

First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina

Church Profile

First Baptist Church of Marion was formed in 1862 with a charter membership of probably less than 15. The present sanctuary building was completed in 1914, with additions and renovations in 1952, 1993, and 2015. First Baptist Church of Marion is located in downtown Marion, the county seat of McDowell County.

Church Membership

Resident Membership: 327

Total Membership: 378

Worship

Average Worship Attendance: 160 (in-person before the pandemic)

Traditional Style

Finances

2021 Annual Church Budget: \$525,000

Our church has surpassed its budget goal every year in recent memory. We currently have no debt. In 2021, the church gave over \$31,000 to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (National) through the annual church budget and through the Global Missions Offering

Sunday School

Enrollment: 168

Pre-school and Children: 21

Youth: 19

Adult: 128

Average weekly attendance: 144 (in-person before the pandemic)

College Ministry

Church members and/or former youth enrolled in college/university: 13

Most college students live and study away from Marion. However, gift packages are sent and (when they are home) events are planned by the College Committee.

Church Affiliations

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (Global)

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Western North Carolina Baptist Fellowship

Blue Ridge Baptist Association

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Baptist World Alliance

Ministerial Tenures

Current Senior Pastor: 18 years

(Our two previous senior pastors each served tenures of 17 and 21 years)

Current Associate Pastor for Faith Formation: 10 years

Former Associate Pastor for Music and Administration: 21 years.

Immediate former Minister with Children: 4½ years

Music Program

Our Director of Music Ministry oversees our church-wide music program, which consist of these choirs:

Music Makers (grades K-2)

Young Musicians (grades 3-5)

First Baptist Church of Marion, North Carolina Church Profile

Children's Chimes Choir (grades 3-5)
Youth Choir (grades 6-12)
Youth Handbell Choir (grades 6-12)
Sanctuary Choir - adults
Adult Handbell Choir

First Baptist Church Children's Center

Since 1966 First Baptist Church has operated a fully licensed child development center as a mission of the church. Currently, the center serves approximately 80 children ages 2½-11.

Diaconate

21 deacons serve a three-year term followed by a one-year sabbatical before eligible to serve another term. Deacons are nominated and elected by the congregation with seven elected each year. All church members who are over age 21 and who have been a member for at least two years are eligible to serve on the Diaconate. A strong deacon family ministry is emphasized. Of the 21 deacons presently serving, 11 are males and 10 are females. Women and men have served as the chair of deacons.

Church Committees

First Baptist Church has a strong belief in shared leadership. The list of Committees is provided on our website under organization. Members of committees are nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the congregation. Most committees are set up on rotating three-year terms.

Community Profile

Marion is the county seat of McDowell County, located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina. Marion is located 35 miles east of Asheville. The Blue Ridge Parkway is 20 minutes from Marion, straddling the western county line. Lake James State Park, Pisgah National Forest, and Linville Gorge Wilderness Area are all partly in McDowell County. Grandfather Mountain, South Mountain, and Mount Mitchell State Parks are approximately 45 minutes away in neighboring counties.

Population Statistics

McDowell County: 45,507 (est. 2018)
Marion: 7,891 (est. 2019)
Old Fort: 924 (est. 2019)

Public Schools

McDowell County Schools
Total enrollment: 5,931
8 elementary schools
3 middle schools
3 high schools

Church Website Provides More Information about History and Current Programs:

<http://fbcmarion.org>

For McDowell County see City Data:

http://www.city-data.com/county/McDowell_County-NC.html