



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

March 2025  
Volume 71, No. 3

## 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.*



## Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent is a season of reflection and spiritual renewal leading to the celebration of Easter. Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday, March 5**. Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 6:30 pm. The service will include meditative Taizé music, prayers, scripture, and ashes. We will meet in the lounge for this service. Choir rehearsal will follow at 7:15.

## Lenten Soup Suppers and Study

We will have a Soup Supper and Study on Wednesday evenings **March 12, March 26, April 2, and April 9 at 6 pm**. (Note that we will not meet during spring break, March 16). We will enjoy a simple meal followed by conversation around themes found in Kate Bowler's Lenten devotional, *The Hardest Part: Hurt We Carry, Hope We Find*. **Choir will follow at 7 pm**.

You can access the devotional guide from our website. For each day you will find a reflection, a response prompt, and a blessing to remind you that grace has a way of sneaking in, even when life feels impossible.

[Devotional guide](#)  
[Printable version](#)

**Palm Sunday, April 17:** Worship will include a palm procession and special music by our choir.

**Maundy Thursday, April 17:** Worship at 6:30 pm will include scripture readings, music, and communion as we remember Jesus sharing the Passover meal with his disciples in the Upper Room.

**Easter Sunday, April 20:** We will have an Easter Breakfast in the fellowship hall at 8:30 am. Easter Worship is at 9:45 am as we celebrate resurrection!

## Welcome, New Members!



We are delighted to welcome Jim and Ann (Seidel) Hinds as new members! They will be received into membership on March 2. At the time the COVID shutdown started, Ann and Jim had recently moved to a Continuing Care Community (ala Northcrest) in Keene, New Hampshire. Ann is the daughter of Harris and Katy Seidel and grew up in our church.

As Covid came upon the world, and having not yet identified a local church in Keene, they joined us online for worship. They have continued to worship with us each Sunday via Zoom and have also served as worship leaders. Jim is a retired American Baptist pastor (following a late career change) who served at First Baptist in Gardner, Massachusetts. He has preached at our church, both from their home via Zoom and here in person.

Jim worked for 25 years at Northeastern University in Boston, providing computer support for the College of Engineering before attending seminary at Andover Newton. Ann earned degrees from Iowa State and Northeastern. She worked at Northeastern, and then for various law firms in Boston as a legal secretary.

We look forward to welcoming Ann and Jim via Zoom on Sunday. We will also give them a warm in-person welcome the next time they worship with us in Ames!

American Baptist Churches USA  
**BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT**  
July 3-6, 2025 | Omaha, NE  
**COME SEEK**  
**LIVING WATER**

**COME SEEK:**

- ◆ New Life in Christ through dynamic worship services and learning opportunities.
- ◆ New Connections with other American Baptists. Build your network!
- ◆ What God has to share with you!

**Come Seek Living Water**

Registration is open for the American Baptist Biennial Mission Summit, held July 4-6 in Omaha. For more information or to register, go to [americanbaptists2025.com](https://americanbaptists2025.com) or see Pastor Dave.

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9a Choir 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School	3	4 8a Men's Breakfast	5 6:30p Ash Wednesday Service- Lounge 7:15p Choir 	6 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	7 	8
9 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship 11a Church School 	10	11 7p Trustees	12 6:30p Soup Supper and Lenten Study 7p Choir	13 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	14 	15
16 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	17 	18 8a Men's Breakfast	19 7p Choir	20 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	21 	22
<b>Spring Break Week</b>						
23 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 6p Cook-off	24	25	26 6:30p Soup Supper and Lenten Study 7p Choir	27 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacons	28	29
30 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	31					



**March 2:**

*Worship Leader* Jan Thompson

*Ushers:* Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

**March 9:**

*Worship Leader* Kay O'Brien

*Ushers:* Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

**March 16:**

*Worship Leader* John Whitaker

*Ushers:* Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

**March 23:**

*Worship Leader* Scott Kalberer

*Ushers:* Stephanie Goodman, Larry Schrag

**March 30:**

*Worship Leader* Kaylinn Nugent

*Ushers:* Jan Thompson, Beth Douglass



Phyllis Schrag	5
Michelle (Leining) George	8
Caimbrie Parrish	8
Joseph Core	9
Gretchen Anderson	18
Wes Johnson	18
Stephanie Goodman	25

A Mid-Iowa  
Organizing Strategy

### AMOS Civic Academy on Housing

AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy) is an organization of institutions working together to make our community a place that works for everyone. First Baptist is one of 37 institutional members of AMOS and one of 9 members in Ames. This year our Ames cluster is focusing on housing needs in our community. Civic Academies are being held this spring – opportunities to learn about housing in our community as well as have conversations and share stories and personal experiences around housing. (This will be much like the House Meetings we have held in the past, along with a teaching/learning component.)

Our church will hold a Housing Civic Academy on Sunday, April 27 during the Church School hour. Our adult classes will not meet on that day and we will instead offer the Civic Academy. It will run from 10:45 - 12 noon. Be watching for more details! If you would like to know more about AMOS or get involved in the AMOS housing campaign, please see Pastor Dave.

## Church Cook-Off March 23

Our annual cook-off will be held on Sunday evening, March 23 at 6 pm. For many years the cook-off has been a highlight of both fellowship and mission support as we enjoy great food while raising money to support a mission cause.

Our theme will be “Childhood Favorites.” We encourage you to make a dish from your childhood. We will vote for our favorites with cash that will go into a container for each dish. This is always great fun and a great opportunity to invite a friend. And please note: if the Cyclones happen to be playing in the NCAA tournament that evening, we will have the game playing at one end of the Fellowship Hall!

Funds raised will go to the ISU Food Pantry. Many students have a difficult time getting by and make use of the food pantry. Our Cook-off is a way to enjoy a fun evening while helping our neighbors.



2024 Cook-Off Winners

## With Sympathy

Our love and prayers are with...

Johnie Hammond in the loss of her sister, Allene Schooler. She died on March 9 in San Jose, California.

Bob, Joe, and Tom Parrish and family in the loss of their brother, Jim Parrish on February 26. Jim moved from Missouri to Ames several years ago and lived at Bickford Cottage Assisted Living.

We will receive the **America for Christ Offering** throughout the month of March. The offering supports ABC mission and ministry throughout the US and Puerto Rico. What does this look like? The offering supports some of the places our church has sent mission teams, including the Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, Kansas; Murrow Indian Children’s Home in Muskogee, Oklahoma; and the Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico project that involved many mission teams repairing and rehabbing homes and churches following the hurricane there.

AFC supports regional ministries, allowing our Mid-America Region to support our two camps, provide training opportunities for clergy and lay leaders, and support for congregations as they seek pastoral leaders.

The Offering helps support our ABC colleges and seminaries and fund scholarships for American Baptist students. AFC funds grants for local projects that provide youth programs, school supplies, food programs, and care for seniors.





**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](http://fbcomes.org)**