



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

January 2022
Volume 68, No. 1

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.

Pastor's Word

Happy New Year! The beginning of a new year is for many of us a time to look back, take stock, and think about making changes. Lots of folks make New Year's resolutions, but the follow through is often lacking. From my intensive research (I did a google search!), a reported 7-40% of resolutions are actually kept, with most sources reporting around 8-12%. A *Forbes* article reported that less than 25% stick to their resolution for even 30 days, and only 8% accomplish them. Why do so few people stick to their resolutions?

Part of the answer is that many/most of us make resolutions because it is the "thing to do," and deep down we may not be so invested in keeping them. Resolutions can be more like nice goals to have, or maybe even dreams.

And part of it is that resolutions are often things that we think we "ought" to do. Surveys show that the most common resolutions are to exercise more, eat healthier, lose weight, save more/spend less, and pursue a career ambition. Other common resolutions were to get organized, learn a new skill, read more, quit smoking, and even things like pray more. All of these may be good things, even wonderful things, but resolutions made from a sense of "oughtness" can feel like an obligation. It's no surprise that we burn out on keeping our New Year's resolutions.

I confess that I am not a big New Year's resolution person. Maybe because it seems a little arbitrary for January 1 to be the annual date to try to make a change. But an annual set day to take stock and make changes is better than never doing that at all. It seems to me that if we maintain a stance of openness – openness to others, openness to the world around us, and openness to listening to our own lives and our own hearts, we will be more open to making changes. When we resolve out of commitment and conviction and even joy, rather than obligation, it will be more likely to "take."

In a sense, when we gather for worship each week, part of what we are doing is taking stock and resolving to make changes. We don't often think of worship in that way. We want our gathering together to be comforting and encouraging, and hopefully it is. But when we truly encounter God in worship, the experience will change us. As we navigate what are difficult days in so many ways, this is something we very much need. As we begin this New Year, I am so grateful for this community of faith. I look forward to gathering together this Sunday - in person or on Zoom.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave



FBC People in the News!



From the *Ames Tribune*: **“It’s a lifesaver’: 99-year-old central Iowa man saves lives volunteering for Meals on Wheels.”**



Harris Seidel has delivered meals on Wheels for 20 years. Twice recently he discovered clients in the midst of a medical emergency when he delivered their meal and provided assistance. [Read the story here.](#)

From the *Des Moines Register*: **“The thing that sets us apart is just that grit”: Inside Roosevelt High School's Bridges 2 Harmony Gospel Choir”**



Wonderful article about the gospel choir at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines. Our music intern Emma Phomvisay is a member of the choir. [Read about it here.](#)
[Additional photos here.](#)

Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express

ACTORS Theatre

7:30 pm: January 27, 28, 29, February 4, 5

2:00 pm: February 6

See our own Phyllis Schrag
in the role of The Princess!

Buy Tickets [HERE](#).





A snowstorm strands the Orient Express and its many passengers just a few ours before an American millionaire on board is found dead: stabbed 12 times by someone who must still be on the train. It's up to the famed detective Hercule Poirot to crack the case before another victim can be claimed by the elusive killer. Put on your sleuthing hat, and see if you have what it takes to solve one of the most thrilling murder mysteries of all time. **Everyone is a suspect.**



Our youth assembled 12 Christmas baskets and made Christmas cards to go in the baskets. The baskets were put together and delivered on December 19.



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						
2 9:45a Worship/ Communion 11a Church School	3	4 8a Men's Breakfast	5 10a AARLA (Ames Area Religious Leaders Assoc.) 6:30p Choir	6 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7:00p Deacons	7 	8
9 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	10 	11 5-8p Women United	12 6:30p Choir	13 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 	14	15
16 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 3p MLK Service at Friendship Baptist	17	18 8a Men's Breakfast 5-8p Women United 7p Trustees ISU Classes begin	19 6:30p Choir	20 Annual Reports Due 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	21 6:30p Trivia Night	22
23 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	24	25 5-8p Women United	26 5:15p CCJ Board 6:30p Choir	27 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	28	29
30 9:45a Worship 10:45a Annual Mtg. 11:15a Church School	31					



January 2:

Worship Leader: John Whitaker
Ushers: Jon Pritchard, Aaron Stegemöller

January 9:

Worship Leader: Beth Douglass
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

January 16:

Worship Leader: Kay O'Brien
Ushers: Jerelyn Logue, Tom Logue

January 23:

Worship Leader: Jacelyn Rudderow
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Julie Johnston

January 30:

Worship Leader: Jere Maddux
Ushers: Jan Thompson, Barbara Woods



Toyin Clotley	9
Alex Parrish	19
Jere Maddux	20
Alice Clemons	22
TJ Nugent	24
Lumi Clotley	25
Stacy Starrett	29
Kay O'Brien	31

Church Planning Retreat

NOW MOVED to Saturday,
 February 19, 9 a.m.

How have things changed in our culture and in our community in the past two years?
 How have things changed in our church?
 What do you hope to see in the months and years ahead? Where is God leading us?
 We will ask questions like these and make plans for the coming year, including for the time of Pastor Dave's sabbatical.

We will end before noon.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!
 Save the date!

Annual Meeting January 30

Our annual congregational meeting is set for Sunday, January 30 following worship. 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 January 20 to allow time to put together the Book of Reports. Our annual meeting will be available on Zoom.

“Unity in the Community” – MLK Service

The Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service will be on Sunday, January 16 at 3:00 p.m. at Friendship Baptist Church, 2400 Mortenson Road. Community leaders will bring greetings, Pastor Moses Ward will bring the message and the Friendship Praise Choir will provide music. A Love Offering for the YSS Dream Seed Scholarship, for youth aging out of foster care, will be received. All are welcome to attend! Masks are required at Friendship Baptist.



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
Elizabeth Stegemöller	Choir Accompanist
Charyl Winterink	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian

**TRIVIA
NIGHT**

You are invited to join us for our next Virtual Trivia Night on **Friday, January 21**, at 6:30. Everyone is welcome to join us! We divide into teams at the start and teams discuss answers to each round's questions in breakout rooms.



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcomes.org