



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

March 2022
Volume 68, 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.

Pastor's Word

Last Saturday morning we held a planning retreat. Our goals were to process how things had changed over the past two years and what we have learned during this time. We also spent some time thinking about the sabbatical this summer and how church members will take on many of the tasks I am generally responsible for.

It was a wonderful morning! Eighteen individuals gathered, with great participation and spirit. There was laughter and there was heart-felt sharing. And there were donuts!

We began with some fun group exercises, including lining up in the order we began attending First Baptist. The years represented went from 1950 to 2021!



We listed strengths of our church. Responses included dedication, care, gifts, and generosity of members; folks who are authentic and seeking to grow; a spirit of love and openness; great music; wonderful teachers; support for missions and a focus on the community beyond our church; and a strong and healthy pastor-church relationship.

How has life changed since the onset of the pandemic? Many stories were shared in small groups. We mentioned the details of how life changed such as online grocery ordering, family zoom check-ins, being unable to see family in person for many months, less personal contact, working at home (and an awareness of being privileged to be able to do that), sharing meals outside, a year without ping-pong at Northcrest, lost volunteer opportunities, and more.

We talked about how our life as church has changed as well: the loss of in-person fellowship, the inability to sing together for many months, outdoor services, and how crucial technology has become - along with the added work it requires. The last two years have been difficult for

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youth and college student participation – older groups have fared better on online platforms. Reaching out to new people has been more difficult, even now that we are in a hybrid format. We missed activities like Music Camp and our annual cook-off and traditions like our Christmas dinner.

Some of the amazing changes include friends and family who join us from all over the country each Sunday, and the ability of folks in Ames who can't get to our building to nevertheless participate via Zoom. We have had our best attendance in years even while the number gathering in person is much smaller, and there are fewer people available to provide in-person leadership. We have tried some new and exciting things. And doing church in a different way has perhaps helped us to think about the deeper meaning of our faith.

And then we talked about what we have learned:

- We learned how much the church means to us.
- We learned the importance of traditions we have missed, and we learned that there is also joy in creativity and innovation.
- We learned that we can function through challenging times, and that God is with us through everything.
- And we learned once again that the church is not the building, but the people.

All in all, it was a very hopeful and energizing gathering. Thank you to all who took part!

Blessings,
Pastor Dave



March 6:

Worship Leader: Barbara Woods

Ushers: Julie Johnston, Aaron Stegemöller

March 13:

Worship Leader: Dawn Doerr-Johnson

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

March 20:

Worship Leader: Jere Maddux

Ushers: Jerilyn Logue, Tom Logue

March 27:

Worship Leader: Kay O'Brien

Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Jon Pritchard



Phyllis Schrag	5
Michelle Leiningner George	8
Caimbrie Parrish	8
Joseph Core	9
Pat Johnson	17
Gretchen Anderson	18
Wes Johnson	18
Stephanie Goodman	25
Charyl Winterink	27

COMING in APRIL

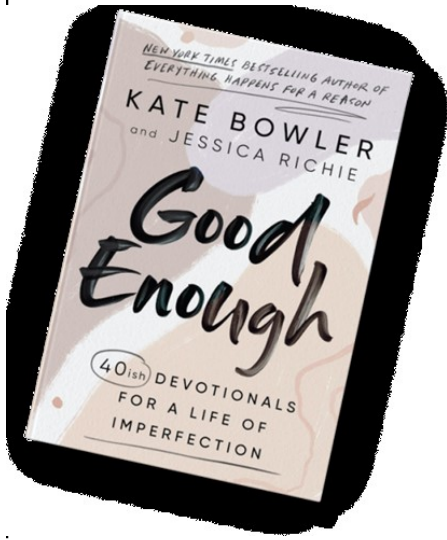
Virtual Trivia Night—April 8

Maundy Thursday Service—April 15

Easter Sunday—April 17

Graduate Recognition and Send-Off for Pastor
Dave's Sabbatical—April 24

Lenten Study Begins March 8



Our **Lenten Study** will be on Tuesdays beginning March 8 at 6:30 pm **on Zoom**. We will be reading together and discussing Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie's new book *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*.

"A compassionate, intelligent, and wry series of Christian daily reflections on learning to live with imperfection in a culture of self-help that promotes endless progress."

"Overflowing with grace, good humor, and clear-eyed counsel, their warm and tender writing pushes back against my cynicism and my fear... and ultimately, Bowler and Richie convince me: I don't need to be perfect, but I can be good enough—and there's tremendous hope in that good news."

For more information on the book or to order a copy, [click here](#). Or you can call or email the church office and we will order a copy for you for \$10. **Order deadline is February 27.**



A tree service trimmed the two large oak trees in the front yard and removed a damaged maple near the street recently.

**ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 2. We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 that evening. This meditative service includes scripture, music, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. It will be held in the lounge and be available on Zoom.

For those joining from home, there will be options for the use of ashes.



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8a Men's Breakfast	2 <i>10a AARLA (Ames Area Religious Leaders Assoc.)</i> 6:30p Ash Wednesday Service	3 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Boxing</i> 5-8p <i>Women United</i>	4	5
6 9:45a Worship/ Communion 11a Church School	7	8 6:30p Lenten Study (Zoom) 7:30 Trustees (Zoom)	9 6:30p Choir	10 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Boxing</i> 5-8p <i>Women United</i>	11	12 
13 9:45a Worship NO CHURCH SCHOOL 	14	15 8a Men's Breakfast 6:30p Lenten Study (Zoom)	16 6:30p Choir	17 10a Virtual Coffee Shop 	18	19
Spring Break Week (ISU and Ames Schools)						
20 9:45a Worship 11a Church School 	21	22 6:30p Lenten Study (Zoom)	23 <i>2p PD Singing</i> 6:30p Choir	24 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Boxing</i> 7p Deacons	25 7:00p Bridges to Harmony Concert	26
27 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	28	29 6:30p Lenten Study (Zoom)	30 <i>2p PD Singing</i> 6:30p Choir	31 10a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>2p PD Boxing</i> 5-8p <i>Women United</i>		



**Bridges 2 Harmony Gospel Choir in Concert
March 25, 7 pm - First Baptist Church of Ames**

We are thrilled to welcome the Bridges 2 Harmony Gospel Choir from Roosevelt High School for a concert here at our church on March 25! Our own Emma Phomvisay is a member of this choir. Mark your calendars and save the date! The concert will be livestreamed.





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
Charyl Winterink	Office Manager
Kathy Greiner	Custodian



Worship Sunday mornings 9:45 in person or on ZOOM

Details for connecting via ZOOM at fbcames.org