



The Spire First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

Pastor's Word

Our deacons, meeting on May 26, made the decision to continue meeting for worship and other activities via Zoom through Sunday, August 2. That Sunday will be our annual Worship at Brookside Park together with First Christian Church and Ames UCC. This year, that will be a virtual service including our three churches, with the details still a little up in the air. At the deacons meeting in July, we will determine how to proceed in August and beyond.

Factors that went into this decision included the fact that the cases of COVID-19 are not declining in our area, CDC and public health guidelines, the number of persons aged 65+ in our congregation, the difficulties in ensuring social distancing in our building, concerns regarding singing in groups, and more. Essentially we have decided that continuing with Zoom services for now is preferable to other alternatives.

At the same time, we so miss being together. We would love to sit together, sing together, hug each other, and share food around tables. We look forward to the time when we can do that. We are called by God to care for one another and to love our neighbor, however, and at this point the best way to do that is by gathering virtually.

We recognize that when we do join together in person again, things will be different. Not everyone will be able to join us or feel comfortable meeting in person (and the fact is that not everyone was able to join us in person before.) When we do meet again in the sanctuary, we will continue to provide a way for those who are not physically present to connect to the service.

In the meantime, Pastor Dave and Moderator Jere Maddux will appoint a Re-Opening Committee to identify issues involved and make preparations for our return to the sanctuary. If you have questions, concerns or comments, please contact Pastor Dave or Jere.

While we would love to meet in person, our worship via Zoom has proven to a successful experiment. Despite the technical glitches, worship has been meaningful and we have found ways to make it participatory - and even fun. It has been a joy to see many friends from out of town join us. We are having larger numbers in worship than we would ordinarily have; attendance is actually the highest it has been in many years. Who would have guessed?

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June 2020

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
200 Lynn Ave.
Ames, IA 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.

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We are living through an exceptionally difficult time as our society faces multiple crises, all at once. Beyond facing a global pandemic and all of the resulting loss and disruption, the death of George Floyd at the hands of police has caused us to grieve and cry out for justice, reminding us yet again of the deeply ingrained racism in our nation. But the moment that we face can be a times of transformation, if we allow it. I have been heartened by those who are caring for neighbors in need in creative and compassionate ways. I have been encouraged by so many who are standing up against racism and injustice. I have been blessed by those who are seeking to be the hands and feet of Christ in this moment. As we remembered and celebrated on Pentecost, God is here and God's Spirit is at work. As difficult as this moment may be, I truly believe that our ministry as a church has never been more important.

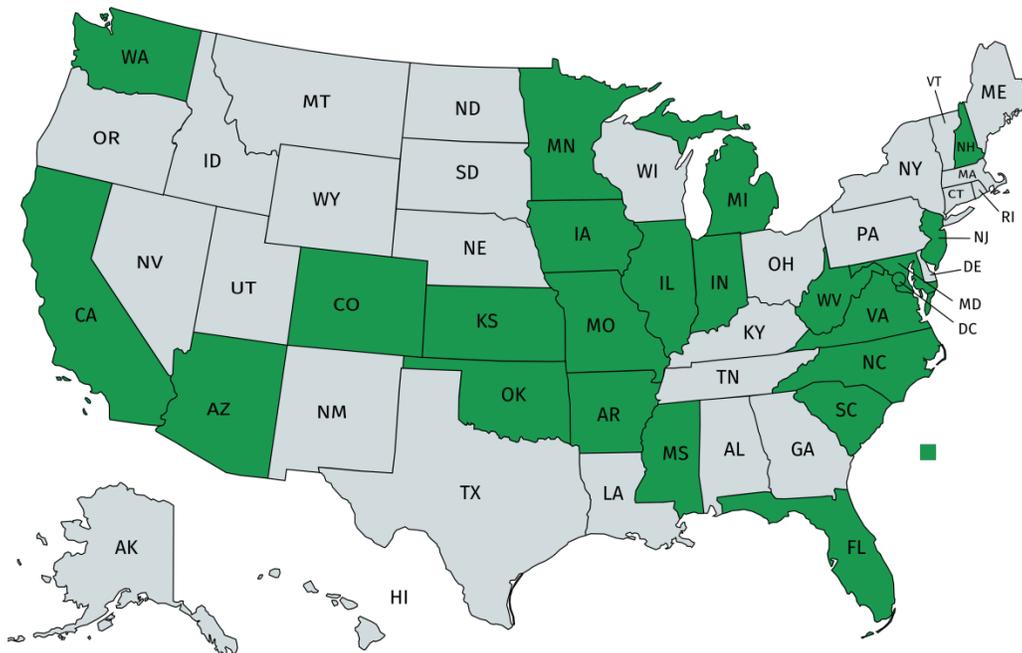
Thank you for your continuing encouragement, understanding, commitment, and support for our church as we continue to serve through these uncertain days.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

Worship Notes

We continue to have friends, family, former members, and students at home from around the country join us for worship online on Sunday mornings. All of the states represented in worship since we began meeting via Zoom are shown in green. Since our last Spire, we have filled in California, West Virginia, Mississippi, Arkansas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland!



Worship Videos Online

Videos of some of our worship services (sermons and some music) are now posted on our church's [YouTube channel](#).

Youth Sunday

Please join us for worship on June 7 for Youth Sunday! Our youth and children have been working hard to prepare for this service and we look forward to them leading us. As the first Sunday of the month, this is our regular Communion Sunday. Please plan to have bread and juice on hand for the service. (Bread, crackers, tortilla, or similar will work, and whatever juice or drink you have on hand will be fine.)

Congratulations, Graduates!

We have additional graduates in our extended church family to report this month. Buck and Marilyn Peterson's granddaughter **Kaylee Foley**, daughter of Cynthia and Garth Foley, graduated from Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) High School in Janesville, Minnesota. The Foleys have now all moved back to Minnesota from Alaska. Kaylee graduated from the same high school from which her dad graduated.

Sakura Shireman will graduate this spring at Seisen Girls International High School in Tokyo, Japan. She has been accepted to attend Occidental College, Los Angeles in the fall. She is the granddaughter of Irene and Wayne Shireman and niece of Catherine and Joe Parrish.

It's a Girl! And it's a Boy!

Lily Ann Whitaker was born May 1 to Daniel Whitaker and Michelle Smith. She weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces and was 20 inches long. Lily joins big sisters Claire and Nora. John and Lorrie Whitaker are proud grandparents.

Owen Ray Sanders was born April 29 to Jonathan and Rachel Sanders. Owen is the great-grandson of Wallace Sanders. David and Tina are Owen's grandparents.

In Christian Sympathy

Our love and prayers are with the family of Kelly Van Meter, who died on April 20. Kelly grew up in our church and was the son of Delmar and Jo Van Meter. Kelly lived in Connecticut.

June Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Gary and Nancy Maydew | 2 |
| Tom and Jerilyn Logue | 9 |
| Harris and Katy Seidel | 9 |
| Scott and Gretchen Anderson | 14 |
| Mindy and Aiddy Phomvisay | 15 |
| John and Mary Anderson | 17 |
| Neil and Michelle Logue | 22 |
| Michael and Jan Thompson | 30 |

June Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Tom Gleason | 1 |
| Mya Logue | 7 |
| Dianne Borgen | 9 |
| Susan Russell | 15 |
| Jocelyn Wilson | 15 |
| Tyler Anderson | 23 |
| Wallace Sanders | 24 |
| Wilma Robinson | 26 |
| Serena Parrish | 27 |
| Erin Johnson | 29 |
| Jared Diehl | 29 |



The AMOS Delegate Assembly (held via Zoom) will be Saturday, June 13 from 9-10:30 am. This is a chance for people from the 38 AMOS institutions across central Iowa to join together to conduct business, celebrate victories, and plan for the future. We will officially hire Courtney Dufford as our Lead Organizer, adopt a budget, share stories from the various clusters, and build relationships. If you would like to attend and represent our church, please contact Pastor Dave for details.

One Great HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is the annual offering that provides disaster relief as well as development assistance both in the U.S. and around the world. Over the past year, OGHS funds have provided assistance following flooding here in Iowa, Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, wildfires in Sierra Leone, an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and more. Funds also provided assistance for food, shelter, and refugee programs in the U.S. and for safe water programs, grinding mills, support for trafficked women's assistance programs and more overseas.

Funds received last year have also been used to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic both in our country and around the world. There are many programs in local churches and ABC agencies that serve marginalized communities especially hurt by the pandemic. Funds support these efforts, such as a food, housing, and healthcare ministries, including programs in our region.

While this is a difficult time for many of us, the need has never been greater. As you mail in your tithes and gifts, or give online, we invite you to give to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. You may write checks to the church with memo OGHS. For more information on the offering is available at <http://abc-oghs.org>.

Patricia Izbicki Named Associate Director of Music



Mindy Phomvisay and Patricia Izbicki

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Patricia Izbicki has been named as Associate Director of Music at First Baptist. Patricia began with us in the fall of 2015 and has served as Choir Accompanist since then. That title did not adequately describe her musical contributions to our church. Besides her work with the choir, she has often served as accompanist for services in Director Mindy Phomvisay's absence, accompanied soloists and ensembles, played preludes, postludes, and other solo piano pieces, worked with campers at our Music Camp, and more. In past years, Patricia has been off over the summer while the choir took a break, but now that we are worshiping via Zoom, Patricia has served as the primary accompanist while Mindy serves as a vocalist and plays flute, along with Emma Phomvisay who has been a vocalist and violinist. The new title is more representative of Patricia's ministry.

Patricia received her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Iowa State this spring (see last month's Spire for details). We are delighted that she will be with us for another year, as both Patricia and her fiancé, Andrew Zaman, have accepted positions as postdoctoral researchers, working with Elizabeth Stegemöller. We are proud of Patricia's accomplishments and look forward to her continued ministry with us.

Responding to the Pandemic: Meeting Needs in Ames and Beyond

The number of individuals and families in need in our community have increased as a result of COVID-19 and the accompanying economic disruptions. Our church supports Good Neighbor and Food at First through budgeted funds, and we have gone ahead and forwarded our annual support. If you would like to help support local organizations assisting those in need, here are some organizations our church partners with, along with addresses to send contributions.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND FOR STORY COUNTY IMMIGRANTS. Many immigrants are among the poorest of the poor in our community. Taxpayers who have an ITIN number rather than SSN are ineligible for the federal stimulus funds. Many immigrants are not eligible for unemployment, and in some cases for assistance from local agencies. The United Way brought together a group including congregations and local organizations to find ways to help the immigrant community during this pandemic. The result is an emergency fund that provides rent, utility, and other emergency assistance such as prescriptions. St. Cecilia Church has agreed to administrate this fund. You may send contributions to St. Cecilia at 2900 Hoover Ave, Ames, IA 50010. Make checks to St. Cecilia Church with “COVID-19 Emergency Fund for Immigrants” in the memo line. Click [here](#) for an Ames Tribune article on the effort.



GOOD NEIGHBOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. Good Neighbor primarily offers rental and utility assistance, as well as food and gas vouchers. Our church was one of the founders of Good Neighbor and Julie Johnston represents us on the Good Neighbor board. You may send checks to Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, 613 Clark, Ames IA 50010 or [give online](#).



FOOD AT FIRST. FAF, located at First Christian Church, offers a free meal to anyone in the community each day as well as a perishable free market. Because of the virus, meals are now packaged and distributed outside, rather than dine-in. This has increased costs, and the number of those in need has increased. You can send contributions to Food at First, PO Box 87, Ames IA 50010. You may also donate or sign up to volunteer on the [FAF website](#).



Emergency Residence Project

EMERGENCY RESIDENCE PROJECT. ERP is the homeless shelter in our community, offering emergency housing and homelessness prevention. Our church supports ERP through our annual Christmas Offering. You can mail checks to Emergency Residence Project, 225 South Kellogg, Ames, Iowa 50010. You can learn more and donate online at [amesshelter.org](#).

NEW BOOKS

I have added several books to our church library that address issues of race, privilege, and inequality. If you would like to read one of these, Joe has offered to do a delivery service. If you want to stop in at church and check one out, they will be on the Library table as they are received. Please call the church to set up a time to visit the library. I ask that books be returned in a timely manner so others can have a chance to read them.

Children

Skin Like Mine (Kids Like Mine series) by LaTashia M. Perry

An entertaining yet creative way to address and celebrate diversity among young children.

Where Are You From? by Yamile Saied Méndez

A girl who is asked where she's *really* from turns to her *abuelo* for the answer.

All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color by Katie Kissinger

Young children are curious about why people have different skin colors. The book is the product of Kissinger's years-long work with children and features valuable teaching suggestions to get children thinking imaginatively and unselfconsciously about skin color.

Same, Same But Different by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

Elliot lives in America, and Kailash lives in India. They are pen pals. By exchanging letters and pictures, they learn that they both love to climb trees, have pets, and go to school. Their worlds might look different, but they are actually similar. Same, same. But different!

Youth

A youth version of **We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide** by Carol Anderson

When America achieves milestones of progress toward full and equal black participation in democracy, the systemic response is a consistent racist backlash that rolls back those wins. Written in an approachable narrative style that provides teen readers with additional context to these historic moments.

Adult

America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States by Erika Lee

An award-winning historian reframes our continuing debate over immigration with a compelling history of xenophobia in the United States and its devastating impact.

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race Debby Irving

Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us.

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race by Beverly Daniel Tatum

The classic, bestselling book on the psychology of racism, now fully revised and updated.

If you are aware of another book we should have or you want to read, let me know and I'll order it.

- Catherine Parrish

PS: We have lots of new books, many purchased from IRMS when they closed. They are also on the Library table; it's worth your time to stop in and take a look.

June

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 2:00p Virtual Coffee Shop 5:15 Pastoral Relations Comm. | 3 6:30p choir | 4 6:30p Mid-Week Gathering | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:45a Worship, Youth Sunday 11:00a Church School | 8 | 9 2:00p Virtual Coffee Shop 7:00p Trustees | 10 6:30p choir | 11 6:30p Mid-Week Gathering | 12 | 13 9:00am AMOS Delegate Assembly |
| 14 9:45a Worship, Communion 11:00a Church School | 15 | 16 2:00p Virtual Coffee Shop | 17 6:30p choir | 18 6:30p Mid-Week Gathering | 19 6:30p Virtual Trivia Night | 20 |
| 21 9:45a Worship 11:00a Church School | 22 | 23 2:00p Virtual Coffee Shop | 24 | 25 6:30p Mid-Week Gathering 7:15 deacons | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:45a Worship 11:00a Church School | 29 | 30 2:00p Virtual Coffee Shop | | | | |

First Baptist Church
200 Lynn Avenue
Ames, Iowa 50014-7188

Our Church Staff:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Rev. Dr. David Russell | Pastor |
| Mindy Phomvisay | Director of Music |
| Dr. Patricia Izbicki | Accompanist |
| Hope Deets | Office Manager |
| Kathy Greiner | Custodian |

The logo for Trivia Night is displayed in two rows. The top row contains the letters T, R, I, V, I, A, each in a different colored square: T (green), R (red), I (gold), V (purple), I (yellow), A (light blue). The bottom row contains the letters N, I, G, H, T, each in a different colored square: N (gold), I (purple), G (green), H (light blue), T (red).

Friday, June 19

During this of staying at home, we are nevertheless finding ways to stay connected and have fun. Twenty-seven people participated in last month's Trivia Night. Congratulations to the winning team of Patricia Izbicki, Andrew Zaman, and John Anderson. We will hold our next Trivia Night on Friday, June 19 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. 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.