



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
MARIETTA

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to First Baptist Church of Marietta, Georgia! Our church has been an integral part of downtown Marietta for almost 200 years. Our buildings are located just north of the Marietta Square, but our membership and influence extend throughout Cobb County and the northwestern suburbs of Atlanta. Ours is a missions-minded, service-oriented congregation that wants to be inclusive and welcoming to all who seek to follow Jesus Christ and His teachings.

In January of 2023, our church called Rev. Brandon Owen as its new Senior Pastor upon the retirement of his predecessor. Rev. Brandon is a welcomed addition to our church, and he and his family have immersed themselves in our congregation and our community. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for our church under Rev. Brandon's leadership.

A year and a half prior to Rev. Brandon's call to First Baptist Church Marietta, our former student minister followed God's call into a different area of ministry and resigned from his position. At the time of his resignation, our church was in transition due to the impending retirement of our then Senior Pastor. As a result, the church decided not to fill the Student Minister position until after our new Senior Pastor arrived. Upon filling the Senior Pastor position and following the church by-laws, the Nominating Committee put forward names for a Student Minister Search Team, which was then elected by the membership of the church. The Student Minister Search Team has begun collaborating with The Center for Healthy Churches to assist with the search process and to discern God's will for the next Student Minister who will be called to First Baptist Church Marietta.

What follows is a profile of our Student Ministry, as well as a profile of First Baptist Church Marietta. This profile represents and describes this diverse group of followers of Christ who are seeking to be the presence of Christ in Cobb County, in North Georgia, and around the world. Our church is experiencing a strong sense of excitement and energy under the leadership and direction of Rev. Brandon. We are also excited about the possibilities and future opportunities for our Student Ministry, as well as the other ministries highlighted in this profile.

First Baptist Church Marietta is blessed with a gifted, capable church staff and an engaged congregation with strong lay leadership. We hope this profile of our church and our people will help you to better understand who we are, what we do, how we engage in missions and ministry, and further possibilities for spreading the message of Christ in our community, our region, and our world.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Gil Warren, *Co-Chair*
Nancy Dorsey, *Co-Chair*

Barbara Allen
Jenny Allison
Beth Bevels
Craig Culpepper

Pat Horton
Bragg Vaughn
Lisa Werginz
Logan Wood

**The Student Minister Search Team and this church are seeking God's will and God's call for our next Student Minister, and we thank you for taking the time to consider whether the Lord might be calling you to this place of ministry.*

Social Media links:

Website: Mariettafbc.org

Facebook: [Facebook.com/FBCMarietta](https://www.facebook.com/FBCMarietta)

Instagram: [@Fbc_Marietta](https://www.instagram.com/@Fbc_Marietta)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/ElementStudent](https://www.facebook.com/ElementStudent)

Instagram: [@fbcm_element](https://www.instagram.com/@fbcm_element)



STUDENT MINISTRY AT FBC MARIETTA

The Student Ministry at First Baptist Church Marietta is a flourishing ministry of students from 6th grade to 12th grade. Our Student Ministry serves a mixed group of youth from North Metro Atlanta, including a variety of Cobb County Schools, Cherokee County Schools, Marietta City Schools, as well as a handful of local private schools.

Weekly, we serve students through Sunday morning small groups and worship, as well as Sunday evening meetings that include games, dinner, fellowship and worship. Historically, our students participate in annual youth events such as fall retreat, Big Game Outreach, a spring break mission trip (international or domestic), Mission Marietta, and summer camp. Our students also regularly volunteer with other ministries in our church such as Vacation Bible School (VBS), July 4th Outreach, and the Fall Festival.

Our students love utilizing the space we have for them including the renovated worship and small group space, as well as the gym where we often host “open gym” opportunities for our students to play basketball, pickleball, nine square, and many other fun activities.



Student Ministry by the Numbers

Over the last two years, our student ministry has depended on lay volunteers to lead while we've been without a youth minister. During this time we had an average attendance on Sunday morning of 17 students in 2022. As of November 2023, our attendance has gone up to an average of 22 students on Sunday mornings. On Sunday evenings we have averaged over 25 students. Between Sunday morning and Sunday evening, we have closer to 35 students engaged in our activities, as not all students are the same from morning to evening activities. Based on our class rosters, we have 53 families with at least one student in our membership, of that 53 we have around 25 that are active and take part in some aspect of our ministry regularly.





MISSIONS LED BY STUDENT MINISTRY



Mission Marietta

Mission Marietta is an annual week-long Student Ministry event that takes place the first week in June where our students get to experience being the hands and feet of Christ in our own community. Students are out on job sites throughout Cobb County and North Georgia during the day and experience amazing worship in the evenings. Students also sleep at the church where they enjoy a lock-in/camp experience throughout the week. Examples of jobs from years past include roofing, building handicap ramps, house painting, yard work, backyard Bible Club, working in a clothes closet, and many more. Volunteers from the congregation also contribute to the success of this week by volunteering as work site leaders, meal preppers, small group leaders, and overnight chaperones.



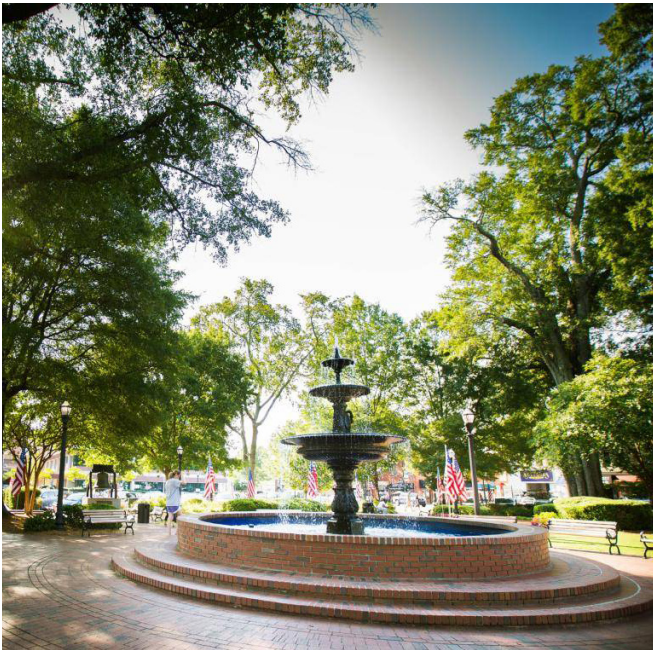
Big Game Outreach

Since 1986, the Student Ministry at FBCM has taken responsibility for leading a project to help serve the homeless in our local community by serving a nourishing hot meal while projecting the NFL Championship onto a large screen for them to view. In addition to the students, we have volunteers from the congregation who prepare and serve the meal. At halftime, the guests also have the opportunity to select clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, and other items from among donated items. In addition, we provide gift cards to local fast-food restaurants that they can use for meals at other times. In the past several years, we have served and shared fellowship with over 150 men, women, and children.

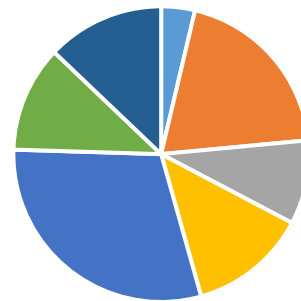


OUR COMMUNITY

Marietta, Georgia is a city situated in north Georgia just northwest of Atlanta, which has a metro area population of approximately 6 million. Marietta is the county seat of Cobb County, which has a population of 766,149. Marietta has a population of 60,972, making it one of the largest suburbs of Atlanta.



5-Mile Radius
Age Distribution



■ 0-4 ■ 5-17 ■ 18-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-54 ■ 55-64 ■ 65+

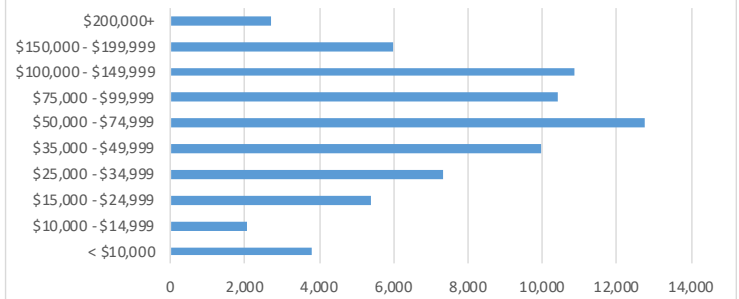
Within Marietta, the average household income is \$85,402 with a poverty rate of 14.01% and unemployment rate of 6.9%.

In 2021, the average age in a 5-mile radius from FBC Marietta was 36.68 years.

Marietta boasts a climate indicative of its location in northwest Georgia with hot summers and cold, wet winters. Throughout the year the average temperature varies from 34°F to 88°F and is rarely below 22°F or above 94°F.



5-Mile Radius
Household Income





OUR COMMUNITY

Education, from preschool to graduate school, plays a large role in the economic development of Marietta. The Marietta City School system includes 8 elementary schools, a sixth grade campus, a grade 7-8 middle school, and Marietta High School, all with a total of 8,874 students. The Cobb County school district has 109 schools and over 107,000 students. There are several institutes of higher education in close proximity, including Kennesaw State University with 41,181 students, Life University with 2,761 students, and Chattahoochee Technical College with an enrollment of over 14,000 on multiple campuses.

Cobb County
Educational Attainment



- No High School ■ Some High School ■ Some College
- Associate Degree ■ Bachelor Degree ■ Graduate Degree

Less than two miles from the Marietta Square is Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, a nationally ranked hospital. With Marietta’s proximity to Atlanta, there are several other renowned medical facilities in the area, including Piedmont Atlanta, Northside Hospital, Emory University Hospital, Grady Health System, and the Shepherd Center.

Within Marietta and the metro Atlanta area, there is a plethora of leisure, entertainment, and sports activities, enough to keep one busy every night of the week. In the heart of Marietta is the Marietta Square, which is home to dozens of restaurants, boutiques, and other shops. In the Marietta Square, the Farmer’s Market runs year-round on Saturday mornings, and there is a steady stream of festivals and concerts to enjoy. Cobb County is home to the 2021 World Series Champion Atlanta Braves. Truist Park, home of the Braves, is located within the Battery, a mixed-use development that is home to many restaurants, shops, and endless entertainment.



Nearby in Atlanta are the Atlanta Hawks, Atlanta Falcons, and Atlanta United professional sports teams. With regards to the arts, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Ballet, and Atlanta Opera are all close. The Fox Theater, a well-known venue for concerts, musicals, plays, and movies, is another attraction. There are numerous other regional and community theaters, concert venues, amphitheatres, and performing arts venues.



For those who enjoy the outdoors there is also a bounty of hiking, mountain biking, and other outdoor recreation at local Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Sope Creek Park, Red Top Mountain State Park, Sweetwater Creek State Park, Silver Comet Trail, and the Atlanta Beltline. In the summer, the Chattahoochee River and nearby lakes are local destinations for rafting and fishing. In the fall, the North Georgia State Fair is a well-loved attraction.

Another major draw to Marietta is its proximity to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, which is the busiest airport in the world with 275,000 passengers daily.



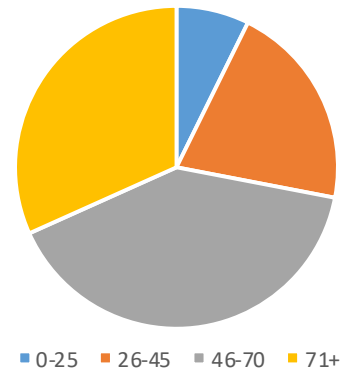
OUR CHURCH

First Baptist Church Marietta is a diverse group of followers of Christ who are seeking to be the presence of Christ in Cobb County, in North Georgia, and around the world.

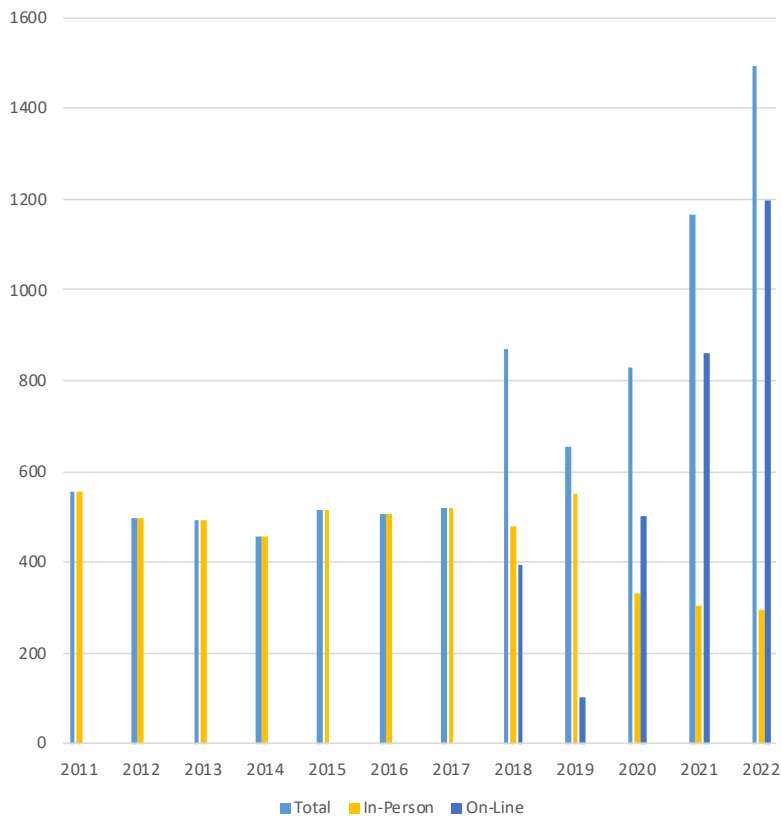
We are a mid-sized intergenerational church. Average Sunday School attendance to date in 2023 is 254 and average worship attendance to date is 413 in-person and 742 on-line.



First Baptist Church Marietta
Membership by Age 2022



First Baptist Church Marietta
Average Worship Attendance





OUR CHURCH

First Baptist Church Marietta embraces our Baptist heritage. We generally agree on the doctrinal statements of common faith and practice as contained in the 22 Articles of the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963.



As a church, we:

- Practice baptism by immersion for all new believers.
- Believe in the Triune God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Believe that Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected from the grave; that we as believers are forgiven of sin and are saved to eternal life through Christ Jesus; and that the presence of God is active in the world today.
- Encourage each believer to grow in their spiritual life through a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- Believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired by God, and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.



First Baptist Church Marietta is dually aligned with both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and their state and local conventions and associations.



OUR CURRENT MINISTERIAL STAFF



Dr. Paul Hill, Rev. Brandon Owen, and Rev. Lauren Mills

Rev. Brandon Owen - Senior Pastor

Brandon joined First Baptist Church Marietta in February of 2023. Before joining FBCM, Brandon pastored The Church at Harpeth Heights in Nashville, TN. He has also held several different ministerial positions at First Baptist Church, Nashville that include Minister to Students and Minister to Young Adults/Missions. Prior to his call to the ministry, he taught school and coached basketball and golf at Brentwood Academy in Nashville. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Master of Education in Sport Administration from Belmont University in Nashville, TN; a Master of Divinity from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, MO; and he will soon complete a Doctor of Ministry from Hazelip School of Theology in Nashville, TN. Brandon is married to Lesley Ann and has 4 children, Howell, Elliot, Louis, and Hattie. Brandon also enjoys playing golf, basketball, trail running, and Braves baseball.

Dr. Paul Hill - Minister of Worship Arts

Dr. Paul Hill has been a church musician for over 42 years and is a third-generation minister. He is married to Janet and has two delightful children, Zach and Rosemary. He has been Minister of Worship Arts at First Baptist Church Marietta since 1999 and in that time has led an amazing ministry of musicians. As part of his tenure, he began The First Orchestra and established the church's annual Christmas concert entitled Carols by Candlelight. Paul's studies in music education (Bachelor of Music Education (BME), Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)), coupled with his studies in church music (Master of Church Music (MCM)), have helped shape how he defines himself as a Church Music Educator serving as a minister in the local church. As a part of his doctoral studies, he designed a curriculum primarily to assist other churches' musicians in teaching their choir members how to improve their music literacy skills called The Basic Music Reading Skills Course. Dr. Hill is also the Founding Conductor/Music Director of the community orchestra, Marietta Pops Orchestra. Some of his hobbies include fishing, carpentry, handyman projects, and herb gardening. He most enjoys making music and being with his family.

Rev. Lauren Mills - Minister to Children

Rev. Lauren Mills, a native to the Atlanta area, has been serving as the Minister to Children since June 2009. Lauren, a second-generation Baptist minister, is married to Chris and has three children, Abigail, Natalie, and Rachel. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Shorter College and earned her Master of Divinity degree from Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology. Through her education in teaching and theology, she has a passion for teaching each child how to follow Jesus and share Jesus' love with the world around them. Lauren thinks it's a holy privilege to walk alongside parents, ministering to children and getting a front row seat to see their faith deepen and flourish through their childhood. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, watching Broadway musicals, and binge watching the next greatest tv show.

Minister to Students

This position is currently vacant due to the voluntary resignation of the former student minister. Currently, lay volunteers and the Senior Pastor are leading the Student Ministry. A Student Minister search team has been assembled and has begun the process of seeking God's will to find the next called Student Minister to FBC Marietta.



ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE



In keeping with the principle of Church Freedom and congregational polity, the operation and functioning of the church are governed by its By-Laws. The By-Laws provide that the Senior Pastor has general supervisory authority over the ministers and other support staff, that the congregation elects specified lay leaders as outlined below, and that the Senior Pastor is responsible for leading the congregation in its duties and responsibilities.

Trustees

The trustees are the legal representatives of the church and have authority to execute legal documents for the church as approved by the Church in Conference. There are five trustees who each serve a five-year term, the respective terms being staggered so that one term expires each year.

Committees

There are four standing committees: Financial Oversight, Nominating, Personnel, and Property. Committee members serve 3-year staggered terms.

Deacons

Consistent with New Testament scripture, the deacons are to be ministers and servants of the church who provide spiritual leadership, care, and support for the congregation. Presently, there are 3 classes of deacons, each class consisting of 20 men and women who serve 3-year terms. A class of deacons is selected annually by the congregation. In addition, the Deacon Body may recommend, and the church may elect, as a Life Deacon any deacon who has served the church as a deacon for 20 years or more and has attained 70 years of age.

Teams

Teams organize and perform duties of an ongoing nature which may vary from year to year based on need. The six church teams currently are Baptism; Counting; Decorating; Fellowship; Missions Leadership; and Stewardship.

Task Forces

A Task Force has a definite assignment and is dismissed when its task has been completed or a specified length of time has expired. The Leadership Council recommends task forces to the Church in Conference for election.

Leadership Council

The Leadership Council is comprised of the Senior Pastor and representatives from the trustees, deacons, committees, and specified ministries of the church. The Leadership Council supports the ministers as they set priorities and goals and reviews projects and proposals. The Leadership Council also assists the Financial Oversight Committee in developing the annual budget.



ONGOING MISSIONS & MINISTRIES



Daily Bread

Daily Bread is one of FBCM's local outreach programs. Every Monday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall, homeless and other needy persons from around Marietta are served free lunches. Volunteers assist our church hostess with the meal and visit with the guests. The church also helps these people with clothing, blankets, and personal hygiene items.



English School

First Baptist Church of Marietta has been providing English School for more than 50 years. This ministry is vital to our community's immigrant population as they learn the language of their new home. In addition to language classes, we also teach citizenship classes to help students make the transition to becoming U.S. citizens. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings. All classes are free of charge, and transportation is provided for students who need it. The students are provided with a light meal prior to the lessons, and one of the ministers leads a devotion at each session. The director, teachers, kitchen staff, administrative staff, bus drivers, and other personnel are all unpaid volunteers who are mostly church members, although some of the teachers are community members who have heard about the program and desire to participate.



July 4th Debbie Parker Celebration

In the mid 1990's, Debbie Parker, a member of the church, began a church-wide volunteer ministry to be a good neighbor in our community. As the Marietta community celebrates July 4th on the square, our church offers an air-conditioned space in our Family Life Center for our policemen, sanitation workers, and first responders to get out of the heat and receive a meal.



What we're proud of:

- Accepting; Inclusive
- Long history of missions
- Traditional worship
- Pastor; staff; Bible-based preaching



ONGOING MISSIONS & MINISTRIES

Mission Partnerships

First Baptist Church Marietta recognizes its role in reaching the world with the message of Jesus Christ and has chosen to support various mission agencies that are local, regional, national, and international in their range. We are dually aligned and allow our members to designate the Missions portion of their offerings to go to either the Southern Baptist Convention or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; our Church budget supports both. Locally we support the Noonday Baptist Association, Georgia Baptist Children's Home, Good Samaritan Health Clinic, Storehouse Ministries, Penfield Christian Homes, Out of Darkness, The Extensions (men's and women's addiction recovery programs), and the Youth Detention Center. Internationally, we support the India Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as eight specific missionaries with ties to First Baptist Church who are serving throughout the world.



Pure Water Initiative

Pure Water Initiative provides clean water to developing countries around the world. Presently, our target areas are India, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Africa. In each area we partner with local church associations, missionaries, and indigenous Christians to provide clean water and a powerful testimony of God's grace. In total, PWI has built 133 water projects serving 205,310 people per day.



MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers)

MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers, and by preschoolers we mean children who range in age from birth-Kindergarten. MOPS is a gathering of moms to support, encourage, and have fun with each other. MOPS is about celebrating motherhood, making connections, and experiencing God's love through relationships and resources. Meetings consist of special guest presentations, small group discussions, socializing, and service projects. We also enjoy playdates, Mom's Nights Out, and family events throughout the year.



Boy Scouts

First Baptist Church Marietta has sponsored a Boy Scout troop since 1941 (Boy Scout Troop 144). This important ministry develops vital teamwork and leadership skills in the boys and young men of our community. Members and leaders alike also enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of campouts, outdoor adventures, and community service projects. Troop 144 meets on Monday nights in the church's Family Life Center.



ONGOING MISSIONS & MINISTRIES

First Connection; Tuesday Morning Group

First Baptist Church Marietta members have a caring spirit and a generous attitude. We have teams and groups who are constantly seeking to make a difference in our community. The First Connection ministry volunteers in the community to help meet basic needs of the elderly and low-income residents of Cobb County, such as home repairs, auto repairs, electrical and plumbing repairs, etc. The Tuesday Morning Group devotes Tuesday mornings to assisting the needy with yard care, grass mowing, and general clean up.

Youth Detention Center

A small group of First Baptist Church Marietta members have an ongoing ministry with young people who find themselves in trouble with the law. This ministry is an opportunity to witness to and make a connection with troubled youth at the Youth Detention Center. This church has been engaging in this ministry for more than 50 years.

Community Use of Facilities

With our location in downtown Marietta, our facilities are often used by other groups which, although not sponsored by or affiliated with our church, have a purpose consistent with our church's mission. One such group is Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), which uses our facilities for their meetings on Saturday mornings.

Conclusion

Mission outreach is the heartbeat of First Baptist Church Marietta. Church members, individually and in groups, respond to needs and opportunities for service in ways too numerous to fully catalog. The Lord taught us that "the fields are ripe for harvest", and this church is out working in the fields.





AGE BASED MINISTRIES



Children's Ministry

Our Kid's Quest Ministry is designed to help children grow in their knowledge and understanding of who God is, pursue a personal relationship with Christ, and to share God's love to the community in which they live. This ministry is designed for children ages birth through fifth grade. Through this ministry, the children attend Sunday School classes, participate in children's worship arts, and enjoy annual events such as Vacation Bible School, Family Christmas Day and Jingle Jam, Fall Festival, Summer Pool Party, and PASSPORT-kids Camp. The children also have the opportunity to lead worship on occasion through singing, praying, and sharing their testimonies.

First Baptist Church Marietta is also home to the Center for Early Education (CEE). The CEE is a preschool program in a Christian environment that fosters spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual growth for young children in the community. The CEE has been serving the developmental needs of preschool children for more than 50 years. Children from all faiths are welcome at the CEE; however, Christian values and principles are taught, promoted, and encouraged in each class.



Our hopes and dreams for the future:

- Bringing in younger generations
- Physical upgrades to church interior
- Increased community outreach
- Using facilities for the community, including gym/FLC

Student's Ministry

Our Element student ministry exists to create an irresistible environment that leads students into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Our hope is that as they grow in Christ, students would be led to make wise choices, to positively influence their friends, and for them to experience personal ministry through investing in and serving others. This ministry is built on the leadership of incredible volunteers who invest in the lives of students. Our mission is taken straight from 1 Thessalonians 2:8, "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." Annual events for our students include Big Game Outreach, Spring Break Mission Trip, Mission Marietta, and Student Life Camp.



AGE BASED MINISTRIES



Connect / Young Adults Ministry

Going into the Covid year of 2020, it became apparent that the young adult population of our church and the community was hungry for Bible study and the building of relationships within the church setting. This ministry began to focus on connecting single and married young adults to God and to each other through Bible study, worship, prayer and play. With direction from church staff and lay leaders, this group has begun to grow and thrive. Several young adult and family outings have been planned including Braves games, restaurant night, bowling night, game night, concert on the square, and a pool party, along with individual Sunday School classes enjoying time together in a smaller group setting.



Seniors / JOY Ministry

In 2015, First Baptist Church Marietta renewed on-going ministry to senior adults with a new name and new vision. Through the JOY Ministry (Just Older Youth), adults sixty years or older share a joyful love of the Lord, embrace fellowship, minister to one another, and live life to the fullest! They enjoy monthly luncheons which include inspirational programs and average 75 attendees per month. They seek to learn of God's Kingdom and practice discipleship through their annual "Book Club". There is always time for prayer support and outreach by sending their "JOY-Grams".

The JOY Ministry has fun in the adventure of life, and one of the ministry's greatest sources of joy is their love and service to others in the community and around the world. They partner with other local ministries for prayer and financial support, and actively visit those who are home-bound and in assisted living/nursing homes. They consistently initiate novel and worthy outreach initiatives, such as shoe drives for orphaned children around the world, and are now bravely participating in the Out of Darkness program, which is a ministry to combat human trafficking in the metro Atlanta area. They visit the streets on "Princess Night", to share a message of God's love, hope and restoration to abused women.

The JOY spirit of enthusiasm is contagious, and often the entire congregation becomes involved with their activities. Indeed this is a very busy, energetic and wonderful segment of our church family.



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

As a body of Christ, we are focused on equipping adults in becoming lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ. We aim to achieve this purpose through Sunday School. Through these initiatives, members are assisted in spiritual growth toward the goal of conforming to the image of Jesus Christ. Members are enabled to attain spiritual nourishment and a deeper relationship with God through Bible study, prayer, introspection, dialog, and fellowship.



Sunday School

Learning, spiritual growth, and Christian fellowship represent the major goals of our Sunday School classes. Our Sunday School classes are organized by ages and stages of life to fit each member's needs and preferences, allowing all to find their place. As one of the key components of congregational life, relationship building and fellowship are enabled and enriched through our Sunday School classes. Our Sunday School classes are small enough to encourage meaningful dialogue and large enough for diversity of opinions and viewpoints. For a list of our Sunday School classes, please visit our website.



WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY



“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High....” Psalm 92:1

The mission of our Worship Arts Ministry is to lead God’s people into His presence in worship and to cultivate lasting relationships with Jesus. The Bible is full of scripture imploring believers to worship Him in spirit and truth. As a ministry, we seek to both prepare for worship and to lead others in worship when we gather as a community of faith.

We engage in a “traditional” worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings in our sanctuary. The word “traditional” means different things to different people. For us, it simply means hymn-based music with participation by the congregation, choir, and a variety of musical instruments. We believe that our service presents a fresh approach to traditional worship. We believe that our worship experience is friendly, open, deep, meaningful, and Bible-based, all at the same time. All participants strive to bring their very best talents and gifts in praise to God.

The COVID pandemic accelerated our efforts to provide an on-line, streaming option for attending worship. We now have up to 1,000 devices that log in to our various streaming options. Thus, we now have a challenge and an opportunity to further minister to those who are attending worship remotely and to find new and better ways to use technology to spread the gospel to those in our community who might not physically come to our facilities.



Worship Choir

The Worship Choir provides choral leadership for most worship services and is open to adults interested in choral singing. The music sung by the choir includes a wide variety of music, encompassing a range of historical periods and styles of music, including standard and classical choral literature, standard anthems, hymn arrangements, spirituals, gospel, and contemporary arrangements. Our Worship Choir is truly a loving community made up of singers of all abilities who find fulfillment in leading the church in worship through music.



WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY



First Orchestra; Marietta Pops Orchestra

The First Orchestra, our church orchestra, like the Worship Choir, is composed of dedicated musicians who put in long hours of preparation to lead in worship. The First Orchestra accompanies the Worship Choir on almost all anthems and usually presents music of its own in worship as well.

Marietta Pops Orchestra is an independent community orchestra that began out of the First Baptist Church Marietta's Worship Arts Ministry in 2010 and serves as an auxiliary of the Worship Arts Ministry, having an independent 501(c)(3) status. The home-base of this orchestra is First Baptist Church Marietta which eagerly opened its doors for musicians from within our community to give back to the community. Having this orchestra linked to First Baptist Church Marietta states clearly to our community that our church is rooted in the Marietta community and proudly supports the Marietta Pops Orchestra.



Children's Worship Arts

The Children's Worship Arts Ministry seeks to prepare children as engaged worship leaders and participants. The children learn and worship through singing; playing instruments such as handbells, Orff Instruments, and other rhythm instruments; movement; and visual arts. As age-groups or musical/artistic interests change, this ministry works to engage the children and allow them a platform to express their God-given artistic talents.

Carols by Candlelight

A highlight of the church year at First Baptist Marietta is our Carols by Candlelight concert, held annually on the first weekend in December. The concert is open free of charge to the community, and our sanctuary is filled to capacity for each of the three concerts each year. The concert is presented by the Worship Choir and First Orchestra. In addition to the musical pieces, the concert includes a brief devotion delivered by our pastor. Attendees are also given an opportunity to participate in an offering, usually for a designated cause or ministry; in recent years, these have included our Grateful First campaign and the church's Pure Water Initiative. These concerts are consistently among the best musical presentations at Christmas time in our area; recordings of previous concerts can be viewed on our church website.



GIVING

For many years, First Baptist Church Marietta has been blessed with generous congregational giving and a very healthy budget to accomplish all God has called us to do.



Our current Chapel was dedicated in 1897, and our current Sanctuary was completed in 1962. While the church has invested for decades in maintenance of our church campus, an engineering study to assess our historic campus identified critical areas of deterioration and deficiency in 2017. The results showed that extensive work was needed to keep the envelope of the church structurally sound. As a result, a campus-wide renovation and restoration project was approved with an initial goal of \$5.2 million (“Grateful First”). The work began in late 2018, and all work was completed by the end of 2021. In all, the church was led by the Holy Spirit to give almost \$7 million to the campaign, above and beyond our normal budget. The exterior structure of the church building is now in prime condition for future generations, the bell tower for the historic Chapel has been rebuilt, and First Baptist Church Marietta will be debt-free for the first time in decades.

First Baptist Church Marietta			
Financial Data			
Church Year	Budget	Budget Giving	Budget + Designated Giving Total Giving
07-08	\$2,466,083	\$2,153,353	\$2,240,078
09-10	\$1,960,502	\$1,828,347	\$1,887,867
11-12	\$2,193,115	\$2,031,121	\$2,076,659
15-16	\$2,509,905	\$2,129,993	\$2,158,842
16-17	\$2,224,778	\$2,238,129	\$2,343,915
17-18	\$2,235,280	\$2,208,891	\$2,233,232
18-19	\$2,235,280	\$2,050,338	\$2,078,146
19-20	\$2,190,640	\$2,241,575	\$2,254,108
20-21	\$2,275,000	\$2,160,678	\$2,171,348
21-22	\$2,310,514	\$2,222,584	\$2,224,777
22-23	\$2,539,019	\$2,232,316	\$2,242,715





OUR HISTORY

First Baptist Church Marietta began its pilgrimage in 1835 with seventeen charter members. Services were held in a small frame building on Powder Springs Street where the Old City Cemetery is now located. In November of that year, we called our first pastor. Throughout 1836, the church grew rapidly and by year-end had laid the groundwork for its first building program and had joined a Baptist association.



In 1839 the church split between missionary and anti-missionary groups, thus beginning First Baptist's long history of involvement in missions both at home and abroad. Rev. Burke remained pastor of First Baptist, leading the missionary group in finding a church location at Waddell and Lawrence Streets. The anti-mission group eventually fell apart and is no longer in existence.

The Noonday Baptist Association was formed in the Marietta area in 1858 with 20 churches; our church assumed an important leadership role. In 1866, First Baptist granted letters of transfer to 89 former slaves who formed a separate church, and Zion Baptist Church was formally organized.

FBCM Church Buildings

- 1835** – first building on Powder Springs Street
- 1848** – new building built on Kennesaw Avenue
- 1897** – beautiful new building featuring Georgia marble and granite dedicated in 1897 on Church Street (existing Chapel)
- 1916** – Annex built for Sunday School classes
- 1951** – “Brown building” built adjacent to the Annex for offices and Sunday School classes.
- 1953** – Basement Auditorium (present-day Fellowship Hall) built as first phase of new Sanctuary construction.
- 1962** – Current Sanctuary completed and dedicated.
- 1985** – Family Life Center completed.
- 1999** – Welcome Center and Education Building completed and dedicated.



FBCM Church Plants

- 1900** - Roseland Baptist
- 1903** - Crestview Baptist
- 1929** - Austin Avenue Baptist
- 1943** - Roswell Street Baptist
- 1953** - Eastland Heights Baptist
- 1960** - Piedmont Baptist
- 1980** - Johnson Ferry Baptist

Our church has dealt with civil war, world war, racial issues, women in ministry, forms of worship, the role and structure of Sunday School, our role in the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and many other issues of modern Baptist and Christian life. Yet, as times have changed, the essential hope and dream of the church has been, and is, to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

Our presence near the Square in downtown Marietta presents both opportunities and challenges as we seek to minister to our community in the modern world. We maintain strong relationships with the other downtown churches, seeking ways to cooperate in ministries and services, such as the community Holy Week services.



FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 1 Thessalonians 2:8



Mariettafbc.org

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