



The Spire *First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa*

*August 2024
Volume 70, No. 8*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

200 Lynn Avenue
Ames, Iowa 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.

Outdoor Worship

*Join us for worship in the front yard!
Please bring a lawn chair if you can – we will have folding chairs available*

August 4

shared service with Ames UCC and
First Christian Church

Note: Service time 10 am

September 8

Worship under the Trees
Meal with Hickory Park BBQ to follow!



Pastor's Word: Green Lake Reflections

Last week I was one of ten FBC folks who went to Green Lake, Wisconsin for the music conference sponsored by the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians. At this gathering, I always feel like a little bit like a pastor infiltrating a group of church musicians. But it is a great group and I have always enjoyed singing in the conference choir and taking in some of the workshops on worship. It is also a time to reconnect with old friends and enjoy all that Green Lake has to offer.

This year, for the first time, I got my courage up and brought my saxophone. I signed up to play in the conference orchestra.

I played alto sax in grade school. I could not fit band into my schedule in high school but did play in the jazz band my senior year. I sold my saxophone while in seminary – I wasn't playing it and I could use the money. Years later, after we started our music camp, I decided to get a saxophone and bought one off eBay. I recently looked up the serial number on it and it was manufactured in 1974 – it's 50 years old!

For a good number of years now, we have had a Yuletide Orchestra that plays carols in worship during advent, and we may play a couple more times during the year. But that is about it, and we are playing very simple hymn arrangements. I knew that the orchestra at Green Lake would be a lot more challenging.

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I practiced a few times before we left for Green Lake to try to get my mouth in shape. I wasn't sure I could play through an hour rehearsal. As it turned out, the problem was not my mouth.

We played the first piece and I got lost. Several times. In the choir, you can look for the words to find your place. In an orchestra, you don't get words or other parts to look at. I thought about quitting. But I did better on the next piece and decided to stick with it.

I improved on the second day, going from terrible to bad. My goal was to become mediocre by the end of the week. And I was well on my way. The orchestra presented a concert on the last day. I was doing well – hardly getting lost at all and mostly hitting the right notes, though I did miss a D sharp or two. I was feeling pretty good about it.

Then we came to the last piece. It was the toughest piece, and it was four pages. The four sheets did not fit on the stand, so I would have to do some page management. I got through the first page and was proud of myself – I was acing it. But suddenly, everything changed. I was lost, and I could not figure out where we were.

Finally I discovered the problem. With all of the page logistics, somehow page 2 was hiding behind page 3. I had gone from page 1 to 3. I eventually figured it out and apparently nobody noticed. All in all, for my first orchestra concert since 1975 at Oak Hill School, it wasn't too bad.



I appreciated the support of others through the week. Two French horns sat behind me - a seventh grader and an adult beginner. We were pretty well in the same boat. And the conductor was so encouraging. I wound up feeling like I had taken on a challenge and while I was far (far, far) from perfect, I had persevered, learned, and made my contribution.

Which, come to think of it, is a lot like church. Maybe you sing in the choir or play an instrument. Maybe you serve on a committee or teach a class or work with children. Maybe you serve as a worship leader or help provide meals or maintain the facilities. Or maybe you are involved in the community in various ways, coaching sports or leading Scouts or serving on boards or volunteering your time, or helping out your neighbors. The goal is not perfection. We are simply asked to share what we have, give it our best, and support one another as we do so, working for the good of all.

The benediction after every morning worship service, offered by Rev. Sara Clarke Turpin, was this:

May you sing!

May you have the wisdom to sing the song God has written for you.

May you have the courage to sing even if your voice cracks and you're a little out of tune today.

May you have the faith to sing Christ's new song in this world.

May you sing praises to God! Because believe me when I say: God is singing for you!

Blessings,
Dave



Green Lake Music Conference



August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	2	3 	
4 9:20 choir 10:00 Outdoor Worship/Communion With FCC and UCC	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast	7 2-3 PD Singing	8 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	9	10 6:30p PD Singing Festival	
11 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	12 	13 7p Trustees	14	15 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	16 	17	
18 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	19	20 8a Men's Breakfast	21	22 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	23	24	
25 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship	26 	First Week of ISU Classes			29 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	30	31 



Serving this month

August 4:

Worship Leader: FCC-UCC shared service

Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

August 11:

Worship Leader: Jim and Ann Hinds

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

August 18:

Worship Leader: Susan Russell

Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

August 25:

Worship Leader: Dawn Doerr-Johnson

Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Larry Schrag



Lorrie Whitaker	7
Scott Anderson	13
Gary Maydew	13
Maurine MacBride	13
Don Pady	17
Johnie Hammond	22
Gabe Whitaker	22
Bob Parrish	24
Carol Pady	28
Randall O'Brien	29

HAPPY Anniversary!

Marilyn and Buckley Peterson	August 1
Phyllis and Larry Schrag	August 9

Senior Variety Show

“FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE... OH, THE PLACES WE WILL SEE”

Come and see our own Don and Carol Pady, along with Phyllis and Larry Schrag in this production.

Friday August 23, 7:30 pm and Saturday August 24, 2:00 pm—Ames City Auditorium

Tickets are available for purchase from Burgies Coffee North, Worldly Goods, RSVP/ Senior Center in Story City, and Sweet Dreams Mattress Center in Nevada. You can also purchase tickets for **\$10-\$12** at the door. Proceeds benefit senior projects in Story County.





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
Sierra Livengood	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian

**Parkinson's Disease Singing Festival
August 10**

The Parkinson's Disease Singing Festival will be held on Saturday, August 10th, at 6:30pm at First Baptist! All are welcome! We are excited to share our favorite music that we sing each week. Composer and pianist Joel Raney will again be our special guest. It is a concert you do not want to miss!

MUSIC ALERT!!

For our outdoor service with First Christian and Ames UCC on **August 4**, we will have a **choir**. We will practice in the sanctuary at **9:20 a.m.** and sing during the service. Everyone is welcome to join in, whether you are a regular choir member or not! Join us at 9:20 and help us make a joyful noise!

Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcames.org