

Who We Are

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.

Our Church Staff:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Kathy Greiner | Custodian |
| Sierra Livengood | Office Manager |
| Emma Phomvisay | Music Intern |
| Mindy Phomvisay | Director of Music |
| Rev. Dr. David Russell | Pastor |
| Elizabeth Stegemöller | Choir Accompanist |

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The Spire

June 2025

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First Baptist Church of Ames, Iowa



200 Lynn Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

Last summer we held our first-ever Car Show, and it was great fun. We had our Sunday morning service in the front yard, complete with car-themed worship (“Give me gas in my Ford, keep me truckin’ for the Lord”), a meal, a good crowd, kid’s games, and a wonderful assortment of vehicles brought by members and friends. It was such a good time that we are going to try it again.

We invite you to join us on June 22 for worship at 9:45 followed by lunch and our car show. We encourage you to bring a vehicle – any vehicle (this is not your typical car show). If you have a vehicle you would like to display – new or old, a classic vehicle, a muscle car, a cool convertible, a Jeep, or an electric car, please bring it. Honestly, we would welcome your gas guzzler, econobox, practical people mover, motorcycle, bicycle or skateboard! If it moves, it's eligible! And let me encourage you: **this would be a great Sunday to invite a friend!**

Bonus (I think): my sermon will include memories of my family’s 1960 Ford Falcon. I hope to see you there!

Blessings,
Dave



More Spring Graduates!

We recognized our graduates in worship on May 18. We have learned of more graduates in our extended church family.

Two of Marilyn and Buck Peterson's granddaughters are 2025 graduates. **Skylar Peterson** is the daughter of Keith Peterson. She graduated from the University of Florida in Gainesville with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology and a minor in Deaf and Hearing Sciences. This fall she will go to Florida Southern Physical Therapy School for a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree, to graduate in Fall 2027.

Skylar's sister **Delaney Peterson** graduated from McKeel Academy of Technology in Lakeland, FL. This fall she will attend the University of Florida in Gainesville to major in animal sciences on a pre-veterinary track to becoming a wildlife veterinarian or small animal veterinarian.

Katherine Thompson received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Brown University with a specialization in Linguistic Anthropology. She successfully defended her dissertation last August and walked at commencement this spring. Her dissertation was titled: From Damage to Dreams: Poetry, Play and Pedagogy in Chicago Schools.

Katherine is currently teaching English as a second language and will teach a course in engaged scholarship next fall, both at Brown.

Side note: Commencement at Brown is held at the First Baptist Church in America, adjacent to the campus in Providence.



Welcome, New Member!

We are delighted to welcome Moffo Ivane as our newest member. Moffo is from Cameroon, in west central Africa. Most of his family now lives in France. Moffo earned an undergraduate degree in Cameroon and a Masters degree in China. He came to Ames last fall and is in a Ph.D. program at Iowa State in Food Science. His research focuses on rapid detection for foodborne pathogens.

Moffo enjoys playing and watching soccer when he has the time. He started attending our church this past semester. He wrote, "From the very first day I stepped into First Baptist, I felt an undeniable connection to Christ... I knew deep down that this was where I was meant to be... Being away from home can be challenging, but knowing I have a church community that cares for me makes all the difference."

Moffo was baptized on May 18. We are so glad that he has taken this step of faith and that he is part of our church family!



We had a good turnout at the AMOS Civic Academy on Housing held back on April 27. We learned about housing issues and homelessness in our community and some of the roadblocks to both home ownership and rental housing in Ames. We also had a chance to share some of our personal stories surrounding housing.

A number of meetings like this were held around the community. On Sunday June 8, there will be a **Share Back and Research Launch** from 2:30-4:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Hyland Avenue. We will hear reports from the various Civic Academies that have been held and kick off the research phase of the AMOS Housing Campaign. Those interested can join the research team that will gather more information on housing needs and possible ways of addressing these needs. If you would like to attend, please see Pastor Dave.

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is the annual offering that supports emergency disaster relief and development assistance throughout the US and Puerto Rico and around the world. Many denominations receive the OGHS offering, and we work with partners around the world in getting assistance to places that need it the most.

Natural disasters as well as emergencies caused by war and conflict are sadly a part of life. Whether tornados and flooding in the Midwest, fires in Los Angeles, earthquakes in Asia, or refugees of war needing help in Europe and Africa, we respond through our gifts to OGHS. We also support development projects around the world and here in the US such as water projects for villages in need of drinkable water, farming projects that help people grow food to sustainably support themselves and their neighbors, and food and shelter projects for persons for those in great need. We invite you to give generously to OGHS.

Ice Cream Social June 1

Following our longtime tradition, the Christian Education Committee will serve ice cream following worship this Sunday as we kick off the summer. Join us in the Fellowship Hall! We will have Fellowship Time each Sunday after worship until Church School resumes in the fall.



DEMISE OF THE COPY MACHINE

Our industrial strength Sharp MX-350 copy machine served us very well for MANY years. It was purchased (used) at a time that we printed 200+ newsletters each month and printing needs were greater. It is quite impressive; with the duplex module/bypass tray it weighs 241 pounds. Over the years, it has made a total of 305,640 copies, most of those after we purchased it. It is so old that repair parts have not been available for a few years now and alas, with repairs now needed it has now come time to say "thank you for your service" to the old copier and move on.

The main change you will notice is that we can no longer use 11" x 17" paper for the Spire. You have no doubt noticed that this Spire is in a different format with legal sized paper. With most of our readers receiving the Spire electronically, there will likely be further changes to the formatting of our newsletter.



FBC Music Camp

A fun, hands on experience in music and related arts

For grades K-6 (Completed)!

July 28– August 1

9:00-11:30 a.m. each day

Fun– food– crafts– games

Choir– special music guests



See Mindy or Pastor Dave to volunteer as a counselor, kitchen worker, helper, etc.

Registration \$20/ camper– scholarships for all who request

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)



Music Camp brochures and publicity cards are available at church to hand out to family and friends!



| | |
|----------------|----|
| Tom Gleason | 1 |
| Scott Kalberer | 4 |
| Mya Logue | 7 |
| Dianne Borgen | 9 |
| Susan Russell | 15 |
| Tyler Anderson | 23 |
| Serena Parrish | 27 |
| Erin Johnson | 29 |











| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Carol and Don Pady | 1 |
| Nancy and Gary Maydew | 2 |
| Tom and Jerilyn Logue | 9 |
| Gretchen and Scott Anderson | 14 |
| Mindy and Aiddy Phomvisay | 15 |
| Mary and John Anderson | 17 |
| Jan and Michael Thompson | 30 |



Serving this month

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| June 1: | |
| <i>Worship Leader</i> | Kaylinn Nugent |
| <i>Ushers:</i> | Aaron Stegemöller, Julie Johnston |
| June 8: | |
| <i>Worship Leader</i> | Phyllis Schrag |
| <i>Ushers:</i> | Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish |
| June 15: | |
| <i>Worship Leader</i> | Rita Parrish |
| <i>Ushers:</i> | Jerilyn and Tom Logue |
| June 22: | |
| <i>Worship Leader</i> | Kay O'Brien |
| <i>Ushers:</i> | Aaron Stegemöller, Larry Schrag |
| June 29: | |
| <i>Worship Leader</i> | Susan Russell |
| <i>Ushers:</i> | Beth Douglass, Jan Thompson |

JUNE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|--------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 1 9:45a Worship 10:45a Ice Cream Social  | 2 | 3 8a Men's Breakfast | 4 10a Virtual Coffee Shop | 5 | 6  | 7 |
| 8 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship | 9 | 10 7p Trustees | 11 10a Virtual Coffee Shop | 12 | 13 | 14  <i>Flag Day</i> |
| 15 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship  | 16 | 17 8a Men's Breakfast | 18 10a Virtual Coffee Shop | 19  | 20  | 21 |
| 22 9:45a Outdoor Worship and FBC Car Show | 23 | 24 | 25 10a Virtual Coffee Shop | 26 7p Deacons | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship | 30 | |  | |  | |

Financial Report through 4/30/25

| | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Income: | | Expense: | |
| Expected from pledges 4 mos. | \$62,627 | Budget 4 months | \$94,010 |
| Pledged income | 77,317 | Budget expense | 86,371 |
| 2025 pledges received 2024 | 6,000 | Unbudgeted mission | 1,470 |
| Other contributions | 2683 | Memorial fund expenditures | 624 |
| Parking lot rental | 10,185 | Total expenditures | \$88,465 |
| CCJ rent + utilities | 4,856 | | |
| Miscellaneous and designated | 1,088 | | |
| Memorial Gifts | 6,090 | | |
| Mission offerings | 1,990 | | |
| Total received for year thru 4/30 | \$104,209 | | |