



# The Spire *First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa*

## Pastor's Word

November, 2019  
Volume 65, No. 10

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.

Early in the year, our board and committee members met for a planning meeting. As part of this gathering, we divided into two groups and each group was tasked with planning an engaging activity for the church. One group was assigned a summer activity and the other a fall activity.

The summer group planned the worship service/cookout/fishing day that we held at McFarland Park in June. As it turned out, we also commissioned our Puerto Rico mission team at that service. It was a wonderful day!

The second group came up with a Harvest Festival for the fall, which was held last Sunday. As is generally the case for something that is new, I wasn't sure exactly what to expect, but again, it was a delightful day. After enjoying some Walking Tacos, we settled down to the serious business of pumpkin carving, along with a cakewalk and other games.

From preschoolers to seniors, we carved, painted, and otherwise decorated pumpkins. I enjoyed carving my pumpkin alongside Trey and Lucy S. We commiserated as we scraped the guts out of our pumpkins. At the next table, I saw parents and grandparents painting and decorating pumpkins alongside children and grandchildren. I also learned that they make fake pumpkins that can be painted as well as carved. (You learn something every day.)



*Emma Phomvisay and her "Spa" Pumpkin*

When I finished my pumpkin I headed over to the cakewalk, where I joined again with all ages having fun together. We played some other games, visited and ate cookies, and voted for our favorite pumpkins with quarters (and dollars), with funds raised going to the World Mission Offering. We really had a great time, and a number of people worked hard to make this a great event. I especially want to thank Becca Whitaker and Erin Johnson for all of their hard work. (Additional photos from the Harvest Festival can be found on page 4.)

I loved all of the intergenerational activity of the Harvest Festival, but here's the thing: this is not at all unusual for our church. Just that morning in worship, our children and youth joined in singing with the adult choir in our choir anthem. A few weeks before, folks of all ages joined together for our Great Day of Service as we worked together to serve God as we served our neighbors. For me, these are all glimpses of what the church is supposed to be: a diverse group of people of all ages worshipping, serving, caring, learning, and enjoying being together as we follow Jesus.

At that same service last Sunday, Taylor Schram, the new Executive Director of the Center for Creative Justice, shared a moving story of the difference that CCJ made in the life of one client. It felt good to know that the support we give to CCJ, which rents (at well below market rate) our former parsonage, makes a real difference.

(Pastor's Word continued on page 2)

(Pastor's Word continued from page 1)

As I write this, Parkinson's disease patients are dancing in our Fellowship Hall; tomorrow a similar group will meet in the lounge for a singing group. These are programs that strengthen minds and bodies as well as spirits.

These various activities of just the last week are representative of the kind of important ministry that happens all the time. In this season that we particularly give attention to stewardship, it strikes me how blessed we are, and how valuable the ministry is that we support.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday!

Blessings,  
Pastor Dave

## CROP Walk Report

Thank you to those who walked in the Ames CROP Walk on October 6! Our walkers included Barbara Woods, Gary Maydew, Nancy Maydew, Stephanie Goodman, Dawn Doerr-Johnson, and Dave Russell. We raised a total of \$800 for Church World Service. Thank you to walkers and sponsors!



## GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

On October 6 we held our annual Great Day of Service. After a brief worship time in the sanctuary, we divided into groups to work on a variety of service projects. We picked up trash throughout Campustown, participating in the "Make Campustown Shine" program. We assembled 120 Hygiene Kits for Church World Service, which will go to refugees and victims of natural disasters. Some participants made fleece baby blankets to be distributed to newborns through Primary Health Care, and our children and others went to Northcrest and visited and sang for residents. After completing our projects, we met back at church to complete our worship with a communion service and share a meal together.



Thank you to all who participated and helped to make our Great Day of Service a truly great day. A special thanks to Annalee O'Connor, Chris Cook, and David Cook, who transported the hygiene kits to the drop-off site in Lincoln, Nebraska.





**November 3**

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

**November 10**

*Worship Leader:* Jan Thompson  
*Ushers:* Larry Schrag, Nancy Maydew  
 Beth Douglass, Elijah Phomvisay  
*Sound System:* Tom Logue

**November 17**

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

**November 24**

*Worship Leader:* Dawn Doerr-Johnson  
*Ushers:* Scott Anderson, Jere Maddux  
 Stephanie Goodman, Jacelyn Rudderow  
*Sound System:* Tom Logue

**November Flowers:** Jenna McCarley

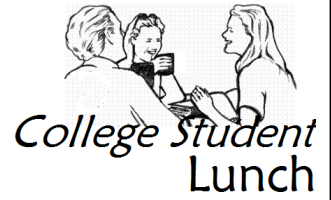


CELEBRATING IN NOVEMBER

Morgan Ambourn	2
Lyndsay Whitaker	4
Janelle Keltgen	5
Abby Johnson	8
Lucy Johnson	8
Harris Seidel	12
Marilyn Peterson	13
Brian Starrett	24
Buckley Peterson	27
Catherine and Joe Parrish	20

**College Student Lunch**

Our college students are invited to lunch following worship on Sunday, November 3. This is a chance to connect with other students and enjoy a free meal. The gathering will be in the College Lounge on the second floor.

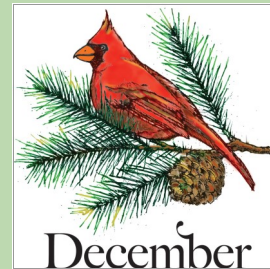


Our Stewardship theme for 2019 is "Generous Hearts." When we are aware of the abundance of God's blessing, we respond in gratitude with generous hearts. We will receive

pledges for support of God's work through this church on Sunday, November 10, or you may return your pledge to the church office.

**Coming in December**

- December 1 Hanging of the Greens following worship
- December 7 Christmas Dinner and Program, 6 pm
- December 8 Budget and Election Meeting, 12 noon
- December 15 Christmas Cantata, 9:45 am
- December 15 Vespers at Northcrest, 5 pm
- December 24 Social Hour, 5 pm
- Christmas Eve service, 6 pm



Don't forget to set your clocks back this weekend, as Daylight Savings Time is ending. Standard time begins again at 2:00 am, Sunday, November 3.





# HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 27





# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Church Office Hours</b></p> <p>Monday—Closed            Tuesday—9am-Noon &amp; 1-4pm            Wednesday—9am-1pm            Thursday—9am-Noon &amp; 1-3pm            Friday—8am-Noon</p> </div> 					1	2
3 9:45a Worship/ Communion 11a Church School 11a College Student Lunch	4 <i>5p Women United</i>	5 8a Men's Break- fast, Perkins  <i>4p PD Movement &amp; Music</i>	6 <i>2p PD Discussion</i> <i>3p PD Singing</i> 6:30p Choir	7	8 <i>7p Phi Kappa Psi</i>	9 
10 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship Time 11:15a Church School	11 <i>5p Women United</i>  	12 <i>4p PD Movement &amp; Music</i>  7p Trustees:	13 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins <i>3p PD Singing</i> 6:30p Choir	14	15	16
17 9:45a Worship 11a Church School  12p 3rd Sunday Lunch (Pizza Ranch) 2p Prayer Shawl Circle	18 <i>5p Women United</i>	19 8a Men's Break- fast, Perkins  <i>8a Heart &amp; Solutions</i> <i>4p PD Movement &amp; Music</i>	20  6:30p Choir	21  6:30p Deacons	22  	23
24 9:45a Worship Guest Preacher: Linda Hanson	25 <i>5p Women United</i>	26	27  11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins	28   <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Church Office Closed</div>	29	30



**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



Good Neighbor Benefit Concert  
13 area choirs will perform  
free admission – offering received for Good Neighbor  
November 10, 2 pm - Collegiate Presbyterian