

First Baptist Church

Medford, WI



Treasuring God, Loving People

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We Believe...

God is our greatest treasure

We will value things of the earth only in relation to Him and make God our most precious prize.

This means that we hold onto things of this world loosely, that we use things of this earth knowing they are God's, and we will move past anything that keeps us from God. [Philippians 3:8](#), [Matthew 6:21](#), [Matthew 13:44](#)

Loving people shows we love God

We will work and desire the good of others above ourselves.

This means we will at a minimum obey the "Golden Rule" and will, by the power of the Holy Spirit, work so others can find happiness in Christ Jesus. [Leviticus 19:18](#), [Matthew 22:36-40](#), [John 15:13](#)

Prayer is our greatest work

We will pray regularly-corporately and individually-and saturate every work in prayer so that God has ownership and receives glory in our effort.

This means we will approach every aspect of our lives through prayer and will not seek ownership of the results from the labor. [1 Samuel 12:23](#), [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)

Living harmoniously together glorifies Christ

We will live according to a new order, the gospel life, and consider others more important than ourselves.

This means we will move towards people with grace, allowing God to work in their lives, and we will work towards building up one another. [Philippians 2:3-4](#), [Romans 14:4](#), [Mark 9:35](#)

Spreading the message of Jesus is how we serve

Our behaviors, attitudes and relationships, observed or unobserved, will proclaim and confirm the truth of the gospel.

This means we will evaluate every aspect of our lives to make sure it proclaims and confirms the gospel to those around us. [Romans 1:16](#), [2 Timothy 1:8](#)

Staff

Current Staff

Lead Pastor - Mike Barnhart

Associate Pastor - George Myers (currently Next Gen Pastor)

Youth Ministry Director - Amber Chaffee

Worship Director & Communications Director - Tawnya Smith

Office Manager - Larry Diepenbrock



Mike Barnhart
Lead Pastor, Elder



George Myers
Associate Pastor, Elder



Amber Chaffee
Youth Ministry Director



Tawnya Smith
Worship Director &
Communications Director



Larry Diepenbrock
Office Manager

Ministries

There are many vibrant ministries that encompass a wide range of ages and life stages at First Baptist Church. The ministries of FBC value biblical teaching from the youngest attendee to the various stages of adulthood including the Golden Agers (seniors) ministry. The service-minded attitude of the congregation plays an important role in the effectiveness of these ministries. Many volunteers give selflessly of their time in order to minister to the needs of the church and community.

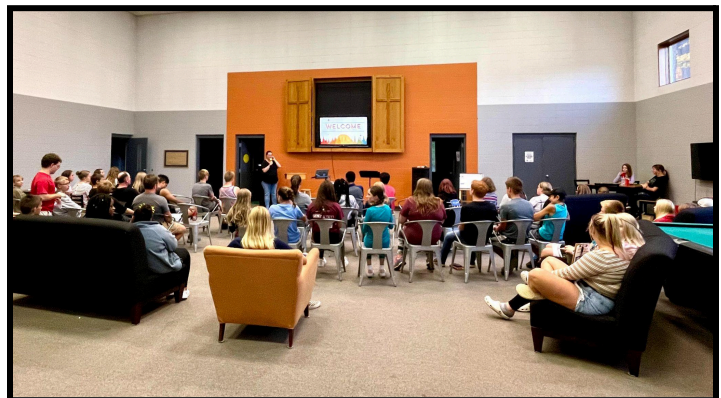
First Baptist has always had a heart for the children and youth of the church and of the community. The volunteer base for these ministries indicates how truly invested the church is to its youth.

- 55 volunteers serve in the nursery ministering to parents of young families by caring for their infants and toddlers during the worship service.
- Beginner's Church volunteers provide age appropriate teaching for 3-4 year olds during the worship service.
- Sunday School is offered to children from preschool through grade 12 and has an approximate enrollment of 50 children and 12 volunteers.
- AWANA serves approximately 135 children from age 3-sixth grade with over 60 volunteers each Wednesday.
- After school youth activities and homework help is offered as an outreach to teens.
- The middle school and high school youth groups see 80-90 youth each Wednesday with approximately 25 adult volunteers per week.
- Moms and Munchkins is a ministry to moms of the church and community in which volunteers provide childcare while mothers can participate in Bible study and fellowship.



In addition to children and teen ministries, other ministries include:

- Men's and Women's Bible Studies & Adult Sunday School
- Worship team volunteers serve in the contemporary-style music format of Sunday mornings.
- The Community Food Pantry has helped meet the needs of many families over the past several years. About 130 families visit the pantry each month with approximately 3,100 pounds of food being given each month.
- The Grace Fund helps defer the cost for medical bills, utility bills, rent and other needs for church and community families.



History

Longevity in Leadership

1989-2002 Pastor Dan Esterline
2002-2003 Interim Pastor Carroll Van Anda
2003-2019 Pastor Brian Wipf
2020-2022 Interim Pastor Kim Swenson
2022-Present Pastor Mike Barnhart

FBC History at a Glance

- 1944 Organized on August 17
- 1949 Church purchased for \$5,000
- 1950 Fire destroyed interior of church
- 1965 Property completely destroyed by fire; church met at temporary site
- 1967 New church was built on Broadway Avenue property
- 1970 Parsonage built on Broadway Avenue
- 1990 Cutting Edge Youth Center was built on Main Street
- 2018 With over \$3 million pledged from church members in addition to donated land, hundreds of hours of volunteer labor, and donated supplies, FBC was constructed on Grace Way
- 2018 Broadway Avenue church property became the youth center
- 2018 Old youth center sold to Abiding Care Pregnancy Resource Center
- 2024 Mortgage paid off on current Grace Way facility

First Baptist Church (Grace Way) History

The outreaches of First Baptist Church have resulted in an increase in attendance especially in the last 10 years. Approximately 350 people attend church each Sunday. This growth led FBC to explore options for servicing the growing number of people attending FBC.

God used the people of FBC to miraculously make the new church facility a reality. Through a building project campaign called “Reaching Beyond,” the FBC family

pledged to give and support a building project to supply a new church facility to be used for the many ministries of First Baptist Church. Prime land was donated by a church attender and local businessman as a place for this new building to be located. Once again, the service-minded congregation donated hundreds of hours of labor and over \$3 million to make this building project a reality.

After Sunday service in March of 2018, a quick lunch was served to about 125 people. Each area of the church ministry had a team leader in charge of packing up, while another team at the new facility was there ready to unpack and put things away. The move was beautifully orchestrated, and within hours, an entire church was moved. What had begun many years earlier as a vision on paper became a reality in 2018.



Moving Day

Fellowship between services



Welcome Center



The Cutting Edge Youth Center History

Ministry and outreach to children and teenagers has always been central to the work of FBC. With this in mind, it was evident that a space was needed to minister to the youth in the Medford area. Property and building materials were donated in 1990 for the construction of a youth center that would provide opportunities for growth and discipleship of the youth of the church and of the community.

A remodeling project to the youth center in 2014 provided some additional space in order to accommodate the growing number of teens attending youth group. As the number of teens attending youth group continued to grow, the need for more space was evident once again. At this time, the church was preparing to move to the new FBC facility, and through a series of events and God-given circumstances, the congregation agreed to keep the old church building and renovate it to meet our growing youth program's needs. The remodeled church youth center opened in September 2018.



First Baptist had planned to sell the youth center building, and God had a perfect plan for that building to continue ministering to the community. In 2018, after 3 years of searching for a new site, God brought Abiding Care Pregnancy Resource Center the perfect building in the former Cutting Edge Youth Center. Abiding Care opened its doors in 2011 as a pro-abundant-life ministry whose mission was to come alongside women facing an unplanned pregnancy. It had outgrown the old facility and needed a new building to better serve the community. The legacy of lives being loved and impacted and the hope of the Gospel being proclaimed continues at the new facility.

