



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

November 2022  
Volume 68, No. 10

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

PHONE: 515-292-9612  
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.*

### Fall Festival a Big Success!

We had a wonderful Fall Festival following worship on October 30, planned by the Christian Education Committee. All ages participated in pumpkin painting and cookie decorating and we had some great chili supplied by our FBC cooks. Thanks to all who participated and especially Stephanie Goodman for organizing the pumpkin painting, Elizabeth Stegemöller for organizing the cookie decorating, and all who brought



Our pumpkin painters and many of our pumpkins!





## Fall Festival Photos, Cont'd



## Choir News

With limited time to rehearse on Sunday mornings, the choir is having periodic Choir Retreats to allow more time to rehearse and especially to learn new music. Our next Choir Retreat will be November 12 at 10 am. We will be learning music for our Christmas Cantata. We will present portions of the cantata at the Northcrest Vespers Service on December 11 at 3 pm and the full cantata in worship on December 18. For those who are not regularly a part of our choir, we invite you to join us and sing in our cantata! You can just join us on November 12, or see Mindy for more details.



## Yuletide Orchestra!!

As we near the Advent season, we are making plans for our Yuletide Orchestra. If you play an instrument – pretty well any instrument – you are welcome to join us as we accompany Christmas carols in worship. If you would like to join us please see Pastor Dave or Mindy so that we can be sure to have music available and let you know about practice times.

## Celebrating Harris Seidel's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Harris Seidel came to Iowa State in 1942. He earned a BS degree in Civil Engineering in 1944 and most significantly for us, he became involved in the Roger Williams Club, our church's campus ministry, where he met Kathryn Bell. Harris and Katy were married after graduating, and other than 6 years in the Twin Cities after graduation, Harris has been a part of our church for 80 years. In 1951 he returned to Ames to be superintendent of the Ames Water Treatment plant and served as Director of the Ames Water and Pollution Control Department until his retirement in 1994. Harris visited more than 20 countries consulting on water and pollution control for the World Bank. He has received a host of honors for his work, including induction last year into the ISU Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering Hall of Fame.

We all know Harris best through his involvement in our church and our community. He was a longtime trustee and Boiler Whisperer. He has a gift with children and worked for many years in our nursery. He was our church's ace softball pitcher back in the day and continues to play a mean game of ping pong. Harris was a CROP Walker par excellence and over the years literally walked hundreds of miles and raised thousands of dollars to feed hungry people. He delivered Meals on Wheels for 20 years and only gave that up in the last year. And we all appreciate his generous, humble, caring presence.



*Harris delivering Meals on Wheels last year*

Harris will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 12. We invite you to send him a birthday card. **PLEASE DO NOT TELL HARRIS ABOUT THIS CARD SHOWER**; the Spire that he receives will not include this article. You can send cards to:

Harris Seidel  
2310 Northcrest Parkway, Apt. 211  
Ames, IA 50010



## Blessed to Be a Blessing

In Genesis 12, God tells Abraham that God will bless him so that Abraham and his descendants might be a blessing to the nations. The theme of our Fall Stewardship Campaign is “Blessed to Be a Blessing.”

To be able to recognize one’s blessings is a great gift. You may be familiar with that old hymn, “Count Your Blessings”: *Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your many blessings, See what God hath done.*

There is a lot of wisdom in taking time to be aware of the ways we have been blessed. As that hymn suggests, such reflection is perhaps even more important in difficult times. But as I think about it, when has life ever been easy? There are always challenges and struggles in life, but through it all God provides grace upon grace.

We are not a large congregation, but as we sometimes like to say, we are “Small but Mighty.” We have been blessed with an abundance of talented, committed, and caring people. We have been blessed with the ability to stay connected through the pandemic and 2 ½ years later, we have a significant group of folks who join us for worship on Zoom each Sunday who would not be able to join us otherwise. We have all been blessed by the ministry of our church.

As we enjoy the fall colors and as the harvest is gathered, this is a time to especially remember God’s provision for us. God has blessed us marvelously, and our response is to be generous.

Because of the generosity of our members and friends, we have been able to support many ministries and important causes, sharing the Good News beyond our church – here in the Ames community and literally around the world. We have tried to be good stewards of our facility and it is home to singing and boxing groups for people with Parkinson’s disease, financial literacy classes for women, the Center for Creative Justice, and more. We are Blessed to Be a Blessing.

On October 23 we adopted a goal budget for 2023. In the coming weeks we will hear Stewardship Moments from members in worship. November 13 is Pledge Sunday, and we invite you to return your pledge cards with a pledge of support for our ministry in 2023 on or before that day.

For our out of town Zoom worshipers and others who may have not received a stewardship mailing, you can find our [narrative budget](#) and a [pledge card](#) on our website. I know that for some of you, we are your church, and for others we are your “second church.” Either way, we are blessed by your presence with us and invite your financial support, whether or not you make a pledge.

Grateful for God’s Blessings,

*Dave*



## Welcome New Member!

We are delighted to welcome Sadie Searl as a member of our church! She was welcomed as a new member in our worship service on October 16.

Sadie was born in Missouri and baptized at a Baptist church there as a young person before her family moved to Story City. She grew up in the area and is an Iowa State graduate. Sadie worked as a Quality Engineer at Sauer-Danfoss, retiring after 30 years of service. Sadie attended worship at Bethany Manor in Story City with her mother, who was a resident, and continued to worship at Bethany Manor after her mother’s death. She began attending First Baptist when we returned to in-person worship, first visiting here at the suggestion of a friend. If you have not already met Sadie, please introduce yourself! She is a delightful person and we are so glad to welcome her as a new member.





**November 6:**

*Worship Leader:* Larry Schrag  
*Ushers:* Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

**November 13:**

*Worship Leader:* Susan Russell  
*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

**November 20:**

*Worship Leader:* Joyce Davidson  
*Ushers:* Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

**November 27:**

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



Morgan Ambourn	2
Lyndsay Whitaker	4
Abby Johnson	8
Lucy Johnson	8
Harris Seidel	12
Marilyn Peterson	13
Jill Grauman	13
Brian Starrett	24
Buckley Peterson	27



Catherine and Joe Parrish 20



**Hanging of the Greens**

November 27 is the First Sunday of Advent. We will celebrate the beginning of Advent with the Hanging of the Greens. Following worship we will decorate the church for the season, hanging greenery and other decorations. There will be a simple lunch following. Everyone is welcome!

**\*\*\*Coming Events\*\*\***

- Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent, Hanging of the Greens
- Dec. 4 Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering
- Dec. 10 Christmas Dinner and Program, 6 pm
- Dec. 11 Christmas Offering  
Budget/Election Business Meeting, 12 noon  
Northcrest Vespers, 3 pm
- Dec. 18 Christmas Cantata  
Christmas baskets distributed
- Dec. 24 Social Hour 5 pm  
Christmas Eve service 6 pm
- Dec. 25 Informal Christmas Worship in lounge, 9:45 am



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8a Men's Breakfast 1p PD Boxing	2 2p PD Singing	3 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	4	5
6 9a Choir 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School	7 	8 1p PD Boxing 7p Trustees Meeting	9 2p PD Singing	10 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	11 Veterans Day 	12 10a Choir Retreat 
13 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	14	15 8a Men's Breakfast 1p PD Boxing	16 2p PD Singing	17 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 	18	19
20 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Hanging of the Greens Lunch afterwards	28	29 1p PD Boxing	30 2p PD Singing			



## CROP Walk 2022

The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Ames CROP Walk was held on Sunday, October 9. FBC had 5 walkers: Stephanie Goodman, Steve Babcock, Julie Johnston, Willie B. (Julie and Steve's dog), and Dave Russell. Our FBC team raised \$820 to fight hunger through Church World Service. 25% will go to local organizations that fight hunger and the rest will go to CWS for their work nationally and internationally. Thank you to our FBC team and to all who gave generously!



A much-needed painting project was completed in October. A total of 77 exterior window frames and sills all around the church were scraped, in some cases repaired, and painted.





# IT'S A GIRL!

Congratulations to Noel and Michele Hassler on the birth of Elizabeth Michele Hassler, who was born on October 25. She weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 19" long. John and Mary Anderson are proud grandparents. Mother and baby are doing well and big brother John is excited about his sister!

## Financial Report through 9/30

Income	\$171,232
Income from Pledges	\$135,401
Expected from Pledges 9 months	\$149,562
Total Mission Offerings	\$3741
All other income (rent, parking lot income, non-pledged gifts, memorial gifts, other)	\$32,090
Expenses	\$183,780
Expenses for budgeted items	\$175,754
Budget for 9 months	\$200,385
Non-budgeted missions	\$3741
Other non-budgeted expenses (from reserve and memorial funds)	\$4285

Thank you for your continuing generous support of our church! If you are unable to give in person, you may mail checks to the church at 200 Lynn Avenue, Ames IA 50014 or give via our website.

## Mid-ABC Regional Gathering

The Mid-ABC regional gathering was held September 30-October 1 in Pella, and First Baptist was well represented! Nine members of our church attended the gathering. Mindy Phomvisay provided special music during the communion service on Friday evening. President Susan Russell presided at the business meeting on Saturday morning and Dave Russell led a workshop on online ministry. Lorrie Whitaker was elected as president-elect of the region. Way to represent, FBC!







**First Baptist Church**

**AMES**

**200 Lynn Avenue**

**Ames, Iowa 50014-7188**

**Our Church Staff:**

Rev. Dr. David Russell	Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
Elizabeth Stegemöller	Choir Accompanist
Charyl Winterink	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



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

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