



First Baptist Church

Proposed 2025 Budget

“Abundant joy... overflowed in generosity” – 2 Corinthians 8:2

God has given us reason for joy! We have all been blessed in so many ways, and our response to God’s blessings is to give joyfully of our time, talent, and resources to further Christ’s work through our church.

As we consider our pledge of support to First Baptist Church for the coming year, this Narrative Budget describes how we plan to move forward in ministry, looking at our work together in four areas: **Worship, Christian Education, Care, and Service**. (Staff salaries, utility costs, etc. are apportioned over these four areas.)

WORSHIP

\$107,171 (38%)

Worship is the center of our life together as a church. Thoughtful and challenging preaching, inspiring music, shared prayer, and congregational sharing help to make our worship of God a life-giving experience. Many worshipers join us each week on Zoom, and we aim to make our services an engaging experience both for those in person and those at home. Our technological advancements have allowed those at home to read scripture, share testimonies, and even preach. Our gifts help make this online ministry possible.

We enjoy a variety of worship opportunities, with special services including outdoor services, Christmas Eve, an Ash Wednesday Taizé service, Youth Sunday, and an annual service with Ames UCC

and First Christian Church. We even had a worship service along with a car show this past summer!



We are blessed with talented music staff and volunteers, and our gifts support our choral and instrumental music program. The proposed budget includes 4% salary increases for our staff.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION **\$50,765 (18%)**

Christian discipleship is a life-long calling, and we provide opportunities for all ages to grow in faith. In Church School classes we learn the stories of the Bible, find encouragement and support, and discuss current issues in light of our faith.



Our adult classes have an online option so those at home can join in. Learning opportunities include special studies during Lent and at other times, guest speakers on timely issues, and training opportunities both in our region and at our national conference center at Green Lake, Wisconsin. Our gifts help provide learning materials, help send young people to camp, support outreach to college students, and provide special activities for our children and youth.

CARE

\$59,226 (21%)

We like to think of ourselves as a family of faith. Welcoming others to the family and caring for those in our church is important to us, and we support one another both in times of loss and in times of joy.

Caring ministry is expressed as our staff, deacons, and others reach out to those in need. As a part of weekly worship, we take time to share prayer concerns and pray for one another. Shared communication through print and electronic formats helps to build community and allow members to stay in touch.



Fellowship events of all sorts help us connect in a more personal way and provide opportunities to express care. We especially appreciate the many intergenerational relationships built in our congregation. We are mindful that because of health or distance, not everyone can attend these in-person opportunities. We continue to offer a weekly Virtual Coffee Shop and other opportunities to stay connected.

SERVICE

\$64,868 (23%)

Our mission extends far beyond the walls of our building. We are among the leading churches in our region in support for American Baptist United Mission. Including non-budgeted special offerings, over 15% of our total spending is for direct mission support.

We are engaged in service in many ways. We recently held our Great Day of Service, making a difference in our community and beyond as we cleaned up our neighborhood, made infant blankets for low-income families, and assembled hygiene kits for refugees and victims of natural disasters.



Our FBC CROP Walk team raised money to fight hunger both locally and globally. Our gifts support local mission efforts such as Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance and AMOS, and we continue to assist the Center for Creative Justice in their work of helping people improve their lives by renting our former parsonage to them at a below-market rate. Through our gifts of time, money, and prayer, we continue to reach out to God’s people in need.

Total Proposed 2025 Budget: \$282,030
0.95% increase from 2024