



The Spire First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

December 2024
Volume 70, No. 12

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

PHONE: 515-292-9612
E-MAIL: office@fbcames.org
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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.



Worship in Advent and Christmas

December 1, First Sunday of Advent

Message: "Hope through the Darkness"

Yuletide Orchestra plays; Hanging of the Greens follows worship

Saturday, December 7

Church Christmas Dinner and Program, 6 pm

December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

Message: "Peace Amidst Conflict"

Yuletide Orchestra plays

December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

Cantata: "This Is Christmas" by Mary McDonald
FBC Choir and Instrumentalists

December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Message: "Joy for All People"

Yuletide Orchestra plays

Independence Village service 2 pm; Northcrest Vespers 4 pm

December 24, Christmas Eve

Social Hour, 5 pm

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 6 pm

December 29, First Sunday after Christmas

Rev. Jim Hinds, Guest Preacher

Upcoming Events



Our **Church Christmas Dinner** is a wonderful tradition at First Baptist with good food and warm fellowship with church family and guests. We look forward to a delicious meal and to our children and youth sharing with us in the Christmas Program that follows.

This year's Christmas Dinner will be **Saturday, December 7 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 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. (If instead of your "assigned" dish there is something special that you would like to prepare, please feel free to do so!)

Students, you do not need to bring a dish - please come as our invited guests!

Guest Preacher December 29

Rev. Jim Hinds will bring the message on December 29, preaching from his home in Keene, New Hampshire. Ann and Jim joined us on Zoom at the beginning of the Covid pandemic and have been faithful worshipers since then. They have served as worship leaders and Jim has preached for us previously via Zoom.

After working for 25 years in engineering and computer support at Northeastern University in Boston, Jim felt a call to ministry. He eventually went to seminary and served as an ABC pastor in Massachusetts before he and Ann retired to New Hampshire shortly before the pandemic. Ann grew up in our church and is the daughter of Harris and Katy Seidel.

Budget/Election Meeting

Our annual Budget/Election Business Meeting will be Sunday, December 8 at 12 noon. We will adopt a budget for 2025 and elect board and committee members and officers for the coming year. The meeting will be in the church lounge and also available on Zoom for those who will not be here in person.



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:45a Worship/ Communion</p> <p>11a Hanging of the Greens</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8a Men's Breakfast</p> <p>2-3p PD Boxing</p> <p>7p Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>2-3p PD Singing</p> <p>6:30p Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10a Virtual Coffee Shop</p> <p>2-3p PD Dancing</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9a Yuletide Orchestra</p> <p>9:45a Worship/ Communion</p> <p>10:45a Fellowship</p> <p>11a Church School</p> <p>12p Budget/Election Meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2-3p PD Boxing</p> <p>7p Trustees</p>	<p>11</p> <p>2-3p PD Singing</p> <p>6:30p Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10a Virtual Coffee Shop</p> <p>2-3p PD Dancing</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1-3p Cantata Rehearsal</p> <p>6p Christmas Dinner</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9a Choir</p> <p>9:45a Worship</p> <p>10:45a Church School</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>ISU Finals Week</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>8a Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30p Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10a Virtual Coffee Shop</p> <p>7p Deacons</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9a Choir</p> <p>9:45a Worship</p> <p>10:45a Church School</p> <p>2p Independence Village Service</p> <p>4p Northcrest Vespers Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5p Social Hour</p> <p>6p Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:45a Worship with Rev. Jim Hinds</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p></p>		<p></p>	<p></p>



December 1:

Worship Leader John Anderson
Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

December 8:

Worship Leader Dawn Doerr-Johnson
Ushers: Jere Maddux and Bob Parrish

December 15:

Worship Leader Susan Russell
Ushers: Jerilyn and Tom Logue

December 22:

Worship Leader Kaylinn Nugent
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman and Larry Schrag

December 29:

Worship Leader Kay O'Brien
Ushers: Jan Thompson and Barbara Woods



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcomes.org

Pledge Update

Thank You to all who have made a pledge of financial support to First Baptist for 2025! We are grateful for so many who faithfully support our work. As of December 1, we have received 32 pledges totaling \$186,680. If you have not yet made a pledge, we invite you to do so. You can [view our Narrative Budget](#) and [download a pledge card](#) from our website.



Tolani Clotey 4
Quinn Whitaker 7
Jim Demarest 8
Tonia McCarley 12
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

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.



Message from the Financial Secretary

December is here and it won't be long before the end of calendar year 2024. If you made a pledge and would like to know the status, please send an email to jerlogue@yahoo.com and I can let you know. If you didn't pledge, but still would like to know how much you have given, I would be happy to send you that information.

The 2024 giving records and 2025 pledges will be mailed by Monday, January 13th.

Thank you for your financial support of First Baptist Church.

Jerilyn Logue, Financial Secretary

Christmas Baskets

Each year our church assembles Christmas baskets that are delivered as a way of saying that our church cares. Members provide fruit, candy, cookies, etc. and our children assemble the baskets. If you would like to provide items for the baskets, please sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office. We will assemble and deliver the baskets on December 22.



Northcrest Vespers

First Baptist will hold our 54th annual Christmas Vespers service at Northcrest on December 22 at 4 pm. The service will be in the Grand Room, near the main entrance. Our choir will present a portion of our cantata. Refreshments and a time of fellowship will follow. Everyone is welcome!



Congratulations to Adde and Tyler!

The All-State Music Festival was held November 23 at Hilton Coliseum in Ames. Two FBC members performed at the festival. Adde Stegemoller was a member of the All-State Choir and had a solo. Adde is a senior at Ames High. Tyler Anderson played bass trombone in the All-State Band. He is a senior at Gilbert High School. Congratulations to our all-state musicians!

Special Offerings in December

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

The **RMMO** 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 1 and received throughout the month.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering is an opportunity to assist those most in need in our community. Half of the offering goes to The Bridge Home, which provides a shelter and housing services in Ames. The other half goes to our Benevolence Fund, which is distributed to those seeking assistance from our church. The Christmas Offering will be highlighted on December 8 and will be received throughout the month of December.





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



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

The First Baptist Staff

Pastor Dave, Mindy, Emma, Elizabeth, Sierra, Kathy