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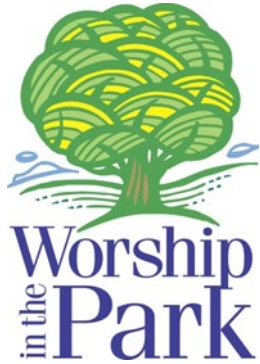
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
200 Lynn Ave.
Ames, IA 50014-7188
Worship Sundays 9:45 am

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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.

The Spire First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa



Worship in the Park

We will gather again with First Christian Church and the United Church of Christ-Congregational for a shared service at Brookside Park on August 4 at 9:45 am. There will be a fellowship time with refreshments served afterwards. You may wish to bring a chair with you (lots of seating at picnic tables will also be available.) Hickory is the west shelter. Enter the park and turn left; go past the baseball fields to the parking lot at the end of the drive. Hickory will be the nearest shelter.

We have also proclaimed August 4 as **Bike to Church Sunday**. If you would like to ride your bike to Brookside Park, please do! If you live out of town, you are welcome to bring your bike and join us after the service as all are invited to Bike to Lunch (You are also welcome to drive to lunch—place is TBA).

Pastor's Word

Our mission team has been back home for over a month now. After some time for reflection, I'd like to share some thoughts about our mission trip to Puerto Rico.

Our group of 14 team members arrived in San Juan on June 8. We went on to Fajardo, in the northeast corner of the island, where we stayed at Primera Iglesia Bautista (First Baptist Church). We were received warmly. This church provided an air-conditioned place to sleep and fed us bountifully for breakfast and dinner each day.

We worked about 15 miles away at Iglesia Bautista Jerusalem, in an outlying barrio of Luquillo. (Luquillo features several beautiful beaches, but we worked farther inland.) The church and residents in this area were without power for close to six months after Hurricane Maria. Some had generators, but fuel was hard to come by. Despite their difficulties, the church continued to worship through it all and sent a team to help out in a harder hit area of the island.

This church had about 400 members before the storm. There are now around 250 members. Many have left for jobs in Texas or Florida. About 500,000 people have left Puerto Rico since Maria, and those who leave tend to be younger, more skilled, and with more means.

While most of us heard some time ago that everyone on the island now has power, this is not the case. 98-99% of people may have electricity, but there are a number of people on dead end roads in more rural areas still without power. In fact, just last week an ABC mission team repaired the roof of a house that had just got power back on that day.

(continued on page 2)

We were perhaps the last team to work at a church. From here on, ABC teams will be working almost exclusively on repairing homes.

Several things stood out to me. When I asked people how they felt about the U.S. response to the disaster, most just shrugged their shoulders and said, "It is what it is." They seemed used to being ignored by the mainland. On the other hand, they were so appreciative and so thankful that we had come all the way from Iowa to help. For these people, our presence was a tangible sign that they had not been forgotten. The hospitality and welcome we received could not have been any warmer.

We worked very hard. We power washed and resealed flat concrete roofs and we replaced a damaged metal roof on the church, as well as doing a lot of painting. We learned that we were capable of more than we may have given ourselves credit for. When we were told that our assignment involved roof repairs on three-story buildings and that safety harnesses would be involved, we had serious doubts. We learned both that the task was not as daunting as it sounded and that we were capable of perhaps more than we had imagined. I was impressed by the contributions of everyone on our team. Every single person, from the youngest to the oldest, contributed their unique gifts and abilities and we all worked together.

We particularly enjoyed working alongside the people from this church. They exuded a joy and deep faith and were so kind. They fed us very well (at times it seemed like the two churches were trying to outdo each other) and were concerned about us working in the heat. It was striking that they put less emphasis on the task than we did, and more on relationships. Our presence actually mattered more than the work we did, and this was an important lesson.

At the young adult-led service on Friday night, which functioned as a closing event for our time at the church in Luquillo, I was asked to say a few words. I shared how thankful we were for their gracious hospitality, and that as our group had reflected on the week, we all felt that we were taking away more from the experience than we had contributed. After the Spanish translation, the congregation broke out in spontaneous applause! (I noted that I never got applause like that when I preached back in Iowa.)

In recent days you have no doubt followed the protests in Puerto Rico - protests that were held in places our group visited. The American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico encouraged those who felt led to participate in the protests, with instructions for places to meet up and signs indicating Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico. This was seen as a part of Christian discipleship – of advocating for justice, equality, and basic fairness as followers of Jesus. The revelations leading to the protests served as a reminder that the difficulties our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico face have continued after the storm.

We had a marvelous week of work, fellowship, and worship and we were able to take in the beach and rain forest as well as kayak in a bioluminescent bay. Serving on a trip such as this in a different culture can be a transformative experience – which is part of the reason we go on such trips. Thank you to all who contributed so generously to make this trip possible and affordable for all who wanted to go. We truly felt that you all were a part of this experience and that we were your representatives. As we left the island, team members were already talking about wanting to go back. And the ABC Biennial will be held in San Juan in two years!

Gratefully,
Pastor Dave



(more pictures from the Puerto Rico mission trip can be found on page 6)



August 4 *Worship at Brookside Park*

August 11

Worship Leader: Joe Parrish
Ushers: Larry Schrag, Nancy Maydew
 Wilson Korges, Beth Douglass
Sound System: Tom Logue

August 18

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

August 25

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

August Flowers: Nancy Maydew

Lorrie Whitaker	7
Scott Anderson	13
Gary Maydew	13
Jim Sassaman	20
Johnie Hammond	22
Gabe Whitaker	22
Bob Parrish	24



Buckley & Marilyn Peterson	1
Larry & Phyllis Schrag	9
Wayne & Irene Shireman	16

Music Camp

Our 20th annual Music Camp was held July 8-12. The week was filled with activity! Campers participated in drama with Phyllis Schrag, learned about music and the brain with Patricia Izbicki, tie-dyed the camp t-shirts with Pastor Dave, and learned about guitars with Kent Johnson. Our special guest on Wednesday was Sheltered Reality, a youth percussion group. Campers learned to play drums and participated in the Sheltered Reality concert on the front lawn on July 10, which included an offering for the work of Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance. Mindy Phomvisay and counselors led the campers as they learned a musical and performed it at the closing concert on Friday. Dianne Borgen and her kitchen crew provided great snacks throughout the week. Thank you to everyone who made the week a great success! Music Camp has continued to be a wonderful outreach to children in our community.



Staff included Mindy Phomvisay and Dave Russell, directors; Elizabeth Stegemöller, Zoe Lambert, Lorrie Whitaker, Olivia Beauchene, Wyatt Holm, Tana Tesdall, Arianna Cooper, Adriana Detrick, Emma Phomvisay, Phyllis Schrag, Rita Parrish, and Adde Stegemöller, counselors; and Dianne Borgen, Rosemarie Starrett, Nancy Maydew, Barbara Woods, Dawn Doerr-Johnson, and Jon Pritchard, kitchen crew.

(pictures from Music Camp can be found on page 7)

3rd Sunday Lunch



Instead of the usual 3rd Sunday Lunch out, everyone is invited to join us for a combination lunch and Fellowship Time in the Fellowship Hall after Worship on August 18. We will order a platter of Jimmy John's sandwiches. Chips, beverages and cookies will also be provided. A free-will offering will be taken.

Worship Under the Trees

Sunday, September 8 9:45 am

Worship in the front yard with meal following
Hickory Park BBQ provided
Bring a dish to share
(students, please come as our guests!)

Parkinson's Singing Festival

Saturday, August 10

Public Concert 6:30 pm

First Baptist Church



A singing group for persons with Parkinson's Disease meets weekly at our church, led by Dr. Elizabeth Stegemöller. The festival brings together singers with PD from around the state. All are welcome to attend the concert.

IRMS Closes; New Resources Available

Because of a large decrease in funding, Iowa Religious Media Services has closed. IRMS is in the process of liquidating its collection, offering resources to subscriber churches at a discounted price.

Our church has purchased several of these resources – some are current or potential future resources for adult and children's Church School classes and others were recommended by IRMS users in the church. These resources will be available for class as well as individual use.

Parachute - with book of games and music CD

Art Camp – A VBS alternative

The Asphalt Gospel – a 90 minute documentary film that tells the story of six ordinary people determined to spread a message of compassion and inclusion in the midst of intolerance. Join them as they walk from Arizona to Washington, D.C. and share their surprising and moving story of hope.

The Surprising Christmas Pageant – a simple production, filled with humor and grace, with accompanying audio CD.

Experiencing the Heart of Christianity - A twelve-session mini-course for engaging the issues at the heart of Christianity today, based on Marcus Borg's book.

Serious Answers to Hard Questions: Ten Theologians Confront Ten Challenges to Faith – theologians grapple with difficult issues in this video series.

Living the Questions 2.0 – three DVDs, each containing seven 20-minute sessions inviting a conversation about the relevance of Jesus Christ for today.

The American Protestant Experience: A Free Market for Faith - The most unique quality of American religious life is the innovation and experimentation that takes place, making this country a free marketplace for faith. Church historians tell this amazing American story with support from images, films and music of the era in ten 22-minute sessions.

Invitation to Silence: An Aid for Centering Prayer – audio CD.

The Prayer Path: A Christ-Centered Labyrinth Experience - includes individual audio CDs.

Before Amen: The Power of a Simple Prayer – a four session video study with author Max Lucado.




Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God – a new way to pray. Drawing is half of the prayer, the other half is transporting the visual memories or actual images with you to pray throughout the day. This kit contains a copy of the book and a workshop on DVD.

Memorable Leaders in Christian History – a set of 7 DVDs, each focusing on an important figure of the early Middle Ages, during the development of Celtic Christianity in Ireland and Britain.

The Life of Teresa of Jesus: The Autobiography of Teresa of Avila (book)

Painting the Stars – a comprehensive DVD resource exploring the promise of an evolutionary Christian spirituality.

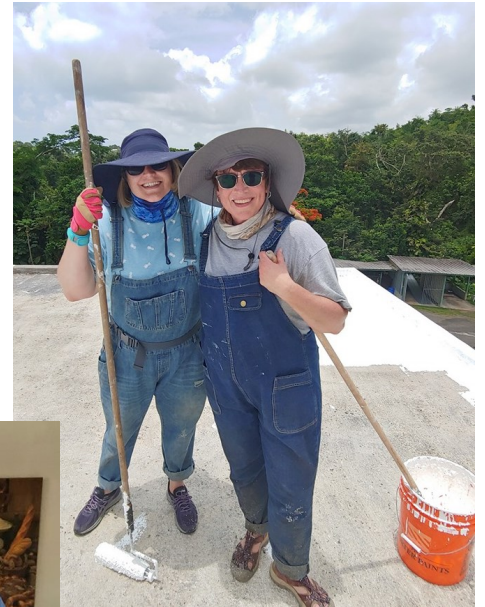


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summer Church Office Hours (until August 16) Monday—Closed Tuesday—9am-1pm Wednesday—9am-1pm Thursday—9am-1pm Friday—8am-Noon		Regular Church Office Hours (beginning August 19) Monday—Closed Tuesday—9am-Noon & 1-4pm Wednesday—9am-1pm Thursday—9am-Noon & 1-3pm Friday—8am-Noon		1 6:30p Deacons	2	3 
4 9:45a Worship in the Park—Brookside	5	6 8a Men's Break-fast, Perkins	7 <i>3p PD Singing</i>	8	9	10 <i>12-8p PD Singing Festival</i> <i>6:30p Festival Concert</i>
11 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship Time	12 	13	14 11:30a Women's Lunch, Mandarin	15	16	17
18 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship/3rd Sunday Lunch	19	20 8a Men's Break-fast, Perkins 7p Trustees	21 6:30p Choir	22 6:30p Deacons	23	24
25 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship Time	26 <i>ISU Classes Begin</i>	27 <i>8a Heart & Solutions</i>	28 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins 5:30p Welcomefest 6:30p Choir	29	30 	



Mission trip to Puerto Rico

June 8-15





Music Camp #20!

July 8-12





First Baptist Church

AMES

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

Welcomefest



Welcomefest is an opportunity for ISU students to learn about community businesses and organizations. Around 4000 students attend each year. First Baptist will have a table again at Welcomefest, to be held on August 28. If you can help out at our table, please see Pastor Dave.

Choir News

Our choir will begin rehearsal for the fall on Wednesday, August 21 at 6:30 pm. If you have been thinking about joining the choir, this would be a great time! The choir rehearses in the lounge on the first floor.



Choir Rehearsal