



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa  
Celebrating 150 Years!

May, 2018  
Volume 64, No. 5

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

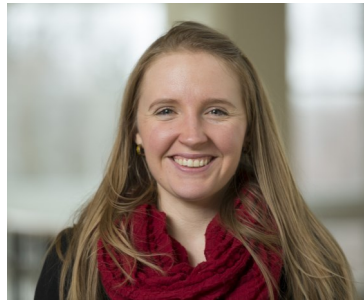
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First Baptist Church is an open and caring family of faith where worship is central and faith engages both heart and mind. We are warmly ecumenical, delight in our diversity, and cherish our Baptist heritage of freedom. We are called by Christ to share 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.

## Congratulations, Graduates!

We celebrate with our students who are graduating this spring. Our graduates were recognized in worship on April 29.



**Jill Grauman** will receive a Ph.D. from ISU in English: Rhetoric and Professional Communication. She has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of English at College of DuPage beginning in August. College of DuPage is a large community college in the western suburbs of Chicago. At ISU, Jill was Assistant Director of ISU Comm Foundation Courses (the first- and second-year writing courses that most ISU undergraduates take) and Communication Consultant at the Writing and Media Center. A

native of Sumner, Iowa, Jill serves as a deacon at First Baptist and is the lead person on our AMOS team.

**Kaylinn Taggart** will graduate from Iowa State with a Bachelors of Architecture degree. She will return to ISU in the fall to complete a B.S. in Community and Regional Planning. After graduation Kaylinn will travel to Berlin, Germany for a class and then spend the rest of the summer in an internship with Heery International in Iowa City, a firm that designs medical facilities. While at ISU she had a research assistantship working on energy efficiency and building science technologies.



Kaylinn hails from Council Bluffs. She is very involved in our college class and serves as a worship leader. She has participated in mission trips to Kansas City and Oklahoma and plays tenor sax in our instrumental ensemble/Yuletide Orchestra.



**Jared Diehl** is a native of Harrisonburg, Virginia. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Culinary Food Science, with a minor in Meat Science. At Iowa State he was involved in the Culinary Science Club and in the College of Ag and Life Sciences Student Council. He also participated in the boxing club and MMA club. He did summer internships in Colorado and Wisconsin; his favorite internship was working with Johnsonville this past summer. Jared plans to pursue a position in product development in the food industry. He has been a regular in our college class and is a past winner of our annual Cook-Off.

- More graduate information on the next page

**Andrew Whitaker** will receive a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering. After graduating, he will take a trip to England, Ireland and Scotland and then move to Kearney, Nebraska to work for Parker Hannifin in its Filter Group as a Manufacturing Engineer. His activities at Iowa State included serving as president of the ISU Student Chapter of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. Andrew is from southeast Iowa.



In addition to these students in our congregation, we celebrate with those in our wider First Baptist family: **Peter Shireman**, the grandson of Wayne and Irene Shireman, and nephew of Catherine and Joe Parrish, will graduate from Northeastern University in Boston.

Congratulations to all of our graduates, and God's blessings in the next step of your journeys!



### 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 who wish. Becca Whitaker will be taking photos.

## First Baptist Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration June 30-July 1

Saturday, June 30

**Choir Reunion:** Gathering 3:15, Reunion/Rehearsal 3:30

All current and former choir members are invited to join us for a reunion! This will be a chance to see old friends, meet new friends, and celebrate the musical tradition of our church. We will rehearse music for Sunday morning, including an anthem by Mark Grizzard commissioned for the occasion.

**Celebration Dinner/Program** - Social Time 5:00, Dinner 5:45 with program to follow

We invite everyone to join us for a Celebration Dinner in our Fellowship Hall, with a catered meal. The program will include a celebration of our history with memories of past and current members, including former ministers. Cost for the meal is \$14/person or \$35/family.

Sunday, July 1

**Worship**, 9:45 am

Our guest preacher is Rev. Soozie Ford. Formerly the Associate Executive Minister for Mid-American Baptist Churches, Soozie now serves as Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Indiana/Kentucky. Soozie has been a frequent guest here in years past and we are delighted that she will be with us for our celebration.

Plan to join us as we celebrate our anniversary! Former members and pastors will join us including Rev. Dave Nethercott and Rev. Jim Boardman. Because of the catered meal, we are asking for advance registration. You may [register online from our website](#), at the church, or contact our office.





## Rev. Robert Davidson, “Pop” Gamble, and the Roger Williams House, 1920-46

After Rev. A.W. Caul left for another pastorate in 1919, Iowa State Professor of History F.P. Fogdal served as interim pastor. It was a long interim. In the 1920 Annual Report to the Central Association, Church Clerk Mary Clyde reported, “Sixteen months we were planning, praying, and corresponding to secure Divine providence to the man God would choose to go in and out before us in pastoral leadership.” The pastor called was Robert Davidson, a native of Scotland who was the pastor at First Baptist in Marshalltown, Iowa. Davidson was a graduate of the University of Chicago Divinity School and had previously served at Rockford, Illinois, where he was instrumental in organizing the first mutual hospital insurance association in the country.



Rev. Robert Davidson, daughter Ethel, and wife Jean

While outreach to Iowa State students had always been an important component of the church’s ministry, this focus was formalized with Rev. Davidson’s pastorate as he was called both as minister of the church and as college student pastor, with some funding from the Northern Baptist Convention and the Iowa Baptist Convention. The annual report, with a hint of competition with Iowa City, noted that there were more Baptist students at ISC than any college in the state.

Rev. Davidson was a musician and served as the choir director throughout his time at the church. In 1923, when the college chapel in Morrill Hall was closed, the church purchased the pipe organ and installed it in the sanctuary. A junior choir was formed in 1929 and regularly sang in worship services.

In the 1920’s, a large number of students from the church went on to serve as missionaries. Charles and Viola “Sunshine” Smith served in the Belgian Congo. Lorraine Caul, daughter of the former pastor, was a missionary to Assam in NE India. Daisy Brown, Lydia Brown, and Fred and Daisy (Mellor) Rossiter served in China. (Lydia Brown, the daughter of Captain K.W. Brown and Margaret Mitchell Brown, died in China in 1924.) Geddes and Gladys Niles served in Alaska and Kenneth and Fannie Reeves served in Albania. John and Alice Gilson went as missionaries to India while John’s brother F.L. and wife served in Assam. This was a “Golden Age” of missions for First Baptist, and the number of students who went to serve in mission fields is remarkable. Beyond the missionaries the church sent out and its regular unified mission support, the congregation supported missions and ministries including Bishop College, an African-American college in Marshall, Texas; Murrow Indian Orphan’s Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma; the Kikongo Hospital in the Congo; and the mission at Crow Agency, Montana.

As early as 1923, the church had conversations with the state convention and the Northern Baptist Convention regarding the need for a Baptist Student Center at Iowa State College. The dreams were finally realized in 1929 with the building of the Roger Williams House at 120 Lynn Avenue, a cooperative effort of the church and denomination. The first floor served as the student center, used for Bible Studies, programs, and Sunday night meals as well as a place for students to study and meet with friends. The pastor and his family lived on the second floor (the former parsonage downtown was rented out.) Students lived in a couple of rooms in the basement in exchange for upkeep on the building, including firing the coal furnace and mowing the lawn.



Roger Williams House, 120 Lynn Avenue

Even with denominational support, the added expense came at a difficult time, with the stock market crash that year. In its annual report, the church reported paying nothing toward the principal on its mortgage in 1931, and only \$100 toward the principal in 1932. Income for local expenses from 1932-36 was around 25% less than it had been from 1927-31.

While finances were difficult, The Roger Williams House proved to be a great asset, and ministry to students thrived. Sunday School classes were held at the house on Sunday mornings, and students would then take a bus to the church downtown. In 1930-31, participation in the Roger Williams Club increased significantly over the previous year due to the house. In 1932-33, even with a significant decline in enrollment at the college because of the Great Depression, participation at the Roger Williams Club had nearly doubled from the previous year. The church also sponsored a national sorority for Baptist women, Theta Epsilon.

Rev. Davidson had served at First Baptist for 15 years, until then the longest tenure of any minister. In January of 1936, he died suddenly at the Roger Williams House. The unexpected loss brought on an outpouring of support. Local members as well as former students living around the country and abroad sent expressions of sympathy and contributions toward a memorial. A memorial outdoor fireplace was built in the yard of the Roger William House in memory of Rev. Davidson. When the new church was built on Lynn Avenue, the fireplace was dismantled and moved to the new location.

Rev. J. Harold Gamble followed Rev. Davidson, coming to Ames from Grand Forks, ND. Changes were happening in the church. The fall after his arrival, the church voted 39-5 to discontinue Sunday evening services. The church also voted to add deaconesses as a church office; Margaret Nichols was among those first deaconesses. In 1936, the deacons had conversations with the Christian Church regarding the possibility of a merger. The Northern Baptist Convention and the Disciples of Christ were having such conversations at a national level. In the summer of 1941, the two churches worshiped together, meeting at the Christian Church in July and at First Baptist in August. Conversations regarding merger were again held in 1946, when the decision was made to continue as separate congregations.



The church receives the 'A' Award from the Board of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention for excellence in teaching. Rev. Gamble is at the right.

“Pop” Gamble built on the progress of previous years, and in 1942, student membership in the Roger Williams Club reached an all-time high of 110 students while church attendance reached 200. The senior choir was made up largely of college students. The Second World War affected the church, of course, and as young men enlisted or were drafted, enrolment at the university declined again. At the Roger Williams House, male students had traditionally lived in the house and served as caretakers, but with fewer male students available, female students took on this role. Katy Seidel recalls living in the Roger Williams House, cleaning, washing dishes, and firing the furnace in exchange for room and board. She had her meals with the Gamble family.

It was during Rev. Gamble’s pastorate that dreams and finally plans for a new church building began to take hold. In 1941, the Fareway grocery store expressed interest in purchasing the church property at Fifth and Kellogg. In that same year, the church mortgage was burned. It was the first time since 1872 that the church had not been in debt. Meanwhile, the church facilities were overcrowded. All of this helped to build momentum for a new church building, and the thriving ministry with students led to purchase of land on Lynn Avenue in 1945.

In 1946, Pop Gamble accepted a pastorate in Binghamton, New York. In August of 1947, the church called as its new pastor a former Iowa State student, Dr. Ronald Wells of Bridgeport, Connecticut.

*In celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary we will be highlighting a story from FBC history each month. These stories are now available on our website at [www.fbcames.org](http://www.fbcames.org).*



**May 6**

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

**May 13**

*Worship Leader:* Aaron Stegemöller  
*Ushers:* Michael Thompson\*, Jill Grauman,  
 Nancy Maydew, Kaylenn Taggart  
*Sound System:* Tom Logue

**May 20**

*Worship Leader* Jan Thompson  
*Ushers:* Dianne Borgen, Jerilyn Logue  
 Tom Logue, Jon Pritchard  
*Sound System:* Kent Johnson

**May 27**

*Worship Leader:* Phyllis Schrag  
*Ushers:* Scott Anderson, Julie Johnston,  
 Jere Maddux, Tiffany Nugent  
*Sound System:* Tom Logue

May Flowers: Beth Douglass

**FBC Swag**



**FBC Polo Shirts** are now available! We are taking orders through May 15. Shirts may be ordered in a wide variety of colors and feature our new colorful logo. You can order online, pick up an order form and view color choices at church, or contact the church office for more information.

**FBC Coffee Mugs** are on the way! For only \$5, you can make your morning cup of coffee even better! The mugs have shipped and will first be available during Fellowship Time on May 13.



**Pastoral Relations Committee**

The Pastoral Relations Committee functions as an advisory and advocacy group for the pastor and helps facilitate communication between pastor and congregation. The committee is involved with the pastor in ongoing reflection and evaluation of the church's ministry. Members include Michael Thompson, Wallace Sanders, Elizabeth Stegemöller, and Jenna McCarley, chair.

We will celebrate the end of the Church School year and the beginning of summer with an **Ice Cream Social on May 27**, sponsored by our Christian Education Committee. Please join us following worship for a fun and tasty gathering.



- |                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Catherine Parrish | 6  |
| Antorniece Lee    | 9  |
| Roberta Ridley    | 11 |
| Maxwell Keat      | 21 |
| Amari Martin      | 23 |
| Dick Gee          | 25 |
| Michael Thompson  | 28 |
| Beth Douglass     | 29 |



- |                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Stephenie and Brian Keat        | 5  |
| Elizabeth and Aaron Stegemoller | 19 |
| Judy and Jim Demarest           | 21 |
| Martha and Tom Gleason          | 29 |
| Rita and Bob Parrish            | 29 |

**Online Payments Now Available**



Online payments and contributions may now be made from our website through PayPal. Those who register for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Celebration or for Music Camp can register online. Those who do so will receive an invoice through PayPal and can then pay online or mail their payment to the church. We are offering this option for convenience, and expect that it will be especially helpful for Music Camp registrations for folks who do not attend First Baptist.



## Hosts for Fellowship Time

March:  
Jeanine Cole and Mark Reuber

April:  
Stephanie and Greg Goodman

May:  
Beth Douglass and Jere Maddux



**Mark your calendar!**  
**Our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Music Camp**  
**is set for July 9-13**

Campers grades K-6 (completed) will enjoy a week packed with music, learning, friends, and fun!

Info and online registration available at [fbcames.org](http://fbcames.org)



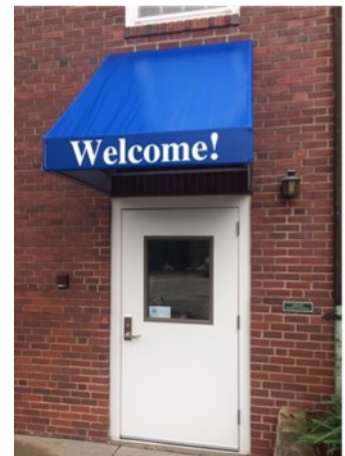
## Capital Campaign Updates

New doors have been installed on the south side of the church, and a new awning over the north door on the east side. The new lock is keyed as the old lock, but some people are finding that their key nevertheless does not work. If this is the case for you, please contact the church office.


New carpeting was installed in the lounge, library, and church office Monday-Tuesday of this week. Thanks you to everyone who helped move furniture out and then put rooms back together after the work was over. Repairs were also made to the kitchen tile. New carpet will be installed in the nursery rooms and children's classroom downstairs May 17-18.

Patches have been made to potholes in the parking lot. Later this month, Manatts will mill off the top 2" of asphalt and then resurface the entire parking lot. The restrictions and requirements of city code regarding a complete parking lot reconstruction or significant changes (such as adding curbing, etc.) made repair of potholes followed by resurfacing the best option. This will also be much less costly than the original plans. This work will take approximately four days. Because we do not know the exact dates, we do not know how this may affect church activities but we will get word out regarding parking lot work as soon as we have that information.

We have held off on landscaping plans until the parking lot plan and associated landscape requirements were clear. We have just learned today that the city will require a large number of shrubs and grasses planted close to the Lynn Avenue sidewalk; these will mostly be bunched near the entrance/exit drives and church and CCJ signs. We are considering other landscape options including possible removal of the hedge. Additionally, we will do exterior painting and repair to the window trim and area above the porch on front of the church, and are looking at fascia board painting/repair in several areas.



## Communion Offering for Farm to Clinic Program

 On May 6, we will receive a special communion offering for Primary Health Care's Farm to Clinic program. Healthcare providers give patients "produce prescriptions" throughout the week and emphasize the health benefits of eating vegetables and fruits. The produce prescriptions are redeemable on Wednesday, providing a bag of free vegetables for patients. Primary Healthcare provides services for patients who are uninsured or underinsured. Through the growing season, the clinic purchases 8-10 shares of produce from Mustard Seed Farm at \$400 each for the program, along with fresh produce from some other sources. Our offering will go toward providing healthy fresh produce for people in need.

At the conclusion of our service on May 6, a deacon will stand at each door to receive contributions to the program. We invite you to give generously.

## Heart and Solutions Counseling

The trustees voted to rent space for the summer to Heart and Solutions Counseling. The agency has several locations in Iowa. Dawn Doerr-Johnson is a therapist on their staff working primarily in Nevada, Ames, and United Community Schools with elementary students. She will be using the office across the hall from the student lounge on the second floor (the old UCCM office) during the summer months, as in-school counseling is more difficult when schools are not in session.

### Puerto Rico Sister Church Initiative

Our deacons have agreed to have our church participate in a sister church program with an American Baptist congregation in Puerto Rico. Following the devastating hurricanes in Puerto Rico last year and the ongoing crisis on the island, Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico and ABC/USA are developing a sister church initiative in which mainland churches are paired with Puerto Rican churches for prayer, encouragement, and friendship. Churches of similar size will be paired together, with up to four mainland churches connected to a Puerto Rican church. Mainland churches will provide spiritual and relational support and learn about the context and challenges that Puerto Rican sisters and brothers face. The relationship may include:

Prayer and communication with one another (through letters, photos, email, skype, etc.) at least once every three months, and visits as travel plans permit.

An openness to communicate in both Spanish and English.

Promoting exchanges of friendship and encouragement between children of the sister churches (letter exchanges, art, craft gifts).

A willingness of mainland churches to participate in the 2021 Biennial in San Juan, and for Puerto Rican churches to welcome them for Sunday morning worship during that celebration.

Sister churches are not expected to provide direct financial support. All funds for Puerto Rican relief are encouraged to flow through One Great Hour of Sharing. More details are available on the [ABC website](#).

### AMOS Economic Summit

June 2

Norwalk Christian Church



With all the sound bytes on the news lately, we've sure been hearing a lot about taxes. But how much do we really know about who benefits and who pays? It's time for a grown up conversation about taxes in Iowa.

Join AMOS leaders and institutions for an Economic Summit on Saturday June 2nd as we get beyond the sound bytes and partisan rhetoric to:

Learn about our state and local tax systems, asking "Who benefits? Who pays?"

Hear from the team of AMOS leaders who have spent three months researching taxes in Iowa

Look at specific funding strategies to address the pressures on our families and neighbors, including mental healthcare, education and workforce, and housing and neighborhood improvements

Engage candidates for public office and ask for their support of our agenda

### AMOS Economic Summit & Assembly with candidates for public office

Saturday, June 2nd

11:30am Lunch & Registration

12-4pm Summit & Assembly

Norwalk Christian Church, Norwalk, IA

See Pastor Dave for more information



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
Hanna Saville	Child Care
Emily Tonn	Child Care

### Hoggatt School Historical Service Sunday, June 3



On Sunday, June 3, our 9:45 morning worship service will be held at the Hoggatt School, on the grounds of Meeker Elementary. This is the one-room school where Squaw Creek Church, the earlier incarnation of First Baptist, met from about 1862-66. Since we can't all fit in the school, we will be outside, so bring a lawn chair! A representative of the Ames Historical Society will be on hand to answer questions about the school. Following the service, we will head to Inis Grove Park for a picnic lunch at the Shagbark Shelter off of 24<sup>th</sup> Street, north of the tennis courts. Hot dogs (veggie dogs too) and beverages will be provided; please bring a dish to share. We will have some "old-time" games and activities such as a sack race, egg toss, horseshoes, etc.



**The Spring All-Church Work Day** will be Saturday, May 12, beginning at 9 am. No particular skills needed-everybody is invited to help!. There will be juice, coffee and donuts. Please come and join us!



# MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins  4p Parkinson's Music & Movement Group  6:30p Christian Ed.	2 1p Parkinson's Data Collection	3	4	5 9a Piano Student Recital  5p Graduation Reception 
6 9:45a Worship  11:15a Church School	7	8  7p Trustees	9 11:30a Women's Lunch, Mandarin  1p Parkinson's Data Collection	10	11	12 9a Work Day 
13 9:45a Worship  11a Fellowship Time  11:15a Church School  	14	15 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins  Polo Shirt Orders Due 	16  5:15 CCJ Board	17	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Nursery Carpet Installation</div>	
20 PENTECOST  9:45a Worship  11a Church School  12p 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch (Stomping Grounds)  2p Prayer Shawl Circle	21	22	23 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins	24  6:30p Deacons	25	26  
27 9:45a Worship—CE Recognition  11a Ice Cream Social 	28	29	30	31	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Regular Office Hours</b></p> Tuesday—9am-Noon and 1-3pm Wednesday—9am-1pm Thursday—9am-Noon and 1-3pm Friday—8am-Noon	