



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa
Celebrating 150 Years!

Capt. Kendrick Brown, Rev. Samuel Mitchell, and the beginnings of First Baptist

Predating the town of Ames, the Squaw Creek Church was in existence by 1860 but after much struggle, the church had closed by 1866. The population of the new community of Ames Station was 40 people. The railroad had just come to town, however, and settlers were coming. In 1868, Rev. J.F. Childs of Oskaloosa, Secretary of the Iowa Baptist Convention, came to Ames with the goal of reestablishing a church here. One of the new residents in Ames was Capt. Kendrick Brown, son of a Baptist minister in New York. Brown had served in the Civil War, being wounded several times. He was in the first Battle of Bull Run and was present at the end of the war at Appomattox. After the war he married Lydia Gates and they moved to Ames, where they ran the first grocery store in town.



Capt. K.W. Brown

Childs and Brown traveled the countryside around Ames, looking for Baptist families. They found five. An announcement was made soon after that the Baptists would hold a prayer meeting at 3 pm on a Sunday afternoon in the back of Frank Hays' harness shop. The prayer meetings continued and on July 11, 1868, eight individuals signed the roll as charter members of the First Baptist Church. Later that month, a recognition service was held for the newly organized church at the Congregational Church, with Baptist pastors and leaders from the area taking part. By the end of the year, the church reported 23 members.

Not having a building, First Baptist met in the old Regulator building near the southwest corner of Fifth and Kellogg. The church did not have a pastor and was led by lay leaders, with interim and supply preachers. Kendrick Brown was the church clerk.

Brown was a key figure both in the church and in the city of Ames. He was a leading businessman and one of the organizers of the Union National Bank of Ames. He was also a strong proponent of prohibition and ran for governor twice on the Prohibition ticket.

Rev. Samuel H. Mitchell, a native of Indiana, served as a general missionary with the Iowa Baptist Convention, working to begin and support new churches. In 1870 he agreed to come and serve as pastor of the new church at Ames, turning down an appointment as a Railroad Missionary. (The Northern Baptists had a number of "chapel cars," railroad cars that served as mission churches in frontier areas.) When he told Rev. Childs of his decision, Childs replied, "Well enough, an important field, but how are you going to live?"

The little church grew along with Ames. By the time the town was incorporated in 1870, it had a population of 656. In 1872, Kendrick Brown purchased two lots at the northeast corner of Fifth and Kellogg and donated them to First Baptist. The new church was built at a total cost of \$1540.30, paid in cash.

March, 2018
Volume 64, No. 3

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

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



Rev. S.H. Mitchell

Rev. Mitchell served First Baptist for five years as pastor and was a key leader of Iowa Baptists. He left our church to serve as Financial Agent for Des Moines College, a new Baptist school. Mitchell wrote [*Historical Sketches of Iowa Baptists*](#) in 1886, from which we know a lot about early Baptist activity in Iowa. He went on to pastor several churches in Iowa as well as work with the Alluwe Baptist Church in Indian Territory (Oklahoma), and wrote [a biography of Chief Journeycake](#) of the Delaware Indians, a Baptist pastor and missionary. In retirement Rev. Mitchell moved back to Ames and often served here as supply pastor.

Brown's wife died in 1885. The following year he married Margaret Mitchell, the daughter of Rev. Mitchell and his wife Mary, so Capt. Brown became Rev. Mitchell's son-in-law. Together, the Brown and Mitchell families made a huge impact on Ames, Iowa Baptists, and the world.

Captain Brown's children included Gates Brown, a physician and surgeon; Harry Farwell Brown, a leading insurance underwriter in Ames and father of Farwell Brown, longtime Ames resident and local historian known to many of us; Daisy Brown, who became a missionary to China and later librarian at the University of Chicago Divinity School; and Lydia Belle Brown, daughter of Brown and Margaret Mitchell Brown. She became a missionary to China, where she met Rev. J. B. Hipps. They were married here at First Baptist and returned to Shanghai where she taught music and was dean of women at the Baptist College. They had one son, Robert. Lydia Brown Hipps died in 1924, three years after she was married. She was buried in China; there is a memorial stone in the Ames Municipal Cemetery.

Rev. Samuel and Mary Ann Mitchell had five children. One of their grandchildren, Minnie Belle Lucas, went to Muskogee, Oklahoma to teach music at Bacone College from 1889 to 1895. There she met and married another professor, Charles Maxson. It is interesting that 125 years later, our church is sending a mission team to Bacone College and Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee.



Minnie Lucas Maxson

The desk that is currently at the back of the sanctuary belonged to Rev. Mitchell. It was given to the church last year by Donna Westlic Hipps. She tells the story:

I came into possession of Rev. Mitchell's desk through my marriage to his great grandson. When I married Robert, in 1946, it was by coincidence that Margaret Brown Mitchell died that year, and the Mitchell desk was passed on to my husband, Robert Hipps... I am pleased to have the First Baptist Church of Ames receive this gift as a tribute to the Mitchell and Brown families in establishing this church. Bob and I were married in August 9, 1946 in the Baptist Church that was located at 5th and Kellogg in Ames. Rev. J. Harold Gamble officiated. I have fond memories of my time at Roger Williams House, singing in the Baptist Church choir and being part of life in Ames.

In celebration of our 150th anniversary we will be highlighting a story from FBC history each month.

**First Baptist Church
150th Anniversary Celebration
June 30-July 1**

- Choir Reunion
- Celebration Dinner
- Worship with Special Guest Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford

More details and registration coming in April!





March 4

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

March 11

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

March 18

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

March 25

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

March Flowers: Jan Thompson



March Birthdays

Jack Cleasby	1
Michelle Leininger	8
Caimbrie Parrish	8
Joseph Core	9
Pat Johnson	17
Gretchen Anderson	18

Hosts for Fellowship Time

January: the Wes and Erin Johnson family

February: Wayne and Irene Shireman,
 Catherine and Joe Parrish, & Alex and
 Serena Parrish



Change Your Clocks!

Remember to "spring ahead" and set your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed on Saturday, March 10.



Lenten and Holy Week Worship

Wednesday, March 7
 Wednesday, March 21
 Palm Sunday, March 25
 Maundy Thursday, March 29
 Easter Sunday, April 1

Lenten Study, 6 pm
 Lenten Study, 6 pm
 Worship with Palm Procession, 9:45 am
 Maundy Thursday service, 6:30 pm
 Easter breakfast, 8:30 am
 Easter Worship, 9:45 am

Capital Campaign Update

A property survey and engineering work was delayed because of snow on the ground (with large piles of snow at the property corners), but work is now underway and we still expect for parking lot work to begin as soon as possible after ISU classes finish. We anticipate that new rear doors will be installed soon, and final plans for an awning at the north door on the east side of the building have been approved. A flooring committee has been working toward plans for new carpet and flooring. Things have been quiet so far, but we there should be a flurry of activity in the near future!

Blessing the Past, Building the Future
 First Baptist Church 150th Anniversary Capital Campaign

2018 First Baptist Cook-off



Our 11th annual cook-off was held on Sunday evening, February 18. With a theme of “Come and See,” participants brought a dish with an element of “surprise” - a surprising dish, a surprise ingredient, or something surprising to make. We had a great turnout and a wide variety of dishes to sample. We also raised more money than any of our previous cook-offs. Winners included:

Grand Prize – Dave Russell, Tropical Fruit Smoothie with Guanabana
Second Place – Dianne Borgen, Swedish Meatballs
Third Place – Jeanine Cole, Burgundy Beef with Noodles
Fourth Place – Jenna McCarley, Burgundy Mushrooms
Special Recognition – Stephanie and Greg Goodman, Baked Beans with Cherry Pie Filling
Special Recognition – Buck Peterson, Surprise Brownies

Amount raised for mission trip:	\$526.86
Amount raised for children’s mission project: (recreation equipment for Children’s Home)	<u>\$233.00</u>
Total raised for missions:	<u>\$759.86</u>



The choir celebrated with Jack Cleasby on his 90th birthday. Except for a year spent in England, Jack has been in the choir continuously for 65 years!



Guest Preacher



While Pastor Dave and others are in Oklahoma on the spring break mission trip, we will have a special guest preacher. Our own Aiddy Phomvisay will bring the sermon on March 11. Aiddy has been a member of First Baptist since 1998 and serves as Director of Central Campus of the Des Moines Public Schools. We invite you to join us!



Spring Break Mission Trip

We will be returning to Muskogee, Oklahoma over spring break, March 10-15, to work at the Murrow Indian Children's Home. Established in 1887, Murrow currently provides a home for around 25 Native American children. These are children that are in State or Tribal Custody and in the current foster care and adoption system. Murrow is a ministry affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA and the campus is adjacent to Bacone College, an ABC-related school that is a historically Native American college.

Our work will include maintenance and work projects on grounds and residential cottages at Murrow as well as opportunities to interact with the residents. We will also tour Bacone College and worship at the Bacone College Church.

If anyone would like to participate on the trip, it is not too late! If you are interested, please contact Pastor Dave as soon as possible.



Order Information for Easter Flowers Lilies, Daffodils and Tulips

We will decorate our sanctuary with a variety of flowers: lilies, daffodils and tulips for Easter



Sunday, April 1. The cost is \$14 each. If you would like to dedicate your flower in memory or in honor of a loved one, please state the information in the space provided on the sign-up sheet, which will be posted on the bulletin board near the east entrance soon. If you have any questions, please contact the office. Make your check to First Baptist Church with memo "Easter flowers" and place in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. **The deadline to order is Sunday, March 25.**



Mark your calendar! Our 19th annual Music Camp is set for July 9-13. Campers grades K-6 (completed) will enjoy a week packed with music, learning, friends, and fun! Additional information will be coming soon!



Spring Graduate Information Request

Are you or do you know of anyone who graduates this Spring? If so, please let the church office know. We will be honoring college and high school graduates in late April. The church will also be acknowledging graduates in the Spire. Please phone the church office 292-9612 or email us at

150th Anniversary Cookbook

We'd like to compile members/friends recipes to create a souvenir cookbook to celebrate the 150th anniversary. You can help by sharing a favorite recipe and/or cooking tip. If you've participated in any of the past five Church Cook-Offs or have a special recipe, we want to hear from you.

As a reminder, the last five Cook-Off themes were:

2014: Beans and Things

2015: Creatively Concocted Congregational Cuisine (things that begin with "C")

2016: Crockpot-or-Not

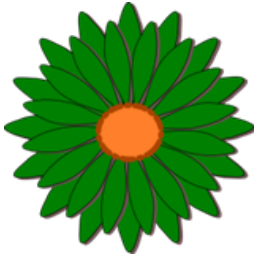



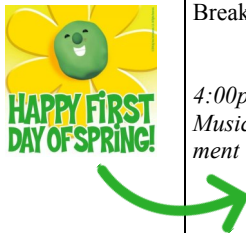



2017: Test Kitchen

2018: Come and See

Please send recipe and cooking tips to the church office before May 1. If it's from a cook-off, please provide the year.



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regular Office Hours Tuesday—9am-Noon and 1-3pm Wednesday—9am-1pm Thursday—9am-Noon and 1-3pm Friday—8am-Noon				1 6:30p Deacons	2	3
4 9:45a Worship/ Communion 11a Church School	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins 4p Parkinson's Music & Move- ment Group	7 2p Parkinson's Discussion Group 3 Parkinson's Singing Group 6p Lenten Study 6:45p Choir	8	9	10 8a Mission Team departs for Oklahoma 
11 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship Time 11:15a Church School	12 	13 7p Trustees	14 11:30a Women's Lunch, Mandarin	15 Mission team returns from Oklahoma	16	17 
SPRING BREAK WEEK						
18 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 12p 3 rd Sunday Lunch (El Azteca) 2p Prayer Shawl Circle	19 	20 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins 4:00p Parkinson's Music & Move- ment Group	21 3:00p Parkinson's Singing Group 6p Lenten Study 6:45p Choir	22 6:30p Deacons	23 7p Phi Kappa Psi meeting	24
25 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 	26	27 4:00p Parkinson's Music & Move- ment Group	28 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins 3:00p Parkinson's Singing Group	29  6:30 Maundy Thursday Service 7:15p Choir	30 	31

First Baptist Church
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
Hanna Saville	Child Care

Marshall Peters Retirement Reception

Our region Executive Minister Marshall Peters is retiring. Mid-American Baptists are invited to a retirement reception for Marshall and June.

Saturday, April 28, 2018

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines

8250 NW 62nd Avenue

Johnston, Iowa

Short program at 3:00 p.m.

**AMERICA
FOR CHRIST
OFFERING
2018**

Your America for Christ offering is making life-changing impact through ministries and resources that vitalize the American Baptist congregations and communities across the United States and Puerto Rico with the hope of Jesus Christ. For more information,

go to www.abhms.org. We will receive the America for Christ offering through the month of March. Please give generously to this important ministry. You will find the giving envelopes in your bulletin on Sunday, March 4 and in the narthex.