



The Spire

First Baptist Church,
Ames, Iowa

July-August 2021
Volume 67, No. 7

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

200 Lynn Ave.
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

We began indoor in-person services in June, and it has been so good for us to be back in the sanctuary! I can see the smiles even through the masks! At the same time, it is gratifying to see so many from near and far continue to join us on Zoom. Since we have been meeting in person, first outside and now in the sanctuary, the majority of folks have continued to join us online, although the numbers have been fairly even on a couple of Sundays.

The dynamics of meeting in this way are interesting. For those on Zoom, the camera angles are different now, with the camera in the balcony, and there are fewer folks online. For those in person, it is a much smaller group in the sanctuary than pre-pandemic, and the service is not quite the same. With a scattered group wearing masks, singing is not exactly robust, and our choir will not be singing indoors for now. The service continues to be shorter than pre-pandemic (which may be a plus for you!) I am grateful for the flexibility and willingness of our church to do what it takes so that we can continue to gather together safely, whether in person or via Zoom. Through it all, God has been good.

Last week Susan and I were able to visit with her family in Arkansas for the first time in a year and a half. While we were away, our deacons stepped up and led us in worship. Jere Maddux was our worship leader and Joyce Davidson and Barbara Woods brought the morning message, each sharing some of what they had experienced and learned, and how they had experienced God over the past 15 months. It was a powerful service. I appreciated their heartfelt words and am thankful for the faith and commitment of our church leaders.

It was also good for me to experience Zoom worship that morning the way that so many of you do each week. That Sunday, five adults and two cats joined the Zoom meeting from Fayetteville, before tuning in to my sister-in-law's church on Facebook Live afterwards. It reminded me of the ministry that Joe Parrish, Bob Parrish, and Emma Phomvisay have each week as they attend to the camera, sound system, and Zoom controls, making our online worship possible.

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday - in person or on Zoom!

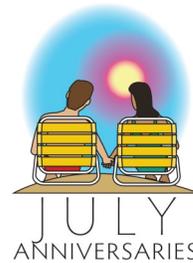
Blessings,
Dave



July 4	Kay O'Brien
July 11	Erin Johnson
July 18	Joyce Davidson
July 25	Patrick Coffey

August 1 - service with FCC and UCC
 August 8 Phyllis Schrag
 August 15 Randall O'Brien
 August 22 Jan Thompson
 August 29 - Worship Under the Trees

Wayne Shireman	2
Nancy Maydew	3
Chris Parrish	3
Adde Stegemöller	3
Julie Johnston	5
Michael Leininger	6
Jerilyn Logue	7
Rita Parrish	7
Lee Davidson	13
Mary Anderson	15
Joyce Davidson	16
Mindy Phomvisay	19
Aiddy Phomvisay	21
Logan Hemmen	23
Randy Lambert	23
Jon Pritchard	23
Jan Thompson	23
Katy Seidel	24
David Starrett	24
Brian Parrish	29



Stephanie and Brian Starrett	4
Serena and Alex Parrish	9
Rosemary and Patrick Coffey	16
Jill and Dale Grauman	19
Lorrie and John Whitaker	23



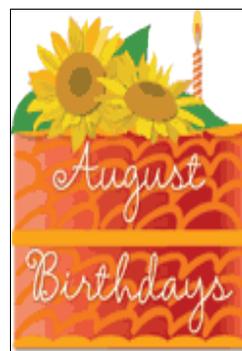
We will have three outdoor services this summer – opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and to meet in a setting where some may be more comfortable gathering in person. Our choir will also be able to sing when we are outside.

Sunday, July 11 – 9:45 am. Join us in the front yard for worship! Our choir will sing and (back by popular demand) we will have ice cream treats after the service!

Sunday, August 1 – Shared Worship with Ames UCC and First Christian Church, **10:00 am** (note the time). In past years, this service has been held at Brookside Park. To make it easier to share the service over Zoom and to give folks space to spread out, we will meet here at First Baptist in our front yard.

Sunday, August 29, 9:45 am – Worship Under the Trees, our traditional outdoor back-to-school service following the first week of classes. We will welcome Iowa State students and have a meal on the grounds afterwards.

Please bring a lawn chair to these outdoor service if you are able (we will have some chairs on hand). All services will also be on Zoom.



Lorrie Whitaker	7
Scott Anderson	13
Gary Maydew	13
Jim Sassaman	20
Johnie Hammond	22
Gabe Whitaker	22
Bob Parrish	24

Marilyn & Buckley Peterson	1
Larry & Phyllis Schrag	9
Irene & Wayne Shireman	16



Honor for Randall O'Brien

Randall and Kay O'Brien attended the Reunion/50th Anniversary Homecoming from Viet Nam for the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, June 21-25. Randall was nominated by his company commander and chosen to receive the Distinguished Member of the Regiment Award. Congratulations to Randall and thank you for your service!

Guest Preacher

Rev. Jacqueline Saxon will be our pulpit guest on July 18. Jackie is our regional Executive Minister, having started in that role in October 2018. A lifelong American Baptist, Jackie is a native of Rochester, NY. She came to our region from Austin, Texas, where she was Vice President for Student Affairs at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She had previously served on the staff of University Baptist Church in Austin (where some folks in our church were once members). Jackie has joined us for a number of events at FBC - including Virtual Trivia Night! - and we look forward to her message.



Randall receives Distinguished Member of the Regiment award

Youth Sunday

Thank you to our youth for leading us in worship on Youth Sunday, June 20! The Sunday service included live in person, pre-recorded, and live via Zoom contributions, with a Veggie Tales theme! Our youth met remotely for most of the past year and only recently were able to meet in person. Thanks to our youth for sharing their gifts and thanks to leaders Jan Thompson, Mindy Phomvisay, and Elizabeth Stegemöller for all of their work.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 6p Deacons	2	3
4 9:45a Worship/ Communion 	5	6 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins	7  3p PD Singing Group	8 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	9	10 
11 9:45a Outdoor Worship 10:45 Ice Cream Social	12	13 7p Trustees (Zoom)	14	15 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	16	17
18 9:45a Worship Rev. Jackie Saxon	19	20 8a Men's Breakfast, Perkins	21	22 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	23	24 
Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians Conference, Green Lake, Wisconsin						
25 9:45a Worship	26 	27	28 3p PD Singing Group	29 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	30 6:30 Virtual Trivia Night	31



AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10a Worship/ Communion with First Christian and Ames UCC—FBC front yard	2	3 8a Men's Break- fast, Perkins	4 <i>3p PD Singing Group</i>	5	6 	7
8 9:45a Worship 10:45 Fellowship Time	9	10 7p Trustees	11 <i>3p PD Singing Group</i> 5:15p Pastoral Relations Comm.	12	13	14
15 9:45a Worship 10:45 Fellowship Time	16	17 8a Men's Break- fast, Perkins	18	19 	20	21
22 9:45a Worship 10:45 Fellowship Time	23 ISU Classes Begin	24	25	26	27	28
29 9:45a Worship Under the Trees—meal follows	30 	31				

Biennial Report

The American Baptist Churches Biennial/Mission Summit was held virtually June 24-26. The gathering included music, worship, inspiring speakers, workshops, a business session, mission summit small group conversations, gatherings of various institutions – colleges, seminaries, mission agencies, and so forth – and even a virtual exhibit hall. Now, it wasn't quite the same as being there in person. An iPad is not the same as being there in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which had been Plan A. And while video chats with other attendees was possible, it wasn't quite the same as seeing an old friend and getting together for lunch. But it worked, and our mission as American Baptists continues as we seek to be "the hands and feet of Christ."

With a theme of "Imagine," speakers and leaders fostered spaces and invited participants to work toward unity, experience healing, and have hope while envisioning new possibilities for ministry and communities. [Here is a brief video](#) that gives a glimpse of the diversity and spirit of our ABC family.

The next biennial is scheduled for San Juan in June 2023.

Employment Opportunity!

FBC is looking for a part-time Office Manager. The position is for 12-16 hours/week, with some flexibility in setting the regular office hours. If someone you know may be interested, details are available on our [church website](#). We will continue to receive applications until the position is filled. Pastor Dave continues to cover most office duties in the meantime. (By the way, if you are proficient with Mail Merge and have some time available for a mailing project, please contact Pastor Dave!)

Fellowship Time

As we continue to move toward the "new Normal," we will resume Fellowship Time following worship in August. On August 8, 15, and 22 we will have refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following worship, and on August 29 we will meet outside for worship, with a meal following.

T R I V I A
N I G H T

Thank you to Alex Parrish for hosting our Trivia Night on June 11! Our next Virtual Trivia Night is set for **Friday, July 30** at 6:30 pm. To take part, join the regular Sunday morning Zoom meeting link. We will form teams and each team will discuss answers to questions in breakout rooms. Everyone is welcome!



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
	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



Watch videos of previous worship services on the [FBC YouTube Channel!](#)

worship
with us



[Click here](#) or go to fbcames.org for information on how to join us on Zoom on Sunday mornings.