



# *The Spire* First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

---

*January 2017*  
*Volume 63, No. 1*

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

PHONE:  
515-292-9612

E-MAIL  
[office@fbcames.org](mailto:office@fbcames.org)

WEB:  
[www.fbcames.org](http://www.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.

## **Pastor's Word**

While visiting family in Indiana after Christmas, a large group of us – about 14 or so – went out to eat at El Charro, my parents' favorite Mexican restaurant. There weren't that many people at El Charro on that cold evening, but among the other diners who happened to be there was my cousin Dennis, who I don't get a chance to see very often. For many years Dennis was a high school band director. When I was in sixth and seventh grade, I took saxophone lessons from him. I was happy to tell Dennis that 40+ years later, I still play the saxophone, and I told him about our Yuletide Orchestra. Now a Catholic deacon, Dennis told me that he had played tenor sax at one of the congregations in his 3-point parish a couple of weeks ago.

I always enjoy the Advent and Christmas season here at First Baptist, and playing the saxophone a few times is just a small part of it. This year, the music and worship and fellowship were especially meaningful. Our Music Sunday was wonderful and the Christmas Eve service was a highlight, as always, but what stood out this year was Christmas morning. We rarely have worship on Christmas morning, but this year Christmas fell on a Sunday, and there we were. With a small group, we met in the lounge, and we had a kind of impromptu Christmas pageant in which the story was read and everybody had a "part" to play. There were lots of smiles and lots of laughter, and our worship on Christmas morning helped to make for a special season.

After the holidays, it is a little bit tough to switch gears, but we are now in a new year, with hopes and dreams and goals and plans. One of my hopes for our church is that we might expand our ministry in the community and beyond. A few immediate opportunities come to mind.

First, we are partnering with First Christian, First United Methodist, and Ames UCC to hold a Mental Health Educational Forum. It will be on Saturday, January 15 from 9-12 at First Christian Church. The focus will be on recognizing signs of mental illness and responding in helpful ways. Such persons might include those who stop by the church (or your place of work) seeking assistance as well as friends, family, neighbors, people in the dorm, etc. Julie Saxton, the Mental Health Advocate with the Ames Police Department, will lead the session. This is an area of concern in our community and I am glad that we are working with other congregations to provide this training.

Another opportunity: the deacons were happy for our church to participate in the Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance. This group, composed of a number of congregations, is looking at sponsoring one or more refugee families in our community, working with city officials and others. Julie Johnston and Susan Russell are our representatives in these conversations – if you are interested or would like to get involved, please talk to one of them.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

Yet another opportunity: First Baptist is a member of AMOS, working toward a community that works for everyone and addressing issues of justice. We support AMOS financially and different members have participated in AMOS events and research teams, but right now we need a couple of people to represent us at Ames cluster meetings and serve as promoters/ cheerleaders for AMOS in our church. If you have a passion for justice in our community and would like to learn more, please talk to me or Jeanette Gee.

Finally, we are exploring the possibility of a spring break mission trip. We will have more concrete details soon, but for now, please let Barbara Woods or me know if you are interested.

I don't mean to write a column that sounds like a big want ad, but each of these ministries and opportunities is important, and we all need to be aware of ways that our church is reaching out. Together, they illustrate some of the many ways we are seeking to be the hands and feet of Christ to those in need.

Blessings,  
*Dave*

Thank you so much for the gift the church gave me upon my leaving my position as Associate Pastor. I'd also like to thank those who expressed words of kindness and support to me over the past weeks. That meant so much to me and I am very grateful.

-Susan



## Worship Leaders

### January 1:

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

### January 8:

*Worship Leader* Pat Coffey  
*Ushers:* Michael Thompson\*, Jill Grauman  
Nancy Maydew, Kaylinn Taggart  
*Sound System:* Tom Logue

### January 15:

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

### January 22:

*Worship Leader* Michael Thompson  
*Ushers:* Scott Anderson\*, Julie Johnston  
Jere Maddux, Tiffany Nugent  
*Sound System:* Tom Logue

### January 29:

*Worship Leader* Kaylinn Taggart  
*Ushers:* Jeanine Cole, Lee Davidson  
Mark Reuber, Barbara Woods  
*Sound System:* Kent Johnson



Mark your calendars and join us for our annual **Super Bowl Party** on the evening of Sunday, February 5. The festivities will start at 5:15 pm with kick-off at 5:30 pm. Feel free to bring a snack to share. If you are not a big football fan, there will also be board games!



Dacian Wilson	8
Toyin Clotley	9
Alex Parrish	19
Jere Maddux	20
Alice Clemons	22
Tiffany Nugent	24
Lumi Clotley	25
Howard Johnson	27
Stacy Starrett	29



Our love and prayers are with Joyce Davidson and all of the family of Elaine Anderson in the loss of Elaine, who died on December 5. Elaine was a member here for nearly 50 years. A memorial service was held at First Baptist on December 18.

Our love and prayers are with Margo Mallgren and family in the loss of David Mallgren. David was pastor of this church from 1978-85. He died on December 13. Condolences may be sent to Margo at 322 W. Jefferson St., Winterset, IA 50273



### Flower List Update for 2017

**Thank you** for all who were hosts for Fellowship Time this fall. Those persons are Dianne and Fred Borgen, Wes and Erin Johnson, Nancy and Gary Maydew, and Barbara Woods. Your ministry of hospitality is appreciated! We also thank all those who provided extra help each Sunday.

**Thank you** to those who provided items for the Christmas Baskets in December. The baskets were very much appreciated.

January	Open
February	Rita Parrish
March	Jan Thompson
April	Open
May	Beth Douglass
June	Barbara Woods
July	Open
August	Nancy Maydew
September	Jill Leininger
October	Dianne Borgen
November	Jenna McCarley
December	Church Family

Thank you for Barbara Woods for organizing the flower list and appreciation to those providing flowers throughout the year. If you would like to provide flowers for one of the available months or would like more information, please see Barbara Woods.

## Stewardship News

### Pledge Update

Thank you to all who made a financial pledge of support to our church for 2017! Through our stewardship campaign we received 37 pledges, including 4 new pledges, for a total of \$175,500. Thank you all for your generous giving. If you would still like to make a pledge, it's not too late! Pledge cards are available in the narthex or from the church office.

### A Way to Do Good and Do Well

The Endowment Committee would like to remind members that contributions from IRAs (either traditional or ROTH) do not have to be included in gross income if certain conditions are met:

- The transferor must be at least 70 and one-half;
- It must be a direct transfer from the trustee of the IRA to the charity;
- The limit is \$100,000 (\$200,000 for married couples if each have IRAs); and
- A charitable deduction is not allowed for the amount excluded from income.

These transfers from your IRA do not increase your adjusted gross income, and may keep you from having your social security income taxed at a higher rate. The qualified charitable distribution (QCD) can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD).

You may want to consult with your tax professional and your plan administrator for more details, and before implementing the transfer.

Another effective way to make charitable contributions is to donate appreciated stock that has been held more than one year. In that event, the donor deducts the fair market value of the stock as a charitable contribution and the built-in gain (often called paper gain) is not taxed. Again, consult with your tax professional.

### December Special Offerings

Thank you to those who gave to the **Christmas Offering**. One half of this offering goes to our Benevolence Fund to assist persons in need who come to our church for assistance; the other half goes to the Emergency Residence Project. We received a total of \$714.

Thank you also to those who contributed to the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering**, which provides Thank You checks as well as emergency assistance to retired ministers and missionaries. We received \$755.

## Annual Report Time

Our annual congregational meeting is set for Sunday, January 29 at 12:00 pm. We will receive annual reports from our various areas of ministry and conduct other items of business. We are asking board and committee chairs, representatives to community organizations, officers and staff to submit reports to the church office by Thursday, January 19 to allow time to put together the Book of Reports.

## Board and Committee News

With terms beginning in January, our board and committees will meet for the first time as a new group this month. Please note that those rotating off of positions are invited to the first meeting of the year for this "changing of the guard" meeting. The Christian Education Committee meets on Tuesday January 10 at 6:30 pm, the Trustees meet on January 10 at 7 pm, and the Board of Deacons meets on Thursday January 12 at 6:30 pm.

## Annual Theologian-in –Residence Event

Join Ames United Church of Christ, 217 6<sup>th</sup> Street, March 3-5 for their annual Theologian in Residence Weekend. The Theologian in Residence program aims to stimulate and challenge our thinking about issues of faith as they are informed by the Bible, religious traditions, and contemporary theological discussion. All sessions are free and open to the public. Preregistration and a fee is only required for those that want to eat the catered lunch.

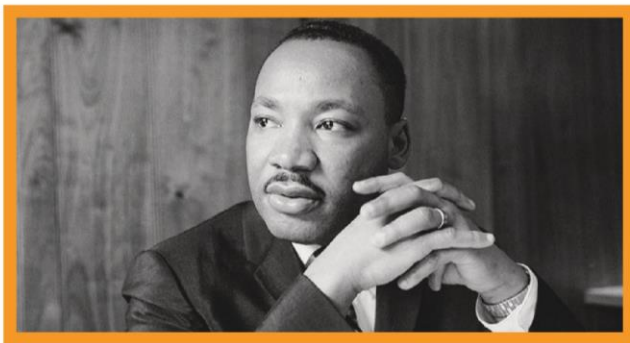
This year's topic is "God, Christ, and Religious Strife" with speaker Harry T. Cook, a retired Episcopal priest, journalist, author, and scholar of ancient religious texts. More details to follow.





 Ames Children's Choirs

# *Raising Up the Beloved Community!*



**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*Interfaith Service*

**January 15, 2017**

**at 2:00 PM**

Hosted by

First United Methodist

Church of Ames

**516 Kellogg Ave.**

**Ames, Iowa**

**Please join us to:**

Raise Up King's Dream of the Beloved Community

Share the Ames Dream with Compassion in Action

Share the Dream with the Youth of YSS

Massed Choir of Local Area Singers and Ames Children's Choir

A love offering will be taken for the YSS Dream Seed Program

Fellowship Time immediately following the service

FBC Members will sing in the Massed Choir and the Ames Children's Choir, directed by Mindy Phomvisay, will perform.

# JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:45a Worship/Communion No Church School 	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 8:00a Men's Breakfast, Perkins	<b>4</b>  6:30p Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship Time 11:15a Church School	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  6:30p Christian Ed 7p Trustees	<b>11</b> 11:30a Women's Lunch, Mandarin  6:30p Choir	<b>12</b>  6:30p Deacons	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 12p 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch, Culver's 2p Prayer Shawl Circle 2p MLK Interfaith Service, First United Methodist	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b> 8:00a Men's Breakfast, Perkins	<b>18</b>  6:30p Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> 9a Mental Health Forum, First Christian
<b>22</b> 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:30a Women's Lunch, Perkins  6:30p Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 
<b>29</b> 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	<b>30</b> 	<b>31</b>				

You are invited to a

 **MENTAL HEALTH  
EDUCATION FORUM**

At First Christian Church, in the Great Room  
611 Clark Avenue • (515) 232-5766 • [www.fccames.org](http://www.fccames.org)  
Saturday, January 21, 2017 9:00 am – Noon  
Julie Saxton, Ames Police Department  
Mental Health Advocate will facilitate this event.

This event will be for members/friends of First Baptist Church, First Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, and United Church of Christ, as well as volunteers of Food at First.

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

**Our Church Staff:**

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