

Church Profile: First Baptist Church Richwood



History of the church

Brief history:

The First Baptist Church of Richwood was founded on March 24, 1878. The newly formed church used available halls in town until 1882 when a wood frame church was built on a plot of land in front of the Richwood Cemetery on East Ottawa Street. An addition was added to the structure's west side in about 1890. As membership grew and more space was needed, the present lot was found and purchased by the women of the church in 1919. The present building on the northeast corner of East Ottawa and North Clinton streets was built on the purchased lot in 1920 and was dedicated on March 27, 1921.

How and when we started:

In 1874 William H. Richards and his wife Annie came to Richwood and soon sought out other Baptists in the community with hopes of starting a Baptist church like the one they had in their native home of Carmarthen, Wales. In 1877-78 they and others in the community met with Baptist ministers, Benjamin George and W.R. Thomas, from Prospect, Ohio, which led to the formation and founding of the First Baptist Church in Richwood in 1878. There were 27 founding members.

Major milestones- Changes in ministry/location:

In 1978 the church celebrated its centennial. Rev. Herschel T. Roper was the pastor at that time. There were 28 pastors in the first 100 years since the founding of the church. As with any long-established church, we have been blessed with many pastors over the years. It would be too numerous to list all of them in this brief history.

The current building and the original 1882 built-wooden church are separated by 3 homes on the north side of East Ottawa Street. The church moved to the current church home in 1921.

Core Values

The two most important things our church has to offer are Community Outreach and Fellowship.

Our church is different from other churches that claim to offer the same things because we are close-knit, supportive, and service-oriented; serving Christ, the community, and each other prayerfully and wholeheartedly. We are a small congregation and have deep personal connections with one another. We went to school together, grew up together, and know each other's parents, children, and grandchildren and the ups and downs they've all been through. We are there for each other, always.

Our greatest source of pride or joy about our church is our Music Ministry and fellowship with one another. We have a beautiful pipe organ, adult choir, praise band, and monthly jam session, which is open to the public.

Our church's most important belief is that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. God's love is for everyone. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17. He died for our sins on the cross, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is coming back someday.

We hope and dream for our church to be known as a growing body of believers, with people of all ages.

Demographics

The town:

We are a small community, the Village of Richwood has a population of 2,580 people growing at a rate of 3.45% annually with a poverty rate of about 12%. The average household income is \$90,273.

The church:

Our members are local, everyone within 10 miles, of a very rural community. We have on average a group of 20-30 people who attend service on Sunday. Most of our congregation is retired, our youngest member is 7 and our eldest attendee is 99; with about 17 women and 12 men on average. We have two attendees in the 0-9 age group, four members in the 20-29 age group, three people from 30-45, three from 46-55, eleven in the 56-65 age group, six in the 66-74, three in the 75-79, and four in the 80 and above age group.

Three members of our congregation attend our association meetings, including the Marion Baptist Association Trustees.

Who are we looking for?

The eight most important ministry activities our congregation is seeking are in order as follows: preaching, interpreting the faith, church growth, nurturing fellowship, leadership, pastoral care, education, and evangelism.

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Video
Layman's Sunday Service
Pictures



Annual Mario's Castle for Richwood's Trick-or-Treat



Inside of the church for "Mario's Castle"- over 1,500 served

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Our helpers/congregation



Shoe Box Ministry, Sunday Service