



October 2016

Volume 62, No. 9

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.

Pastor's Word

October looks to be a full and exciting month at First Baptist, with all kinds of activity. We will celebrate World Communion Sunday and receive the World Mission Offering to support American Baptist mission work around the world. We will participate in the CROP Walk to fight hunger and have a Great Day of Service, as we worship through serving others in the community and beyond. Our children will go on an outing to the orchard and our college students will go to Joe and Cathy Parrish's for a bonfire. We will have our Budget Forum and begin to think about the ways that we support God's work through this congregation. We will welcome Dr. Jeff Woods, Associate General Secretary for ABC/USA as he preaches in our worship service. We will have photography sessions for our new pictorial church directory. And lest I forget, we have a work day coming up this Saturday!

There are some big events in that list, and I encourage you to read about them in this edition of the *Spire* and participate as you are able, but I really want to talk about something else – yet another event, but really more than that. Our church will host the Biennial Gathering of the Mid-American Churches on October 7-8. Our region includes around 130 churches in Iowa and Minnesota, and folks from all around will be coming to Ames that weekend.

Denominations have a changing role in the American religious scene. There are increasing numbers of unaffiliated, non-denominational churches, and the vast majority of new churches, even if they are affiliated with a denomination, don't include the denomination in the name of the church. Partly because of financial realities, denominations provide fewer services and resources than they once did. Believe it or not, this is not entirely a bad thing. I don't think of our denomination primarily as a service provider or a resource for materials, literature, and so forth. The fact is, congregations are very different, and one-size-all solutions are generally not very helpful, if they ever were.

Within our denomination, there is wonderful diversity. We are one of the few non-majority groups around - no racial or ethnic group makes up a majority of members of ABC/USA. Recently, the US has welcomed immigrants fleeing persecution in Myanmar, many of them Baptists. We have new Chin and Karen congregations in our region (ethnic groups from Myanmar), and I know that a number of Karen will be here for our regional gathering. We have churches in the open country, in small towns, in suburbs, and in large cities. We run a broad range theologically, from quite conservative to quite liberal. Styles of worship and music can vary greatly. There is no question that diversity can present a challenge, and denominational life is not always smooth sailing. But our diversity can also be a great strength.

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Rather than simply a resource center or a headquarters that tells us “how to do it,” I see a denomination as a family. Different as we may be, we are connected with others through ties of faith and history and shared values and commitments. And while we do come together to share resources and the “nuts and bolts” of doing church, the bigger reason that we join together is to share with and support each other in our common ministry.

We could not support our camps, or the groundbreaking peace work of Dan Buttry around the world, or the wonderful medical ministry of David and Laura Parajon in Nicaragua, or theological education at places like Central Seminary, by ourselves. I have received a great deal of support as a pastor through American Baptist colleagues. I am proud of the work of groups like the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, advocating for religious freedom and separation of church and state in our nation’s capital. I am proud of the legacy of American Baptist forbears like Ann and Adoniram Judson, Walter Rauschenbusch, Helen Barrett Montgomery, Harry Emerson Fosdick, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

So when I come to events like a regional gathering, I may be coming to gain inspiration and helpful ideas, but more than that, I am coming to a family gathering. While it is taking some work on our part, it is a great opportunity for us to host the regional gathering. I hope that you will attend!

Blessings,
Dave

Work Day October 1



Work Day

morning, we invite you to join us as we paint-gate, clean-gate, weed-gate, and patch-gate before the game!

We will have a work day on Saturday, October 1 from 9-11 am. We will have a variety of tasks in preparation for the regional gathering to be held the next weekend. Instead of tailgating that

Dr. Jeff Woods at First Baptist on October 9

We are delighted to have Dr. C. Jeff Woods with us on October 9. He will preach in our morning worship service at 9:45 and lead a forum during our Church School hour that follows. Dr. Woods serves as Associate General Secretary for ABC-USA.

Jeff has served as an internal and external consultant for the past thirty years working primarily with nonprofit, religious, and educational institutions. He earned his B.S. from Purdue University in Management and Statistics, a Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Seminary, and a Ph.D. from Indiana University majoring in both higher education administration and educational inquiry methodology.



As a speaker, consultant, and resource person, he has worked with groups in nearly every state and province in North America as well as internationally. He has received research grants and worked on a variety of study groups and think tanks, including his recent service on the Pulpit and Pew Project, a ten million dollar Lilly Endowment sponsored research project.

As an author, he has published seven books and over thirty articles in both popular and refereed journals. Jeff has lectured and taught a wide range of courses at universities and seminaries both nationally and internationally, and is currently on the Doctor of Ministry faculty at Central Seminary in Kansas City.

Prior to his current role with our denomination, Jeff served as a pastor of churches in Indiana and as Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Ohio. He is a thoughtful and engaging speaker, and we are looking forward to his visit. Jeff’s sermon for that morning will be “The Spark of Innovation.” Plan to be with us on October 9!

Worship Leaders

October 2

Worship Leader: Lorrie Whitaker
Ushers: Bob Parrish*, Kent Johnson
 Jan Thompson, Wallace Sanders

October 9

Worship Leader: Jill Grauman
Ushers: Michael Thompson*, Dale Grauman,
 Jill Grauman, Nancy Maydew, Kaylenn Taggart

October 16

Worship Leader: Wayne Shireman
Ushers: Dianne Borgen, Jerilyn Logue
 Tom Logue, Jon Pritchard

October 23

Worship Leader: Great Day of Service
Ushers: Scott Anderson*, Julie Johnston
 Jere Maddux, Tiffany Nugent

October 30

Worship Leader: Catherine Parrish
Ushers: Jeanine Cole*, Lee Davidson
 Mark Reuber, Barbara Woods

Flowers for October: Dianne Borgen



| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Jeanne Williams | 2 |
| Douglas Thomas | 3 |
| Marian Thompson | 9 |
| Fred Borgen | 10 |
| Elinor Fehr | 11 |
| Joe Parrish | 12 |
| Dorothy Ewing | 16 |
| Tiffany Harris | 22 |
| Martha Gleason | 26 |
| Lucas Anderson | 29 |
| Kyleigh Murphy | 29 |
| John Whitaker | 29 |



College Student News



College students and young adults meet each Sunday following worship for conversation, fellowship, Bible Study, and coffee/refreshments. We meet in the College Lounge on the second

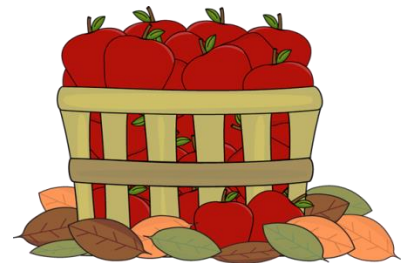
floor. On Sunday October 30, we will have a lunch for students following worship.

We will have a bonfire for students on Sunday, October 16. We will meet at the church at 5:30 and carpool/caravan to Joe and Cathy Parrish's house. Bring a friend and get ready to roast hot dogs and make s'mores!

Lyndsay and Gabe Whitaker October 8

Apple Orchard Outing for Children

Following worship on October 9, there will be a children's outing to Center Grove Orchard in Cambridge. If you would like to join us, please see Rita Parrish or Elizabeth Stegemöller.



GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

We will have our fourth annual “Great Day of Service” on Sunday, October 23. On that day we will worship God primarily through the service we offer to others. How will this work?

We will meet at our regular time of 9:45 and have a seven minute worship service. Yes, a SEVEN MINUTE worship service! (So you’ll want to be on time that day.) Then we will spend the morning in service projects, with options for all ages and abilities. As of now projects include assembling Church World Service hygiene kits for refugees; making no-sew fleece baby blankets for Primary Health Care Clinic; supplying labor for projects at a local agency; writing cards and letters; and for children; visiting and singing for residents at Northcrest Healthcare Center. We will all meet back at the church at noon to report in and share a meal.

The motivation behind this day is 1) to put our faith into action, 2) enjoy fellowship as we serve together, and 3) to help us understand that worship and service are linked together, two sides of the same coin.

On October 9 and 16, there will be sign-up sheets for the different projects to help us have an idea of how many may participate in the various options. Anyone can participate, whether they have signed up in advance or not. If you have a friend who is interested in making a difference and putting their faith into action, this would be a good day to invite them to church. Put this day on your calendar and plan now to join us for a special day at First Baptist!

The 2016 Ames Area CROP Walk will be held on **Sunday, October 9**, starting at the Maple Shelter in Brookside Park, 1325 Sixth St, Ames. Sign-in will begin at 1:00 p.m. with the walk starting at 1:30 p.m. The approximately 5 km walk will go through the ISU campus, north on Stange Rd. to 13th St., and back through Brookside Park, returning to the Maple Shelter. Funds raised through the CROP Walk help to fund food programs sponsored by Church World Service as well as seven local food programs:

- Bethesda Food Pantry
- Calvary Food Pantry
- Food-At-First
- Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance
- Loaves and Fishes (Story City and Gilbert)
- Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) Food Pantry
- Students Helping Our Peers – (The S.H.O.P. Food Pantry) at ISU

Please see Beth Douglass, our church’s CROP Walk Recruiter, for a sponsor sheet.





A great and surprising spiritual awakening is happening in Baptist churches in Cuba right now!

Since 1990, the number of churches in Cuba has grown by 450%. The number of baptisms has risen by over 500%. And the number of prayer groups and total church memberships have climbed in equally high numbers.

After decades of harsh restrictions, “the church of God has risen from the ashes,” says a retired Cuban church leader who witnessed the remarkable change firsthand. “In God’s time, the hearts of so many people have been opened up to the goodness of the gospel.”

The good news is that our church’s support of the World Mission Offering (WMO) is helping to fuel the growth of the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention through financial and global worker support and through International Ministries (IM)-sponsored pastor conferences.

The better news is that there is a lot that we can learn from Cuba’s spiritual revival.

For example:

Youth ministry is thriving through camping and sports ministries, concerts and youth rallies in the streets of Cuba’s cities and towns.

Spirit-filled outreach is yielding abundant fruit through evangelistic campaigns, undergirded with fervent prayer and fasting.

Discipleship is spreading through numerous house churches and cell groups of prayer.

A new generation of leaders is growing through faithful teaching at seminaries and lay training centers.

Responding to God’s Call Worldwide

And perhaps the best news of all is that Cuba’s spiritual awakening is but one of many thriving ministries run by IM partners and more than 1,800 long-

and short-term global workers in more than 70 countries around the world.

IM’s vision is “on earth as in heaven,” which reminds us of God’s invitation to participate in his work in the world.

And that’s just what IM is doing—through your support of the WMO—by *praying, equipping, serving, proclaiming, teaching, inviting, healing and encouraging* in the name of Jesus.

Your gifts to the WMO help to raise up, place and send new global servants and volunteers to reach and touch lives for Jesus around the world. They also help to fill gaps for those workers who haven’t yet reached their support goals, enabling crucial ministries to continue.

Your gifts help support IM’s more than 240 global partners who are actively sharing God’s message of hope, love and healing with a lost and hurting world.

Your gifts help recruit and train new global workers, open up new global mission fields, respond to global disasters with relief and development funds through One Great Hour of Sharing and much more.

Through the month of October we will receive our World Mission Offering. Please give generously.

2016 Budget Process

Our Budget Forum will be on Sunday, October 16 at 12 noon. This is the first step towards adoption of our 2017 Budget. We will discuss and approve a Goal Budget and then following our Stewardship Campaign, we will adopt a 2017 budget at our Business Meeting in December.

October

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 9:00a Church Work Day |
| 2 9:45a Worship/Communion 11a Church School | 3 | 4 8:00a Men's Breakfast, Perkins | 5 6:30p Choir | 6 | 7 6:00p Registration Opens for Biennial Gathering 7:00p Opening Worship 7:30p Workshop | 8 8:30a Registration Opens 9-12p Workshops and Business Session 12p Fellowship Luncheon |
| 9 9:45a Worship-Jeff Woods, Preaching 11a Fellowship Time Children's Apple Orchard Trip 11:15a Church School 1:30p CROP Walk | 10 | 11 7p Trustees | 12 11:30a Women's Lunch, Mandarin 6:00p Executive Council 6:30p Choir | 13 | 14 | 15  |
| 16 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 12p Budget Forum 2:00p Prayer Shawl Circle 6:00p Student Gathering/Bonfire | 17 | 18 8:00a Men's Breakfast, Perkins | 19 6:30p Choir | 20 | 21  | 22 |
| 23 9:45a Worship/Great Day of Service Lunch Following | 24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">Church Directory Pictures 9-2</div> | 25 6:00p Christian Education | 26 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins 6:30p Choir | 27 6:30p Deacons | 28 | 29  |
| 30 9:45a Worship 11:00a Church School 11:00a Student Lunch | 31 | | | | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;">Looking ahead to November: Thanksgiving 24 Hanging of the Greens 27</div> | |



UPDATE



● Photography for
● our new church
● directory will be
● October 24-25.
● You may sign up
● for a
● photography

time online, before and after worship on Sunday mornings (sign-up table in the narthex), or by calling or stopping by the church office. To sign up online, go to our church website at fbcames.org and follow the link.

Meanwhile, there are addendum sheets with new members and friends and updated contact information to add to your January 2015 directory. These are available in the Main Office on the table.

**Mid-American Baptist Churches Biennial
Regional Gathering
October 7-8, First Baptist Church of Ames**

We will be hosting this year's regional gathering for American Baptists from around Iowa and Minnesota. The gathering begins on Friday evening at 7 pm and ends with lunch on Saturday. The weekend includes times of worship (including our choir on Friday evening) and practical workshops on a wide variety of topics.

More information and registration forms are available on the bulletin board, or follow the link on our website to register online. Let's have a good representation from FBC as we host friends from our region!

First Baptist Church
200 Lynn Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

Our Church Staff:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Rev. Dr. David Russell | Pastor |
| Rev. Susan Russell | Associate Pastor |
| Mindy Phomvisay | Director of Music |
| Patricia Izbicki | Accompanist |
| Bev Shirbroun | Office Manager |
| Aaron Stegemöller | Custodian |
| Karina Anderson | Child Care |
| Mareika Thompson | Child Care |