



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

June 2021
Volume 67, No. 6

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Return to the Sanctuary

Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship Begins June 6

After 63 weeks of worship by Zoom (including a few outdoor in-person/Zoom hybrid services), we will return to the sanctuary this Sunday, June 6. This is an exciting step forward, and we are looking forward to being together in the sanctuary again.

Over this past year, we have learned a lot and grown a lot. Worship via Zoom has worked very well, and it has been wonderful to have friends and family from many places join us each week. It has also been good to have folks here in Ames who would not otherwise be able to make it in person join us online. We will be continuing with Zoom as we gather in the building, so we will be doing “hybrid” services. Just as has been the case over the past year, we will figure it out as we go and have an “experimental” mindset about the way we do worship going forward.

If you plan to be here in person this Sunday, please [send an email](#) or call the church office at 515-292-9612 to let us know. This is not a reservation *per se*, but knowing how many to expect will help us as we get ready.

Beyond that, here are some things to know for when we first meet in the sanctuary:

- We will wear masks and practice social distancing. Every other row will be roped off; individuals/households are asked to sit 6 feet away from others on the same pew.
- You will find freestanding automatic hand sanitizer dispensers at the front and back entrances to the sanctuary.
- We will be able to sing with masks on. The choir will not sing in the sanctuary at this point. We hope to have more outdoor services over the summer in which the choir will sing.
- The front door (back of sanctuary) and some windows will be open and overhead fans running to increase ventilation.
- To minimize time together inside, plan to arrive no more than 10 minutes before the service. Worship will be much like our services have been over the past year (shorter than pre-pandemic in-person services).



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- There will be opportunity to visit outside following worship; Fellowship Time will be outside for the month of June.
- Ushers will not distribute bulletins or collect the offering. We will continue (at least until we hire a new Office Manager) with the simple-to-print-off, one page bulletins, with printed copies available at church and electronic copies sent on Saturdays (as has been our practice these past months). There will be offering plates at the front and back of the sanctuary for you to drop your offering in as you leave.
- Nursery care will not be provided at this time.
- We will have communion this Sunday, as we generally do the first Sunday of each month. You may pick up a pre-packaged wafer/juice kit as you enter the sanctuary. If you prefer, you may bring your own communion elements.



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We will continue to make adaptations and no doubt change some of these practices as the summer goes on. But I am so thankful that through all of the changes and challenges of this past year, we have been held together by God's grace and we are continuing to move forward. This is a hopeful time.

In our Move Forward Conversations held on May 16, twenty-one individuals—a fairly representative sample of our church—shared what they had experienced and learned over this past year. One of the things that came through loud and clear was that in a year filled with loss and pain, our church was a lifeline for a lot of people and carried out an important ministry in Ames and beyond. Those who took part had learned about the resilience of our church and the depth of concern and generosity expressed both in supporting our church's ministry and in reaching out to our neighbors in need. Over this past year, we also discovered needs in our community that we hope to address, working with other churches and non-profit groups through AMOS.

I am so thankful to serve as your pastor and I look forward to this next step of our journey together, as God leads us. And I look forward to seeing you this Sunday—in person or on Zoom!

Blessings,
Dave

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is the annual offering that provides disaster relief as well as development assistance both in the U.S. and around the world. Over the past year, OGHS funds have provided assistance following hurricanes in the Bahamas, Honduras, and Nicaragua; mudslides in Japan; a typhoon in the Philippines; wildfires in California and Oregon; flooding in North Carolina and Louisiana; and more. Funds also provided assistance for food, shelter, and refugee programs in the U.S. and for safe water programs, grinding mills, agricultural projects, support for trafficked women's assistance programs and more overseas.

OGHS funds have also been used to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic both in our country and around the world. There are many programs in local churches, ABC agencies, and partner groups overseas that serve marginalized communities especially hurt by the pandemic. Funds support these efforts, such as a food, housing, and healthcare ministries, including programs in our region.

To give, you may write checks to the church with memo OGHS. If giving through our website via PayPal, note that the gift is for OGHS. More information is available at <http://abc-oghs.org>.

June

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | 1 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins | 2 | 3 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:45a Worship Communion Return to Sanctuary | 7 | 8 6:30p Nominating (Zoom) 7p Trustees | 9 10a Office Manager Search Committee | 10 10a Virtual Coffee Shop  | 11 6:30p Virtual Trivia Night | 12 8a Work Day |
| 13 9:45a Worship 11a Ice Cream Social | 14 | 15 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins | 16 | 17 10a Virtual Coffee Shop | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9:45a Worship Youth Sunday | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">American Baptist Biennial/Mission Summit (Virtual Event)</div> | 25 | 26 |
| 27 9:45a Worship 3p AMOS Delegate Assembly | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |



Our love and prayers are with...

Gary and Nancy Maydew, in the loss of Gary's brother, Gene Maydew.

Rodney Barto, in the loss of his father, Rex Barto.

Dawn Doerr-Johnson, in the loss of her mother, Diane Damm.

MEN'S BREAKFAST RESUMES

After more than a year, our Men's Breakfast group has now resumed. All men are welcome to join us at Perkins at 8 am on the first and third Tuesday of each month. There is no agenda—just a chance to enjoy food and fellowship.



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



| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Tom Gleason | 1 |
| Mya Logue | 7 |
| Dianne Borgen | 9 |
| Susan Russell | 15 |
| Tyler Anderson | 23 |
| Wallace Sanders | 24 |
| Serena Parrish | 27 |
| Erin Johnson | 29 |



| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Gary and Nancy Maydew | 2 |
| Tom and Jerilyn Logue | 9 |
| Harris and Katy Seidel | 9 |
| Scott and Gretchen Anderson | 14 |
| Mindy and Aiddy Phomvisay | 15 |
| John and Mary Anderson | 17 |
| Jan and Michael Thompson | 30 |



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American Baptist Churches USA

BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

An Online Experience | June 24-26, 2021

DETAILS AT

americanbaptists2021.com



The Christian Education Committee will sponsor their annual **Ice Cream Social** after worship **on Sunday, June 13**. It will be held outside, with pre-packaged ice cream novelties—drumsticks, ice cream sandwiches, etc. Please join us!

Youth Sunday Set for June 20

Our youth have persevered through this past year, generally meeting about every other week online and enjoying Zoom Sunday School with Jan Thompson. They will be leading us in worship **on June 20** (mostly in person, with some pre-recorded segments). We appreciate the gifts, ideas, and enthusiasm they contribute to our church and we and look forward to the youth leading us in worship!



Office Manager Search

Our Office Manager, Hope Deets, left for a new opportunity with the City of Ames back in February. In the midst of the pandemic, with no in-person worship services and the Office Manager's responsibilities in flux, we decided to put off a search for a new Office Manager for the time being. Pastor Dave has largely taken on these responsibilities in the meantime. We are now beginning the search for a new Office Manager. Dianne Borgen, Rita Parrish, Susan Russell and Pastor Dave will serve on the search committee, considering our needs and updating the job description before we advertise the position. We hope to have a new Office Manager in place before students (and rental parkers) return in August.



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

WORK DAY: Join us on June 12 at 8 am as we spread mulch, trim shrubbery, pull weeds, make repairs, and generally spruce up the grounds. There will also be some indoor projects—plenty of work for everyone! We hope to see you bright and early!

Building Use Update

As large numbers of adults are now vaccinated, we will begin to open our building to usage by outside groups. Beginning in June, the Parkinson's Disease Singing Group led by Elizabeth Stegemöller will meet in the Lounge on Wednesday afternoons. A portable video monitor has been added so that remote participants can take part. A Parkinson's Dance Group and Boxing Group will also meet at the church this fall, with an additional video monitor added in the Fellowship Hall.



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 |

worship
with us



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

**TRIVIA
NIGHT**

Our next Virtual Trivia Night is Friday, June 11 at 6:30 pm.

To take part, join the regular Sunday morning Zoom meeting link. We will form teams and each team will discuss answers to questions in breakout rooms. We started Virtual Trivia Nights back in April of 2020 as a way of staying connected and having fun in a time of lockdown, and we are still going strong! Everyone is welcome. Alex Parrish will be our host this month!