



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

October 2022  
Volume 68, No. 9

## 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.*



***Our new road sign was installed recently!***

## Pastor's Word

John 3:16 is probably the best known Bible verse. "For God so loved the world..." Sometimes we can read this verse and think about God's amazing love for us and kind of overlook the part about the world. It is good to be reminded of God's love for all the earth and our interconnectedness with all people. We will have plenty of reminders of that during the month of October.

This Friday and Saturday, several folks from our church will be in Pella for our Mid-American Baptist Churches regional gathering. Rev. Sharon Koh, Executive Director of American Baptist International Ministries, will be our speaker on Friday night. I am looking forward to hearing about ABC mission work around the world and especially how we have been able to minister in such a challenging time of pandemic, war, and natural disasters.

This Sunday, October 2, is World Communion Sunday. We will gather at the table with Christians from around the world, and our music will reflect this global theme. We are delighted that Rev. Toya Richards will be with us. Toya has been endorsed to serve as an American Baptist Global Servant in South Africa, where she will teach at the Cape Town Baptist Seminary. (She will also be at our gathering in Pella).

We will be receiving the World Mission Offering throughout the month of October. The WMO supports our 120+ Global Servants (such as Toya), our work with 250+ global partners, and hundreds of mission volunteers.

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And then on October 9, we will participate in the CROP Walk. This is a walk to raise money and awareness to fight hunger both locally and globally. FBC has participated in this walk for many years. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised go to alleviate hunger in Story County and the rest supports the work of Church World Service (of which the ABC is a member) worldwide.

In 2019, FBC sent a mission team to Puerto Rico, working in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. We worked at Iglesia Bautista De Jerusalem in Luquillo, making roof repairs and painting the building. This church had been without power for 6 months prior to our arrival. I'm sure you have seen the images this past week from Puerto Rico, with widespread flooding, half of the island still without power, and many without water. It is hard to see those who have already suffered so much go through this again. If you would like to contribute toward recovery in Puerto Rico, you can make a gift to our church with memo "OGHS-Puerto Rico."

Finally, Linda and Bruce Hanson are back in Ames after serving as mission volunteers in Honduras. They are bringing together Ames churches to support a ministry with children in the town where they worked, Rio Chiquito. This is a place of both great beauty and great need, and our deacons are proposing that we support this project. They will be with us on October 9 and share about their vision during the fellowship time following worship.

Along with these programmatic events that focus on our world, it has been nice to have new international students in worship with us this fall. We are all called to be a part of God's mission of loving the world – beginning with our own little corner of the world right here. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday – in person or on Zoom!

*Blessings,  
Dave*

**CROP Hunger Walk**  
**Sunday, October 9**  
**Registration 1:00 pm—Walk 1:30 pm**  
**Brookside Park**

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

*Ames*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

OCTOBER 9, 2022

AMES, IOWA

The CROP Walk for Hunger raises money and awareness to fight hunger. It's not too late to join our FBC Team! Walkers to this point include Dawn Doerr-Johnson, Barbara Woods, Stephanie Goodman, Randall and Kay O'Brien, and Dave Russell. If you would like to be a walker, see Dawn Doerr-Johnson for a sponsor form or sign up online at [tinyurl.com/fbc-crop](http://tinyurl.com/fbc-crop). You can also sponsor walkers or sponsor our FBC team online. For those who are out of town, you are welcome to join our team! You can sign up online and walk wherever you are!



# BETTER TOGETHER

Building up the Body of Christ

## **Mid-American Baptist Churches Regional Gathering** **September 30-October 1** **First Baptist Church, Pella**

Be in prayer for our region, which includes 120 churches in Minnesota and Iowa, as we meet this weekend in Pella. Susan Russell is our region president. Mindy Phomvisay will bring special music at the gathering. Dave Russell will lead a workshop and Lorrie Whitaker is nominated to be President-Elect.



### **Guest Preacher October 2** **Rev. Toya Richards**

Rev. Toya Richards will be our pulpit guest on October 2. Rev. Richards has been approved as an ABC Global Servant and will serve in Cape Town, South Africa as a professor at the Cape Town Baptist Seminary (CTBS), a ministry of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa, one of our ABC partners. Before going into ministry, Toya worked for 30 years in journalism and communications. Drawing on that extensive experience, she will teach advanced English language skills and research methodology, and she will also be involved in community justice initiatives through the CTBS Center for Biblical Justice.

Toya is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She most recently served as a pastor in Minneapolis. We are delighted to have her with us on World Communion Sunday!

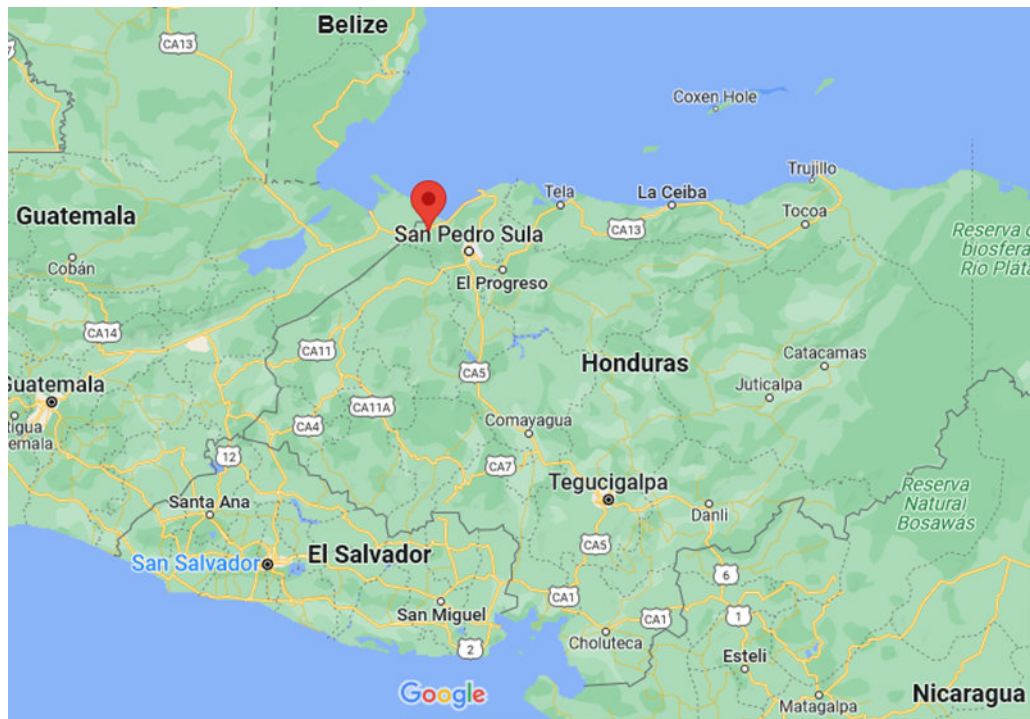
## Project Healthy Children

Bruce and Linda Hanson recently spent a year as mission volunteers in Rio Chiquito, Honduras. This struggling community was hard-hit in November 2020 by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. In addition, the effects of COVID on the economy have been devastating.

Children in the community face challenges including:

- Extreme poverty is the norm. Hunger impacts many children's growth and ability to thrive in school.
- Many single-parent homes, primarily led by women, lead to children being left alone or in the care of older children, or on the street.
- High levels of teen pregnancy, many at 13 or 14 years of age, lead to girls dropping out of school to raise families on very small incomes.
- Violence against women is common.

Linda and Bruce are bringing together Ames churches to sponsor a ministry to these children through the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Rio Chiquito, with a local paid director and volunteers and an opportunity for members of the supporting churches in Ames to visit the community. The program will offer children a devotional, a noon meal, homework help, mentorship, basic first aid/medical care, and weekly health chats. The Hansons will be with us on Sunday, October 9 to share about this opportunity and answer questions during the Fellowship Time following worship.





**Through International Ministries' World Mission Offering, thousands across the country celebrate and support ministries that God is using to transform the world.**

For more than two hundred years, International Ministries has combined resilience, adaptability, and creative approaches to faithful cross-cultural ministry. We serve together with and learn from our many local partners in ministry around the globe.

Our gifts support the ministry of [Ketly and Vital Pierre](#) in the Dominican Republic, as they provide education, Bible studies, language classes, a micro-loan program, legal counseling, and more for Haitian immigrants facing inequity and maltreatment in the Dominican Republic.

We support our Global Servants [Alise and Mark Juanes](#) who offer practical care and love for the hill tribe children in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

We have a part in Global Servant [Ricardo Mayol-Bracero](#)'s ministry, as he serves and stands alongside communities in Latin America trying to access clean water and air.

We help support the work of Global Servants [Katherine and Wayne Niles](#) serving in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Recently, when a broken water pump at a mission hospital meant that the only available water had to be carried uphill from a spring two miles away, he designed a solar water pump. People came from all around to receive water during the dry season.

And we support the work of [Toya Richards](#), who will speak at our church on October 2 and will be going as a Global Servant to South Africa.

**Together we share in a ministry with 120+ global servants, hundreds of volunteers, home staff, and 250+ international partners in 70 countries.** We work cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.

We will receive the World Mission Offering through the month of October. We invite you to give generously. Offering envelopes are available in the pews. You may also send your check or give via our website with the memo "WMO." Thank you for your support of our shared mission to God's children around the world.



# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Mid-American Baptist Churches Biennial Gathering 2022, Pella
2 9a Choir 9:45a Worship/ Communion Toya Richards 11a Church School	3 	4 8a Men's Breakfast 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United	5 2p PD Singing 4:30p Stewardship Committee (Zoom)	6 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Worship Committee (Zoom)	7	8
9 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 1:30p CROP Walk	10	11 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United 7p Trustees	12 2p PD Singing	13 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	14	15 Fall Choir Retreat  10a—1p
16 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 2:30p Executive Council (Zoom)	17	18 8a Men's Breakfast 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United	19 2p PD Singing	20 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	21 	22
23 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 12p Budget Forum	24	25 2p PD Boxing 5-8p Women United	26 2p PD Singing	27 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7:00p Deacons	28	29
30 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 11a Fall Festival	31 					



**October 2:**

*Worship Leader:* Dave Russell (guest preacher)  
*Ushers:* Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

**October 9:**

*Worship Leader:* Kay O'Brien  
*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

**October 16:**

*Worship Leader:* John Whitaker  
*Ushers:* Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

**October 23:**

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

**October 30:**

*Worship Leader:* John Anderson  
*Ushers:* Jan Thompson, Barbara Woods



Jeanne Williams	2
Kenneth Johnson	4
Marian Thompson	9
Fred Borgen	10
Joe Parrish	12
Dorothy Ewing	16
Martha Gleason	26
Greg Goodman	28
Lucas Anderson	29
Kyleigh Murphy	29
John Whitaker	29
Dale Grauman	30
Larry Schrag	30



Lyndsay and Gabe Whitaker	8
Michelle and Ralph George	11
Michele and Noel Hassler	21

**BUDGET**



**Budget Forum Set for October 23**

Our annual Budget Forum will be Sunday, October 23 at 12 noon. This will be held in the lounge and those at home will be able to join via Zoom. The proposed budget for 2022 will be presented, with opportunity for questions and discussion. We will vote on a goal budget for the coming year. Following our pledge campaign, the final budget will be adopted at our business meeting in December.

**CHOIR RETREAT  
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15  
 10 AM – 1 PM**

With our new schedule of choir rehearsals on Sunday mornings, we don't have a great deal of time to learn new music. We plan to have periodic choir retreats both to have time to learn new pieces and for fun and fellowship. We invite you to join us on Saturday, October 15. If you have been thinking about joining the choir, this would be a great time! If you have questions, please see our Director of Music, Mindy Phomvisay.





**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



**FALL FESTIVAL**

**Sunday, October 30 (Following Worship)**  
**Sponsored by Christian Education Committee**

- Chili
- Cake Decorating
- Pumpkin Decorating

**FUN FOR ALL AGES!!**

*be watching for more details!*



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

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