



The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

Pastor's Word

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, my father died on July 19. I'd like to share some of the words that I spoke at his funeral.

My dad was born in the middle of the depression. He was the youngest of 10 children. My grandfather never owned the land that he farmed, and in those years he didn't farm at all. He took a WPA job to try and support his family. My dad had just turned 14 when his father died. I can't imagine how tough life must have been for our family, as it was for a lot of families. But I think my dad was shaped by that experience, along with the faith and fortitude of his mother. He did not need a lot, and he was happy and grateful for what he had. Despite those tough times, he had great memories of growing up. He was the first one in his family and the only one of 10 children to graduate from high school.

At 5'8", he was the starting center on his high school basketball team. Dad was athletic, but that probably says more about Dahlgren High School than it does my dad.

When I was growing up, my dad and I listened to St. Louis Cardinals baseball and Evansville Aces basketball on an old tube radio. When the kids were older, mom and dad had season tickets to the Aces games for 40 years, but growing up we mostly listened on the radio, along with occasional televised games. I developed a love for sports with my dad and we would play horse and play pitch and catch in the backyard. Dad was very proud that I went to U of E. I had a scholarship and the academics were good, but the big bonus was continuing to share Aces basketball.

Dad was a lot of fun. He could be goofy, wearing dumb hats or making funny faces or breaking into a silly walk like John Cleese on Monty Python (which as a kid we watched religiously on Sunday nights after church). He was quiet about it, but he made these funny, witty comments and the best part is when he really knew he was funny. His health declined in recent years, but he had the same gentle demeanor and great sense of humor right to the end.

On Sunday morning I was driving to a conference in Wisconsin when I got the call that dad was in the hospital, and about an hour and a half later I received another call with news about how serious it was. I got to Cedar Rapids and turned right to go to Evansville instead of turning left to go to Green Lake. It was providential that I was already on the way even before knowing that Evansville was where I was going, because if not for that head start, I would not have been able to see him before he died. I mean, it was just miraculous. God was in it.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

200 Lynn Ave.
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.

I arrived at the hospital and went in to see him. He had a heart catheterization that morning and there were IVs and EKG leads and monitors and cables all around. It had been a terrible day for him. I asked him if he was tired. He said, “Not really... but I am RE-tired.” He still had it!

Dad was a genuinely good and decent man. He was a person of kindness and deep integrity and I can't remember him saying a bad word about anybody. I mean, he had opinions and could be upset by things, but he did not speak ill of anyone. He professed faith in Christ and was baptized when I was in college. It was an amazing experience and rare for an adult, but the Spirit had clearly been present and at work in his life for a long time.

Dad was all about family. He was proud of his children, but he was really proud of his grandchildren. He was universally loved by his nieces and nephews and the extended family, many of whom are here today. It's the end of an era; he was the last of his generation. And then he deeply loved my mom. Because of her care, he was able to stay at home to the very end. The day he died was the first time in his life he went into the hospital.

Dad rarely spoke about his faith. (To be fair, he didn't talk a whole lot about a lot of things.) But the scripture says, “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” If that is the fruit of the Spirit – if that is evidence of the Spirit in one's life – then he was a deeply spiritual person. Jesus seemed completely unconcerned about how much a person talked. But he was very concerned about how we live our lives, and my dad's life spoke volumes.

I guess what I really want to say is that my dad hardly talked about faith and I literally talk about faith for a living. And yet, he has very much been a role model for me – and I am just beginning to realize how much. We will miss him. And we are so grateful to God.

Thank you for so many expressions of love and care since my dad's passing. The support of our church family means so much.

Blessings,
Dave



This fall, we will be worshipping outside about half the time as long as the weather allows. With COVID cases on the rise, this allows folks who are not comfortable meeting inside to join in in-person worship. At this time, our choir will be singing at outside services only.

Please join us on **September 12** as we worship outside. We will have a meal with Hickory Park barbecue following (rescheduled from August 29). Bring a dish to share if you are able (students, please come as our guests). After the meal, the Christian Education Committee has planned games, including water balloon volleyball!

We will also worship outdoors on **September 26**.

Choir News

Our choir is rehearsing on Wednesdays at 6:30. New singers always welcome! We will rehearse either outside or in the lounge with masks, distancing, and open windows. We will be singing on Sundays that we worship outdoors.

We are delighted that our own Elizabeth Stegemöller is joining us as our Choir Accompanist! She is an associate professor of Kinesiology at Iowa State. A music therapist, she has a Ph.D. in neuroscience and her research focuses on therapeutic approaches to improve the lives of people with Parkinson's Disease – including a boxing group and a singing group that meet each week at the church. We are so glad she will be accompanying our choir! But since she already sang in the choir, we need another choir member to take her spot – how about you?

Church School News

Our classes are making plans for the fall, with classes beginning September 19. In response to COVID-19, each class is figuring out how it will meet this fall.

Library/Bible Study Class: We will be meeting in person and studying Women of the New Testament by Phyllis J. Le Peau. The class is a discussion-based class which will explore the following:

- Lydia shows us how to influence the people around us.
- Elizabeth's life challenges us to care for others.
- Other women like Herodias and Sapphira warn us against turning away from God toward bitterness and dishonesty.

In meeting each of these women, you will grow deeper in your understanding of what it means to be a disciple. Books will be ordered soon, so please indicate your interest by contacting Phyllis Schrag or the Church Office.

Youth: The Youth Class (K-12) will meet each week this fall using a hybrid format of in-person and Zoom. They will be considering themes of forgiveness, reconciliation, wonder and trust through stories from Genesis and Exodus, using a curriculum for all ages called "Celebrate Wonder." This class will be led by Jan Thompson, with assistance from the older youth and several adult volunteers.

Theology Class: The class will be meeting via Zoom at 11:15am (to give some participants time to get home.) This time may change if attendees find that start time adjustment is needed. To kick off the fall session, the class will study a series entitled "ProFuture Faith – The Prodigal Species Comes Home" featuring Rev. Michael Dowd. This series consists of eight 20-minute video sessions and discussion that bridges the gap between head and heart, science and faith.

College Students: Pastor Dave will meet with college students on September 19 to make plans for the semester. In past years we have met on Sunday mornings or Sunday evenings, with a mix of study, fellowship, activities, and food. The group will determine what will work best for this semester.



September 5

Worship Leader: John Anderson

Ushers: Jon Pritchard, Aaron Stegemöller

September 12

Worship Leader: Jacelyn Rudderow

Ushers: Jere Maddux, Bob Parrish

September 19

Worship Leader: John Whitaker

Ushers: Jerelyn Logue, Tom Logue

September 26

Worship Leader: Morgan Ambourn

Ushers: Stephanie Goodman, Julie Johnson

September Birthdays

Katherine Thompson	2
Stephanie Keat	3
Alexis Lee	5
Lucy Stegemöller	10
John R. Anderson	12
Jenna McCarley	19
Ethan Phomvisay	22
Dave Russell	22
Rosemarie Starrett	24
Anadia Daniels	25
Kent Johnson	29
Barbara Woods	29
Elizabeth Stegemöller	30

Happy Anniversary

Jill and Michael Leininger	6
Jeanette and Dick Gee	10

Linda and Bruce Hanson in Honduras

We commissioned Bruce and Linda Hanson as missionaries to Honduras in May, and we were delighted to see them on August 22 as they had to leave Honduras for visa reasons before returning. Some have asked about how to access their blog that tells about their work. You can find it at hondurashansons.wordpress.com.

Beth Douglass Wins Blue Ribbon at Northcrest State Fair



Northcrest held its annual "Northcrest State Fair" recently with food trucks, games, displays, music, and all the things you would expect from a state fair. Our own Beth Douglass won the blue ribbon for her amazing butter sculpture. Look out Butter Cow – Beth sculpted a Butter Snail! Congratulations to Beth on the blue ribbon – and the Butterfinger bar!

John Anderson Champion at Iowa Games, Iowa Senior Games



Congratulations to John Anderson, who participated in the Iowa Games and the Iowa Senior Games. In the Senior Games, John won gold medals in badminton in men's singles, men's doubles, and mixed doubles in the 70-74 division. In pickleball he took gold in mixed doubles and silver in men's singles. In the Iowa Games, John took silver in men's singles and bronze in men's doubles for his age group. Pictured is the Iowa Senior Games Gold Medal-winning mixed doubles pickleball team of John Anderson and Rebecca Shivvers.



Welcome to Benjamin Alan Apland-Schmidt born August 7th in Madison, WI to Melissa Apland and Clay Schmidt. His proud grandmother is Maurine MacBride and his great-aunt and uncle are Rita and Bob Parrish.

Phyllis Schrag to Appear in Actors' Production

Our own Phyllis Schrag is currently cast as Nana in NANA'S NAUGHTY KNICKERS at ACTORS Theatre in Ames. That play runs September 16, 17, 18, 24, 25 at 7:30 pm and September 26 at 2 pm. This comedy, by Katherine DiSalvino, is set in New York where Nana sells lingerie specifically designed with the Senior Citizen in mind. Audiences will find this farce a happy diversion from the current stresses we all face. You can purchase tickets [on the ACTORS website](#).




State Fair Honors

Phyllis Schrag earned two honorable mention awards at the 2021 Iowa State Fair for her machine quilted "Birches" quilt and her hand quilted, hand applied "Holiday Sampler."



SEPTEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>10:00a AARLA (Ames Area Religious Leaders Asso.)</i> 6:30p Choir	2 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop	3	4
5 9:45a Worship/Communion	6	7 8a Men's Breakfast	8 6:30p Choir	9 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop	10	11
12 9:45a Worship (Outdoor) 11a Meal	13	14 <i>2p PD Boxing Group</i> 7p Trustees	15 <i>2p PD Singing Group</i> 6:30p Choir	16 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>5p Women United</i>	17	18
19 9:45a Worship 11a Church School	20	21 8a Men's Breakfast <i>2p PD Boxing Group</i>	22 <i>2p PD Singing Group</i> 6:30p Choir	23 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>5p Women United</i> 7:00p Deacons	24 6:30p Trivia	25
26 9:45a Worship (Outdoor) 11a Church School	27	28 <i>2p PD Boxing Group</i>	29 <i>2p PD Singing Group</i> 6:30p Choir	30 10:00a Virtual Coffee Shop <i>5p Women United</i>	31	



Virtual Mission Trip to Nicaragua

Our own Barbara Woods has taken part in multiple mission trips to Nicaragua along with others from our region to work with AMOS, a health ministry working in remote rural villages in Nicaragua. Drs. David and Laura Parajon, our ABC missionaries who founded AMOS, have spoke here at our church.

What about you? Have you ever wondered about being part of a mission trip to Nicaragua? Interested but can't take time away or physically participate in an international trip? Curious to learn more about the realities of life in a developing country while taking part in a faith-forming experience this fall? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, we invite you to join us for "Passport to Nica," a virtual mission trip experience with AMOS Health and Hope!

All are invited to participate in this 5-week virtual mission trip journey facilitated by Bruce Van Der Beek and Marissa Alaniz, AMOS Donor Relations Officer. Across five Sundays, from September 19 to October 17 at 7PM Central Time on Zoom, we'll watch a video corresponding to a certain "day" on our mission trip, read a Bible passage, and reflect on discussion questions together. You are welcome to participate for as few or as many sessions as you are able, and follow along in AMOS's printable [Participant Guide](#) along the way.

Please [register here](#) or contact Bruce Van Der Beek at (515) 274-0512. After registering, you will receive an email with instructions for using Zoom on the Virtual Mission Trip by September 15. Let's go!



Theologian in Residence

Ames UCC invites you to attend this year's Theologian in Residence event featuring Dr. Karen L. King September 18-19, 2021. Due to the pandemic, the event will be offered remotely via Zoom. Dr. King is the author of books and articles on the diversity of ancient Christianity, women and gender studies, and martyrdom and violence. She is the Hollis Professor of Divinity, Harvard University. More details and registration for the Zoom sessions is available on the [Ames UCC website](#).

FBC Recognized for Mission Giving

Tina Kiernan, United Mission Coordinator for ABC-USA writes: "It is my pleasure to congratulate your congregation on being ranked #38 in United Mission giving throughout our denomination of approximately 5000 churches for the calendar year ending December 31, 2020! Congratulations and thank you for your support of \$19,149.96 in 2020!"



Crop Walk

The Ames Crop Walk is set for Sunday, October 10, at 1:30. Participants will walk a loop starting and ending at Brookside Park. See Dawn Doerr-Johnson for a sponsor sheet; you may also sign up or sponsor walkers online at crophungerwalk.org/amesia/.



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



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



You are invited to join us for our next Virtual Trivia Night on **Friday, September 24** at 6:30 pm. Our last two Trivia Nights have been barn-burners. E ended with a tie on July 30. On August 27, the Terriers eked out a 1-point win over Winning Pack and Don't Know Dogs. (Our first round theme was 'Dog Trivia,' which may have influenced team names.) Everyone is welcome to join us! We divide into teams at the start and teams discuss answers to each round's questions in breakout rooms.