



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

December 2021  
Volume 68, No. 11

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

PHONE: 515-292-9612  
E-MAIL: [office@fbcames.org](mailto:office@fbcames.org)  
WEB: [fbcames.org](http://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.*



### Celebrate the Season at First Baptist!

**November 28, First Sunday of Advent**

“A Great Light,” Isaiah 9:1-7  
Hanging of the Greens Following Worship

**December 5, Second Sunday of Advent**

“A Righteous Branch”, Isaiah 11:1-9  
Yuletide Orchestra Plays in Worship

**December 11**

Drive-Through Christmas Dinner and MICA Food Drive

**December 12, Third Sunday of Advent**

“A Startling Song,” Luke 1:39-55  
Youth Lead in Worship

**December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

“A Hard Journey,” Luke 2:1-14  
Northcrest Vespers Service 3:00 pm

**December 24, Christmas Eve**

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 6 pm

**December 26, First Sunday After Christmas**

Phyllis Schrag will be our preacher for the morning.

**Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM**

Details for connecting via ZOOM at [fbcames.org](http://fbcames.org)

## Drive-Through Christmas Dinner/MICA Food Drive

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be a little different this year. OK, it will be a lot different! With an informal survey showing that many were not comfortable with a sit down dinner, and with COVID infection rates still high, we will have a drive-through pick-up Christmas Dinner. You may pick up your dinner to take home on Saturday, December 11 at 5 pm. We will have some of the traditional menu items; the tentative menu includes Ham Balls, Cheesy Potatoes, green vegetable, roll, and dessert. You will need to order a meal in advance. Please [contact the church office](#) to let us know how many meals you would like to pick up. **The signup deadline is Sunday, December 5.** As has been the case in the past, you may make a donation if you wish to help cover the cost of the meal.

When you come to pick up your Christmas Dinner, we invite you to bring items for the **MICA Food Shelf.** Most needed items: toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, peanut butter, tuna, canned beans – this provides protein for some families.

Other items needed: Non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food items - bring things that YOU would enjoy eating. Rice, flour, sugar, Jello, hot cocoa packets, juice, pasta, pancake mixes, syrup, canned tomatoes and paste, coffee, tea and canned chicken.

Personal hygiene items – bath soap, shampoo, women’s supplies, shaving cream and deodorant

Household supplies – dish soap, cleaning products, hand sanitizer

Infant needs – diapers of all sizes and wipes, baby food

Money – MICA gives food vouchers to be used for milk, eggs, meat and fresh vegetables and fruit.

If you are unable to drop off items on December 11, please contact the church office to bring items at another time.



### Local Mission Funds Distributed

Our church budgets funds each year to support local mission efforts. This year we chose to address issues of food and housing. We will be sending \$1000 to The Bridge Home (formerly the Emergency Residence Project), which provides emergency housing and works to keep people from becoming homeless. We are also sending \$1000 to Food at First, which provides a free community meal each day as well as a free community pantry with grocery items.



Scott Anderson hangs the wreath above the baptistry while Tyler Anderson and Gabe Whitaker hold the ladder.



The **Christmas Offering** is an opportunity to help provide for those most in need in our community. Half of the offering goes to The Bridge Home (formerly the Emergency Residence Project), which provides a homeless shelter and housing services in Ames. The other half goes to our Benevolence Fund, which is distributed to those coming to our church seeking assistance. The Christmas Offering will be highlighted on December 12 and will be received throughout the month of December.

The **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** is a tangible way of saying “Thank You” to those who have served us. The offering supports those who have devoted their lives to God’s service by providing emergency assistance in times of need. The offering also provides Thank You checks to more than 3,300 retired American Baptist ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses. The offering will be highlighted on December 5 and received through-out the month.



***Sustained through Challenge;  
Challenged for Possibility***

**Thank You** to all who have made a pledge of financial support to First Baptist for 2022! God has continued to sustain us through a challenging time. Yet even in the midst of such a time, we are challenged by the possibilities for ministry that are before us. We are grateful for so many who faithfully support our work. If you have not yet made a pledge, we invite you to do so. You can view our Narrative Budget [here](#) and download a pledge card [here](#).

**Region News:** First Baptist is part of an American Baptist region that includes 120+ churches in Iowa and Minnesota. Keep up with news from our region by checking out *The Body Builder*, our newsletter. [Click here](#) to read the latest edition and to subscribe to the region newsletter.



Irene Shireman	2
Tolani Clotey	4
Quinn Whitaker	7
Jim Demarest	8
Tonia McCarley	12
Jeanette Gee	13
Killian Murphy	26
Jill Leininger	28
Stephanie Starrett	28



Susan and Dave Russell	20
Stephanie and Greg Goodman	21
Kay and Randall O'Brien	21



**December 5:**

*Worship Leader* Dawn Doerr-Johnson  
*Ushers:* Jon Pritchard, Aaron Stegemöller

**December 12:**

*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

**December 19**

*Worship Leader* Susan Russell  
*Ushers:* Jerelyn Logue, Tom Logue

**December 26:**

*Worship Leader* Barbara Woods  
*Ushers:* Stephanie Goodman,  
Julie Johnston

**Budget/Election Meeting**

Our annual Budget/Election Business Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, December 12. We will be electing officers and board and committee members as well as adopting a church budget for 2022. All are welcome to attend this meeting. We will make this meeting available on Zoom for those who are not here in person.

**Northcrest Vespers Service**

First Baptist has held a Christmas Vespers service at Northcrest Community for nearly 50 years! Last year we were unable to have the service, but this year we will be able to offer the service for Northcrest residents. It will be on December 19 at 3:00 pm in the Grand Room. Our choir will provide music and there will be a brief message.

**The Secret Place**



Our daily devotional booklets for the winter quarter are now available. You can pick up a copy on the table in the narthex or contact the church office if you would like to have your copy delivered to you.



You are invited to join us for our next Virtual Trivia Night on **Friday, December 17**, 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.

# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>10a AARLA (Ames Area Religious Leaders Assoc.)</i> <i>2p PD Singing</i> 6:30p Choir	2 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	3	4
5 9:45a Worship/Communion 11a Church School	6	7 8a Men's Breakfast <i>2p PD Boxing</i>	8 <i>2p PD Singing</i> 6:30p Choir	9 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	10 	11 5p Christmas Dinner Pickup/MICA Drop-Off
12 9:45a Worship 10:50 Budget/Election/Business Meeting 11:10 Church School	13 <i>ISU Finals Week</i> 	14 7p Trustees	15 6:30p Choir	16 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 	17 6:30p Trivia Night	18
19 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 3p Northcrest Vespers	20	21 8a Men's Breakfast	22 	23	24 6p Christmas Eve Service	25 
26 9:45a Worship	27 	28	29	30	31	



**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



**May God's Blessings Be With  
You in This Holy Season**

**The First Baptist Staff**  
*Pastor Dave, Mindy, Emma,  
Elizabeth, Charyl, Kathy*