



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

**Together
by Grace** 

November 2020
Volume 66, No. 10

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.

At our Virtual Coffee Shop this week, we were talking about all the things we have missed during the pandemic. I have not missed going out to restaurants as much as I thought that I would. Getting takeout works OK, but I have missed going out for breakfast. Taking home pancakes and scrambled eggs just doesn't work very well.

The things we have missed go a lot deeper than that. We have missed live sporting events, movies, performances at Stephens Auditorium, and all kinds of public events. We have missed family get-togethers, and everyone at the Virtual Coffee Shop was either foregoing family holiday gatherings or will have scaled-down, alternative, or virtual gatherings.

And of course we have missed gathering together as a church family. While some of us were able to join together to worship outside, we look forward to the time when we are able to worship together in our sanctuary, sing together, share a meal, and hug one another. We look forward to joining hands in a circle and singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

Despite all of the losses and all of the challenges we have faced in recent months, we have nevertheless been held together by God's grace. Our stewardship theme this fall is "Together by Grace."

I am so thankful for those who have worked hard so that we can share in Zoom worship each Sunday, meet for Christian Education, continue to care for one another, and reach out to our community. Through these last difficult months, I am thankful for those who have continued to give faithfully to support our work and to reach out to those in need.

As we look to the year ahead, there are reasons for hope. First, 2020 will be over! Second, just as we have had to be creative in these past months, there will be new and creative ministry ahead. Our giving helps to prepare for vital ministry to come. And the biggest reason we have for hope is that God's grace abounds!

Many of you will be receiving a stewardship mailing this week, including our proposed budget and a pledge card. For others, including friends who join us for worship each week from out of town, you may [view the narrative budget](#) and if you wish to pledge, you can [download a pledge card](#). In the weeks to come, members will be sharing a Stewardship Moment in worship. Our Stewardship Sunday will be November 15.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday on Zoom!

Together by Grace,
Dave

November Birthdays

Morgan Ambourn	2
Lyndsay Whitaker	4
Abby Johnson	6
Lucy Johnson	6
Harris Seidel	12
Marilyn Peterson	13
Jill Grauman	13
Brian Starrett	24
Buckley Peterson	27



Joe and Catherine Parrish 20



Virtual Coffee Shop Tuesdays 2:00 pm via Zoom

Grab a cup of coffee, or whatever suits your fancy, and join other FBC folks as we sit down at the coffee shop and visit. No agenda, no program – just a time to connect and chat, which a lot of us could use during this time.

Randall O'Brien to Preach on November 22

Randall O'Brien will be preaching in our worship service on November 22. Randall and Kay joined our church earlier this year. He is an ordained minister and has served as a pastor and frequent interim pastor, religion professor, university administrator at Baylor, and most recently as president of Carson-Newman University, a Baptist school in Tennessee. We look forward to his message that morning.

FBC Holiday Plans

Some of our favorite church traditions happen this time of year – The Christmas Dinner and Christmas Program, Vespers at Northcrest, our Yuletide Orchestra, singing Christmas carols, and of course our Christmas Eve service and the Social Hour before.



In this year, when nothing is the same and everything is weird, we won't be able to share in these traditions, at least not in the usual way. We are, however, working on ways to creatively celebrate this holy season. We will have a virtual Christmas Eve service filled with music, and we will still light candles and sing Silent Night. We are working on the possibilities for a Christmas program and other Advent celebrations. Through the season of Advent, we hope to have individuals/family units who will be in the sanctuary to light the Advent candles each week. And a virtual Yuletide Orchestra video is on our wish list. We will announce details as they are available.



Congratulations, Emma!

Congratulations to Emma Phomvisay, who was named to the All-State Choir! We are so proud of her accomplishments. Emma is a junior at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines. She is a member of our FBC choir and since March has served as our Summer Music Associate and now Music Intern, leading our singing and playing ukulele and violin for our online services. An All-State Music Festival with band, orchestra and chorus will be held virtually due to COVID-19.

Wallace Sanders Receives Alumni Award from Louisville

This is adapted from a press release from the J.B. Speed School of Engineering at the University of Louisville.

Dr. Wallace Sanders, a Masters of Engineering graduate from the Speed School, has been named winner of the Alumni Professional Award in Civil Engineering. He has led a long and storied career in Civil Engineering. Sanders received his PhD from University of Illinois. He is currently Professor Emeritus at Iowa State after more than three decades teaching and conducting research in structural engineering with specialties in bridge design and aluminum structures.



Sanders gave a lecture series in Germany, which led to his participation in a committee that writes criteria for the European Committee for Constructional Steelworks. He has been awarded the Outstanding Civil Engineer Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers - Iowa Section, Superior Service Award at Iowa State, and the Lifetime Achievement Award at the American Institute of Steel Construction. He and his brother, John, who is also a Speed School alum, have supported the Speed School engineering outreach program, especially efforts at Central High School.

Sanders said this alumni award means recognition of his work related to his education, and he remembers fondly morning get-togethers at Speed School. "Speed School gave me opportunities in the workplace to see what my professional career would be like," he said. "Those work experiences can teach young students how classwork leads to good work experience."

Congratulations, Wallace!

Volunteers Needed at Overflow

Overflow Thrift Store is looking for wonderful people to volunteer at their two locations in Ames. Their original store is located at 202 S. Duff and is called Overflow Thrift Store. Their newest location is located at 125 Kitty Hawk Drive and is called Overflow Thrift Store-Furniture and More. They are a non-profit thrift store offering a place to give, shop and serve. Their mission is to creatively recycle and sell affordable goods to help people in need, locally and globally.

Right now they have an urgent need for more volunteers-especially volunteers who can help Monday-Friday 10-6 and on Saturdays 10-4. There is a place for everyone and their training makes it easy and safe for you to feel productive. To volunteer, please go to their website www.overflowthriftstore.org and click on "SERVE". If you have questions, contact Patty Kramer at overflowvolunteers@gmail.com



Region Youth Event Goes Virtual

Our region hosts a weekend event for youth grades 6-12 each year. Here is a communication sent by the Region Youth Team about an alternative event, in light of the coronavirus.

The Regional Youth Team is disappointed to postpone the annual in-person RYE event until next year, but we still want to learn, play, and connect with each other this November! So here's the plan:

- We will send you a devotional book.
- You will follow us on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) to catch all the games, updates, and surprises.
- You can use #2020RYE to post your game entries and play along!
- Mark your calendar for the first weekend in November 2021 for next year's RYE with speaker Charlie Conder and worship leader Jeremy Carmody as they lead a fantastic weekend where we all will get to STEP UP!

[Register today and we'll get your devotional book to you!](#)

November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45am Worship 11am Church School 	2	 2pm Virtual Coffee Shop	4 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30pm Weekly Devotion	6	7
8 9:45am Worship 11am Church School	9	10 2pm Virtual Coffee Shop 7pm Trustees Meeting	11	12 6:30pm Weekly Devotion	13	14
15 9:45am Worship 11am Church School Stewardship Sunday	16	17 2pm Virtual Coffee Shop	18 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 6:30pm Weekly Devotion	 6:30pm Trivia Night	21
22 9:45am Worship, Randall O'Brien Preaching 11am Church School	23	24 2pm Virtual Coffee Shop	25		27	28
29 9:45am Worship 11am Church School Advent Begins 	30					



Earlier this week, we received this Facebook message:

“Hello First Baptist Church...I photographed your lovely church on Monday afternoon, October 26, 2020. The sunlight from the west put a spotlight on it, and it was impressive to me. I knew I just HAD to shoot it... I was able to incorporate some red maple branches around the church for the vertical shot. For the horizontal one, I was able to capture the full red maple out in front of the church.”

Thank you so much to Bob Kelly for sharing these beautiful photographs with us!



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
Hope Deets	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



CROP Walk 2020

Thank you to those who represented our church in the 2020 Ames CROP Walk for Hunger. Because of the coronavirus, this year's walk was done individually. Dawn Doerr-Johnson, Stephanie and Greg Goodman, Barbara Woods and Dave Russell walked their own routes. Thank you to all who contributed to the First Baptist team; we raised a total of \$730. One-fourth of the funds raised by our walk will be used to support local organizations that alleviate hunger while the rest is used for hunger relief and development projects through Church World Service. Thank you, Team FBC!



Next Virtual Trivia Night November 20

Our next monthly Trivia Night will be on Friday, November 20 at 6:30 pm, via Zoom. The questions come from a range of general knowledge topics, with a few "churchy" questions thrown in. We will form teams, and the teams can discuss their answers to each round's questions in Zoom breakout rooms. We will use the same Zoom link that we use on Sunday mornings. Contact Pastor Dave for more information.