



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

April, 2021
Volume 67, No. 4

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

200 Lynn Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188
Worship Sundays 9:45 am

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

Move Forward! Small Group Conversations

"Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward." Exodus 14:15



You are invited to participate in small group conversations with your friends at First Baptist Church. The last year has been difficult for all of us, and this is a chance to share stories about the challenges we have faced and then look to move forward as we anticipate our future together. Those who have taken part in these conversations have found the experience to be very meaningful.

The conversations will be held Sunday, May 16 following worship. Groups will meet via Zoom, and there is the possibility for an in-person group to meet. Similar conversations will be taking place in other AMOS congregations and institutions.

[Click here](#) to sign up to participate. If you would like to be in an in-person group (pending availability), please note that. You may also call the church office to sign up.

Guiding Questions for the "Move Forward" Conversations

1. What struggles/challenges did you and your loved ones face in this past year?
2. What have you learned about First Baptist over this past year? What have you learned about Ames and Iowa?
3. What's your big idea out of these experiences, and are you willing to work with others to move forward together?

We hope to see you on May 16!

Celebrating Our Spring Graduates!

We celebrate with our spring high school and college graduates! We will recognize our graduates in worship on May 2. If you know of other graduates, please pass that information on to the church office.

Morgan Ambourn is a native of Eden Prairie, Minnesota. She will graduate from Iowa State with a B.S. in Computer Engineering as a member of the Honors Program. Each summer she had the opportunity to work in internships for Optum, Hewlett Packard, and Cardiff University in Wales. Morgan has attended FBC throughout her time at Iowa State and has been a member of our choir for four years. She has sung solos and in ensembles and participated in virtual choir videos. At ISU she was involved in intramurals, the climbing team, and a program for women in computer and electrical engineering. She will be working remotely for Microsoft this summer and then return to ISU in the fall for a masters program in Computer Engineering.



Morgan



Lauren



Elijah

Lauren Peters will graduate from Iowa State with a degree in Dairy Science and is a member of the Honors Program. Throughout her four years at Iowa State she has been involved in the Pre-Vet Club as well as Veterinarians without Borders. Her favorite experience during her time at ISU was traveling to Costa Rica to spay and neuter cats and dogs in low income areas. Lauren is a native of Carpentersville, Illinois, and she has been accepted into the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in the fall. She has attended First Baptist since coming to Iowa State, and we were privileged to witness her baptism here at our church during her freshman year. Lauren sent a picture taken at one of the places she loves the most: the Blank Park Zoo.

Elijah Phomvisay will graduate from Theodore Roosevelt High School in Des Moines. Elijah was a member of the Roosevelt Rough Rider band. His hobbies include hiking, kayaking, spelunking, virtual reality, camping, and gaming. He works at Dollar Fresh in Toledo and is a Camp Counselor at Pilgrim Heights Camp. Elijah grew up in our church and is very involved in our ministry. He has been an acolyte, an usher, and assists in worship by taking the microphone around the congregation for prayer requests. Being the oldest of our crop of young people, he has served as a Sunday School assistant and role model for our younger youth. He has also served as a Music Camp counselor and sound technician.

Marian Thompson will graduate with a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She currently works as Curatorial Assistant at the Roger Brown Study Collection (part of the SAIC Collections). Her thesis is “Virtual Archive Design: Reimagining the Online Archive through the Roger Brown Study Collection Library Database.” Commencement at SAIC is May 15. Marian grew up in our church; after graduating from Ames High she earned her undergraduate degree at SAIC. We are proud of Marian and all of our graduates!



Marian



First Baptist Church AMES

RE-OPENING UPDATE

After more than a year of meeting exclusively via Zoom, many people are now vaccinated and we are looking forward to being able to meet in person again. The Re-Opening Committee has announced plans for how our church will proceed in the next couple of months.

Some of the small groups in our church are now fully vaccinated. **Beginning April 25**, committees or classes that wish to meet in person may do so in the lounge, fellowship hall, or outside (with masks and distancing). Such groups will need to schedule these gatherings with the church office.

Beginning Sunday, May 9, we will have in-person worship outdoors in the front yard (weather allowing). These services will be shared on Zoom (hybrid worship). We will continue to wear masks and social distance. (All of our virus mitigation measures will be updates as time goes on.) Please bring a lawn chair to the outdoor services (chairs will be available if you can't bring one). If weather does not allow us to meet outside, worship will be via Zoom only. If weather is a concern, we will make an announcement by Saturday evening as to whether we will be meeting outside.

By June, we expect that all adults can be vaccinated. **Beginning Sunday, June 4**, we plan to be back in the sanctuary for in-person worship (virus level in Story County allowing.) The services will continue to be shared on Zoom. We will wear masks and social distance.

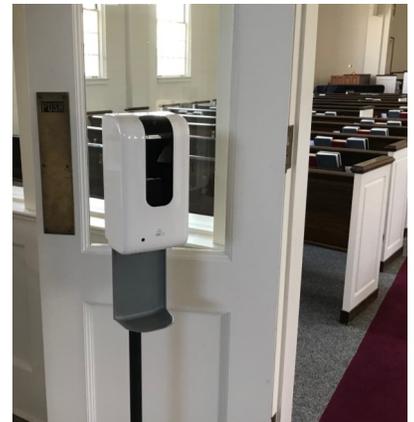
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In some ways the move back to the sanctuary will be a more difficult transition than the move to online worship, and we are still working out the many logistics necessary (communion, music, ushers, seating, offering, technology, sanitizing, how we might have fellowship time, when will nursery care be available, etc.) We will share more details in the coming weeks, including in the June *Spire*. It is clearly going to be a process.

I was recently in a Zoom alumni meeting with a seminary professor who lives in Florida. His seminary is in St. Louis and he teaches online. He also serves as pastor of an online-only church that has been in existence for a number of years—long before the recent surge in online church during the pandemic. This church has a few thousand people attending online each Sunday. Many people from outside the U.S. participate in the church because there are few if any church options for more progressive Christians where they live. It was kind of amazing to hear.

Technology allows us all kinds of creative approaches to ministry. We have learned through these past months that the most important thing technology has offered us is the chance for connection and community. I am so thankful that we have been able to stay connected over this long last year. I am so thankful for this community of faith and for each one of you. And I look forward to what unfolds in the days to come as we journey together with God, moving forward with the One who is always with us.

Blessings,
Dave



We are ready with new automatic hand sanitizer dispensers!



Budget Update through March 31

Income

Received from pledges	\$77,468
Expected from pledges 3 months = \$50,661	
Other contributions/miscellaneous	\$2,541
Rental/Parking Income	\$9,770
Un-budgeted mission gifts	<u>\$1,275</u>
Total Income	\$91,055

Expenses

Budget expense	\$56,384
Budget for three months = \$63,132	
Non-budgeted missions	\$600
Memorial Fund disbursements	<u>\$1,178</u>
Total Expenses	\$58,162



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

Happy Anniversary

Stephenie and Brian Keat	5
Elizabeth and Aaron Stegemöller	19
Tom and Martha Gleason	29
Bob and Rita Parrish	29



Our regional camps, [Forest Lake](#) and [Dayton Oaks](#), will have a full camp season this summer. Our church will pay half the cost of registration for anyone going to camp, or the full cost for anyone who requests it. For youth attending the music conference at Green Lake or a similar event, the same policy applies.



Watch videos of previous worship services on the [FBC YouTube Channel!](#)

**Jon Pritchard (and Snickers)
Make the Comics!**

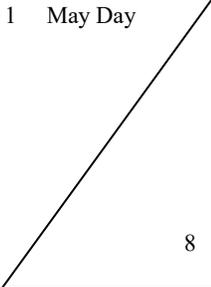
The Marmaduke cartoon for Sunday, April 4 included a “Dog Gone Funny” segment sent in by our own Jon Pritchard. It reads:

“Jon Pritchard has Snickers, a ten year old Rat Terrier. No matter where Jon is, outside doing yardwork, outside washing the car, or in the shower, if the phone rings Snickers hears it and howls like a siren! No missed calls for Jon!”



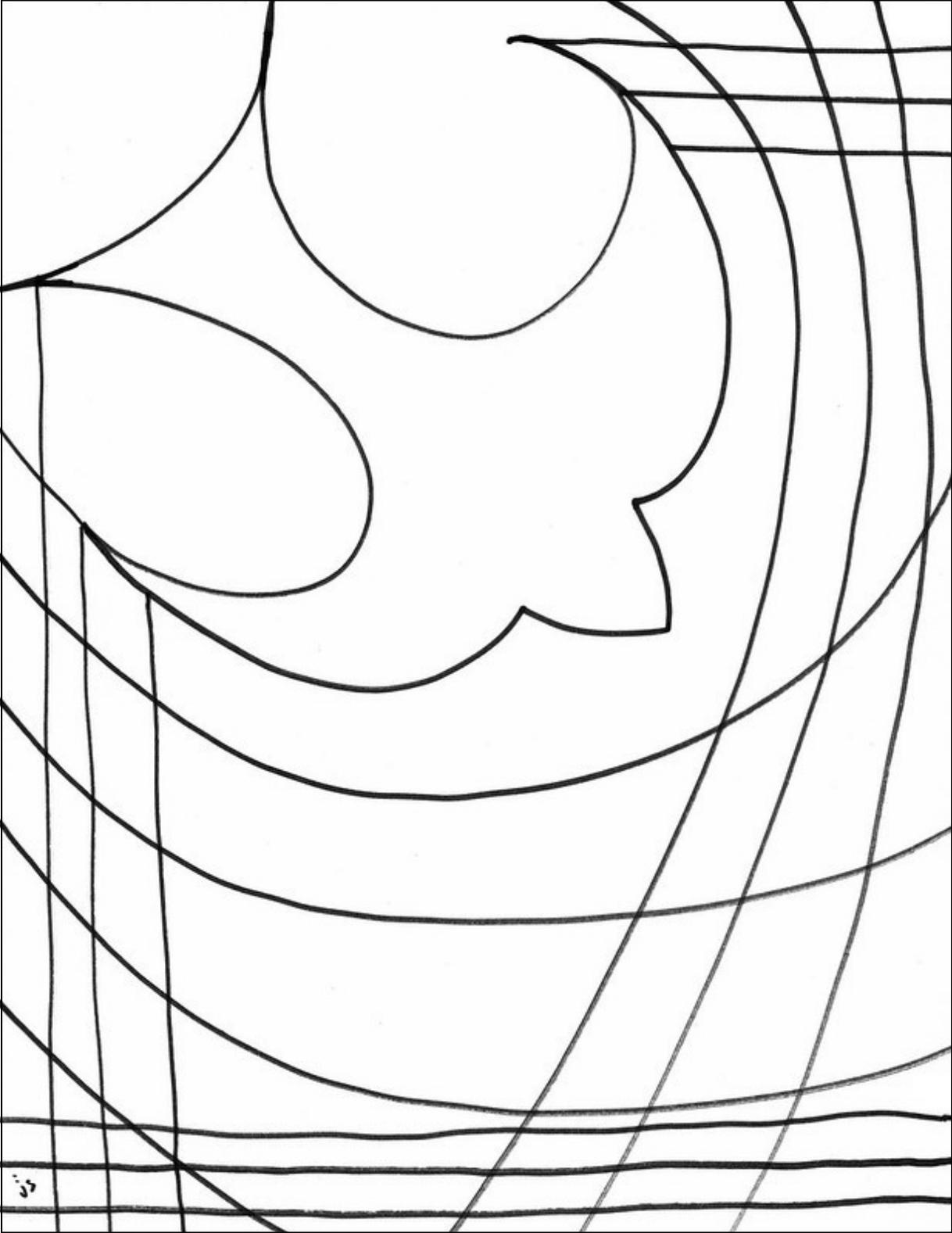
Jon and Snickers at our Blessing of the Pets in 2019

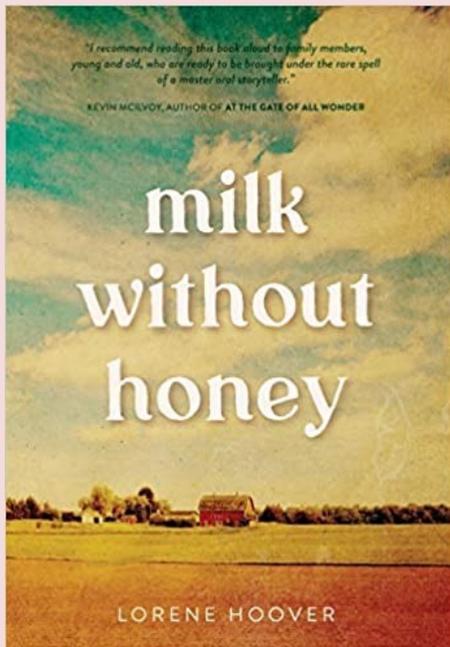


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:45a Worship Communion Grad Recognition	3	4 	5	6 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	7	1 May Day 
9 Mother's Day 9:45a Outdoor Worship CE Recognition 11a Church School	10	11 7p Trustees	12 6:30p choir	13 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 	14	15
16 9:45a Outdoor Worship 10:45 MOVE FORWARD conversations	17	18	19 	20 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	21	22
23 Pentecost 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	24 	25	26 6:30p choir	27 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	28	29
30 9:45a Worship Randall O'Brien preaches	31					

Pentecost Coloring Page

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Novel by Lorene Hoover is Published

Congratulations to Lorene Hoover, whose semi-autobiographical novel *Milk Without Honey* was published recently!

“A story about perseverance and the heedless cycle of poverty as a young Iowa farm girl witnesses the loss of her family's land and the potential disintegration of her family during the troubled years of the Great Depression....Brimming with the realities of living on the brink as well as hope and humor, *Milk Without*

Honey is a riveting portrait of a time and place, and an unforgettable reading experience.” - from the publisher

“Moving, poignant, and absorbing, this portrait of an Iowan family during the Great Depression is exactly what the world needs right now—for though there is struggle and loss, there is humanity, humor, and such heart.”
- Maya Shanbhag Lang

Lorene will be donating copies for the church library.



We welcome to our pulpit our own Rev. Dr. Randall O'Brien, who will bring our sermon on May 30. Randall has preached for us on Zoom during the pandemic; hopefully, the weather will cooperate and he will have the chance to preach to an in-person congregation on our last Sunday of outdoor worship! We are grateful for his ministry and look forward to his message.

Work Day—April 17

Thank you to trustees **John Whitaker, Rita Parrish, Rodney Barto, Aaron Stegemöller, and Bob Parrish** for repairing cracks that have formed in our parking lot! And while we're at it, thank you to **Larry Schrag** who diligently keeps the hedge trimmed and picks up sticks and trash in the church yard!





First Baptist Church

AMES

200 Lynn Avenue

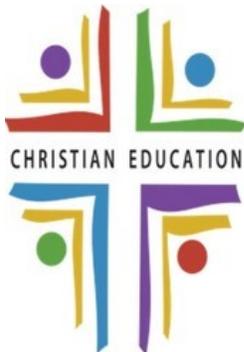
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

Our Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. David Russell	Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
Emma Phomvisay	Music Intern
	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



[Click here](#) for information on how to join us on Zoom on Sunday mornings.



Christian Education Recognition

On May 9 (our first week of in-person, outdoor worship), we will be recognizing our Church School teachers and Christian Education workers. Through this past year, our teachers have continued to lead classes, using conference calls and video calls to facilitate class meetings. We are so thankful for their commitment and efforts during a challenging season.