



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

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February 2017

Volume 63, No. 2

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.

## Pastor's Word: What I'm Reading

I am one of those people that tends to read two or three books at a time, and not necessarily very quickly. I admit that I start more books than I finish. Right now, I am actually working on four books, and I'm going to offer here some in-process book reports.

I have just started Bruce Springsteen's memoir, *Born to Run*, and I have already encountered the way that his Catholic upbringing shaped his life. As he grew older, he rejected his religion but later realized that no matter what disagreements he may have had with the church of his childhood – and there were many – it had nevertheless influenced him, and he was still “part of the team.” I'm looking forward to reading more about his journey, which while filled with family dysfunction and a good deal of pain has led to not only great music (maybe I'm showing my age here), but a concern for social justice.

Like many of you, I am very troubled by the division and polarization - and just plain meanness - that seem to be on the rise in our culture. There are numerous examples of those even in our own community who have felt emboldened to wear their racism and disdain for others openly. I am particularly concerned for the way that fear can lead us to set aside Jesus' concern for those who live on the margins or are different from us.

Methodist Bishop and former Duke University chaplain William Willimon has written a little book called *Fear of the Other: No Fear In Love*. Willimon notes, “Is there anything more natural, innate, and universal than fear of the Other? This propensity... to stick with your own tribe makes all the more remarkable that early on in Israel's history, God's people are explicitly commanded to ‘love the immigrant as yourself.’” Willimon quotes from Leviticus: “When immigrants live in your land with you... they must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself; because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt.” Willimon argues that the Church does not simply exist for itself, but for others. Written in the last year, this is a timely book.

On the way to church a few weeks ago, I heard an interview on the radio with Michael Eric Dyson. Dyson is a professor of sociology at Georgetown as well as a Baptist minister. He has written a book filled with personal stories on what it is like and how it feels to be black in America, and I was intrigued enough with the interview to buy the book. *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* is not necessarily easy reading. It challenges white privilege and it is making me think. But this is something I need to hear, and while it can make me shudder at times, it is written with love.

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All that is going on in the world in recent days has led me to - guess what? - prayer. Anne LaMott is one of my favorite writers; in one of her earlier books she said that the two best prayers she knows are “Help Me, Help Me, Help Me” and “Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.” She later expounded on this and wrote a book on prayer, *Help, Thanks, Wow*, which we will use for our Lenten Study. Personally, I use “Help Me/Help Us” a lot, but if we are able to practice gratitude (Thank You!) and experience awe (Wow!), then we are able to see beyond the present moment and find the road to joy – or at least make it through the day. I’m looking forward to discussing this book together.

Blessings,  
Dave



Aaron Stegemöller	6
Anastasia Lee	9
Tom Logue	9
Patrick Coffey	12
Kathy Clotey	15
Elijah Belle	17
Emma Phomvisay	17
Viola Thomas	17
Lois Curtis	19
Kaylinn Taggart	20
Michelle Logue	22



Rosemarie and David Starrett

February 23



**February 5:**

*Worship Leader:* Aiddy Phomvisay  
*Ushers:* Bob Parrish\*, Kent Johnson  
Jan Thompson, Wallace Sanders  
*Sound System:* Bob Parrish

**February 12:**

*Worship Leader:* Jan Thompson  
*Ushers:* Michael Thompson\*, Jill Grauman  
Nancy Maydew, Kaylinn Taggart  
*Sound System:* Tom Logue

**February 19:**

*Worship Leader:* Dawn Doerr-Johnson  
*Ushers:* Dianne Borgen, Jerilyn Logue  
Tom Logue, Jon Pritchard  
*Sound System:* Kent Johnson

**February 26:**

*Worship Leader:* Aaron Stegemöller  
*Ushers:* Scott Anderson\*, Julie Johnston  
Jere Maddux, Tiffany Nugent  
*Sound System:* Tom Logue

**Flowers for February:** Rita Parrish



Mark your calendars and join us for a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 5. The festivities will start at 5:15 pm with kick-off at 5:30 pm. Feel free to bring a snack to share. If you are not a big football fan, there will also be board games. Families with young children are encouraged to participate!

## Spring Break Mission Trip

March 11-16

Murrow Indian Children's Home  
Muskogee, Oklahoma

We will be sending a team to Muskogee, Oklahoma over spring break to work at the Murrow Indian Children's Home. Established in 1887, Murrow currently provides a home for around 25 Native American children. These are children that are in State or Tribal Custody and in the current foster care and adoption system. Murrow is a ministry affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA and the campus is adjacent to Bacone College, an ABC-related school that is a historically Native American college.

Our work will include maintenance and work projects on grounds and residential cottages at Murrow as well as opportunities to interact with the residents. We will also tour Bacone College and worship at the Bacone College Church.

With fundraising and some budgeted funds, we expect that the cost per person will be \$50. There will be a meeting following Church School at 12 noon on Sunday, February 12 for all who are going on the trip. Please let Pastor Dave know if you are planning to go and to get a registration form.

## 10th Annual Cook-off



On February 26, we will hold our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cook-off. We will vote for our favorite dishes with coins, cash or checks. Everyone is encouraged to enter a dish and we need lots of people to come eat and vote. The proceeds will go toward our Spring Break Mission Trip.

The theme will be announced later!



## February is Food Shelf Month at FBC!

Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. (MICA) serves a variety of families in many different ways – all their families have their own unique needs. We collect items and money twice a year in February and September. We all know times are hard and some families are facing a trip to the Food Shelf when they have never before needed to and may have even donated in other years. First Baptist has a strong tradition of supporting the work the Food Shelf does.

### Most Needed Items!

**Hamburger Helper**

**Rice**

**Rice mixes**

**Potato mixes**

**Soup**

### Other items needed:

**Non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food items** - Bring things that YOU would enjoy eating.

Jell-O, hot cocoa packets, juice, pasta, pancake mixes, syrup, tomato products such as paste and chunks, coffee, tea and canned chicken, peanut butter, tuna, flour, sugar,

canned beans – this provides protein for some families

**Personal hygiene items** – bath soap, shampoo, women's supplies, shaving crème and deodorant, toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels

**Household supplies** –dish soap, cleaning products

**Infant needs** – diapers of all sizes and wipes, baby food

**Money** – Mica likes to give food vouchers to be used for milk, eggs, meat and fresh vegetables and fruit.

MICA's food pantry is entirely community funded. With financial aid they are able to shop for items that they are out of. Often at reduced prices that are given to food shelves across the country.

If you would like your gift to appear on your church statement, write the check to our church (FBC) and write MICA in the memo area.

Look for the donation display in the Narthex!

# FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>  6:30p Choir	<b>2</b>  GROUNDHOG DAY 5:00p Women With Initiative	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  
<b>5</b> 9:45a Worship/Communion 11:00a Church School  5:15 pm Super Bowl Party	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00a Men's Breakfast, Perkins	<b>8</b> 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins  6:30p Choir	<b>9</b>  5:00p Women With Initiative	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:45a Worship 11:00a Fellowship Time 11:15a Church School	<b>13</b>  5:45p Christian Education	<b>14</b>  Valentine's Day 7:00p Trustees	<b>15</b>  6:30p Choir	<b>16</b>  5:00p Women With Initiative	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  
<b>19</b> 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 12:00p 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch, Mongolian Buffet 2:00p Prayer Shawl Circle	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00a Men's Breakfast, Perkins	<b>22</b> 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins  6:30p Choir	<b>23</b>  5:00p Women With Initiative 6:30p Deacons	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  9:00a Church Planning Retreat
<b>26</b> 9:45a Worship 11a Church School  5:30p Church Cook-off	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>				

## Planning Retreat

Saturday, February 25

9 am – noon

Board and Committee Members and all friends and members are invited to join us for a planning retreat on Saturday, February 25. We will think and dream together about our ministry as a church, set some calendar dates, and look at specific areas including a tour of our facilities to note possible maintenance and improvement projects, brainstorming and planning for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary Celebration (in 2018), and more. We will also plan to have some fun as part of the morning. We hope you will join us!

## Lent Begins March 1

Lent is a season for spiritual reflection and preparation for the celebration of resurrection at Easter. We will have special opportunities for study and worship through the days of Lent.

On **Ash Wednesday**, we will have a service at 6:30 pm including music, readings, prayer, silence, and imposition of ashes. We will meet in the lounge and have found that the more intimate setting works well for this service.

We will have a **Lenten Study** using Anne LaMott's book, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. We will meet at 6:00 pm on March 8, 22, and April 5 (once each for Help, Thanks, and Wow!) If you would like to order a copy of the book, please contact the church office. They are available for \$10 each.

First Baptist Church  
200 Lynn Avenue  
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

### Our Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. David Russell	Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
Patricia Izbicki	Accompanist
Bev Shirbroun	Office Manager
Aaron Stegemöller	Custodian
Karina Anderson	Child Care
Mareika Thompson	Child Care