

GREENWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PROFILE



CHURCH VALUES

We are a group of Christians committed first to Jesus and then to historic Baptist principles.

We exhibit our passion for Jesus –

- In our worship, which is both traditional and joyful;
- In our missions, which are both local and global;
- In our outreach, by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- In our dedication to spiritual formation and growth;
- In our inclusivity, which includes accepting any form of Christian baptism;
- In our affirmation of both women and men as worshippers, servants, and leaders;
- In our firm belief in the priesthood of all believers;
- In our welcoming care for each other, our community, and our world; and
- In our commitment, through the grace of God, to walk and work together.

CHURCH MISSION

Seeking His Heart....Being His Hands
Living, Loving, and Serving in the name of Christ

CHURCH VISION

We live out our mission by –

- Having a personal relationship with Jesus;
- Witnessing for Jesus through our actions and words;
- Striving to be the hands of Jesus in the Greenwood community and beyond;
- Living for Jesus each day, loving other people, and serving those around us;
- Practicing stewardship of our financial resources, our time, and our talents;
- Participating in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; and
- Doing all we do in the name of Jesus.

LEARN MORE

Interested candidates are invited to review our Senior Pastor Profile and additional information about this position and our church at www.fbcgwd.org. Please submit resumes to gwdfbc.spsearch@gmail.com.

GREENWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PROFILE



GREENWOOD FIRST BAPTIST HISTORY

The First Baptist Church of Greenwood was organized on September 25, 1870, with twenty-three persons present. The first building, a modest wood structure, was built in downtown Greenwood in 1870. The second church building, a much larger building made of brick, was dedicated on November 7, 1897. In the mid-twentieth century, the church decided to move to a new site, its present location on Grace Street. The groundbreaking took place in 1954, and the congregation began to meet in its new facilities on August 5, 1956. On the first Sunday of 1968, the church broke ground for a new sanctuary. The congregation worshiped in the new sanctuary for the first time on Palm Sunday of 1971. After the sanctuary's completion, the former worship space was converted into the present fellowship hall. The sanctuary is widely known for its cathedral-like stature, the beautiful stained-glass windows (with symbols from the parables of Jesus on one side and from the miracles of Jesus on the other), the divided chancel, and the cross as its unmistakable focal point. In 2007, the church began a major renovation of its education and children's area; and in 2008, it started the last addition to the facility, a covered drive.

The history of First Baptist is far too rich to capture on a single page, but several highlights may be noted. FBC has always been a missions-minded church, having begun the South Main Baptist Church as a mission church in 1910. FBC has participated in and contributed to numerous community ministries, helping to provide food, shelter, medical care, and other services to people in the Lakelands area. From the founding of Connie Maxwell Children's Home in 1888 until the establishment of Connie Maxwell Baptist Church in 1912, FBC was the spiritual home of the Connie Maxwell children and staff. FBC birthed the Bowers-Rodgers Children's Home in 1989 and the United Center for Community Care in 2008. Members of FBC were critical in the establishment of the Greenwood Pathway House in 2013; and in 2020, the church made building a Habitat House the centerpiece of its 150th Anniversary celebration.

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GREENWOOD FIRST BAPTIST HISTORY

The church has always affirmed the status and giftedness of women. From its inception, First Baptist Church gave women the right to vote on any matter which came before the church—a practice virtually unheard of in 1870—and in 1975, FBC ordained the first female Baptist deacon in the state of South Carolina. First Baptist has a long history of meaningful worship and beautiful music which are well-suited to its magnificent sanctuary.

The most important element of the church's history is its focus on the Lordship of Christ, followed by its commitment to the historic Baptist principle of the autonomy of the local church. These principles were clearly evidenced in 1970 when the church decided to accept any form of Christian baptism. In doing so, the congregation affirmed Christ's Lordship—they sought God's will rather than blindly following tradition (a very deeply entrenched tradition)—and they practiced their autonomy by following God's will even when the local association of churches expelled FBC from its membership.

When the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was formed in May of 1991, FBC found a new home and began contributing and participating in 1995. The church's traditions—the lordship of Christ, God-centered worship, local church autonomy, passion for missions, the affirmation of women as God-called leaders—these and other qualities made the church a natural fit for CBF life. FBC consistently ranks as one of the top givers to the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions, and many of its members have held positions of service and leadership in CBFSC. It is not surprising, then, that FBC is considered one of the flagship churches in CBF of South Carolina.

GREENWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PROFILE



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Resident Membership	457
Non Resident Membership	609
Sunday School Membership	81 Includes only nonmember children and youth

	May 2023	2022	2021*
Average Worship Attendance	197	191	160
Average Sunday School Attendance	149	143	132

*Still feeling the effects of covid. Sunday school did not resume in person until May 2021

GREENWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PROFILE



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

MINISTRY PLAN (BUDGET):

	May 2023	2022	2021
Giving Units	197	191	160
Ministry Plan	\$1,007,819.49	\$991,843.74	\$988,739.96
Revenue	\$339,821.76+	\$868,662.06	\$1,016,721.00
Expenses	\$364,978.06+	\$923,747.39	\$896,415.86
Revenue vs. Expense	(\$25,156.30) +	(\$55,085.36)	\$120,305.14

+FIGURES ARE YTD.

First Baptist strives to designate ten percent of the annual Ministry Plan to missions: Global Missions, State Missions, Special Missions, and Local Missions.

GIVING TO MISSIONS IN 2022:

Global Missions	\$35,800.00
Local Missions	\$47,593.05
Special Missions	\$11,700.00
Total	\$95,093.05

In 2023, \$101,100.00 was designated to missions with 19% going to support CBF Global Missions, 16.5% to support CBFSC ministries, 12.25% to support Special Mission emphasis, and 52.25% to support Local Missions.

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GLOBAL MISSIONS

National Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	\$19,100.00
Allendale Mission	\$1,000.00
Baptist Studies Program/Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary	\$1,000.00
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina International Ministries	\$1,000.00
Metanoia	\$1,000.00

SPECIAL MISSIONS EMPAHSIS

Baptist Women in Ministry	\$2,000.00
Janee Angel (Belgium)	\$2,400.00
Rise Against Hunger	\$8,000.00

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LOCAL MISSIONS

A Place for Us	\$1,000.00
A Voice for the Children Foundation	\$500.00
Cheerful Cherubs (Scholarship Support)	\$4,000.00
Connie Maxwell Children's Home	\$1,000.00
Critical Needs	\$1,000.00
Greater Greenwood United Ministries	\$10,000.00
Greenwood County Children's Center	\$3,000.00
Food Bank of Greenwood County	\$6,500.00
Greenwood Habitat for Humanity	\$3,000.00
Greenwood Soup Kitchen	\$5,700.00
Meg's House	\$1,000.00
Meals on Wheels	\$2,500.00
Operation InAsMuch	\$1,000.00
Pathway House	\$10,200.00
United Center for Community Care	\$2,000.00

GREENWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PROFILE



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ASSETS

PROPERTY

The 6.39 acres known as First Baptist Church is located on Grace Street between Edgewood Avenue and Grace Terrace as well as an adjacent tract of land at the corner of North Street and Melrose Terrace.

First Baptist received the adjacent Edgewood Cemetery as a gift by James Self, owner of Greenwood Mills, in January 1987. First Baptist took ownership of the Edgewood Memorial Mausoleum in May 1995.

BUILDING

Except for the current sanctuary, First Baptist Church broke ground on the current building in 1954. The first service in the new building was on Sunday August 5, 1956. Construction of the current 800 seat sanctuary began in 1968 with the first services being held during holy week in April 1971. The sanctuary is known for its cathedral-like structure and beautiful stained-glass windows depicting symbols from the parables of Jesus on one side and the miracles of Jesus on the other. With a divided chancel, the focal point in the sanctuary is the cross hanging from the ceiling in the chancel. The sanctuary is also home to a Schantz Organ that consists of four manuals. The organ contains 73 ranks totaling 2,763 pipes.

The footprint of the First Baptist facility consists of approximately 62,000 square feet. The facility has a series of offices for church staff, a commercial kitchen, the Graham Shaw Library, and a fellowship hall which can seat approximately 187 people. The facility also houses an educational space for children, youth, and adults. First Baptist also has a morning ministry to area pre-school children called Cheerful Cherubs Preschool and Kindergarten. FBC owns two fifteen passenger buses which are used for church-related activities.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FOUNDATION

First Baptist Foundation was established in 1997 with a \$1.25 million bequest from the estate of Eugene and Louise Milford. Gifts to the First Baptist Foundation add both value and longevity to the ministry of the church. Funds generated from investments can be used to support three areas of ministry – building maintenance, children and youth, and special events or activities. The current corpus of the Foundation is approximately \$2.8 million dollars.

VALUE OF ASSETS AS OF 12/31/2022

Current Assets (Monetary)	\$1,136,242.22
Fixed Assets (Building, Land, Vehicles)	\$20,000,000.00
Restricted Assets (Memorials and Trusts)	\$987,376.60

GREENWOOD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PROFILE



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE INFORMATION

Major trends within the church in the next five years:

1. Continued trend toward a more balanced congregational age profile
2. Increased family activities
3. Greater emphasis on spiritual formation of adults
4. Greater active involvement in missions activities
5. Greater congregational involvement in strategic directions of church
6. Greater emphasis on meeting the unmet social needs of the community

Reflection on the church congregational life the three most important events in the history of the church:

1. Move from downtown area to a new facility in order to offer more opportunities for worship - 1954
2. Vote to accept previous baptisms of other denominations, acceptance of all races and participation of women as deacons - 1970's
3. Alignment with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship - 1995

Most challenging event in life of the church in the last three years:

The COVID-19 pandemic and its lingering effects on church and Sunday School attendance and giving to the church.

The congregation intends to accomplish the following during the next three years:

1. Continue to build the trust and unity of a body of believers in order to carry out God's will and God's mission.
2. Expand and enhance our program to support families of younger children
3. Improve the spiritual formation of the church.

The theological/faith stance best describing the church:

Greenwood FBC tends to be theologically moderate.

Description of the educational program of the church:

The church offers an aggressive, proactive Christian educational program targeting four subgroups: children, youth, college students, and adults.

The children's ministry is based on establishing God as loving and caring and teaching children to follow that example.

The college students and youth groups are in a growth mode. Youth education is focused on helping youth establish Christian values and training in discipleship. College students focus on the transition from youth issues to adult Christians living in the community.

The Adults' focus is age based on younger married with young families through senior citizens and empty nesters.

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BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE PART OF THE CHURCH, RESPONSIBILITY, AND NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

Diaconate	governance and leadership	18
Personnel	staff liaison and policies	6
Property	physical structure	9
Stewardship	financial matters	6
Worship	worship procedures	9
Heritage	history/documents	3
Youth	discipleship training	6
Nominations and Lay Leadership	staff committees, etc.	9
Spiritual Formation and Discernment	education materials	6
Global and Local Missions	local and global missions	9
Outreach and Membership	attendance/membership	9
Congregational Life	Facility usage, social events	9
Church Visitation	visitation/family ministry	6
Children's	children's programs	6

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WORSHIP AND LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

How worship is planned on a regular basis:

The Music Director sets the worship program with input from the complete staff.

Worship style:

Generally formal, reverent, and traditional in nature but varied as the occasion and situation defines.

The style and content of preaching which is valued by the congregation:

Expectations are that the person preaching will have a strong theological background and be one who delivers sermons that are Bible based with enthusiasm and insight to aid the congregation in daily living out our faith relationship to God.

Current hymnal used:

Celebrating Grace: Hymnal for Baptist Worship, 2010

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FULL-TIME STAFF:

First Baptist has an extensive Personnel Manual that covers a variety of topics.

Some of the major items are listed below.

- 1) Competitive salary and benefits
- 2) Social Security (ministers pay at self-employed rate)
- 3) Housing Allowance (for ordained ministers – must be approved by the Diaconate)
- 4) Health Insurance (80% of staff members' cost paid by church)
- 5) Retirement (matching contribution based on experience and service)
- 6) Vacation (based on years of service)
- 7) Parental Leave
- 8) Sick Leave (no more than accumulated thirty days)
- 9) Sabbatical Leave (thirty days after seven years of service)
- 10) Continuing Education Leave and Funds
- 11) Travel and Staff Development Funds

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GREENWOOD COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Greenwood is a charming small town located in the piedmont of South Carolina. Developed originally around the railroad and cotton mills, the town has grown and diversified into a dynamic economic area.

International as well as local companies call Greenwood their home. The town has a thriving uptown with shops, restaurants, and events. Lander University and Piedmont Technical College are located here with options for associate, baccalaureate, and advanced degrees and certification programs.

The town offers many amenities in the arts and culture realm and in sports and recreation. One highlight is Lake Greenwood.

Distinctive attributes of the Greenwood community:

1. Acceptance care, and support of all peoples
2. Strong sense of community
3. Community government has shown vision, and unity of purpose
4. Civic and cultural programs augment focus of the churches
5. Very highly rated and supported regional health care facilities

Major trends envisioned in the community during the next five years:

1. Continued development of the medical center capabilities
2. Expansion of fine arts and other cultural facilities
3. Continued and increased support for quality public schools
4. Expansion of the retiree community development along Lake Greenwood

Major problem areas confronting the community in the next five years our church should address:

1. Youth guidance and counseling
2. Addressing the social and spiritual needs of an increasingly diverse population in age, ethnicity, and cultural background
3. Developing and maintaining social awareness in the community

How the church buildings are now used by the community:

1. Hospice Christmas Festival of Trees fund raising event
2. Community Lenten worship services
3. Girl Scout Daisy troop

School district from which members of GFBC are drawn:

1. Greenwood districts 50, 51, and 52
2. Various private schools in the greater Greenwood area

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GREENWOOD COMMUNITY INFORMATION

2022 Population- 69,241

Age

0-18	28.5%
18-64	52.3%
65+	19.2%

Race

White	64.2%
Black	32.1%
Hispanic	6.7%
Other	2.3%

High School Degree	86%
College Degree or Higher	24.2%
Median Income	\$44,513.00
Poverty Level	15.9%

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MORE INFORMATION

Greenwood First Baptist Church

www.fbcgwd.org

Greenwood County

<https://www.greenwoodcounty-sc.gov/>

City of Greenwood

<https://www.cityofgreenwoodsc.com/>

State of South Carolina

www.sc.gov

Lander University

www.lander.edu

Piedmont Technical College

www.ptc.edu

Greenwood Chamber of Commerce

<https://www.greenwoodscchamber.org/about-us/>

Visitors and Tourism Bureau

<https://discovergreenwood.com/>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/greenwoodcountysouthcarolina>

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