When God Made You**, by Matthew Paul Turner (donated by Michele, Noel and John Anderson)

"Through playful, charming rhyme and vivid, fantastical illustrations, *When God Made You* inspires young readers to learn about their own special gifts and how they fit into God's divine plan as they grow, explore, and begin to create for themselves." Illustrated by David Catrow, this book has wonderful, vibrant colors. You'll want to check this book out just to enjoy the pictures!

**A Church For All**, by Gayle E. Pitman

"This simple, lyrical story celebrates a Sunday morning at an inclusive church that embraces all people regardless of age, class, race, gender identity, and sexual orientation. All are welcome at the church for all!"

**June Peters, You Will Change the World One Day**, by Alike Turner

"June Peters is a vibrant ten year old girl who understands the importance of giving. She's determined to make a difference in the world and will do whatever it takes to complete her mission. However, she learns a valuable lesson about talking to strangers and giving away her lunch money."

## Virtual Fall Festival October 30!



The Christian Education Committee invites you to join us for a Fun Freaky Friday Fall Festival on October 30! It will be on Zoom (regular Sunday morning link) beginning at 6:30. The event will be a themed "show & tell" and everyone is invited to be a participant in any or all of the four categories:

- Costumes (for all ages and can be an individual, couple, or whole family)
- Costumes on pets (cats, dogs, gerbils, hamsters, or even pet rocks!)
- Fall Decor (any fall display or project you made, outdoors or indoors, on a table or on a wall)
- Pumpkin Decorating (carved or painted & bedazzled)

In between these categories there will be a household scavenger hunt for all to participate in – you will be asked to find items in your house, with prizes awarded. So, save the date and prepare for a freaky fun time. Enjoy it even more with a fall snack of your choice--and making!!!



Our Church School classes are meeting virtually on Sundays, meeting at 11 am, or 11:15 when we have in-person outdoor worship.

The **Theology Class** is watching and discussing the video series, “The American Protestant Experience: A Free Market for Faith.” The class meets each Sunday by Zoom at 11 am, or

The **Bible Study Class** is studying “What the Prayer of Jesus Tell Us about the Heart of God,” meeting on the second and fourth Sundays via conference call.

Our **Youth** are meeting on the second and fourth Sundays via Zoom; **College Students** are meeting periodically.



In this election season, consider a candidate that is “People, not Parties.” AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) is a relational grassroots approach to organizing that empowers people to act and change communities and lives. Through face-to-face, one-on-one meetings, AMOS members build relationships between members of our communities. House meetings within our institutions help identify the pressures faced by individuals and families in our communities. AMOS research teams respond to the concerns and pressures identified in the one on one and house meetings by:

- Researching and gathering data to establish the facts,
- Developing solutions to concrete problems,
- Bringing the stakeholders and decision makers to the table, publicly, to take action to implement the AMOS agenda.

Through this process, hundreds of people enter public life and claim responsibility for their future here in central Iowa.

**We need your vote: of confidence, of solidarity, of support.**

AMOS teams rely on the leadership and guidance of trained and committed community organizers - like our AMOS lead organizer, Courtney Dufford. They provide the organization, guidance, and facilitation for AMOS members to build the skills and confidence to take charge and make change. The budget for AMOS is raised from the dues of its member organizations, individual support, and annual fundraisers (like this one). AMOS does not accept government funding.

So, vote for our candidate that has stood over 20 years in Central Iowa for local democracy and local accountability. Consider a donation to help us meet our goals to develop leadership, create and host trainings, and fund meaningful actions. By organizing people and organizing money, we can create lasting and meaningful change in our communities.

If you’d like to donate to AMOS this year, you may [donate online](#) or send a check to:

AMOS, c/o St. Theresa Catholic Church, 1230 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, IA 50311



# October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>  6:30p Weekly Devotion 7:15p Stewardship Committee	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00a Mid-American Baptist Churches Biennial Gathering
<b>4</b> 9:45a Worship, World Communion Sunday 11:00a Church School  3:00p AMOS Action With Candidates	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  2:00p Virtual Coffee Shop	<b>7</b>  6:30p Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b>  6:30p Weekly Devotion	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  
<b>11</b> 9:45a Worship 11:00a Church School	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  2:00p Virtual Coffee Shop 7:00p Trustees Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  6:30p Weekly Devotion	<b>16</b>  	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:45a Worship 11:00a Church School	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  2:00p Virtual Coffee Shop	<b>21</b>  6:30p Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>  6:30p Weekly Devotion 7:15p Deacons Meeting	<b>23</b>  6:30p Virtual Trivia Night	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:45a Worship 11:00a Church School	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  2:00p Virtual Coffee Shop	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  6:30p Weekly Devotion	<b>30</b>  6:30p Virtual Fall Festival	<b>31</b>  <b>Happy Halloween!</b>

First Baptist Church  
200 Lynn Avenue  
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

**Our Church Staff:**

Rev. Dr. David Russell	Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
Emma Phomvisay	Music Associate
Hope Deets	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



**Worship Sundays 9:45 am**

**October 4 - [via Zoom](#)**

**October 11, 18, 25 – “Hybrid” Services  
outside (if weather allows) or on Zoom**

**Next Virtual Trivia Night October 23**



Our next monthly Trivia Night will be on Friday, October 23 at 6:30 pm, via Zoom. The questions come from a range of general knowledge topics, with a few “churchy” questions thrown in. We will form teams, and the teams can discuss their answers to each round’s questions in Zoom breakout rooms. We will use the same Zoom link that we use on Sunday mornings. Contact Pastor Dave for more information.