



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

February 2025
Volume 71, No. 2

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

200 Lynn Avenue
Ames, Iowa 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.

Remembering Barbara Woods

After a difficult health journey that began suddenly in mid-November, we lost Barbara Woods on January 19. The loss has still not quite set in.

Barbara had been retired just a little more than a year when she became ill. She was just settling into retirement and thinking about opportunities for travel and for mission work. She was as involved in our church as a person could be. She was our deacon chair. She taught Sunday School. She was a lead kitchen and meal person as well as our flower and decoration chair. There are so many events and activities that we associate with Barbara: Hanging of the Greens, our Christmas Dinner, our annual Cook-Off, the Easter Breakfast. She participated in the CROP Walk each year. She took part in nearly every mission trip. She actively participated in AMOS.

And beyond the official duties and programmatic involvements, she was just a warm, genuine, caring person. She could be outspoken, of course, but that was what made her authentic. She listened to other's perspectives just as she shared her own, and she valued every person, no matter who they were.

I don't generally use this space to eulogize a particular person, but because of the depth of Barbara's involvement and leadership – she was our moderator, the lay leader of the church when she became ill - and because of the shock of this loss, this is what we are all thinking about and dealing with just now.

Barbara touched so many lives. Our church was packed for her funeral, with around 100 more joining online. Thank you to so many who worked hard for us to host the service and provide the meal following, just as Barbara had done so many times.

In these days, I am trying to focus on gratitude. How many times did we hear Barbara say, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" I am grateful for all she meant to us; our lives are so much richer and the whole Ames community is so much stronger because of her. I am grateful for the way our church came together to support her and others who have struggled in these last months - it has been a difficult stretch - and I am grateful for the way we have supported one another.

Now we are called to move forward with gratitude, to be thankful for each day we have and use each day for good. "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Blessings,
Dave

You can [click here](#) to read Barbara's obituary. It's quite a read.



Thank you to Julie Johnston and Steve Babcock for the gift and installation of a new dishwasher in our kitchen!

The old dishwasher (30+ years old but functional) is available if anyone has a need for it. Contact Julie or the church office if you can use it.

SAVE THE DATE!

American Baptist Churches USA
BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT
July 3-6, 2025 | Omaha, NE

COME SEEK
LIVING
WATER

COME SEEK:

- ◆ New Life in Christ through dynamic worship services and learning opportunities.
- ◆ New Connections with other American Baptists. Build your network!
- ◆ What God has to share with you!

Come Seek Living Water

Registration is now available for the American Baptist Biennial Mission Summit, held July 3-6 in Omaha. For more information or to register, go to americanbaptists2025.com or see Pastor Dave.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Wednesdays 6:30 pm
New singers welcome!

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9a Choir 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School 	3	4 8a Men's Breakfast	5 6:30p Choir	6 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	7	8
9 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship Time 11a Church School 5:15p Super bowl Party	10	11 7p Trustees	12 6:30p Choir	13 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	14 	15
16 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	17 	18 8a Men's Breakfast	19 6:30p Choir	20 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	21	22
23 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 11a College Lunch	24	25 	26 6:30p Choir	27 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	28 	



February 2:

Worship Leader Becca Whitaker
Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

February 9:

Worship Leader Erin Johnson
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

February 16:

Worship Leader Lucy Johnson
Ushers: Jerilyn and Tom Logue

February 23:

Worship Leader Susan Russell
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Larry Schrag



Aaron Stegemöller	6
Tom Logue	9
Patrick Coffey	12
Emma Phomvisay	17
Kaylinn Nugent	20
Michelle Hassler	27



Rosemarie and David Starrett 23



College Student Lunch

Our next College Student lunch will be Sunday, February 23 following worship. All college students and similarly aged young adults are invited to join us in the College Lounge on the second floor for a free meal, fellowship, and conversation.

Memorial Services Available Online

The memorial services for Lee Davidson and Barbara Woods are both available now on [our FBC YouTube channel](#). You can also find recordings of weekly services there.



Super Bowl Party
Sunday, February 9 – 5:15 pm
First Floor Lounge - Everyone welcome!
Feel free to bring a snack to share!

AMOS Housing Campaign Kick-Off

70 AMOS leaders gathered at Ames UCC on January 23 to launch the Ames Housing Organizing Campaign! Leaders shared stories of housing pressures and committed to launch a series of housing civic academies to grow our capacity to act on this major problem. Be watching for more details!



1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month
8 am, Perkins Restaurant
All men are invited
to share a meal and fellowship



Join us on Thursday mornings at 10 am
at our regular [Sunday Zoom Link](#).
Visit with friends near and far!

Board and Committee News

Rita Parrish and Julie Johnston were elected as co-chairs of the deacons for the 2025 year. Our deacon chair serves as church moderator, so Rita and Julie are co-moderators as well.

John Anderson will serve as our trustee chair.

Thank you Rita, Julie, John and all who serve on our boards and committees!



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
Sierra Livengood	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcames.org