



July-August, 2018
Volume 64, No. 7

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
200 Lynn Ave.
Ames, IA 50014-7188
Worship Sundays 9:45 am

PHONE:
515-292-9612
E-MAIL
office@fbcomes.org
WEB:
www.fbcomes.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.

The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa
Celebrating 150 Years!

150th Anniversary Recap

What a wonderful celebration! Our 150th Anniversary Weekend was truly one for the ages. It was so good to see friends from different eras of the church and from all around the country, all together in one place. As Jim Boardman mentioned, it was powerful to watch the video presentation and see the succession of pastors from 1870 to the present time and know that I am part of this continuing stream of ministry. I had the same feeling when our children were joined at children's time by everyone who had grown up in the church and had ever come down front for children's time. It was wonderful to renew friendships, to hear the experiences of former members, and to have former ministers take part in leading our worship. It was special, too, to have our good friends and denominational leaders Soozi Ford and Gary Grogan share with us in the weekend.

And the music! Our church commissioned an anthem to be written for the occasion. The composer, Mark Grizzard, listened to our ideas and wrote a powerful and moving anthem that served both to commemorate our church's anniversary and to celebrate Mindy's 20 years with us as Director of Music. A 30+ voice choir, soaring flutes, Steve Linn back with us at the piano, and a beautiful anthem made it a wonderfully moving piece. I have known Mark since he was around 10 years old, and both of his parents have visited and preached here at our church. These connections made it even better.

I want to thank all who had a part in planning and working to make it a great celebration. The planning team included Barbara Woods, Elizabeth Stegemöller, Jill Grauman, Phyllis Schrag, and Mindy Phomvisay. I cannot begin to name all of those who helped with preparations, setup, food service, cleanup, and more, but thank you to all of you.

I am sure we will be basking in the glow for awhile, and smiling as we think of great memories. But as we were reminded on Sunday, we look back in order to gain perspective and find wisdom and inspiration so that we might move on into the future. We are not trying to recreate what has gone before but to build on it, and to follow God's leading as we serve in a new day. The torch has been passed to us, and just as God has blessed us over these 150 years, God continues to be with us. I'm glad to be on the journey with all of you.

Blessings,



Dr. Ronald Wells and the Move to Campustown, 1946-58

In 1946, Rev. J. Harold “Pop” Gamble left Ames for a pastorate in Binghamton, NY. The time without a pastor was an occasion to revisit the conversations between First Baptist and First Christian regarding the possibility of a merger. Such conversations had taken place between the two denominations at the national level, and there was encouragement from the Northern Baptist Convention to pursue such a possibility. While there was support for such a merger, in the end the two churches decided to continue their ministries separately. The effect of a merger on connections and support from denominational churches around the state for student ministry entered into the decision. First Baptist eventually called Dr. Ronald Wells of Bridgeport, Connecticut as pastor.

Dr. Wells, who grew up in Cleveland, had ties to the church. His grandparents lived in Ames and were members of First Baptist; his grandfather served for 24 years as a deacon. As a boy Wells would spend time in Ames during the summer and attended the church. When it came time to go to college, he enrolled at Iowa State College in Animal Husbandry. Interestingly, he did not attend First Baptist while at ISC but instead taught Sunday School at Collegiate Presbyterian, in part because it was close by and the Baptist church was downtown. Feeling a call to ministry rather than farming, he transferred after two years to Denison College, a Baptist school in Ohio. The president of Denison had been pastor of his home church, and his mother had moved there from Cleveland to work in the school cafeteria. Wells graduated from Denison and went on to Crozer Seminary (where Martin Luther King, Jr. would attend and where Wells would one day be president).

After seminary, Wells served the church in Bridgeport and while there earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Columbia University. He was highly recommended for the pastorate in Ames by Lou Feder, Director of Student Work for Northern Baptists. His skills were a good match for the church, which already had land and was planning to build a new church near the campus. Like Rev. Gamble and Rev. Davidson, Dr. Wells and his family lived in the top floor of the Roger Williams House, with the church office and student center on the first floor.

In 1949 the downtown church was sold to Fareway. The church and old parsonage were demolished to make way for a new downtown grocery. A groundbreaking service was held at the 200 Lynn Avenue location and while the church was being constructed, Sunday morning services were held at the Iowa State Memorial Union, with all other meetings and activities taking place at the Roger Williams House.



Dr. Wells speaks at church groundbreaking ceremony

Dr. Wells served as church minister and college student pastor, but he also served as fundraiser and architectural consultant, all while teaching religion and philosophy classes at Iowa State. Before the move was made to the new facility, the Roger Williams House was sold to Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, which continues to use the house today.

Fundraising for the new building was a major effort. Informational meetings and fundraising efforts were held in locations around the state. The Iowa Baptist Convention and the Northern Baptist Convention (after 1950 known as the American Baptist Convention) took part in the effort through financial support for student work. After a year of worship at the Memorial Union, the first service was held at the new church on Maundy Thursday in 1950. The Dedication Services at the new building included numerous speakers, including Mr. J.C. Penney, a leading Baptist layman.

While the new church was now built, there were insufficient funds for the parsonage, or to completely furnish the building. Church members did much of the finish work, and the Wells family lived on the second floor of the educational wing. David Wells remembers it as a fun adventure, with the down side that he had to clean his bedroom on

Saturday night so that a Sunday School class could meet there on Sunday morning.

The Wells were not the only family living in the building. In 1950 Elza and Arturs Zvirbulis, displaced by the war from their home in Latvia, became sextons of the church and continued in that role through much of the 1950's. They lived in rooms on the lower level of the church.



Elza and Arturs Zvirbulis

In an interview that was part of an oral history project in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Dr. Wells said that while work was in progress on the new building, he was asked to serve as Director of Christian Higher Education for the ABC. Lou Feder, who had recommended Dr. Wells for the position in Ames, was retiring. Wells replied that he could not leave the church in the middle of a building effort. The search was put on hold for a year until after the building was completed, and in the end Dr. Wells accepted the position. One of the last things Wells did in Ames was to officiate at the wedding of Howard Johnson and Patricia Larsen, who are yet today active members of First Baptist.



Rev. Malcolm Haughey

Fundraising continued to finish the building. In 1952, new pastor Malcolm Haughey and his family arrived and moved in to the new parsonage, attached to the building. Rev. Haughey arrived at a time when mainline Protestants were riding the wave of post-war growth and enjoying high levels of church participation. Denominational funding for student ministry made it possible to hire a second staff member to work especially with college students. Betty Willis became Director of Student Work in 1953, followed by Associate Pastor Frank Murdock in 1956. The Roger Williams Club continued to draw large numbers of students, but while the church was now convenient to campus, the loss of the Roger Williams House – their own “place” – made a difference. Another difference was the eventual loss of students who came to ISC as a result of the GI Bill.

From 1953 to 1955, with national church attendance rates at a historic high and with additional staff resources at First Baptist, Sunday School attendance doubled. A number of the church’s new members in the 1950’s were Baptists from the south who came to Ames to teach or study (there was no Southern Baptist church in town.) This cohort proved to be some of the more dedicated and progressive-minded members of the church.

In 1957, Rev. Haughey was called to serve as pastor of First Baptist Church in Berkley, California – another church in a university community. The new pastor, Stan Borden, would face a far different cultural situation as First Baptist entered the 1960’s.



Worship at Hoggatt
School
June 3





July 8

Worship Leader: Susan Russell
Ushers: Nancy Maydew, Michael Thompson
Sound System: Tom Logue

July 15

Worship Leader: Beth Douglass
Ushers: Dianne Borgen, Jerilyn Logue
 Tom Logue, Jon Pritchard
Sound System: Kent Johnson

July 22

Worship Leader Joyce Davidson
Ushers: Scott Anderson, Julie Johnston
 Jere Maddux, TJ Nugent
Sound System: Tom Logue

July 29 **Worship in the Park**

July Flowers: Phyllis Schrag

August 5

Worship Leader: John Whitaker
Ushers: Bob Parrish*, Kent Johnson
 Jan Thompson, Wallace Sanders
Sound System: Bob Parrish

August 12

Worship Leader: Catherine Parrish
Ushers: Nancy Maydew, Michael Thompson
Sound System: Tom Logue

August 19

Worship Leader Kaylinn Taggart
Ushers: Dianne Borgen, Jerilyn Logue
 Tom Logue, Jon Pritchard
Sound System: Kent Johnson

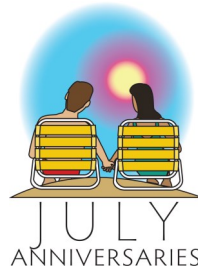
August 26

Worship Under the Trees

Ushers: Scott Anderson, Julie Johnston
 Jere Maddux, TJ Nugent
Sound System: Tom Logue

August Flowers: Nancy Maydew

Wayne Shireman	2
Nancy Maydew	3
Chris Parrish	3
Adde Stegemöller	3
Julie Johnston	5
Michael Leininger	6
Jerilyn Logue	7
Rita Parrish	7
Lee Davidson	13
Mary Anderson	15
Joyce Davidson	16
Mindy Phomvisay	19
Aiddy Phomvisay	21
Logan Hemmen	23
Randy Lambert	23
Jon Pritchard	23
Jan Thompson	23
Katy Seidel	24
David Starrett	24
Brian Parrish	29



Stephanie and Brian Starrett	4
Serena and Alex Parrish	9
Rosemary and Patrick Coffey	16
Jill and Dale Grauman	19
Lorrie and John Whitaker	23



FBC Coffee Mugs are here! For only \$5, you can make your morning cup of coffee even better! The mugs will be available during Fellowship Time.

Photo Board

A board with photos of members and friends is located just outside of the sanctuary by the library. We are updating the board with photos of new members and friends and newer photos for those

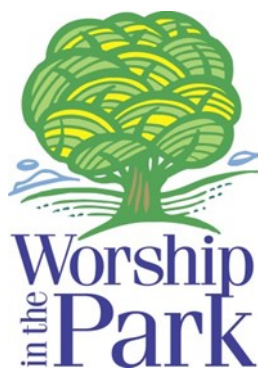


Blast Back to School Mission Project



Our church will again participate in the "Blast Back to School" event that provides school supplies for school children who need them. We will be collecting highlighters. You can purchase and bring to church a single highlighter or a package. We will have a box to leave them in located in the narthex.

Worship in the Park



We will gather again with First Christian Church and the United Church of Christ-Congregational for a shared service at Brookside Park on July 29. **Please note the starting time of 9:30 am.** There will be a fellowship time with refreshments served afterwards. You may wish to bring a chair with you (lots of seating at picnic tables will also be available.) Hickory is the west shelter. Enter the park and turn left; go past the baseball fields to the parking lot at the end of the drive. Hickory will be the nearest shelter.

Guest Preacher

Rev. Linda Hanson will be our guest preacher on Sunday, July 22. Linda is the Clinic Director at Primary Health Care in Ames. The daughter of Earl and Johnie Hammond, Linda grew up in our church. She and her husband Bruce served as missionaries in Honduras. Linda is a graduate of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (Pastor Dave is also an alum) and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. We look forward to having her with us!



Worship Under the Trees Sunday, August 26 9:45 am

Worship in the front yard with meal following

Hickory Park BBQ provided

Bring a dish to share

(students, please come as our guests!)



Lorrie Whitaker	7
Scott Anderson	13
Gary Maydew	13
Jim Sassaman	20
Johnie Hammond	22
Gabe Whitaker	22
Bob Parrish	24

Marilyn & Buckley Peterson	1
Larry & Phyllis Schrag	9
Irene & Wayne Shireman	16



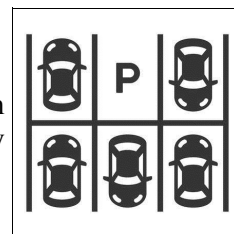
August 3rd Sunday Lunch

On August 19, instead of the usual 3rd Sunday Lunch out, everyone is invited to join us for a combination lunch and Fellowship Time in the Fellowship Hall after Worship. We will order a platter of Jimmy John's sandwiches. Chips, beverages and cookies will also be provided. A free-will offering will be taken. We won't have the regular 3rd Sunday Lunch in July.




Parking Lot/Capital Campaign Update

The new parking lot is a beautiful sight! It was nice to have the lot newly paved for our anniversary celebration. Fill in soil has been added around the lot and new parking bumpers have now been installed. The parking stripes directly behind the building were striped too close together and will be redone.



Work yet to be done includes painting and repair above the porch on the front of the building and below gutters and additional/improved landscaping this fall.

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45a 150 th Anniversary Worship Service 11a Fellowship Time 	2	3 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins 4p Music & Move- ment	4 Office Closed 	5	6	7
8 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship Time	9	10 4p Music & Move- ment	11 11:30a Women's Lunch, Mandarin 3p Parkinson's Singing Group	12	13 10:30a Music Camp Closing Program	14 
<div> <div></div> <div>Music Camp 9:00-11:30am</div> <div></div> </div>						
15 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship Time	16 	17 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins 4p Music & Move- ment	18 3p Parkinson's Singing Group	19	20	21
22 9:45a Worship with Rev. Linda Hanson 11a Fellowship Time 2p Prayer Shawl Circle	23	24 4p Music & Move- ment	25 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins 3p Parkinson's Singing Group	26 6:30p Deacons	27	28 
29 9:30a Worship in the Park at Brookside	30	31 4p Music & Move- ment 5:15p Pastoral Relations Commit- tee	<div>  <div> Monday—Closed Tuesday—9am-1pm Wednesday—9am-1pm Thursday—9am-1pm Friday—8am-Noon </div> </div>			



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> <p>Monday—Closed</p> <p>Tuesday—9am-1pm</p> <p>Wednesday—9am-1pm</p> <p>Thursday—9am-1pm</p> <p>Friday—8am-Noon</p> </div> 			1	2	3	4 
5 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship Time	6	7 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins 5p CE Committee	8 3p Parkinson's Singing Group 11:30a Women's Lunch, Mandarin	9	10	11 <i>Parkinson's Disease Singing Festival</i> 2-4:30p Rehearsal 5-6p Dinner 6:30p Public Concert
12 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship Time	13 	14 7p Trustees	15	16 6:30p Deacons	17	18
19 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship Time/3rd Sunday Lunch 2p Prayer Shawl Circle	20 ISU Classes Begin	21 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins	22 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins	23 	24	25
26 9:45a Worship Under the Trees 11a Lunch	27	28	29	30	31	

Heart and Solutions Office



Heart and Solutions, a counseling agency with several locations in Iowa, is renting an office in our building for the summer months. Dawn Doerr-

Johnson, a member of our church, is a therapist working primarily in schools in Nevada and the Ames area. The office here allows counseling to continue when school is not in session.

Parkinson's Singing Festival Saturday, August 11 Public Concert 6:30 pm First Baptist Church

A singing group for persons with Parkinson's Disease meets weekly at our church, led by Dr. Elizabeth Stegemöller. The festival brings together singers with PD from around the state. All are welcome to attend the concert.



Friends of Good Neighbor,

On behalf of the Good Neighbor Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that Lori Allen has been hired as the agency's new Director. Lori comes to us highly recommended, having most recently worked for ACCESS on ISU's campus as an Outreach and Prevention Advocate. Prior to that, she worked with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Ames as their Director of Education. She has extensive experience in the human services field, both educationally and professionally. Lori will begin her tenure as Director on June 18th and we are very excited about her future with Good Neighbor.

Mike Fritz, Former Director of GNEA



Celebrating 150 Years of Ministry





First Baptist Church

AMES

200 Lynn Avenue

Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

Our Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. David Russell	Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
Patricia Izbicki	Accompanist
Janelle Keltgen	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian

