



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

January 2024
Volume 70, No. 1

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

PHONE: 515-292-9612
E-MAIL: office@fbcames.org
WEB: 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.

Pastor's Word

It's a New Year! A New Year marks a fresh start, a clean slate. And this is appealing to many of us because, let's face it: life can be hard. We can all think of struggles and challenges and heartaches we experienced over the past year, and we hope for a better year to come. We can easily call to mind those things left undone - those plans and projects we never quite got around to. The past has had its share of pain and disappointments, and we can long for something more, something better.

And if things have been going relatively well for us, we want to keep the ball rolling. We all may have hopes and dreams for the days to come.

This such a widespread feeling that nearly all cultures have traditions surrounding the New Year that symbolize hopes and dreams for the year to come. At our house, we ate black eyed peas on New Year's Day, as we always do. They are a southern tradition that relates to good fortune in the coming year. Cabbage, sauerkraut, and greens of various sorts can symbolize money and prosperity. There is a Spanish tradition of eating 12 grapes at midnight as the New Year begins, one grape at each strike of the clock, symbolizing luck in the coming 12 months. (In some traditions you are supposed to be sitting under a table when you do this - and if you are going to the trouble, you might as well go ahead and get under the table.) In some Asian cultures, noodles are eaten on New Year's Day, with the long noodles symbolizing longevity and long life.



Along with these fun traditions can come resolutions - ways we are intending to make personal changes in the year ahead. Perhaps you have made a resolution.

Taking a look at how things are and how we would like things to be is a good exercise - not only as individuals but as a church. As we look back at the past year, we have much for which to be thankful.

God has truly blessed us in so many ways. At the same time, we live in a changing world, and taking stock of where we are and how best to serve in this time and place is worth some time and prayer.

We will be making plans for a church planning event where we will take time to think about where we are as a church and where God is leading us; be watching for details. I'm all for black eyed peas, cabbage, and grapes - we could use health and prosperity and some luck. But a little prayer, discernment and conversation together can't hurt as we try to follow Jesus together. I'm looking forward to the year ahead!

Blessings,
Dave

Christmas Baskets

On December 17, our children filled Christmas baskets with fruit, candy, nuts, and cookies provided by members. We delivered 16 baskets to members at home and in health centers and retirement communities.



Did you know that past worship services are available for viewing on our FBC YouTube channel? Services are generally uploaded a few days after they are held. You can [click here](#) to watch past services.

Local Mission Funds Distributed

As a church we budget funds each year to assist local mission efforts and help those in need in our own community. In December we sent \$600 each to four different organizations that address different areas of need.

[ACCESS](#) provides help for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence, including safe housing. We have long supported ACCESS and have served as a drop-off site for household item donations.

[MICA](#) (Mid-Iowa Community Action) serves children and families with a variety of health, nutrition, and housing services including a food shelf and dental clinic in Ames.

[NAMI-Central Iowa](#) is the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI provides support, education, and advocacy for those whose lives are affected by mental illness, including a drop-in wellness center.

[The Bridge Home](#) provides shelter, support, and a way forward to individuals and families experiencing or on the verge of homelessness.

December Special Offerings

Our church received two special offerings in the month of December. We received a total of \$1135 for the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering**, which provides a thank you check to retired ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses as well as emergency assistance for retired clergy. We received a total of \$1250 for our **Christmas Offering**. Half of this amount will go to the Bridge Home and half will go to our church's benevolence fund, which provides help for persons who come to our church in need of assistance. Thank you for your generous gifts!

Christian Sympathy

Our love and prayers are with Malcolm, Lynette, and all the family of Pat Johnson, who died on November 30. Pat was enrolled in the cradle roll of First Baptist Church in 1930 and was a part of our church nearly all of her life. She was our longest tenured member and the last remaining member baptized in the old church downtown. We all appreciated her smile, good humor, and faithful service and she will be missed.



The Men's Breakfast meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at Perkins at 8 am. There is no program or agenda, just food and fellowship. All are welcome!



January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Happy New Years! 	2 8a Men's Breakfast	3	4 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	5 	6
7 9a Choir 9:45a Worship/ Communion 10:45a Church School	8	9 7p Trustee's Meeting	10	11 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 7p Deacon's Meeting	12	13
14 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Fellowship Time 11a Church School	15	16 8a Men's Breakfast	17	18 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	19 	20
21 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School	22	23 	24	25 10a Virtual Coffee Shop	26 6:30p Virtual Trivia Night	27
28 9a Choir 9:45a Worship 10:45a Church School 12p Annual Meeting	29	30	31			



January 7:

Worship Leader Dawn Doerr-Johnson
Ushers: Jan Thompson, Barbara Woods

January 14:

Worship Leader Jan Thompson
Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

January 21:

Worship Leader John Whitaker
Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

January 28:

Worship Leader Lorrie Whitaker
Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue



Toyin Clotley	9
Alex Parrish	19
Jere Maddux	20
Alice Clemons	22
TJ Nugent	24
Lumi Clotley	25
Stacy Starrett	29
Kay O'Brien	31

2023 Giving Statements

Giving reports for 2023 will be processed and mailed no later than January 8. If you made a pledge for 2024, a document indicating your pledge will also be included in the envelope.

Once you receive your giving report, please let me know as soon as possible if you have any questions.

Jerilyn Logue
FBC Financial Secretary

Annual Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting is set for Sunday, January 28, following worship. We will receive annual reports from our various areas of ministry and conduct other items of business. We are asking board and committee chairs, representatives to community organizations, officers and staff to submit reports to the church office by January 18 to allow time to put together the Book of Reports. Our annual meeting will be available on Zoom.



**VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 – 6:30 pm**

Trivia is back by popular demand! All are welcome! We will create teams and each team will discuss answers to each round's questions in breakout rooms. You can join us on our regular Sunday morning Zoom link. Not necessary, but helpful for planning: if you plan to play, send an email to Pastor Dave.



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