



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

December 2020
Volume 66, No. 11

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
200 Lynn Ave.
Ames, IA 50014-7188
Worship Sundays 9:45 am

PHONE:
515-292-9612
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office@fbcomes.org
WEBSITE:
www.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.



Advent/Christmas Theme: "Do Not Be Afraid..."

First Sunday of Advent, November 29: "Hold Hope," Luke 1:26-35
Drive-through Advent Kick-Off 1:30-2 pm
Hanging of the Greens 2 pm

Second Sunday of Advent, December 6: "Bring Peace," Luke 1:46-55

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13: "Practice Joy," Luke 2:1-14
Election/Budget Business Meeting follows worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20: "Choose Love," Luke 2:15-20
Christmas Program following worship

Christmas Eve, December 24: Service of Lessons and Carols, 6 pm
(Zoom social hour before service at 5 pm)

First Sunday After Christmas, December 27
Rev. Jim Hinds, Guest Preacher

Join us for worship on Sundays at
9:45am on Zoom!

Visit fbcomes.org for details.

Advent and Christmas at First Baptist

As we enter this special time of the year in a time of pandemic, we are continuing traditional celebrations, with some adjustments, and finding some new and alternative ways to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons.



Poinsettias

For many, purchasing a poinsettia for the sanctuary is an opportunity to remember or honor a loved one. We will make that opportunity available again this year. For \$10, you may provide a poinsettia. Email or call the church office for details, or simply send a check for \$10 or use the PayPal button from our website and indicate if the poinsettia is in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

Here is the wrinkle for this year: since we are worshipping on Zoom, we will scale back on decorating our sanctuary this year, and we will order a limited number of poinsettias. We will purchase those poinsettias with budgeted funds and all donations given toward poinsettias will go to support Food at First, helping feed people in need in our community. So our tradition will continue, although altered a bit – the sanctuary will be beautiful, loved ones will be remembered, and we will help meet human need in our community.



Advent at Home Kits

We encourage you to sign up for an Advent at Home Kit filled with devotions, activities, a carol booklet, and more. (You even get a recipe for the ham balls we serve at the Church Christmas Dinner!) Email the church or note in the Zoom chat on Sunday if you would like a kit. You may drive through the parking lot on November 29 between 1:30-2 pm to pick up your kit. When you drive through, you may take home a hymnal if you wish for your own use (blue hymnal, black hymnal or both.)

If you prefer, we can deliver the kit to you. And if you are out of town, we can send you an electronic copy of *An Illustrated Advent*, which is a big part of our kits.



Hanging of the Greens: We will be decorating the church as we typically do but focus on the front on the sanctuary. A very few people will be hanging greenery and decorating the sanctuary on Sunday, November 29 at 2 pm. This will be a Zoom event – we will be able to see the sanctuary being decorated and visit with friends as it happens. (You provide your own hot chocolate.)

Yuletide Orchestra: We are putting together a Virtual Yuletide Orchestra video. If you play an instrument and would like to participate, please contact Pastor Dave or Mindy. We are hoping to make videos of two Christmas carols that will be used in worship. All ages welcome!

Christmas Program: We will not be able to have our annual Christmas Dinner this year, but our youth are working on a Virtual Christmas Program. It will be presented following worship on Sunday, December 20.

Christmas Eve: We will have our Christmas Eve service at 6 pm, with a Social Hour preceding it, beginning at 5 – as we typically do. This year, however, it will be on Zoom. There will be some live portions, along with a lot of wonderful music that will be recorded in advance. We will end the service with lighting our individual candles as we sing Silent Night. (You will find candles in your Advent at Home kits!)



Our love and prayers are with Jerilyn Logue and family in the loss of her father, Russell Root. He passed away on November 12 at the Israel Family Hospice House, surrounded by his family.

Budget/Election Meeting

Our annual Budget/Election Business Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, December 13. We will be electing officers and board and committee members as well as adopting a church budget for 2021. All are welcome to attend this meeting on Zoom.

Pick up an Advent Kit, Drop Off Food for MICA

[Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. \(MICA\)](#) offers a food pantry to families in Story County. Because of the pandemic our church did not have our usual collection for MICA this fall, but we encourage you to drive through the parking lot on November 29 between 1:30-2 pm and drop off items for MICA.

Most Needed Items!

Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towels, Peanut butter, Tuna, Canned Beans – this provides protein for some families

Other items needed:

Non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food items - Bring things that YOU would enjoy eating. Rice, flour, sugar, Jello, hot cocoa packets, juice, pasta, pancake mixes, syrup, canned tomatoes and paste, coffee, tea and canned chicken.

Personal hygiene items – bath soap, shampoo, women’s supplies, shaving crème and deodorant

Household supplies – dish soap, cleaning products, hand sanitizer

Infant needs – diapers of all sizes and wipes, baby food

Money – Mica gives food vouchers to be used for milk, eggs, meat and fresh vegetables and fruit.

If you are unable to drop off items on November 29, please contact the church office to bring items at another time.

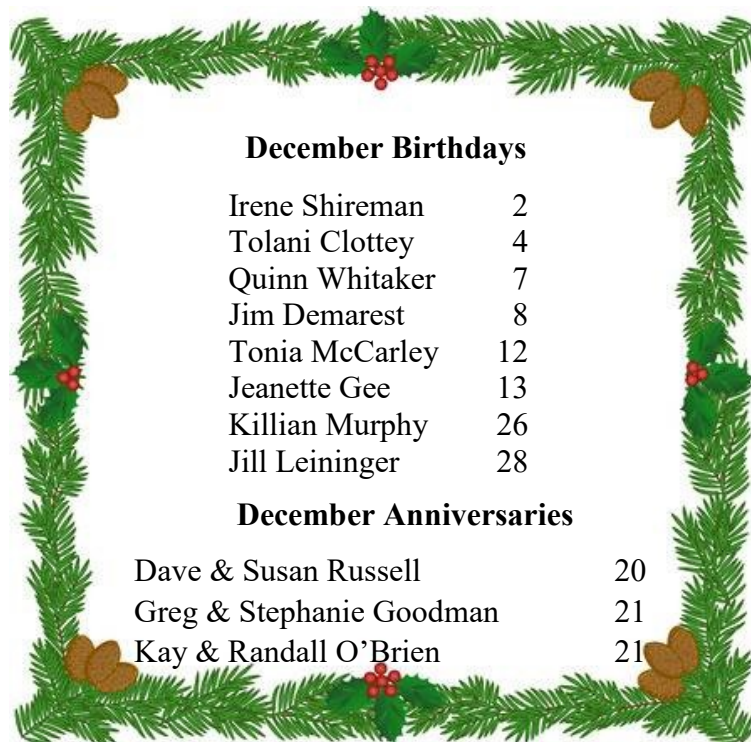
Guest Preacher December 27

On December 27, we will welcome to our pulpit Rev. Jim Hinds. In this very different time we are living in, Jim will bring our morning message from his home in Keene, New Hampshire. Jim is married to Ann Seidel Hinds, and no stranger to many of us. Having recently moved to New Hampshire, Jim and Ann have been worshiping with us since the beginning of the pandemic. He is a recently retired American Baptist pastor who most recently served in Massachusetts.

A Zoom Baby Dedication!



In this year of pandemic, there have been unexpected joys. We were delighted to have a baby dedication for Clara Ilene Grauman on November 15. Dale and Jill Grauman have been worshiping with us from the Chicago area since the pandemic began and it has been wonderful to see Clara grow each week alongside her big sister Fern!










December Birthdays

Irene Shireman	2
Tolani Clotney	4
Quinn Whitaker	7
Jim Demarest	8
Tonia McCarley	12
Jeanette Gee	13
Killian Murphy	26
Jill Leininger	28

December Anniversaries

Dave & Susan Russell	20
Greg & Stephanie Goodman	21
Kay & Randall O'Brien	21

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2p Virtual Coffee Shop	2 6:30p Choir	3 6:30p Weekly Devotion	4 	5
6 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	7	8 2p Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Trustees Meeting	9	10 6:30p Weekly Devotion 7:15p Deacons Meeting	11	12
13 9:45a Worship 10:45a Budget/ Election Meeting 11a Church School	14	15 2p Virtual Coffee Shop	16 6:30p Choir	17 6:30p Weekly Devotion	18  6:30p Virtual Trivia Night	19 
20 9:45a Worship 11a Virtual Christmas Program 	21	22	23	24 5p Social Hour 6p Christmas Eve Service	25 	26
27 9:45a Worship w/ guest preacher Rev. Jim Hinds	28	29	30	31 	<div style="background-color: #d9e1f2; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Church office closed this week</div>	

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 highlighted on December 6 and received throughout the month.

“As pastors serve our congregations and equip them to engage our communities, 2020 presents the church with unlimited opportunities to embody the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That’s where RMMO comes in—offering tangible hope through the knowledge that help is available. Thank you for partnering with this vital ministry.”

Rev. Kelly Legg
Senior Pastor
West Shore Baptist Church
Camphill, PA

Retired
Ministers &
Missionaries
Offering
2020



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), our homeless shelter in Ames. The other half goes to our Benevolence Fund, which is distributed to those coming to our church seeking assistance. In this time when many are out of work and unable to pay rent, the need is great. The Christmas Offering will be highlighted on December 13 and will be received throughout the month of December.

Local Mission Support

Through budgeted funds and special offerings as well as our hands-on efforts, our church supports many caring ministries in our community. We have \$2000 in our budget set aside for assisting groups in our community who may especially need support. This year the deacons voted to give \$1000 each to Food at First and the Story County COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Immigrants.

Food at First, located at First Christian Church, provides a free meal to anyone in the community, every day, as well as a free grocery distribution. Meals have been packaged and picked up outside since March. There have been increased costs due to packaging of meals, and over these past months there has been a sizable increase in the number of people coming for a meal.

The Story County COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Immigrants provides assistance to immigrants in our community who have especially been hard hit by loss of jobs because of the pandemic. Many, even those who are taxpayers, are not eligible for governmental assistance programs. A number of churches and social agencies including the United Way joined together to establish this fund that has served over 100 households and made over 400 rent and utility payments to date.

**Together
by Grace**



Thank You to all who have made a pledge of financial support to First Baptist for 2021! We continue to be held together by God’s grace, and we are grateful for all who continue to faithfully support our work in this difficult time. 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](#).



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
Hope Deets	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian

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



The First Baptist Staff

Pastor Dave

Mindy

Emma

Hope

Kathy