

First Baptist Church
Box 1167
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

With All We Are ... Loving God and Loving People ... Through Christ

Membership Information Packet

Phone (307) 733-3706

Email: office@firstbjackson.org

Web: www.firstbjackson.org

Located at the corner of Cache & Kelly

Last updated 08-27-15

First Baptist Church

~ a fellowship of faith ~



Dear Friend,

Warmest greetings in Christ and Thank You for the interest you have expressed in First Baptist Church as you look for a church home in the valley.

As you may already know, First Baptist has been a part of the history of Jackson Hole for nearly a century. Birthed in 1911 when Jackson was *much* smaller, First B has served the community more than nine decades and grown with the diversity of people who have called this valley home.

While being Baptist in heritage, our church has always been community minded. We have a history of helping in one way or another with worthwhile community endeavors that reflect the character of God. And we are happy to welcome folks from a variety of backgrounds who share our love for Christ, our heart for honoring God and our desire to make Him known.

We believe that membership in a local church is very important for every child of God. Of course, membership does not guarantee a home in heaven. That blessing comes through faith alone, in Christ alone, as the One Who died for our sins and rose from the dead. But, through church membership a child of God can become genuinely *connected* with others in God's family. We develop spiritual maturity together. We learn to care more deeply for one another. We garner strength from serving together. Only through such real life connections do we become skilled at rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with those who weep (Rom.12:15).

We are blessed and honored that you are considering First B as a church home. We will pray for you that the Lord Jesus, the Head of the Body, will guide your decision. To help you know us better, we have included some information with this letter that you should read. At your convenience we will want you to meet some of our church leaders and have opportunity to discuss any questions or issues that may surface. May God grant you assurance of His leading as you seek His will.

In His love,

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Our Purpose
Our Core Values
Our Affirmation of Faith
Our Covenant as
Members

The following information is taken from Article II in the First Baptist Church Constitution. This article tells a lot about who we are. It declares the purpose for our existence. It communicates what we deem to be the core, or essential, values that guide our thinking and frame our decision-making policies. And, it outlines our foundational belief structure, summarizing our understanding from Scripture about God and the world around us.

Our Purpose

We exist to bring glory to God. We do this by bringing people to Jesus and membership in His family, developing them to Christ-like maturity and equipping them for their ministry in the church and life mission around the world, in order to magnify God's name.

Our Core Values

We believe that our primary purpose in life is to glorify God.

Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 1:11

We believe that lost people matter to God, and therefore matter to us.

John 3:16; Proverbs 11:30; Psalms 67:2

We believe that prayer is a lifestyle and not just a six-letter word.

Colossians 4:2

We believe that Christians should minister from their area of giftedness.

I Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:7

We believe that dynamic worship should be relevant to the cultures we seek to reach while creating an atmosphere that allows each participant to worship God without compromising the truth.

Hebrews 12:28; John 4:23

We believe that we are a community church that ministers to the needs of our community.

Romans 14:19

We believe that we were created for community, and formed for a family, and none of us can fulfill God's purposes by ourselves.

Ephesians 2:19-22; I Corinthians 12:26-27

We believe that we were made for a mission and thus want to impact the world with the love and message of Jesus Christ.

John 17:18; Acts 20:24

We believe that Biblical teaching is culturally relevant and is the catalyst for the Holy Spirit to transform our lives.

II Timothy 3:16-17

We believe that Biblical counseling is the preferred method to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of our church family

I Thessalonians 5:23

We believe in the sufficiency of Christ to meet our spiritual, temporal and physical needs.

James 5:13-15

Our Affirmation of Faith

We believe...

1. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.

II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; Psalm 12:6;
Psalm 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5-6

2. In the existence and manifestation of one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; Genesis 1:1-3;
Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 90:2

3. That Jesus is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He gave His life on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of God the Father, He now is our King, High Priest and Mediator.

Colossians 1:15; Philippians 2:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25; I Peter 2:24-25;
I Thessalonians 4:16-18; Hebrews 4:14-15; Isaiah 7:14

4. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.

John 16:13-14; John 15:26; Ephesians 5:18;
John 17:7-8; Romans 8:9; Acts 2:38

5. That man was created in the image of God. After being given the choice, man fell into sin and is therefore lost and in need of salvation.

Romans 3:9-19; Ephesians 2:1-3; Genesis 1:26-27
Genesis 2; Isaiah 53:6; Isaiah 59:1-2

Our Affirmation of Faith (Con't)

6. That God has provided salvation through offering His Son on the cross of Calvary, who freely shed His blood as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. We are therefore saved (born again) and justified when we recognize ourselves as sinners through the conviction of the Holy Spirit, repent and receive God's forgiveness, and put our trust in Christ as our Savior.

Hebrews 9:22; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:24-25;
Acts 15:7-11; Titus 3:5-8; Romans 10:8-13

7. That water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.

I Corinthians 11:23-32; Acts 2:41 and 19:4-5; Matthew 28:19-20

8. That marriage is Biblically defined as the union of one man with one woman. The institution of marriage is God's creation and design, and the marriage ceremony is to affirm and celebrate the coming together of husband and wife.

Ephesians 5:22-33, Genesis 2:15-25, 1 Peter 3:1-9, 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

9. In the personal and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope": has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer. We also believe that Jesus will someday return for His Church. All the dead will be resurrected, the believer to everlasting joy and the unbeliever to everlasting punishment.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 5:9; John 4:14 and 5:24;
Ephesians 2:7; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:10, 15

10. That the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head.

Colossians 1:18-23

Our Affirmation of Faith (Con't)

11. That only those who are thus members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church. .

Acts 2:38-47

Our Covenant as Members

Basic to any growth in the things of the Lord is a commitment to Jesus Christ, first as Savior, then as Lord. When we receive Christ as Savior by faith, He forgives our sins and gives us eternal life. When we acknowledge Him as Lord, setting Him as the Master of our life, we are presenting ourselves to Him as an expression of our desire to grow in grace and to live in a way that reflects His heart.

Our covenant with each other is declaration that we have trusted in Christ as our Savior and that we desire to live a Christ-like life as we grow in our family relationship with Him. To that end,

We believe...

1. We have personally trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior, believing that He died for our sins and rose from the dead.
2. We believe that God has lead us to join First Baptist Church as an evidence of our desire to grow in the grace of Christ and in our love and service for His glory.
3. We recognize the authority of Scripture in our lives and endeavor to live by its teachings that express God's purpose for our lives in worship, fellowship, Christ-likeness, service and outreach.

Our Covenant as Members (Con't)

4. As members together in the Body of Christ, we will endeavor to open our hearts to ministry - both serving others as well as receiving ministry from them.
5. We will endeavor to grow in faithfulness to one another as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A Word about Process

Membership in local church is an important matter in your life and in the life of the assembly. We desire to make the process of becoming a member of First Baptist Church both straightforward and respectful. It reflects the Lord's heart. It encourages others who have already become members. And, it is honoring to those who are led by God to make this commitment.

So that you will know what to expect, here is the normal process:

1. We ask you to attend a Discovery Class, held the 3rd Sunday of every month at 10:00 am in the Pastor's office.
2. We ask you to fill out the Membership Application in the back of this packet, tear it out of the binding and turn it in to the church office or place it into the offering plate on Sunday.
3. The pastor or one of the elders will contact you about meeting together to share information and respond to questions. Time and location are flexible, depending on the schedule that works best for everyone.
4. The elders are responsible for acting on membership applications on behalf of the church.
5. So that all may rejoice and praise the Lord together, the church will take time during a Sunday service to welcome new members to the congregation, to share "Our Covenant as Members" with one another, and to renew our dedication to the glory and grace of God.

Membership Application

First Baptist Church, Jackson, Wyoming

Date _____

Name _____

Physical Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email(s) _____ Phone _____

Married Single Age _____ Birthday _____ Anniversary _____

Please answer the following so we can begin to get acquainted:

Yes No I Have Questions

 I have believed in Jesus Christ as my Savior.
(When did you receive Christ? _____)

 I have been baptized after receiving Christ as my Savior.
(When did your baptism take place? _____)

 I am in agreement with the church's **Purpose Statement**.

 I am in agreement with the church's statement of **Core Values**.

 I am in agreement with the church's statement of **Affirmation of Faith**.

 I am in agreement with the church's statement of **Covenant as Members**.

Action by Board of Elders

Candidate has completed new member's class

Candidate has completed Membership Application

Candidate has been announced to church for two consecutive Sundays

(Dates: _____ and _____)

Elder Board:

Approved Disapproved Action Date (Minutes) _____

Comments: _____