



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

November 2021  
Volume 68, No. 10

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

200 Lynn Avenue  
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188  
Worship Sundays 9:45 am

PHONE: 515-292-9612  
E-MAIL: [office@fbcames.org](mailto:office@fbcames.org)  
WEB: [fbcames.org](http://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.*

**What a challenging year we have been through!** Through all of the adversity we have faced both as individuals and as a church, God has sustained us. And through the challenges, we continue to discover new opportunities for ministry.



## Sustained through Challenge; Challenged for Possibility

*...\"You sustained them in the wilderness...\" - Nehemiah 9:21*

**“Sustained through Challenge; Challenged for Possibility”** is our stewardship theme for 2022. The church approved a goal budget at the Budget Forum on October 24. The proposed budget is an increase of 6% from 2021 (which was essentially the same as 2020) and includes increases for staff salaries, heating costs, and support for local mission. A stewardship mailing with a letter, copy of the budget, a narrative budget, and pledge card will be going out this week.

For those who do not receive a mailing (including out of town friends who are “regulars” now), you may [view the Narrative Budget](#) online and if you wish to pledge, you may [download a pledge card](#). God sustains us through challenging times, and we invite you to make a commitment so that we can respond to the possibilities before us.

Members will be sharing Stewardship Moments in worship the next few Sundays, and Stewardship Sunday is November 14. We encourage everyone to return pledge cards on or before that date.

## Looking More Closely

Susan and I were able to get away and spend a few days on the North Shore in Minnesota. It was invigorating just to be there, and the fall colors were beautiful. We enjoyed walking along Lake Superior, and I hiked to a waterfall on the Pigeon River (Canada was on the opposite side of the river). We enjoyed visits to traditional North Shore pilgrimage sites including Betty's Pies in Two Harbors and the World's Greatest Donuts in Grand Marais.



One afternoon we took a drive along the Gunflint Trail – the highway that heads to the Boundary Waters area. It was a little past the peak for leaves, but still very pretty, with lots of yellow Birch and Aspen. But then we started seeing what looked like maybe spruce trees that had turned yellow. It made me a little bit sick – I thought that this must have to do with drought, or the effect of fires in the area, or just generally warmer temperatures brought on by climate change. Were these trees dying out? We hadn't seen this along the lake, but now we were on the other side of the Sawtooth Mountains and apparently in a different ecosystem.

Still, something didn't seem quite right. Later I looked it up and discovered these were not spruce or fir trees, but Tamaracks. They have needles and they have cones, but the needles turn yellow and drop off each year, with new needles growing in the spring. It is one of the few deciduous conifers – Tamaracks have needles but they are not evergreens.

I was relieved to know that these lovely trees were OK. It was a reminder that sometimes we need to investigate a little deeper and look a little more closely. Things are not always as they may appear.

And now I am not talking about trees; I am talking about people and situations. And churches. When you read through the gospels, one thing that stands out about Jesus is that he doesn't pre-judge people. He gets to know them.

It would be possible to look at the group in our sanctuary on a Sunday morning, here in week 85 of the pandemic, and think that here is a small church with maybe not a lot going on. But that would be incorrect in a couple of ways. First, there are generally as many folks online as there are in the sanctuary – we are not as small as may appear. And I am amazed by all the good things that are happening, all of the ways that folks in our church make a big difference – often quietly and behind the scenes. “Small” is just part of the story. If a person were to look close, they would see “small but mighty.”

I hope to see you this Sunday – in person or on Zoom!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Dave*



**Rev. Gary Martin** will be our guest preacher on November 21. Gary serves as our region's Associate Executive Minister. A native of Iowa, Gary previously served churches in Kansas. In addition to serving in ministry roles, Gary operates Goldfield Trim & Upholstery, restoring soft trim including interiors and convertible tops on antique automobiles. We welcome Gary back to our pulpit!



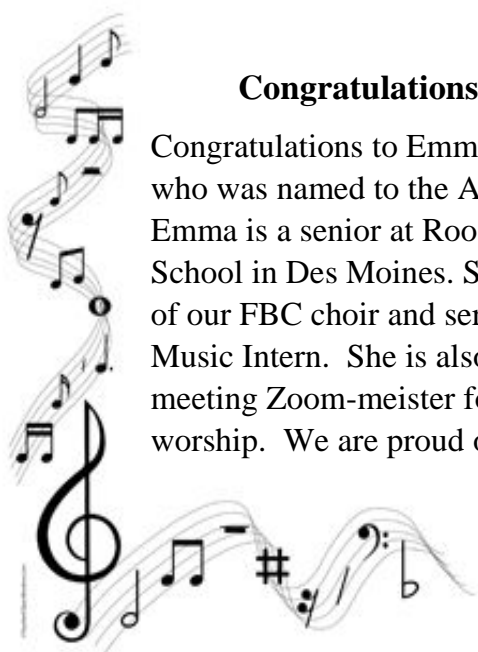
### **Adde Stegemöller in Frozen Junior!!**

Adde Stegemöller is in the Story Theater production of Frozen Junior! Performances are at the Ames City Auditorium and continue through Sunday, October 31. Information and tickets are available online at <https://www.storytheatercompany.org/frozen-jr/>. You can enjoy a great show and see one of our awesome FBC youth!



### **Congratulations, Emma!!**

Congratulations to Emma Phomvisay, who was named to the All-State Choir! Emma is a senior at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines. She is a member of our FBC choir and serves as our Music Intern. She is also is our in-meeting Zoom-meister for online worship. We are proud of you Emma!





**November 7:**

*Worship Leader:* Dawn Doerr-Johnson  
*Ushers:* Jon Pritchard, Aaron Stegemöller

**November 14**

*Worship Leader:* Jere Maddux  
*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

**November 21**

*Worship Leader:* Jan Thompson  
*Ushers:* Jereelyn Logue, Tom Logue

**November 28:**

*Worship Leader:* Phyllis Schrag  
*Ushers:* Stephanie Goodman,  
 Julie Johnston



Morgan Ambourn	2
Lyndsay Whitaker	4
Abby Johnson	8
Lucy Johnson	8
Harris Seidel	12
Marilyn Peterson	13
Jill Grauman	13
Brian Starrett	24
Buckley Peterson	27



Catherine and Joe Parrish	20
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**Hanging of the Greens**

November 28 is the First Sunday of Advent. We will continue our tradition of holding the Hanging of the Greens following worship that day, followed by a simple lunch. After decorating the sanctuary only “for the camera” last year, we will have somewhat more typical decorations this year.

We will not have our traditional Christmas Dinner this year, but we will have a drive-through take-home meal on Saturday, December 10. More details to come!

# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 8a Men's Breakfast 2p PD Boxing	3 10a AARLA (Ames Area Religious Leaders Assoc.) 2p PD Singing 6:30p Choir	4 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	5 7-9p Phi Kappa Psi Initiation	6
7 9:45a Worship/Communion 11a Church School	8	9 2p PD Boxing 7p Trustees	10 2p PD Singing 6:30p Choir	11 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 	12	13
14 Stewardship Sunday 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	15	16 8a Men's Breakfast 2p PD Boxing	17 2p PD Singing 6:30p Choir	18 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 	19 6:30p Trivia Night	20
21 9:45a Worship—Gary Martin Guest Preacher 11a Church School	22	23	24	25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! 	26	27
28 9:45a Worship 11a Hanging of the Greens Lunch afterwards 11a Church School		30 2p PD Boxing				



## Pastor's Sabbatical: Summer 2022

For the past 23 years, First Baptist Church of Ames has been blessed with exceptional leadership led by Pastor Dave Russell. Over the past two years, as the pandemic raged and life changed in all our spaces, Pastor Dave continued to meet the many new challenges and steep learning curves of mastering technology and many new procedures. He helped us adapt to virtual worship, meetings, committees and pretty much everything. Then we switched it up again and he led us in a hybrid model of worship and mission. Now it is time to make sure our beloved pastor Dave gets a chance to recharge his batteries.



The deacons, along with the pastoral relations committee, have urged Pastor Dave to plan to take a sabbatical for which he is eligible based on our church's policy of granting a sabbatical every seven years. This sabbatical will occur during the summer of 2022 from May 1 through July 23. We are delighted that he is planning to spend the time primarily in rest, renewal, reflection and retooling through nature, books, conferences, and pursuit of hobbies. Church members will work together to help keep the home site moving along as smoothly as possible. We will have a congregational planning session to brainstorm how we will cover pastoral duties as well as activities we may want to pursue as a church during this time. Please be prepared to say yes if you are approached to help or if you wish to volunteer your time or some good ideas.

The 2021 proposed budget has some increased funding for additional pulpit supply costs, and the expenses of the sabbatical will be covered by a combination of an existing sabbatical fund, budgeted continuing education funds, and an ABC grant which has been applied for. We may also solicit contributions from the congregation as needed.

There will be more details to come! Please join the church leadership in supporting this opportunity for Dave and Susan through your time, ideas, talent, finances, and prayers.

Gratefully,

Joyce Davidson, Chair: FBC Deacons



## CROP Walk Report

Thank you to all who contributed to the CROP Walk! Stephanie Goodman and Dawn Doerr-Johnson represented us in the walk on October 10. They raised a total of \$490 to help fight hunger through Church World Service. 25% of the funds will support local agencies here in Story County.

### “We Care” Bags

We have decided that we can safely give out "We Care" bags again. We will soon be giving these bags to our college students for Dead Week as they study for Fall Finals. These bags of goodies, which include a variety of snacks and a stress reliever will let our College Students know We Care and support them. If you would like to help with the contents of these bags, please contact the office at 515-292-9612 or at [office@fbcames.org](mailto:office@fbcames.org).

- Catherine Parrish



You are invited to join us for our next Virtual Trivia Night on **Friday, November 19**, at 6:30. Everyone is welcome to join us! We divide into teams at the start and teams discuss answers to each round's questions in breakout rooms.



**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
Elizabeth Stegemöller	Choir Accompanist
Charyl Winterink	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



**Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM**

**Details for connecting via ZOOM at [fbcames.org](http://fbcames.org)**