



The Spire *First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa*

June 2024
Volume 70, No. 6

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.

Chipmunk in the Church

You just never know what is going to happen at church. A few weeks ago, we were in the fellowship hall drinking coffee and enjoying the goodies during Fellowship Time when Randall O'Brien told me there was a chipmunk in the church. It was there one minute and then gone the next.

It was a nice morning and the front door had been open during the service to let in the fresh air. That is how the chipmunk had sneaked in, apparently late for the service. It didn't even bother to sign to attendance pad. By the time Randall saw it, the doors were closed.



A few minutes later I thought that we better try looking for the little guy. Randall had propped a door open and it was possible that the chipmunk had left the building on its own, but I wasn't counting on it.

We have a relatively large building and the odds of finding a missing chipmunk seemed small. But it was worth the effort because a loose chipmunk in the church seemed like a recipe for all kinds of problems. So I looked around a little bit, not really expecting to find the critter. But then I walked into the lounge

and then I saw him (her). It ran around a bit and then jumped up on a love seat and just sat there, like it was there for Sunday School and just waiting for the rest of the class to arrive.

I quickly shut the doors to the lounge and then thought about how to proceed. This was probably more than a one-person job, so I called Bob Parrish. Bob came upstairs and closed all the other doors on the first floor. We sat a card table on its side and added a cardboard box to close off the hallway to the sanctuary, then opened the outside door by the library.

We opened the lounge door, Bob chased the chipmunk out of the lounge, and after a couple of back and forths, it finally made a left turn at the roadblock and scampered out of the building by the library.

I have to tell you, it was exhilarating. My only regret is that in the excitement of the moment, I did not think to grab my phone and make a video. It definitely would have gone viral. Our chipmunk friend definitely earned its stripes that day! I'm sure it has stories to tell about the day it went to church.

We cannot promise chipmunks in the church every week, but there is always something exciting and often something unexpected when we gather together. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday for our Youth and Music Sunday, with an ice cream social to follow!

Blessings,
Dave

P.S. We counted the chipmunk in the attendance. It stayed for Sunday School, after all.

Senior Moments

Senior Moments is eclectic this month. Each episode offers a variety of topics from writing to brain health; from art to financial planning; from Norwegian heritage, to visual and performing art at ISU.

June 1 – Janine Knap – co-author of *While the Windmill Watched*

June 8 – Roxanne Petersen NAMI Executive Director – Brain Health

June 15 – Doing Art and getting awards for it; Andrew Murdock – financial planner

June 22 – Sons of Norway

June 29- Art on ISU Campus with Peter Orazem & Patti Cotter, Music and Theater with Brad Dell, Reggie Greenlaw and a Hammer Dulcier

Be sure to tune in to KHOI Community radio 89.1 FM and listen to Senior Moments on air each Saturday at 11:00 a.m. hosted by our own Phyllis Schrag.



Youth Sunday/Music Sunday

Please join us for worship on June 2 for a combined Youth Sunday and Music Sunday! Our children and youth will be leading us in worship and there will be a variety of music from musicians of all ages. Following worship, our Christian Education Committee is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social!



Outdoor Service, Cookout, and a Car Show on June 23!

On June 23, we will have our worship service on the front lawn, with a cookout following! Bring a chair if you can. We also need card tables for the meal. Burgers, hot dogs and veggie dogs will be provided; please bring a dish to share. Thank you to the Christian Education Committee for sponsoring the cookout!



We will hold our first-ever FBC Car Show after the cookout! The idea for the car show came from a conversation at our Virtual Coffee Shop (where we talk about all sorts of things – you might want to join us on Thursday mornings!) We have members and friends with antique(ish) cars, muscle cars, electric cars, convertibles, and otherwise cool and interesting vehicles. But this is not just for collectible-type cars! Bring any means of conveyance you want for our car show. Your SUV, sedan, hatchback, minivan, station wagon, hybrid, gas guzzler, econobox, practical people mover, pickup truck, motorcycle, bicycle, scooter, skateboard or roller skates would be perfect. It is all about having a fun day. If you plan to have a vehicle in the car show, please let the office know or contact Barbara Woods, Jere Maddux, or Randall O'Brien for more information. This will help us as we reserve parking spots for the vehicles in the car show.

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

On Easter Sunday in 1949, on nation-wide radio, Christians were challenged to donate one million dollars in one hour to help people devastated by the aftermath of World War II. Faithful Christians answered the challenge and the goal was met. That was the beginning of the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering!

Providing for the myriad needs that result from famine and hunger crises, displacement of people due to war and natural disasters, and recurring and extraordinary natural disasters have been the focus of OGHS. But not just in the immediate aftermath. Today OGHS continues to provide emergency relief after disasters while at the same time supporting development work around the world that seeks to address chronic conditions that linger for years or decades longer.

And so our gifts provide relief following flooding, tornados, hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters as well as provide help and hope for those who flee their homes because of war. In 2023 development assistance supported a poultry project in South Africa, a hospital project in India, the Good News farm project in Togo, housing for at-risk youth in Yakima, Washington and a Food and Shelter grant for All Tribes Church in Geary, Oklahoma, among many other projects.

We invite you to give generously to OGHS. We will receive the offering through the month of June.

Summertime Prayers

Thank you to everyone who submitted prayers to include in our Summertime Prayers devotional book. We have compiled a collection of prayers from a number of our members as well as prayers from longtime member Rev. John Anderson, whom many of us remember fondly. The collection will be sent via e-mail to our Spire mailing list. If you would like a printed copy, please contact the church office.



Jim Sassaman Memorial Service




The memorial service for Jim Sassaman will be held on Saturday, June 15 at 11 am at the church. Jim died on March 9 at age 99. He first came to the church as a student on the GI Bill in 1946. Jim and Helen moved to Chicago for a couple of years after he graduated and returned to Ames in 1953. All told, he was a much-loved member of the church for 75 years. Helen preceded him in death in 2018.

Here is a [link to his obituary](#) in the Ames Tribune.

A meal will be provided following the service. The memorial service will be available online at the regular [Sunday morning Zoom link](#).



June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9a Work Day
2 8:30a Choir 9:45a Youth Sunday/ Music Sunday 10:45a Ice Cream Social	3	4 8a Men's Breakfast	5 2-3p PD Singing	6 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	7	8
9 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	10	11 7p Trustees	12 2-3p PD Singing	13 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	14  Flag Day	15 11a Jim Sassa- man Memorial Service
16 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 	17	18 8a Men's Breakfast	19 2-3p PD Singing 	20 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 	21	22
23 9:45a Outdoor Worship, Cookout, and FBC Car Show	24	25	26 2-3p PD Singing	27 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	28	29 
30 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship						



Serving this month

June 2:

Worship Leader Becca Whitaker

Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

June 9:

Worship Leader Susan Russell

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

June 16:

Worship Leader John Whitaker

Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

June 23:

Worship Leader Kay O'Brien

Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Larry Schrag

June 30:

Worship Leader John Anderson

Ushers: Jan Thompson, Barbara Woods



Tom Gleason	1
Mya Logue	7
Dianne Borgen	9
Susan Russell	15
Tyler Anderson	23
Serena Parrish	27
Erin Johnson	29



Carol and Don Pady	1
Nancy and Gary Maydew	2
Tom and Jerilyn Logue	9
Gretchen and Scott Anderson	14
Mindy and Aiddy Phomvisay	15
Mary and John Anderson	17
Jan and Michael Thompson	30

Summer Camp News

Our region has two camps: Forest Lake, just south of Ottumwa, and Dayton Oaks, near Dayton (45 minutes northwest of Ames). Both offer a variety of summer camps for children, youth, and families. Last summer we had youth attending both camps. Our church will pay half the cost of camp for any youth, or more if there is a financial need. See Pastor Dave or a Christian Education Committee member if you are planning to go. Dates and information for various camps are posted on the bulletin board.



Work Day June 1

We will have a follow-up workday on Saturday, June 1 beginning at 9 am.

We will complete mulching and cleaning out window wells, do some tree trimming, and other outdoor tasks. Many hands make light work – please join us!

Subscribe to our Region Newsletter!

The Body Builder is the newsletter of the Mid-American Baptist Churches, our American Baptist region. MABC includes around 115 churches in Iowa and Minnesota. *The Body Builder* is published electronically, usually at the middle and last of each month. We encourage you to subscribe to learn more about what is happening in churches around the region as well as region and national ABC news. You can [click here](#) to find past issues and click on the “subscribe” button to sign up and receive the *Body Builder* in your inbox.

Thank You, Tyler and Boy Scouts!

Tyler Anderson continues work on his Eagle Scout project of painting/ renewing the fence and railings at FBC. Tyler and other scouts completed the north fence between the church and Sigma Alpha Epsilon. They scraped, sanded, replaced boards, and repainted the fence. Thank you for your hard work! The Scouts will continue painting the railings around window wells.





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