



# The Spire First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

May 2023  
Volume 69, No. 5

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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E-MAIL: [office@fbcames.org](mailto:office@fbcames.org)  
WEB: [fbcames.org](http://fbcames.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.*

### Sanctuary Video Screen Update

Most of the Ethernet and HDMI wiring for our video screen project is complete and one of two needed electrical outlets have been installed. Some additional equipment will be installed and electrical work will be completed soon. Two 85" screens have been purchased, and Audio Labs will install the screens this month. We look forward to having video screens in the sanctuary very soon.



The reason we are installing the screens is a little different than is often the case. Many churches use screens to project words to songs, announcements, video clips, and sermon illustrations. We will have that capability, but the primary reason we are installing screens at this time is to make the worship experience more engaging for those who are at home.

That sounds a little odd, doesn't it? How will screens in the sanctuary help people who are at home?

The last two Sundays, over half of our congregation was worshipping via Zoom. We are averaging 40-45% online. That is far more than most churches I know of. Being a hybrid church in which those who are at home can participate and connect rather than simply watch a screen is a challenge. We have learned and innovated over the past few years, and we are still learning. Besides all of the other potential uses, the screens will allow folks who are at home to read scripture, lead prayer, and participate in worship leadership. I expect that there will be some hiccups along the way, but this is exciting.

Back in 2019, if someone had told us that in 4 years, half of our church would be worshipping from home – not only from Ames but from around the country – and that folks at home could lead worship, even bring the sermon from home – that would have sounded ridiculous. But here we are.

In worship, we are looking at scriptures from the Book of Acts. Acts tells of the spread of the gospel throughout the Mediterranean world. On nearly every page, we learn of God doing new things. It is in the church's DNA to be able to change and be open to new possibilities. I am thankful that our church has been open to change and open to the leading of God's Spirit. The logistics of our worship is a lot less important than the way we show love for our neighbors and live out our faith by following Jesus, but for me, this project is an effort to better engage and include those who can't be with us in person. In other words, it is about being inclusive more than just getting more technologically current.

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A special thanks to those who have put a lot of time and effort into this project: Rodney Barto, Joe Parrish, Bob Parrish, John Whitaker, Daniel Whitaker, and Scott Anderson.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday – in the sanctuary or on Zoom!

Blessings,

*Dave*

**Join us for worship on May 21!**



Our youth and children will lead us in worship. We look forward to them sharing their gifts!

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RECOGNITION**

At the end of our Church School year, we will recognize our Church School teachers and those who lead us in Christian Education

**BIBLE PRESENTATION**

We will present a Bible to our fourth grade students

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

An ice cream social will follow worship, sponsored by our Christian Education Committee. This is a great beginning of the summer tradition at FBC!

**It's all happening on May 21!**

## Good Neighbor Director Search



First Baptist joined with other Ames congregations to found Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance 26 years ago. Good Neighbor allowed individuals to go to a central location for assistance rather than going from church to church for utility and rental assistance. Good Neighbor has grown over the years and its assistance budget has tripled since Lori Allen became Executive Director in 2018. Lori has announced her retirement and Good Neighbor is searching for a new Executive Director. If you know of anyone interested in applying for the position, the position announcement is posted on the bulletin board.



The American Baptist Biennial Mission Summit will be held June 23-25 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. For those not attending in person, there is an online option that allows virtual attendance at plenary sessions, including:

### Friday, June 23

- Welcome Session, 2:00PM CT
- Spotlight on Puerto Rico, 3:00 CT (includes report on visits of 104 mission teams, including our FBC team, to help rebuild following Hurricane Maria)
- Worshipful Work - International Ministries Report, 6:30 CT
- Friday Evening Worship, 7:00 CT

### Saturday, June 24

- Worshipful Work - American Baptist Home Mission Societies Report, 6:30 PM CT
- Friday Evening Worship, 7:00PM CT

### Sunday, June 25

- Sunday Morning Worship, 8:00 AM CT
- Business Session, 1:30PM CT
- Worshipful Work - American Baptist Churches USA, 6:30 PM CT
- Friday Evening Worship, 7:00PM CT

Cost for online registration is \$49. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.americanbaptists2023.com>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 8a Men's Breakfast <i>2p PD Boxing</i>	3 <i>2p PD Singing</i>	4 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Dance/ Exercise</i>	5	6
7 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School	8	9 <i>2p PD Boxing</i> 7p Trustees	10 <i>2p PD Singing</i>	11 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Dance/ Exercise</i>	12	13 
14 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11:00a Church School 	15	16 8a Men's Breakfast	17 <i>2p PD Singing</i>	18 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	19	20
21 9:45a Worship (Youth Sunday; Ice Cream Social)	22	23	24 <i>2p PD Singing</i> 	25 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	26	27
28 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	29 	30	31 <i>2p PD Singing</i>	27 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	28	29





**May 7:**

*Worship Leader* Erin Johnson  
*Ushers:* Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

**May 14:**

*Worship Leader* Larry Schrag  
*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

**May 21:**

*Worship Leader* Youth Sunday  
*Ushers:* Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

**May 28:**

*Worship Leader* Rita Parrish  
*Ushers:* Stephanie Goodman,  
 Jon Pritchard



Catherine Parrish	6
Antorniece Lee	9
Roberta Ridley	11
Maxwell Keat	21
Dick Gee	25
Michael Thompson	28
Beth Douglass	29



Stephenie and Brian Keat	5
Elizabeth and Aaron Stegemöller	19
Martha and Tom Gleason	29
Rita and Bob Parrish	29

## 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.





**“Mini” Music Sunday—May 14**

**Youth Sunday, Christian Education Recognition,  
and Ice Cream Social—May 21**

**Fellowship Time follows worship each Sunday—  
beginning May 28**

**Worship on the lawn with First Christian and  
Ames UCC—July 31**

Musician **Joel Raney** will be with us in worship on August 7. Besides his composing and arranging, Joel is a sought-after music clinician, choral conductor, and piano soloist. Joel has been a clinician at the Music Conference at Green Lake and will be here for the Parkinson’s Singing Festival on August 6. We are delighted that he will be with us in worship at FBC!



**Other special events** to be announced!

### **“By Request” Sermon Series**

Pastor Dave will preach a summer series based on questions and suggestions from the congregation. Would you like to hear a sermon on a particular topic or passage of scripture? Or is there a question you would like to see addressed in a sermon? This is your chance! There will be a box in the narthex in which you can drop off sermon suggestions. You may also send an email to [dave@fbcames.org](mailto:dave@fbcames.org) with your request.

### **Congratulations, Marian!**

Marian Thompson completed her thesis earlier this spring and will graduate from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a Master of Science Degree in Historic Preservation.

Her thesis describes the work she did last summer/fall for the City of Ames on the history and architecture of the Chautauqua Park and Ridgewood neighborhoods just east of Brookside Park.

# 2nd Annual Good Neighbor BLOCK PARTY



**SUNDAY**  
**MAY 21**  
**4:00 - 7:00 pm**

## FREE EVENT

*Live Music, Food, Fun & Community Art*

**CLARK AVE**  
Between 6th & 7th  
& Fareway

**Valerie  
Williams**

Movement and Dance



**Vinyl Vagabonds**

**Susan  
Norris**

Community Art Project

**Becca  
Balloon  
Lady**

**Childrens Games**

*hosted by*

**AHS Key Club**

**JoyFul Colorz  
Face Painting**

Sign Up

**FREE  
Cricket  
Phone**

(income limits apply)

**The  
Community  
Academy**



**Credit Card  
Donation**

[gnea.org/giving](http://gnea.org/giving)

**KHOI 89.1 FM**

Live Streaming

**Venmo  
Donation**

@gnea-org







**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
Charyl Winterink	Office Manager



**Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM**

**Details for connecting via ZOOM at [fbcomes.org](http://fbcomes.org)**