



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

October 2024  
Volume 70, No. 9

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

### Pastor's Word

What a day! September 22 was both my birthday and my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as pastor of FBC. We had a great service and I appreciated so much all of the well wishes and words of encouragement. And thank you all for the wonderful fellowship time, including German Chocolate cake - my birthday cake of choice since I was a kid!

I want to say thank you to the congregation for the very generous monetary gift. That was so gracious of you. I appreciate even more the love and support and encouragement that it represents.

I also appreciated Mindy and Emma putting together a slide show for the occasion. There were many great memories as well as documentary evidence that I once had red hair! Back when I started at FBC, we were in a different photographic era. The very first phone with a camera was released that year, and it is doubtful that anyone reading this had one of those phones. (In fact, a good number of us did not have cell phones). Digital cameras were the latest tech device – and pricey. I remember when we used actual slides for slide shows – we have come a long way!

That first fall we were in Ames, Y2K was all the talk. Would there be a complete computer meltdown with the new year, since computers were not programmed to roll over to the year 2000? As it turned out, our computers did just fine. Maybe the bigger story was: How many people live to see the start of a new millennium? We actually had a Millennial Service on the first January of 2000, with readings and music from the last thousand years of church history, from St. Francis to Julian of Norwich to Martin Luther to Martin Luther King, Jr.

So much has happened since then – in our community, in the culture, in the world. It can almost make your head spin just to think about it. (Among other things, some of you were born!) And a lot has happened in our church.

We have lost many folks over the years – as I shared Sunday morning, I have officiated at close to 60 funerals of FBC members and friends. So many wonderful folks have joined us over these past years. And we are so thankful for students who come and bring energy and their unique gifts and bless us for however long they are here.

Our church has changed in many ways over these 25 years – we all have - but our calling to be a welcoming community following Jesus in worship, fellowship, and service continues. This month we especially are focusing on service and mission with our Day of Service, the CROP Hunger Walk, and the World Mission Offering. You can read about them in this *Spire*. I invite you to participate in all of these as you are able as we continue to serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

Blessings,  
Dave



Our choir rehearsal schedule will be changing. There will be no rehearsal on September 29 as Mindy will be away for the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians board meeting. (Mindy serves as the national president).

In October, rehearsals will be moving to a different day and time. The choir will rehearse on **Wednesday, October 2 at 6:30 pm** and the choir will then decide on the best ongoing rehearsal time. This would be a great time to join our choir! The choir will begin working on a Christmas cantata soon. We hope to see you on October 2!

## Great Day of Service

On Sunday, October 6, we will have our annual Great Day of Service. On this Sunday, we will have a brief service in the sanctuary and then participate in service projects – we will worship through our service.

This day is World Communion Sunday, and our brief service will include communion. As we most often do, we will serve one another the communion elements.

Our projects will take place both in the building and in the community:

- **“Make Campustown Shine”** – we will be picking up litter in the neighborhood.
- **Infant blanket project** – we will be making fleece blankets that will be given to newborns at Primary Health Care, a clinic in Ames for those who are uninsured or underinsured.
- **Hygiene Kits for Church World Service** – we will put together kits that will be distributed around the country and around the world to refugees and victims of natural disasters. You can sign up to bring some of the needed items.
- Our younger children may go to **visit and sing for homebound seniors**.

We will end the day with a simple meal together at noon. For those on Zoom, we will have a few suggestions of things you can do at home.



### Come and Learn with Us!

The library church school class will resume on Sunday, October 20 with a lesson entitled, "That I May Dwell Among Them". You are invited to join for this discussion-based Bible Study. The theme for this unit is "God's Sustaining Presence and Provision" and each lesson comes complete with daily Bible readings, and a scriptural foundational focus for each session.

The lessons that remain will most likely follow these dates:

**October 6** – No Class due to Great Day of Service

**October 13** - Fellowship Sunday - no class

**October 20** - Lesson 10 - "That I May Dwell Among Them" Exodus 25:1-9, 17-22; 39:32-43; 40: 33-38

**October 27** - Lesson 11 "Sheltered by God" Psalm 84

**November 3** - Lesson 12 "Celebrating God's Provision" Deuteronomy 6:1-25; 8:1-20; 10: 12-11:21 (Daylight Saving Ends today)

A ZOOM™ option will be provided upon request. Let Barbara Woods know by 8 am before each session if you require a ZOOM™ link.

# World mission offering

**Through International Ministries' World Mission Offering, thousands across the country celebrate and support ministries that God is using to transform the world.**

International Ministries combines resilience, adaptability, and creative approaches to faithful cross-cultural ministry. We serve together with and learn from our many local partners in ministry around the globe.

Our gifts support the ministry of [Ketly and Vital Pierre](#) in the Dominican Republic, as they provide education, Bible studies, language classes, a micro-loan program, legal counseling, and more for Haitian immigrants facing inequity and maltreatment in the Dominican Republic.



We support our Global Servants [Alise and Mark Juanes](#) who offer practical care and love for the hill tribe children in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

We help support the work of Global Servants [Eric & Yuree Lembke](#) (at left) who serve at the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School and College (KKBBSC) located in Mae La Refugee Camp near Mae Sot, Thailand. They work with Karen refugees seeking training in Christian ministry and also make trips to Karen state in Myanmar to teach Bible classes. Some of us from FBC met Eric and Yuree when he was on staff and she was a student at Bacone College and we worshiped at the college church while on a mission trip.

We have a part in Global Servant [Ricardo Mayol-Bracero](#)'s ministry, as he serves and stands alongside communities in Latin America trying to access clean water and air.

We support [Deliris and Moise Carrión-Joseph](#), who serve among Haitian, Central American, and African migrants who have made their new home in Tijuana, Mexico. Moise is a business entrepreneur, and Deliris is a pastor and occupational therapist.

**Together we share in a ministry with 120+ global servants, hundreds of volunteers, home staff, and 250+ international partners in 70 countries.** We will receive the World Mission Offering through the month of October. We invite you to give generously. Offering envelopes are available in the pews. You may also send your check or give via our website with the memo "WMO." Thank you for your support of our shared mission to God's children around the world.

# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8a Men's Breakfast 2-3p PD Boxing	2 2-3p PD Singing 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	3 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dancing	4 <div style="background-color: #d1c4e9; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             Mid-ABC Regional Gathering              FBC Dubuque           </div>	5
6 9:45a Worship/Communion <b>GREAT DAY OF SERVICE</b>	7 	8 2-3p PD Boxing 6:15 Stewardship Committee 7p Trustees	9 2-3p PD Singing	10 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dancing	11 	12
13 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11a Church School 1p CROP Walk	14	15 8a Men's Breakfast 2-3p PD Boxing	16 2-3p PD Singing	17 10 a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dancing	18	19 
20 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 12p Budget Forum	21	22 2-3p PD Boxing 	23 2-3p PD Singing	24 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dancing 7p Deacons Meeting	25	26
27 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fall Festival 	28	29 2-3p PD Boxing	30 2-3p PD Singing	31 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 2-3p PD Dancing 		

# Worship Leaders

## October 6:

*Worship Leader:* (Day of Service)

*Ushers:* Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

## October 8:

*Worship Leader:* Randall O' Brien

*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

## October 15:

*Worship Leader:* Jan Thompson

*Ushers:* Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

## October 22:

*Worship Leader:* Barbara Woods

*Ushers:* Stephanie Goodman, Larry Schrag

## Happy Birthday!



Jeanne Williams	2
Kenneth Johnson	4
Marian Thompson	9
Fred Borgen	10
Joe Parrish	12
Dorothy Ewing	16
Martha Gleason	26
Greg Goodman	28
Lucas Anderson	29
Kyleigh Murphy	29
John Whitaker	29
Dale Grauman	30
Larry Schrag	30

## Happy Anniversary!

Lyndsay and Gabe Whitaker	8
Kaylenn and TJ Nugent	10
Michelle and Ralph George	11
Michele and Noel Hassler	21

## Committal Service for Buck Peterson

Longtime member Buckley Peterson died on August 5. Buck was a beloved member of our church and had been at FBC 47 years. Our prayers continue to be with Marilyn, Keith, Cynthia, and their family.

The committal service will be Monday, September 30 at 11 am at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery, just south of I-80 at the Van Meter exit. This is about 15 miles west of Des Moines. The church is invited to attend.



**Sunday, October 27 Following Worship**

**Sponsored by Christian Education Committee**

- ◆ Food
- ◆ Games
- ◆ Pumpkin Decorating
- ◆ Cookie Decorating

**FALL FUN FOR ALL AGES!!**

*There will be a sign-up for those who want to decorate pumpkins.*

## Barbara Woods Inducted into Iowa African-American Hall of Fame



Dr. Barbara Woods came to Ames and Iowa State as a graduate student in Home Economics. She received her Ph. D. in 1981 and never left. Barbara worked with Iowa State Extension and Outreach until retiring last year.

Barbara served as special projects manager with ISU Extension and was an adjunct professor of human development and family studies at Iowa State University. She was credited with bringing county extension offices “into the computer age.” In her work she traveled the state and beyond to improve the lives of Iowans and all Americans.

Barbara first came to our church at the invitation of a co-worker who was a church member and has served our church in many ways over the years. She is currently our church moderator. She has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for many years and spent countless hours working on service projects with her sorority. She has been a leader in many charitable and justice-focused efforts in Ames and beyond, working to make the world a better place for everyone. She has participated in numerous mission trips with our church and served as a part of many regional mission teams to

Nicaragua, serving with an ABC ministry that helps to provide health care to remote villages.

Barbara received the Distinguished Service Award from ISU Extension and Outreach in 2011 and received that same award from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences in 2016. She also received the Career Achievement in Outreach Award from the College of Human Sciences in 2017.

For all of her contributions to the state of Iowa and beyond, she was inducted into the Iowa African American Hall of Fame in a ceremony on September 21. Congratulations, Barbara on a well-deserved honor!

You can read an article [from the Des Moines Register](#) about Barbara and other recent inductees.

### INVITATION TO AMES FAITH COMMUNITIES:

#### Who says we can't talk about religion and politics?

**Opportunity:** You are invited to join an informal discussion grappling with the divisions separating our families, congregations, and communities as the nation prepares for the November General Election. Its purpose is to focus on what individuals and organizations, such as faith communities, can do, positively, in the weeks to come.

The **purpose** is not to have all agree on political issues, but to discuss common good possibilities. **To encourage non-partisan conversations**, participants agree: 1) I am not always right; 2) I will respect others and commit to active listening; and 3) I will view those with alternate views not as opponents and potential enemies, but as those offering a different option, who could become allies.

**Dates and times: Tuesday evenings, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

October 1: What is Democracy? What is unique about it?

October 8: What does Freedom mean today?

October 15: Facts and Truth: Finding and Verifying Them

October 22: Special situations: Speeches, Families and Friends

October 29: Action! Vote! Join! Engage! Run! Serve! And Future

**Place:** Green Hills Community, Pine Room

**Facilitator:** Rev. Dr. Charles Kniker, co-author, and co-editor of *Raising America: Building a More Perfect Union*, and a resident of Green Hills Community. Charles' book and other resources will be discussed.

**To sign up:** Email: [crk706@outlook.com](mailto:crk706@outlook.com) Call 515.296-5036 for more info.



We are entering the season when we consider stewardship of our time, talents and resources. Our Stewardship Committee is planning our annual Stewardship Campaign and our boards and committees, led by the Trustees, are putting together a goal budget for 2025.

Our annual **Budget Forum** will be **Sunday, October 20 at 12 noon**. The goal budget for 2025 will be presented, with opportunity for questions and input about funding our ministry plans for the coming year. At the Budget Forum, the church will adopt a goal budget for 2025. Our pledge campaign will follow the Budget Forum.

## CROP Walk, October 13 Registration 1 pm – Walk 1:30 pm Ada Hayden Park

The CROP Walk raises money and awareness to fight hunger. CROP helps stop hunger both locally and globally, with 25% going toward food needs in Story County and the remainder going around the world through Church World Service.



**The walk will be held at Ada Hayden Heritage Park on October 13.** Registration is at 1:00 at the shelter house at the west end of the main parking area. Walkers can choose from the 1.4 mile shorter loop or the approximately 3 mile longer loop. Walk begins at 1:30.

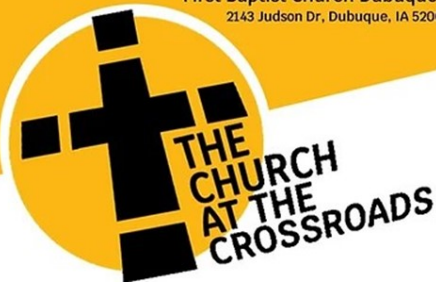
We invite you to join our FBC team! If you would like to be a walker, see Julie Johnston for a sponsor form, or scan the QR code or [click here](#) to sign up online to walk or to sponsor. For those who are out of town, you are welcome to join our team! You can sign up online and walk wherever you are!

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF IOWA AND MINNESOTA

### BIENNIAL GATHERING

OCTOBER 4 - 5, 2024

First Baptist Church Dubuque, Iowa  
2143 Judson Dr., Dubuque, IA 52001



Our regional biennial will be held October 4-5 in Dubuque. Lorrie Whitaker is president-elect of our region and Pastor Dave will be leading a workshop.

For those not attending in person, the Friday evening worship at 7 pm and Saturday morning business meeting at 8:30 am will be available online [at this link](#). Please note: the link will be live about 15 minutes before the service/meeting.

### CHURCH PHOTO BOARD

We are updating our photo board and took quite a few photos at our outdoor service on September 8. If you are not on our board or need an updated photo, you can see Beth Douglass, Jere Maddux, or Julie Johnston. For those who join us from out of town on Zoom – we would appreciate it if you could send a photo that we could put on the board. This will help us to remember that our congregation is bigger than just the people in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning and will help put faces to the names we see.





**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	Musical 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](http://fbcames.org)**