



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

January 2021
Volume 67 No. 1

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
200 Lynn Ave.
Ames, IA 50014-7188
Worship Sundays 9:45 am

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WEBSITE:
www.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.

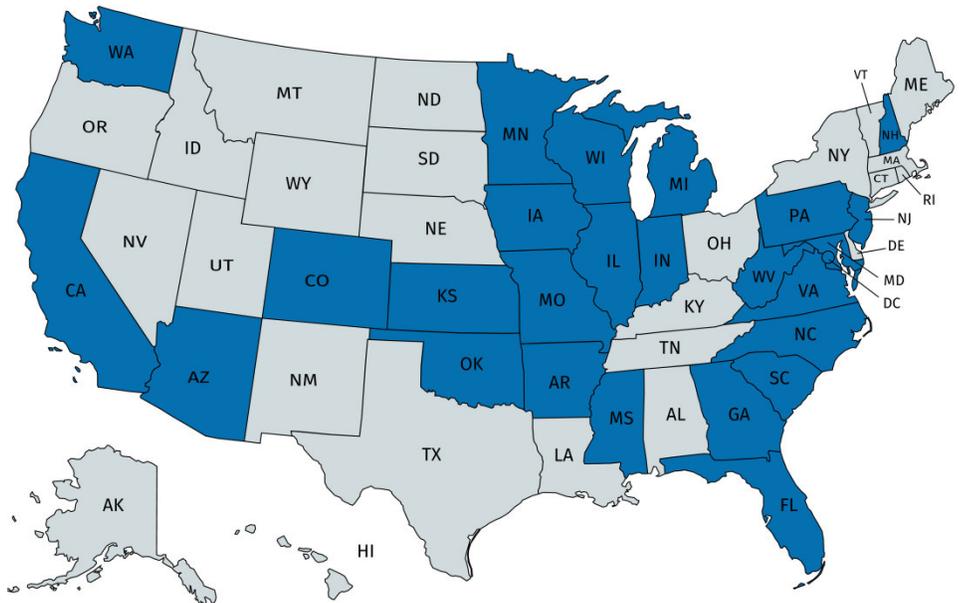
Year in Review

Like most of us, I have been reflecting on the year that has passed. To describe 2020 in one word, we have been using terms like Awful, Horrible, Terrible, Painful. Or maybe Crazy, Unreal, Unbelievable. While we are living through it, I'm not sure we can fully grasp what a momentous year this has been and what a strange time we are living through.

Some of the enduring images will be of loved ones in nursing homes unable to receive visitors, holidays spent without family members, trips canceled, missing out on gatherings with friends. There will also be images of the way that the curtain was drawn back on racial injustice and of deep political polarization. We will remember the derecho (so many new words in 2020!) and the destruction it caused. When we think of 2020, we will remember loss of connection with one another, anxiety, and loss of life.

Amidst all of this, there have been moments of hope and joy. As a church, we celebrated that we continued to be held together by God's grace. Here are some images that come to mind:

- Patricia's dog Ziggy running in circles, on camera, to the Hallelujah Chorus at the end of the Easter service
- Virtual trivia nights and a Virtual Fall Festival
- Friends from across the country joining us on Sunday mornings – here is the map of states (that we know of) represented in worship in 2020 (many are represented every week):



- A drive-through event in which we picked up Advent at Home Kits and dropped off food for the MICA Food Shelf
- A youth-led worship service and youth-led Christmas program – on Zoom

- One of the real highlights: we celebrated a Zoom wedding with Beth and Jere!
- Jim Hinds preached for us – from New Hampshire.

Which of these things would we have predicted as the year began?

But enough of 2020! This is a New Year. We look ahead to better days, and we enter this year a little wiser, hopefully, knowing that the future is uncertain – it cannot be predicted. As we begin a New Year, we know for sure that the things that matter the most are gifts of the Spirit - trust and faith and hope and love - and we look to the future with confidence, knowing that God is with us, no matter what.

I'll see you – virtually – this Sunday!

Blessings,
Dave

In the Words of Dr. King

Annual Interfaith Service honoring
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, January 17 AT 2 PM

YOU MUST REGISTER WITH ZOOM AT

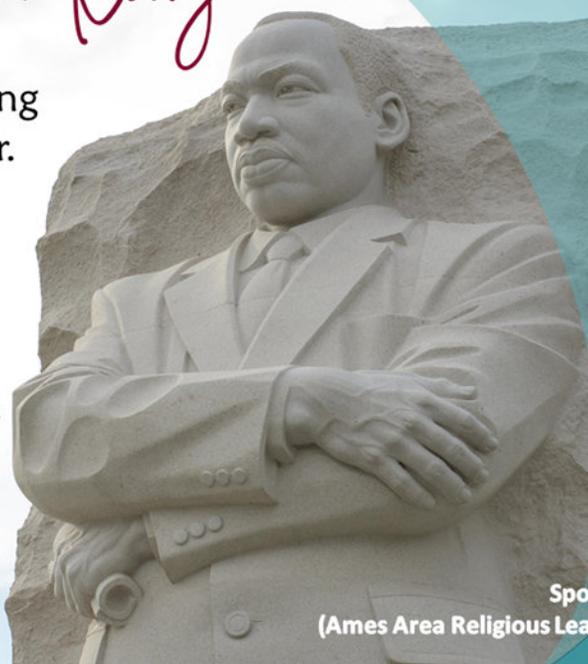
<https://bit.ly/MLKDream2021>

Zoom worship hosted by
First Christian Church of Ames

There will be a love offering received for the
Dream Seed Scholarship during the service.

You may contribute through the Facebook
Fundraiser at <http://bit.ly/DreamSeed2021> or
Checks can be made out to YSS/AMP with Dream
Seed on the memo line and mailed to

Unity Church of Ames
226th 9th Street, Ames, IA 50010



Sponsored by AARLA
(Ames Area Religious Leaders Association)

You are invited to join in the Martin Luther King Interfaith Service on January 17 at 2 pm. Pastor Dave will participate in the service. You must [register in advance with Zoom](#) to join the service.

Note of Thanks

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the lovely poinsettia and all your prayers, messages and cards concerning the health and death of my mother. Your support has been comforting and appreciated by me, Jere and my family.

Love, Beth Douglass



Our love and prayers are with Michael, Jan, Katherine, and Marian Thompson in the loss of Michael's father, Herman Thompson. He died on December 23 in Peoria, Illinois.

Notice of Proposed By-Law Change

The Executive Council proposes a change to the document "Endowment Fund of the First Baptist Church of Ames, Iowa" which is appended to our church by-laws. The change regards the composition of the Endowment Committee.

The proposal is to remove sections 3.1 through 3.4 of the document, which outline the members, terms, and process for selection of Endowment Fund Committee members, and replace with:

3.1 "The Endowment Fund Committee shall be composed of the Moderator, the Treasurer, and the Chair of the Trustees Committee." Sections 3.5 and 3.6 would be renumbered to 3.2 and 3.3.

Rationale: This committee does not meet frequently and this change simplifies our structure. This recommendation was suggested by the Nominating Committee and comes after several years of experience with the current structure. The Executive Council recommends this bylaw revision.

This announcement constitutes notice in writing prior to our annual meeting, as required for bylaw changes.

Annual Meeting January 30



Our annual congregational meeting is set for Sunday, January 31 following worship. We will receive annual reports from our various areas of ministry and conduct other items of business, including a vote on a proposed by-law change (regarding composition of the Endowment Committee). We are asking board and committee chairs, representatives to community organizations, officers and staff to submit reports to the church office by January 23 to allow time to put together the Book of Reports. Our annual meeting will be held on Zoom.

New Fiber Optic Internet Service

After months of making do with internet speeds that were barely sufficient for Zoom video meetings (and in a few cases, not sufficient!), fiber optic internet service was finally installed on January 6. We are hopeful that this will considerably improve the quality of our worship services. (By that we mean the technical quality – better sound and video resolution and no more "your internet signal is unstable" messages. We think the content is already pretty good!) Thank you to our Sunday morning team for your continuing ministry in strange and sometimes difficult conditions!

January Birthdays

Dacian Wilson	8
Toyin Clotley	9
Alex Parrish	19
Jere Maddux	20
Alice Clemons	22
TJ Nugent	24
Lumi Clotley	25



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	4	5 2p Virtual Coffee Shop	6 6:30p Choir	7 6:30p Weekly Devotion	8	9 
10 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	11 	12 2p Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Trustees Meeting	13	14 	15 6:30p Weekly Devotion	16 
17 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 2p Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Service (Zoom)	18	19 2p Virtual Coffee Shop	20 Annual Reports Due 6:30p Choir	21 6:30p Weekly Devotion 7:15p Deacons	22 6:30p Virtual Trivia Night	23 
24 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	25 	26 2p Virtual Coffee Shop	27	28 6:30p Weekly Devotion	29	30
31 9:45a Worship 11a Annual Meeting						



A Year of Successes for AMOS!

In what was a very trying year, AMOS was able to successfully work toward creating communities that work for everyone. Here are some of our successes:

Workforce

- Within the first month of the pandemic, organized a virtual action and secured Iowa Workforce Development's commitment to hire 100 additional staff members to handle claim volume and expand resources for non-English speakers.
- Secured \$5 million from CARES Act funding for job training in Iowa's high demand jobs.

Mental Health

- Within a status-quo state budget, AMOS helped secure \$5 million in additional funding for Polk County mental health services. Hundreds of AMOS leaders contacted their legislators to share why mental health funding was important.

Food Insecurity and Emergency Housing

- Helped raise over \$179,000 in emergency funds for Story County immigrants.
- Pushed Story County Board of Health to create a plan to provide medical care for persons experiencing homelessness who contract COVID-19. Supported additional federal funding to ensure The Bridge Home could continue to operate at full capacity.

Voter Engagement

- Organized an action with more than 200 AMOS members to secure commitments from 3 federal candidates to work with AMOS on issues related to economic stability, childcare, and mental healthcare access.

Strengthening Institutions

- Engaged over 350 Central Iowans (including 20 from FBC) in small group conversations about the pressures impacting our families and communities through a virtual "Consider, Connect, and Create" listening campaign.
- Organized thousands of relational phone calls to increase social connection and understand the pressures facing members of AMOS organizations.

Building Relational Power

- Welcomed 4 new dues-paying AMOS organizations: EMBARC, Project Iowa, Des Moines Mennonite Church, and Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance.
- Raised \$19,147 (11% of the budget) from 129 donors to support AMOS in addition to institutional dues.

For more information on AMOS successes in 2020, click [here](#).

Looking to get involved in AMOS in 2021? Start by attending our Leader's Retreat on Saturday, January 23rd, 2021 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. You can register for this event by clicking [here](#).



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
Hope Deets	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



Live Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 via ZOOM
Details for connecting on our church website at fbcomes.org.



Our next monthly Trivia Night will be on Friday, January 22 at 6:30 pm, via Zoom. The questions come from a range of general knowledge topics, with a few “churchy” questions thrown in. We will form teams, and the teams can discuss their answers to each round’s questions in Zoom breakout rooms. We will use the same Zoom link that we use on Sunday mornings. Contact Pastor Dave for more information.