

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – SPRINGFIELD, OREGON  
[www.fbcspringfieldor.com](http://www.fbcspringfieldor.com)

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – SPRINGFIELD, OREGON**  
**1175 G Street, Springfield, OR 97477**  
**(1865—Present)**

**LOCATION:** FBCS is located on G Street in central Springfield. We are one of the partners in the “G Street OASIS” program -a safe place for families to be during the day – a living room space, a place to prepare meals and find assistance for families in housing transitions. Our present church campus was purchased at 12<sup>th</sup> & G Street and the church building (Fellowship Center) was completed in 1958 and the current Worship Center was built in 1968. The neighborhood surrounding the church includes single family dwellings, a bilingual elementary school, high school campus, swimming pool, skating park, tennis courts, park and hospital. The neighboring city is Eugene, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in Oregon (population 178,329). Springfield is 110 miles from Portland, the largest city in Oregon. The population of Springfield is 63,230 and the 9<sup>th</sup> largest city in Oregon. FBCS is a few blocks from the historic Main Street of shopping, eating, and family-friendly outdoor activities.

**CITY OF SPRINGFIELD:** Springfield is located in the Southern Willamette Valley within the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan area. Springfield is separated from Eugene to the west by Interstate 5. The Eugene-Springfield area has a special landscape where 2 rivers and many smaller ones converge. The Eugene-Springfield area is surrounded by green forests full of trails for hiking, biking and exploring in any kind of weather. The city of Springfield is surrounded by filbert (hazelnut) orchards. 98% of American filbert

production is harvested in the Willamette Valley. Springfield is home to 2 hospitals, McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center and PeaceHealth's Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend.

**HISTORY OF CITY OF SPRINGFIELD:** In 1848, the Briggs family were the first to settle in the Springfield area. The community was incorporated as a city in 1885. The city was named after a natural spring located in a field within the current city boundaries.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Lane Transit District (LTD) is the local bus service for the Springfield-Eugene and surrounding cities in Lane County. LTD's Emerald Express (EmX) Bus Rapid Transit system connects travelers in West Eugene, downtown, UO, Springfield and the RiverBend and Gateway area. Amtrak provides rail transportation from Vancouver, British Columbia to Seattle, Portland and Eugene and south to California. The Eugene Airport is 7 miles northwest of Eugene and the 5<sup>th</sup> largest airport in the Pacific Northwest. Airlines that serve the Eugene-Springfield area are Allegiant Air, Alaska, American, Delta and United. Most Lane County roads are part of the bicycle network.

**EDUCATION:** Springfield School District has 15 elementary schools, 4 middle schools and 4 high schools. In Eugene, there is the Eugene School District and Bethel School District in west Eugene. Eugene also is the home of Lane Community College, University of Oregon, Bushnell University, and New Hope Christian College.

**ECONOMY:** Starting in 1949, the economy of Springfield was the timber industry, with the largest employer being Weyerhaeuser Company. In the 1990's the timber industry was forced to downsize as old growth lumber became less available and eventually, Weyerhaeuser closed its sawmill and plywood plants. Springfield has now developed a more diversified economy with PeaceHealth now the largest employer in the city.

**WEATHER:** In Springfield, the summers are short, warm, dry, and mostly clear and the winters are cold, wet, and overcast. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 35°F to 86°F and is rarely below 25°F or above 97°F.

**ACTIVITIES IN SPRINGFIELD:** The Wildish Theater, Indoor Waterpark "Splash!", mountain biking through the Thurston Hills Natural Area, Dorris Ranch hazelnut orchard, watching the sunset from Kelly Butte, ordering a drink from a pew in an old church building at Public House, hiking on Mt. Pisgah, taking a selfie in front of "The Simpson's" mural. Also, Eugene is known as Track Town, USA by hosting the Track & Field Olympic Trials several times, Home of the Ducks (men & women athletics), Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Saturday & Farmers Market, tech industry and artists.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Our church membership currently has 184 members. Pre-COVID Sunday worship attendance averaged 75 people. Once the State of Oregon had a stay at home mandate, FBCS Sunday Worship Services suspended in-person worship and went online through Facebook Live-FBCS beginning March 22, 2020. With COVID-19

numbers going down and vaccinations increasing, FBCS started In-person worship with safety protocols on April 11, 2021. Attendance after re-convening in-person worship is somewhat lower than it was pre-Covid but it's increasing as more and more people feel comfortable worshipping in-person again. FBCS offers Children and Youth Ministries, Men's and Women's bible study, Sunday School, CATS ("Church Across The Street") after-school activities, All-Church Retreat. Forty-five percent of the members live within 5 miles from the church, while another 27% live between 6-10 miles from the church. Most people attending FBCS are Caucasian. FBCS has 43% married couples, 21% married with kids, another 16% are single adults. 50% of our members are retired, while 43% are employed fulltime. The members of FBCS are or have been in the healthcare field (21%), teacher (18%), professional (14%), service or support provider (15%).

**OUR CHURCH BELIEVES:** The approach to social issues is basically educational, leaving any action up to the individual and feels ethical decisions should be made in light of the circumstances. Our church emphasizes American Baptist relationships regionally, nationally and internationally, along with being involved in community partnerships. FBCS places much emphasis on giving to American Baptist national and world missions. FBCS participates in the 4 ABC special offerings each year.

**LEADERSHIP:** The church has a full time Pastor. We do not have an associate pastor. We have a part-time Youth Coordinator, Music Director, Office Administrator and Custodian. We currently have 5 ministry teams – Growing, Reaching, Training, Deacons and Campus Stewardship. Church officers are Moderator, Clerk, Financial Secretary and Treasurer. The Growing Team nurtures the Ministry of Spiritual Growth and Transformation. The Reaching Team encourages the Ministry of Outreach and Mission. The Training Team provides opportunities for Ministry of Training in Discipleship. The Deacons help oversee the Ministry of Care. The Campus Stewardship Team manages the Ministry of the FBCS campus and facilities. The Church Council consists of Co-Leaders from each Ministry Team, Church Officers and the Pastor. Prior to the Church Council meeting every month, an Executive Committee meets which is composed of the Pastor, Church Officers, and one At-Large member. FBCS values our partnership in ministry with our pastoral leadership. In making decisions, ultimately, our church is governed by the congregation.



**CHURCH HISTORY:** FBCS has a long history in the Willamette Valley since 1865. The church began meeting in the Bogart School House. Elder JC Richardson preached to five persons (three women and two men). They formed the first congregation known as "The First Baptist Church of McKenzie's Ford". In 1871, a new church house was built – the first in Springfield. Located at Second and "C" Streets, the building was completed for \$1,623.00. The church name was changed to the First Baptist Church, Springfield at that time. As the congregation continued to grow, a new location was sought to allow for expansion. Property was purchased at 12<sup>th</sup> and "G" Streets, and the church building (currently the Fellowship Center) was completed in 1958. The first service was held on Easter Sunday. The current Sanctuary building was built in 1968. Offices, Sunday School classrooms and parking lot were all added at that time. The original church bell, which was founded in 1882, announced the hour of Sunday morning worship at both the "C" Street and "G" Street sites. Formerly located in a bell tower on the "G" Street campus, the bell was relocated to its present sight above the worship center in January 2013. FBCS is a stable, outreaching congregation and is influenced by its rich history and tradition.



**FBCS LOGO:** The FBCS logo represents our vision of life together. This “signature” of the First Baptist Church of Springfield speaks of who we are, gives shape to our shared life, and answers the question: How do we love God wholly and love our neighbor? In the center circle, the cross of Christ is prominently displayed. This arrangement, which echoes the motif of the American Baptist Churches USA symbol, emphasizes the Christ-centered nature of this community of disciples. As friends and followers of Jesus Christ, we proclaim that it is Christ who calls us into being and Christ who holds us together. Our life together – all that we are and everything we do – revolves around Jesus, our Savior and Lord. The outer ring portrays the way we carry out the loving, live-giving, disciple-making mission of First Baptist Church. “Growing Together” underscores our commitment to love each other by nurturing spiritual growth through the mutual practice of such lifestyle choices as worship, prayer, study, service and partnership. “Reaching Out” highlights our dedication to sharing the love of God, the light of Christ, and the life of the Spirit with our neighbors; serving them and loving them into full participation in The Way of Christ and His Church. “Training Leaders” draws our attention to the fact that our mission does not end with growing and reaching. Ultimately, the love we share is about training spiritual leaders who are devoted to a life growing together, reaching out and training leaders who in turn grow, reach and train...and so it goes as the outer ring revolves around the center. We have in this logo an excellent portrayal of our mission and an effective tool for conveying to others who we are, how we love, AND how Christ would have all people live life together.

**PASTORAL LEADERSHIP:** The congregation of the First Baptist Church, Springfield has been continuous since 1865. Over those 156 years there have been 45 pastors (senior & associates) all bringing talents and their love for Jesus to minister to this congregation. FBCS has always had the ability to pay a full-time pastor with benefits.

Our last 3 full-time pastors have been:

Dr. Rev. Jeffery Savage (1988-2020) retired after 32 years of pastoral ministry at FBCS  
Rev. David Fountain (1984-1987) moved to California to be closer to family; semi-retired  
Rev. George Lambrides (1978-1983) left for a pastorate at Lower Merion Baptist Church in Bryn Mawr, PA.

**CORE VALUE - HOSPITALITY:** We value our partnership in ministry with our community. Through the years FBCS has provided space for Head Start, Valley Baptist Church, a community soup kitchen and Habitat for Humanity. Currently, the FBCS

campus is the center of hospitality to the community. OASIS stands for Opportunity-Access-Stability-Initiative-Success. The “G Street OASIS” is a collaborative project to provide homeless families with children as a priority to access a coordinated set of services offered at multiple locations within the immediate G Street neighborhood of Springfield. Other partners that share the FBCS facilities are the Centro Cristiano Familiar Congregation, Young Life offices, 2 Conestoga Huts, Hospice Pet Advocacy, 2 – AA groups (a women’s group and a coed group), an Al-Anon group, and a Nar-Anon group, Shelter Rights Alliance, and FOOD for Lane County Summer Meal Program.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

**AS FRIENDS AND FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, WE ARE COMMITTED TO:**

**Growing** our friendship with Christ and one another through worship, prayer, study, partnership and service.

**Reaching** out to others in our community with the living and joy-giving message of Christ.

**Training** those in this congregation for ministry and leadership in the church and the world.

**WORSHIP STYLE:** Our Sunday worship experience is planned and coordinated by the pastor, music director and Growing Team. We have blended music (songs and hymns), with a praise team accompanied by piano, guitar, clarinet, violin. Lay people read the scripture, lead in prayers, and are ushers. The congregation is open to creativity.

**AFFILIATION:** FBCS is affiliated with ABC/USA and ABC of the Central Pacific Coast region. Currently a church member is on the regional board. A few years ago, another church member was the regional Treasurer. Edythe McCarty was a long time member of FBCS and served as a missionary in Thailand.

**CONGREGATION STYLE:** FBCS has dedicated lay leadership and an active prayer life. Communications are done through emails, newsletter, Wednesday updates, worship guides and prayer chain.

**GROWING YOUNG INITIATIVE:** FBCS is currently participating in the Growing Young Initiative which is a year-long action research project to increase each participating church’s capacity to engage children, youth and young adults in an enduring relationship with Jesus and with believers of all ages. The Growing Young Initiative (GYI) co-sponsored by Fuller Theological Seminary and the American Baptist Home Missions Society.

Growing Young Initiative churches embrace *six Core Commitments* to integrating children, youth and young adults in worship, service, leadership and faith formation in the unique culture of each participating church:

1. Empowering young people to fully engage in congregational life
2. Stepping into the shoes of each generation as they encounter daunting challenges
3. Welcoming young people into a truly Jesus-centered way of life
4. Fueling a warm community of authentic and warm peer and intergenerational friendships

5. Engaging and involving children, youth and young adults in congregation and community, and
6. Being the best neighbors, embracing the “other” locally and globally.

Some leadership qualifications to lead a Growing Young church are:

1. Deep understanding of faith formation across the life span, and experience in equipping staff, lay and volunteers to promote intentional spiritual formation in all aspects of congregational life. (Faith formation and spiritual development)
2. Insight and empathy for all church members – children, youth, young adults, mature adults and the elderly – in facing challenges unique to each age and stage, but especially at critical transitions in development and maturation. This includes teaching by example and shepherding others to feel and demonstrate empathy for others. (Shepherding)
3. Exploring a truly Jesus-centered way of life. (Discipleship)
4. Leadership in creating authentic peer and intergenerational relationships. (Shepherding)
5. Engaging children, youth and young adults in service to the congregation and community. (Service)
6. And, being the best neighbors, embracing the “other” locally and globally. (Discipleship)

**WHAT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS SAY ABOUT FBCS?** Several community partners that share our facilities responded to a questionnaire we gave them. All of the community partners that responded indicated how grateful they were to be our partners, for which, we are grateful for their partnership, too. One community partner said that they partner with FBCS by sharing the same vision as they are seeking which is to go into the community and do ministry. Another partner said that the classroom they use meets their needs and appreciate the opportunity to use it. Another partner says, “Patient Pet Advocates, deeply appreciates our association with First Baptist Church. We find the church to be a valuable partner in fulfilling our mission to the community. The facilities provided make it possible to efficiently serve our clients and do outreach in the community. First Baptist has been responsive to our needs and an excellent partner. I feel the church's outreach and assistance with the unhoused individuals in our area is important and balanced. This will be an ongoing need into the foreseeable future. Patient Pet Advocates provides pre-planning assistance, education, emergency services, and advocacy for pet owners facing a life-altering or terminal illness in the Eugene/Springfield area.” Another community partner writes: “Working with First Baptist Church of Springfield as a partner for the last 5 years has been a blessing for Centro Cristiano Familiar (CCF). Over the years, we have had the pleasure of collaborating with FBCS on multiple occasions and holding Bilingual services where both ministries are able to worship together and share a special meal afterwards. Pastor Andres



Aguilar planted CCF 20 years ago in Springfield, Oregon and continues pastoring the church to this day. In the year 2016, CCF began sharing the facilities at FBCS. We hold regular services on Fridays and Sundays and use the space to hold meetings, practices, and classes.” Another community partner says: “First Baptist Church has partnered with Catholic Community Services since 2016. FBCS has housed the OASIS program since 2016, allowed CCS to utilize meeting space, shared their parking lot with two CCS Conestoga huts for families that are houseless, collected items for the CCS Squeaky Clean Hygiene drive, and participated in both OASIS Partner meetings and the OASIS Steering Committee meetings. FBCS was amazing during the devastating wildfires in September 2020. FBCS sorted and stored donations for fire victims, manned the shower trailer and provided towels on short notice. First Baptist Church exemplifies the "Caring Community" that mirrors the goals of service for CCS.”

### **THE 8 MINISTRY ACTIVITIES FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH-SPRINGFIELD IS LOOKING FOR IN A PASTOR:**

1. PS020 Church Growth
2. PS200 Planning and Management
3. PS230 Preaching
4. PS080 Education
5. PS310 Worship Preparation
6. PS140 Leadership Development
7. PS190 Nurturing Fellowship
8. PS290 Teaching

### **FBCS IS ALSO LOOKING FOR THE PASTOR TO:**

- Have a passion for hospitality in sharing our facilities with our community partners (for example, OASIS, Centro Cristiano Familiar congregation, AA, CATS, Patient Pet Advocacy, Young Life, etc.)
- Have a vision to go into the community and do ministry (for example supporting our children’s program for the children at the elementary school across G St from FBCS (CATS - Church Across The Street) and participating in Relay for Life.
- Support programs helping those who need transitional housing (Conestoga Huts & OASIS), Interfaith Shelter program, Springfield Alliance for Equity and Respect (SAfER), and other local social justice issues.
- Have intergenerational ministry skills to involve youth, young families, and seniors.
- Have a passion for being the hands and feet of Christ in the Springfield community.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST:** Church Constitution & By-Laws, Annual Report, Worship Guides, etc.



1882 ~ Church bell



Outside – Worship Center



Breezeway Classrooms ~ Partners use



Fellowship Center ~ Centro Cristiano Familiar Congregation



Worship Center~ In person worship with safety protocol



Youth Room



Youth Coordinator Office



CATS Room ~ Children's Ministries



Sunday School Room



Pastor's Study/Office



Church Office



Meeting Room



Nursery



Centro Cristiano Familiar ~Fellowship Center



OASIS Office



Conestoga Huts ~ Transitional Housing



Pet Advocacy Program



FBCS Kids



All-Church Retreat ~ FBCS Family