FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GIRARD



"EXCEPT YE BE CONVERTED, AND BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN, YE SHALL NOT ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVE." (MATTHEW 18:3)

7 E. Kline Street
Girard, Ohio 44420

First Baptist Church of Girard

Table of Contents

Church Profile

Contact Information 1
The Church Covenant 2
Girard, Ohio 3
Development of the Church 5
Church Information 6
Our Worship Life 9
Church Structure 12
What We are Looking for in a Pastor 13

2024 Annual Report 14

Treasurer's Report (Budget for 2025)
Business Meeting Minutes (2023)
Council/Board/Committee Memberships
Membership Contact Information
Constitution and Bylaws



Contact Information

First Baptist Church

7 E. Kline Street
Girard, Ohio 44420
(330) 545-9178

Pastoral Search Committee Chairperson

Ora “Sam” Summerfield, Jr.
8958 King Graves Rd.
Warren, Ohio 44484
(216) 559-9941

ABC Ohio Regional Minister

Rev. Kevin K. Thomas
1385 Devon Dr. North West
North Canton, Ohio 44720
(740) 587-0804

Pastoral Committee Members

Don Rossell
Kimberly Hagy
Tammy A. King
Kathie Rossell
Lydia Carter
Judith Rossell
John Reddinger

The Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirt of God to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God's Holy Spirit, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

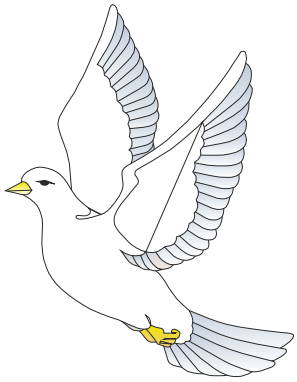
We pledge, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love;

To strive for the growth of this church in knowledge, holiness, and Christian concern;

To promote its prosperity and spirituality; To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; To give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin;

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also pledge to maintain family and secret devotions;



To educate our children in the Christian religion;

To seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

To live as Christians in the world;

To be just in our dealings, faithful in our promises, and exemplary in our deportment;

To avoid all gossip, slander, and excessive anger;

To practice moderation in all things, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further pledge to watch over one another in brotherly love;

To remember each other in prayer;

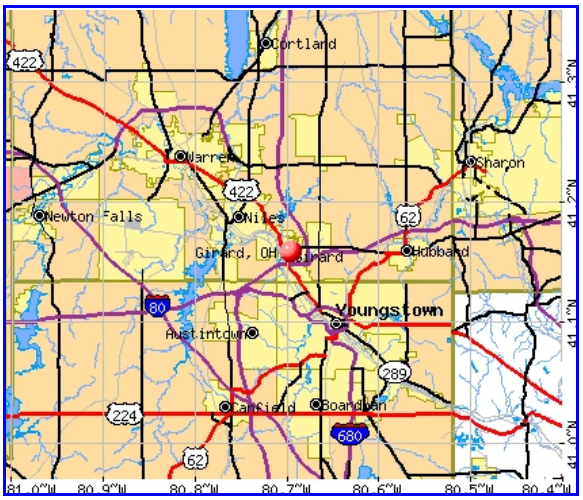
To aid each other in sickness and distress; To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the principles of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover pledge, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

Girard, Ohio

First Baptist Church of Girard is located in Girard, Ohio, in Trumbull County. Girard has a population of 9,469 people. The median age of our residents is 39 year and 4 months. The average household income is approximately $42,861. In this part of northeast Ohio, the average household income is adequate for maintaining a home and family. We are located approximately half-way between Cleveland, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It takes about 1 hour to drive to either city.





Youngstown, Ohio, the county seat of Mahoning County, is our neighboring city. Youngstown and its surrounding areas have many things to offer:

- Youngstown State University (has the second lowest tuition cost in the state of Ohio)
- Butler Art Institute
- Youngstown Playhouse
- Stambaugh Auditorium and DeYor Auditorium (both bring in nationally recognized performers, musicals, and plays)
- Mill Creek Park
- Many golf course (one is free of charge)
- Two large shopping malls
- Sports Teams
  - Cleveland Browns
  - Pittsburgh Stealers
- Additional Sports Teams
  - Cleveland Guardians
  - Pittsburgh Pirates

- Cleveland Cavaliers
- Pittsburgh Penguins
- Mahoning Valley Scrappers
- Youngstown Phantom (semi-professional hockey team)

- We have many state parks
- Youngstown Symphony
- Covelli Center

School Information:

,Girard School system has one high school which services 850 students grades 7 - 12. A new highschool was just built.



The middle school, Girard Intermediate, services 391 students grades 4 - 6. The elementary school, Prospect, services 511 students grades K - 3. The Intermediate School and the elementary school are located next to each other. St. Rose parochial school is also located in Girard. It serves 312 students grades K - 8.

We are fortunate to have two state institutions of higher education located within driving distance from Girard. Youngstown State University, located in Youngstown, Ohio, and Kent State University has a branch campus in Warren, Ohio (the county seat of Trumbull County).



Medical Care Information:

Girard is fortunate to be located by several outstanding medical care units:

- Akron Children's Hospital
- St. Elizabeth (known for cardiac care)
- St. Elizabeth in Boardman (known for cancer care)
- Cleveland Clinic (nationally known health center)
- University Hospital, UPMC

For more information about our city, Girard, Ohio, please visit the city's official website at https://cityofgirardoh.gov

Please visit Youngstown State University's web page for additional information about the Youngstown area at https://ysu.edu/

Development of the Church

First Baptist Church of Girard was established in 1839 as one of ten churches in the Trumbull Baptist Association (TBA). For unknown reasons in 1854 it was disbanded. In late 1880, Welsh immigrants, who were coal miners, meet and formed the Welsh Baptist Church. In 1882 a property on High Street was bought and an unused Church was moved onto the lot.

In 1900 the service was changed from Welsh to English. In 1901 we became a member of TBA once again. We sold the building on High Street and the current location of the Church was purchased. Members of the church gave of their time and money to build the sanctuary that is now being used. Rev. Robert Hughes was called as the pastor that year.

In 1926 the classrooms, dinning room, study, and kitchen were added to the building. In 1946 the sanctuary was redecorated and the building was brick veneered. In 1962 the education and fellowship wing was built. In 1974 the sanctuary was again redecorated and the Allen computer organ, speakers, and one stain glass window were added. These items not only added to the beauty of the sanctuary, they also add to the meaning of worship. In the late 1996 stain glass windows were added to the sanctuary in memory of a long time member. In 1998 a new sign was installed for the visibility of the church and to attract new members and increase attendance.



The following is a list of the last five Pastors who have served in our Church:

- Robert Allen (1972 - 1984, deceased 2012)
- Bruce McNeely (1985 - 1987)
- Philip Karchersky (1989 - 2004, deceased)
- Sarah Jay (2007 - 2012, full-time homemaker)
- Burl Jernigan (2014-2025, retired)





Church Information

Our Church is located in Girard, Ohio, which has a population of 9,469 people. The church is located downtown and easily assessable via two high-way systems. About 5% of the members live one mile from the church; 15% approximately 1-2 miles; 20% live about 2 - 5 miles away; 30% live 5 - 10 miles; and the rest (30%) live more than 10 miles from the Church.

Our Church family consist of 115 members; however, 45 are inactive. About one-half of the congregation attends service on a regular bases. Below is demographical information about our Church.

Females represent 53% of the congregation; males represent 47%. The racial composition is 4% African-American, 1% Hispanic, and 95% Caucasian. Below is additional bulleted information about our Church Family:

Most Common Employment Categories:

- Health care worker
- Household worker
- Laborer
- Machine Operator
- Professional
- Teacher

Estimated Household Income:

- 66% ($0 - 24,999)
- 16% ($25,000 - 44,999)
- 8% ($45,000 - 59,999)
- 4% ($60,000 - 74,999)
- 4% ($75,000 - 89,999)
- 2% ($90,000 and above)

Girard First is part of the Mahoning Valley Baptist Association (MVBA), which is a sub-group of the Ohio Baptist Association (the MVBA was once known as the Trumbull Baptist Association; the name changed in 2011 to reflect the diversity in geographical location of church members). The MVBA consist of 7 ??? churches in Northeastern Ohio. The purpose of the MVBA is to exalt the Lordship of Jesus Christ; to promote Christian fellowship among the constituency of the Association; to promote the distinctive emphases of the American Baptist faith and witness, and

to promote its interest; to acquire and hold real estate; to establish missions; to build houses of worship; to encourage evangelism, Christian Education, and Christian social ministries by all possible means in the Association's area of Ohio.

Our Church Life

Below is a summary of what our church offers and some activities/opportunities we would like to someday soon try:

Always Offers	Offers Often	Occasionally Offers	Would Like to try in the Future
* Midweek prayer / Bible Study * Small group Bible study * Mission involvement *Community service opportunities * Ecumenical worship events * Community based needs ministry	* Sunday School for all ages	* Youth ministry opportunities * Children's programs * Child care * Mission education	* Senior adult ministry opportunities * Spiritual gifts assessment * Teacher training events * Intergenerational activities * Discipleship classes

Our Church is dedicated to helping others. We participate in Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries and other outreach efforts to help the less fortunate. Some of the other outreach ministries include: Family Assistance through our Deacons, Emmanuel Care Center, and to list a few. We also participate in denominational events such as: meetings of our association, training events and gatherings sponsored by MVBA, and campership programs.

There are areas of growth for our Church. We would like to see our congregation continue to grow and an increase in the offerings of Sunday School programming. The growth of the congregations, especially our youth, is influenced by social media. We have to assure that our website is kept current. We need to look into using Facebook and other mainstream media to help us reach the younger generation. We also need to focus on activities for our teenagers and senior citizens.

Congregational Style:

Our Church family is made of many diverse individuals from various backgrounds. Although we are unique individuals, as a Church family, there are characteristics that describe our church life and expectations. Below are statements that help highlight these things:

- Our Church expects the pastor and the membership to share leadership.
- Our Church attempts to maintain an atmosphere as free from conflict and confrontation as possible.
- Our Church is influenced by history and tradition.
- Our Church's approach to social issues is basically educational, leaving any action to individual conscience.
- Our Church feels ethical decisions should be made in light of circumstances.
- Our Church emphasizes American Baptist Association (ABA) relationships locally, nationally and internationally.
- Our Church is often involved in community affairs.
- Our Church's ideas and plans are made both by informal networks and responsible church boards.
- Our Church is governed by a board, but major decisions are voted on by the congregations (such as selecting a pastor to lead, adding new members to the church family, annual budgets, etc...)
- Decisions are typically communicated formally through worship, bulletins and newsletters; although, informal communication also occurs.
- Our Church donates to national and world missions, but our emphasis and majority of giving is done to support local efforts.



Our Worship Life

First Baptist of Girard has a long tradition of team work and shared responsibility between our Pastor and members of the congregation. We have a Worship Committee, who in conjunction with the Pastor, plans our worship service. We have lay Leaders who participate: they make announcement, lead prayer and song, read from the *Bible,* and conduct responsive readings. The congregation participates in unison prayer, song and readings. We have an adult choir who is accompanied by an organist and sometimes a piano.

Church Activities:
Our church is very active. Below is a highlight of some of the events we have participated.

Services: One service each week, Sundays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Junior Church: Children in grades K - 12 attend junior church in leu of the regular Sunday service.

Youth Fellowship: In the past few years, we have had little attendance by youth. In the past, there are various activities throughout the year. In the past we have had lock-ins, hay rides, trips, and children's nights which include fun activities, crafts, and a *Bible* message. We praying to rebuild youth in our Church.





Church Camp: Our children attend a MVBA sponsored summer camp at no cost to their parents. The Church family holds an annual pasta dinner to pay for the campership cost. We have also sponsored camperships for youth in the community who were not part of our Church family. We have been fortunate that some of these children have joined our Church family.

Women's Ministries: They engage in mission education and community-based needs ministry. They recently purchased animals for the Congo.

Mission Education: We discuss and sponsor Heart Reach Neighborhood Ministries activities. We also support mission events sponsored by the MVBA.

Community Service: We are highly active in Neighborhood Ministries (outreach in two housing developments in Youngstown, unfortunately known for poverty and crime). We also assist with projects sponsored by the Emmanuel Care Center and Protestant Campus Ministry.





Ecumenical Worship: To enhance worship and to pay a special thank you to God our Father, our church conducts many special services. The following is a list of a few of those events: Lenten service with MVBA, Maundy Thursday service, Memorial Day service, special recognition of women and men on Mother's and Father's day, Christmas and Easter Cantatas.



Other Activities: The Deacons host a community craft show to raise money to help provide for those in need. Those individuals do not have to be Church members. Other activities include: annual picnic, various dinners, holiday programming, etc...











Church Structure

As stated earlier, First Baptist of Girard has a long tradition of working jointly with the Pastor to meet the needs of the Church and the Community.

At the head of the Church is Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. It is through our seeking of his will that we make decisions for our Church. The leadership of the Church is a joint venture between the Pastor and the Church Council. The Church Council is composed of six Committees who make recommendations to the Church Council. The Church Council, under the guidance of the Pastor, is responsible for the management of all the affairs of the Church and appoint committees as needed.

The following is a list of the six Committees that are instrumental in the management of the Church:

- Deacons - Assist the Pastor in his/her pastoral duties, serve communion, supervision over the outreach of the Church in such areas as evangelism, missions, and social action.
- Worship - Supervision of Church services, music, music features, ushering, welcoming, and baptism.
- Trustees- Operation and maintenance of Church properties and insurance coverage.
- Education - Church school and other activities pertaining to Christian Education.
- Finance - Supervision over all financial matters. Prepare budget, audit church books annually.
- Fellowship -Social affairs, call on and send cards to the sick, infirm, and bereaved. Create a sense of Christian fellowship.





What We are Looking For in a Pastor

Church's Purpose Statement:

The purpose of First Baptist Church of Girard is to give visible form to faith and fellowship to which God has called his people. We acknowledge ourselves to be a local manifestation of the universal church in and through which Jesus Christ continues to minister to the world by his Holy Spirit.

We Seek to Fulfill this Calling Through:

- Public worship services
- Proclamation of the gospel by work and deed
- A program of Christian education and nurture by which our members may be built up in their faith and ministering to human need in the name of Jesus Christ by caring for one another through social outreach.

What We are Looking for in a Pastor:

We are looking for an individual who is spiritually driven and enthusiastic. We need some one who is highly motivated and hardworking.

The congregation indicated that they felt that the following characteristics/qualities were of most importance:

- Strong preaching/teaching ability
- Integrity and honesty
- Approachable and relatable
- Available for pastoral care (e.g., hospital visits, counceling)
- Strong leadership in church growth
- Collaborative and team-oriented
- Outreach and mission involvement
- Community service and volunteers
- Building relationships with congregants
- Strengthening spiritual formation (Bible study, prayer, etc.)
- Inspirational and motivational
- Practical application for everyday life
- Warmth and kindness
- Accountability
- Charismatic and engaging in preaching
- Emphasis on traditional worship and liturgy
- Counseling and pastoral care
- Conflict resolution and peacemaking
- Clear communicator with leadership
- Collaborative and team-oriented

Annual Report
2024