



The Spire

First Baptist Church,
Ames, Iowa

May 2025
Volume 71, No. 5

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.

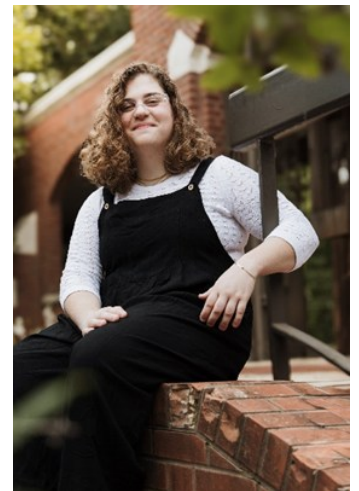
Congratulations, Graduates!

We celebrate with all of our spring graduates! We will recognize our graduates in worship on May 18. If you know of other graduates in our church family, please contact the office.



Abby Johnson will graduate from Ames High School, where she has participated in activities including band and orchestra. She played trombone in the pep band and jazz band and cello in the philharmonic orchestra. She has been very involved at our church, participating in youth activities and playing both the cello and trombone in worship. She has attended church camp at Forest Lake. This summer, Abby will be working at Fareway and taking classes at DMACC. She will attend Iowa State in the fall, majoring in biochemistry with a minor in microbiology. She will audition for the ISU Marching Band.

Lucy Johnson will graduate from Ames High School. Among her involvements there, she plays clarinet in the Little Cyclone marching band and pep band. Lucy has also played in our instrumental ensemble at First Baptist, been involved in youth activities, and attended Forest Lake Camp. She has served as a worship leader at FBC. Lucy will be working at Forest Lake Camp this summer before going to the University of Northern Iowa in the fall to study Human Resources Management. She will also play in the marching band at UNI.



Adde Stegemoller will be graduating from Ames High School. She was in the choir and Madrigal Singers, performed in musical productions, and was in the All-State Choir. She also served as manager for sports teams. Adde will be attending Drake University in the fall, majoring in Music Education and Vocal Performance. At First Baptist, Adde has been a choir member and sings solos. She has taken part in several mission trips and attended Music Conferences at Green Lake.

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Tyler Anderson is a graduating senior at Gilbert High School. He plays bass trombone in the band and was a member of the All-State Band. Tyler shares that he enjoys programming projects, video games, and large fluffy dogs. Tyler is a fourth generation FBC member. His Eagle Scout project was repairing and repainting our north fence and the many metal railings around the church. In July he will be travelling to Europe with the Iowa Ambassadors of Music to perform in cathedrals and concert venues in several countries. He will be attending Iowa State this fall with a software engineering and music double major. He plans to audition for the ISU Marching Band.



Lauren Peters will graduate on May 16 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Illinois. Lauren attended FBC throughout her time as an undergrad at ISU and was baptized here. While in Champaign-Urbana, she has continued to attend our church via Zoom. During veterinary school, she participated in several organizations including the Production Medicine Club. She writes: “When I first started my veterinary journey, I was passionate about working with dairy cattle—a passion that began during my time at Iowa State. However, as I gained more clinical experience, my interests evolved, and I ultimately chose to pursue a career as a small animal general practitioner. I’m excited to be returning home to northern Illinois, where I will begin my career as a full-time associate veterinarian.” The photo is of Lauren with a patient at the clinic.

Pastor’s Word

May is the month for graduations. This year, we have four high school graduates and one college graduate in our church. I have known each of them for many years.

I can remember Susan and I visiting Wes and Erin Johnson in the hospital with their newborn twin girls, Abby and Lucy. I married Scott and Gretchen Anderson and led Tyler’s baby dedication. Adde Stegemoller was quite young when her family moved to Ames and joined our church; I remember visiting with her on their first Sunday here during fellowship time.

I have known all of our seniors for most, if not all of their lives. That is a rare privilege. I have been their pastor, but also a fellow “band member” in our FBC instrumental ensemble; a fellow choir member; a fellow painter, mulcher, and window well diver at church work days; a fellow competitor at our church cook-off; and a fellow mission trip team member. They have all blessed our church, they are all delightful young people, and they are all using their gifts to serve others.

We also have one college graduate this spring. Lauren Peters came to our church eight years ago from the Chicago area as a freshman at Iowa State. I was privileged to baptize her that December. She attended faithfully throughout her time at ISU and then went on to Vet School at the University of Illinois. By the miracle of modern technology, she has continued to worship with us via Zoom throughout her time in Champaign-Urbana.

One of the blessings of a longer pastorate is being able to see young people grow and mature. I feel a lot of pride and joy for all of our graduates, and I know they will all go on to do great things. I am thankful that our church has had a formative role in their lives. This is part of our calling as a community of faith – many of you serve as positive role models and caring adult friends to our children and youth. Many of you help make our church a home away from home for our college students. That is an important ministry, and these relationships are so important. We pray God’s blessings on our graduates as they continue their journeys.

With Gratitude,

Dave

FBC MUSIC CAMP

A fun, hands on experience in music and related arts
For grades K-6 (completed)!

July 28-August 1

9-11:30 am each day

Fun- food- crafts-games-
Choir- special musical guests

Closing program on Friday

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

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

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)










It's a **BIG SUNDAY!**
May 18, 9:45 Worship

Baptismal Service
Recognition of Christian Education Volunteers
Recognition of our Spring Graduates
Music Sunday! - with music by our choir, children, and soloists
Bible presented to 4th graders

Pastor Dave adds: "And a very short sermon!"

May

mnSunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 	3
4 9a Choir 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast	7 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 6:30p Choir 	8 2-4p PD End of Year Party	9	10
11 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11:00a Church School 	12	13 7p Trustees	14 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 6:30p Choir	15	16	17 
ISU Finals						
18 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 4-7p Good Neighbor Block Party	19	20 8a Men's Breakfast	21 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	22 7p Deacons Meeting	23	24
25 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 4p Abby & Lucy Johnson's Grad Party	26 	27	28 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	29 	30	31 1-3p Tyler Anderson's Senior Recital



Serving this month

May 4:

Worship Leader Erin Johnson
Ushers Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

May 11:

Worship Leader Lucy Johnson
Ushers Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

May 18:

Worship Leader Lorrie Whitaker
Ushers Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

May 25:

Worship Leader Randall O'Brien
Ushers Larry Schrag, Aaron Stegemöller



Ryan Smith	2
Catherine Parrish	6
Roberta Ridley	11
Maxwell Keat	21
Dick Gee	25
Michael Thompson	28
Beth Douglass	29



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

Pastoral Installation Service

First Baptist Church of Greater Des Moines invites you to a service of installation. On May 4 at 3:30 pm we will be installing our new pastor, Rev. Paul Scaringi, Ph.D. Please join us as we inaugurate and celebrate his ministry. Refreshments will follow.

The church is located at 8250 NW 62nd Ave., Johnston Iowa 50131.



ABC Biennial in Omaha

The American Baptist Biennial Mission Summit will be in Omaha July 3-6. This is the American Baptist "family reunion" held every two years and includes worship, music, speakers, workshops, and more. Information is available on the bulletin board or visit americanbaptists2025.com.

FBC Car Show!

June 22

First Baptist
Church

200 Lynn Avenue

Everyone Welcome!



Outdoor Worship
9:45 am
car show follows

GRADUATION PARTY FOR ABBY AND LUCY JOHNSON!

celebrate with us!



SUNDAY, MAY 25 at 4 PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AMES
200 LYNN AVENUE
Please RSVP to weserinj@msn.com

SENIOR RECITAL

Featuring Tyler Anderson on bass trombone

Saturday, May 31, 2025 | 1:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church
200 Lynn Avenue, Ames, Iowa

Refreshments to follow



Let's celebrate!
TYLER ANDERSON

MAY 24, 2025 | 1-3:30 PM | 4402 EVEREST CIR., AMES

BLOCK PARTY




SUNDAY, MAY 18TH 4-7 PM

 <p>Venmo Donation @gnea-org</p>	<p>Children's Games</p> <p>Balloon Animals</p> <p>Face Painting</p> <p>Temporary Tattoos</p> <p>Family Resources</p> <p>Cookies</p>	<p>Ames' Own Tap Water!</p> <p>Pizza from local pizza places:</p> <p>Perfect Games</p> <p>Pizza Ranch</p> <p>Little Ceasars</p> <p>Jeff's</p>
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 **Credit Card
Donation**
gnea.org/giving

Clark Ave, Between 6th & 7th & Fareway



We had a good turnout at our AMOS Civic Academy on Housing 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, and we shared some of our personal stories surrounding housing.

Meetings like this are taking place around our 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 in our community and possible ways of addressing these needs. If you would like more information, please see Pastor Dave.



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
Sierra Livengood	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcomes.org