



"I will bless you so you will be a blessing" – Genesis 12:2

First Baptist Church

Proposed 2023 Budget

We have all been blessed marvelously by God's goodness. In response to God's love and grace, we offer our gifts of time, talent, and resources in order to bless others.

"Blessed to be a Blessing" is our stewardship theme for 2023. This Narrative Budget describes how we plan to move forward in ministry in the coming year, looking at our work together in four areas: **Worship, Learning, Care, and Service**. (Please note that staff salaries, utility costs, etc. are apportioned over these four areas.)

WORSHIP

\$88,517 (33%)

Worship is the center of our life together as a church. Thoughtful and challenging preaching, inspiring music, prayer that opens us to God's call, and congregational sharing help to make our worship of God a life-giving experience. We are blessed with a wonderful music program and with musicians of all ages who share their gifts with us. We are blessed by many worshipers who join us each week on Zoom, and we continue to work to make our services an engaging experience both for those in person and those at home. Our weekly services are recorded and made

available online. We enjoy special services through the year including outdoor worship, a shared service with Ames UCC and First Christian Church, cantatas, Christmas Eve, Holy Week services, youth led worship and more.

As we continue to come out of the pandemic, we anticipate more musical opportunities in the year ahead, including restarting our Music Camp!



LEARNING

\$53,646 (20%)

Christian discipleship is a life-long calling, and our church provides opportunities for members of all ages to grow in faith. Church School classes include opportunities to learn the stories of the Bible, find encouragement and support, study the scriptures in an in-depth way, and discuss current issues in light of our faith. After two years of completely or partially online Church School classes, all of our classes now meet in person, with an online option available for our adult classes.

Our gifts help provide learning materials, help send children and youth to camp, and help fund the technology that has become so important.

We like to think of ourselves as a family of faith. Welcoming others to the family and caring for those in the family is important to us, and we support one another both in times of loss and in times of joy.

Caring ministry is expressed as our staff, deacons, and others reach out to those who are in need with home and hospital visits. We In worship we take time to share prayer concerns and pray for one another. Shared communication through various print and electronic formats helps to build community and allow members to stay in touch.



We are thankful that after a time apart during the pandemic, we are again sharing in fellowship time following worship and enjoying meals together. We especially appreciate the intergenerational relationships built in our congregation and look forward to our Christmas Dinner and opportunities like our annual cook-off.

We are mindful that because of health or distance, not everyone can attend these in-person opportunities. We are grateful for new ways of connecting. We continue to offer a weekly Virtual Coffee Shop and will be resuming Virtual Trivia Nights, and we continue to look for ways to help everyone stay connected.

SERVICE

\$75,105 (28%)

Our mission extends far beyond the walls of our building. We are among the leading churches in our region in support for American Baptist United Mission, and we support and are involved in hands-on local mission in a variety of ways.



Our gifts support local mission efforts such as Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Food at First, and the Bridge Home. We make our building available to singing and boxing groups for people with Parkinson's disease, and to Women United, a United Way financial literacy program for women. We continue to assist the Center for Creative Justice in their work of helping people on probation to improve their lives by renting our former parsonage to them at a below-market rate and supporting their work. We work with AMOS to build a community that works for everyone. In 2023 we will enter into a cooperative effort with other Ames congregations to support a ministry to children in Rio Chiquito, Honduras with the opportunity for members of the Ames churches to visit that community. Through our gifts of time, money, and prayer, we continue to reach out to God's people in need.

Total Proposed Budget: \$268,232