



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

September 2022
Volume 68, No. 8

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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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

I was paying extra attention to the weather forecast last week as I was looking ahead to our Worship under the Trees service. This is one of my favorite services – we are outside, there is an informal, light-hearted vibe to it, and it is just fun to gather together outside. And then there is a great meal awaiting us, and a chance to visit afterwards.

As the week wore on, it looked like our Work Day on Saturday would be rained out but that the rain would be over and we would hopefully be good to go on Sunday. That sounded good to me – if I had to give up pulling weeds on Saturday morning, so be it.

But that's not the way it worked. The weather was just fine on Saturday morning. We actually got a lot done – weeds pulled, shrubs and tree branches trimmed, mulch put down, our sign was even cleaned with a power washer. And we had donuts and a good time visiting afterwards.

But we were not out of the woods. The rain came Saturday night. It had stopped by worship time on Sunday morning, but folks at church were reporting from 2.2 to 5 inches in their rain gauges. It was extremely humid – I would say that it felt “soupy” outside – and there had been enough rain that folding chairs would have sunk slowly (or maybe even quickly) into the ground. We had to cancel outdoor worship.

So we pivoted to the Fellowship Hall and got out our painted tree backdrop. We wouldn't be outside, but it would be a different experience from the “usual” Sunday morning. As it turned out, that wasn't the only thing that did not happen as planned. Late in the week, Mindy and Elizabeth both became ill (and of course Emma is now away at Iowa). So our musical plans had to change.

Thankfully, Kent Johnson stepped in with his guitar and did a great job of leading us. We skipped the choir anthem, did a few things a little differently, and thoroughly enjoyed both the worship time and the fellowship. The weather and a lot of illness going around meant that we had as many folks on Zoom as we did in person. This was one of those days that we especially were thankful that folks can connect online, and the Zoom crew seemed to be enjoying themselves as well.



As far as the meal goes, the Saucy Southerners from Hickory Park tasted every bit as good indoors as they would have in the front yard. Bonus: no flies and no late summer wasps.

It takes us a while to learn, and it seems like we have to keep re-learning it, but some things are beyond our control. Yet whatever happens, God always shows up. I look forward to seeing you this Sunday!

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

PS: We will be giving the outdoor service another try, on September 18 (no meal this time).



Steel Magnolias at Ames Actors Theatre



Get your tickets quickly if you want to see our own Phyllis Schrag in *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling. The show is produced by ACTORS Community Theater, 120 Abraham Drive, Ames, IA, a comparatively small venue. Phyllis is cast as Clairee Belcher, the witty widow of the former mayor of Chinquapin, Louisiana. Performances are:

7:30 pm: September 8, 9, 10, 16, 17

2:00 pm: September 18.

Tickets are available at <https://amescommunitytheater.thundertix.com/events/199488/performances>

(No live streaming)

Habitat News



Habitat for Humanity of Central Iowa is now accepting applications for a home buyer for our newest home project located at 241 Village Drive in Ames. If you know of a family or families who are looking to purchase a home on a limited income, please pass this information along to them. Applications must be received by September 30. More information is available at <https://hfnai.org/resources/> or call 515-232-8815.



BETTER TOGETHER

Building up the Body of Christ

MABC Biennial Gathering September 30 – October 1 First Baptist Church, Pella, Iowa

We invite you to join us as our Mid-America region (Iowa-Minnesota) will meet at the end of the month in Pella. Our last biennial meeting, in 2020, was held entirely online, so this will be our first in-person region-wide gathering in four years.

The gathering is a chance to connect with other American Baptists in our region for fellowship, worship, and inspiration. The gathering begins on Friday evening and concludes with lunch on Saturday. Speakers include Rev. Sharon Koh, director of ABC International Ministries, and Rev. Toya Richards, who has recently been appointed as an ABC Global Servant to South Africa. There will be workshops offered; Pastor Dave will be leading one of the workshops. Rev. Susan Russell is our region president and Mindy Phomvisay will be providing special music on Friday night.

There is additional information, including registration forms available [on our region website](#) or see Dave or Susan for more details. Registration forms are also available from the church office. We are allowed several delegates (there will be a brief business session), so you may register as a delegate and let us know you are going.

Toya Richards to Speak at FBC October 2



Rev. Toya Richards will be our guest preacher in worship on October 2. Rev. Richards has been approved as an ABC Global Servant and will serve in Cape Town, South Africa as a teacher and professor at the Cape Town Baptist Seminary (CTBS), a ministry of ABC partner the Baptist Union of Southern Africa. Before going in to ministry, Toya worked for 30 years in journalism and communications. Drawing on that extensive experience, she will teach intermediate to advanced English language skills and research methodology, preparing students to meet the demands and requirements needed for advanced seminary studies. She will also be involved in community justice initiatives through the CTBS Center for Biblical Justice.

Toya is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She most recently served as a pastor in Minneapolis. We are delighted to have her with us on World Communion Sunday!

SEP EMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	2	3
4 9:00a Choir 9:45a Worship/ Communion 11a Fellowship	5 LABOR DAY 	6 8a Men's Breakfast	7 2p PD Singing	8 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	9	10
11 9:00 Choir 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship/Church School	12	13 7p Trustees	14 2p PD Singing	15 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	16	17 
18 9:00 Choir 9:45a Worship 11a Fellowship 11:15a Church School	19	20 8a Men's Breakfast	21 2p PD Singing	22 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	23	24
25 9:00 Choir 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	26	27 5-8p Women United	28 2p PD Singing	29 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	30	
					Mid-American Baptist Churches Biennial Gathering 2022, Pella	



September 4:

Worship Leader: Phyllis Schrag
Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

September 11:

Worship Leader: Jan Thompson
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

September 18:

Worship Leader: Erin Johnson
Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

September 25:

Worship Leader: Randall O'Brien
Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Jon Pritchard



Katherine Thompson	2
Stephanie Keat	3
Lucy Stegemöller	10
John Anderson	12
Jenna McCarley	19
Ethan Phomvisay	22
Dave Russell	22
Rosemarie Starrett	24
Kent Johnson	29
Barbara Woods	29
Elizabeth Stegemöller	30



Jill and Michael Leininger	6
Jeanette and Dick Gee	10

SAVE THE DATE!!

Choir Retreat: Oct 15th, 10:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

More info to come!!



Crop Walk



First Baptist has a long history of supporting the CROP Walk for Hunger. In the CROP Walk, walkers are sponsored by church members and friends with proceeds going to fight hunger. Seventy-five percent of the funds raised go to Church World Service to fight hunger in the US and around the world; 25% of funds raised go to support local food agencies.

We encourage you to participate in this year's walk on Sunday, October 9. Dawn Doerr-Johnson is our recruiter, and you can get a sponsor form from her. You can also [sign up online](#) to join the FBC team, and use the same link to sponsor walkers or sponsor our team as a whole.

The walk will be held on Sunday, October 9, starting at the Maple Shelter in Brookside Park. The approximately 5 km walk will go through the ISU campus, north on Stange Road to 13th Street, and wind up back at the Maple Shelter.



First Baptist Church

AMES

200 Lynn Avenue

Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

Our Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. David Russell	Pastor
Mindy Phomvisay	Director of Music
Elizabeth Stegemöller	Choir Accompanist
Charyl Winterink	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcames.org