



Welcome to:  
First Baptist Church  
Topeka

# Overview

[First Baptist Church-Topeka](#), has a lively and fun congregation with many activities each and every week. We are proud to have enthusiastic staff supporting our church. Our Associate Pastor focuses support on our members 55 and older, our NextGen Pastor supports our youth, and our Assistant Pastor provides support wherever it is needed. The support staff are a joy to work with and are dedicated to keeping our church running smoothly. In our congregation we have multiple retired pastors from ABC-US community who are actively leading Bible Studies and assisting with church programming.

Historically, First Baptist Topeka has been one of the most giving churches in the region and supports multiple evangelical teams in the field. We have hosted the City's [Upward Basketball](#) program for over twenty years and have built a solid relationship with Jardine Elementary School nearby. We support numerous non-profits in Topeka such as Meals on Wheels and Hope Street Academy.

The [First Baptist Church Foundation](#) was established in 2007 and acts as a vehicle for our church members and others to direct financial gifts while they are living or through their will or trust upon their death. It has blessed us in many ways by allowing us to build new infrastructure, start new ministries, and create outreach programs. It has made an impact on lives from the youngest to the oldest.

In surveying our congregation, we agree that connecting our community with our church would be a huge blessing to all.

**Our vision is to be a vibrant church** that spreads God's love and kindness, not only in our community, but everywhere.

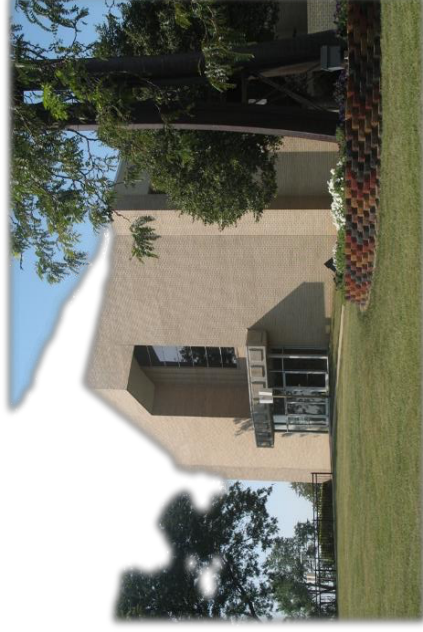
**We are ready to embrace positive change and growth.** If you find that exciting, consider growing with us.

**We are looking for an energetic, dedicated individual** who feels called to help us grow the church and fill it with the sounds of happy families. We see this being an era of joy and spiritual growth.

# Why Choose First Baptist Topeka?

You would become part of:

1. A supportive team of dedicated professionals.
2. An enthusiastic and involved congregation.
3. A community that works together for the greater good.





**Our Pastors & Staff**



**Our Congregation**



**Topeka Jump**

**We invite you to consider joining us at First Baptist Church Topeka. Together, we can build on our successes, energize our congregation, spread even more love and joy to others and actively demonstrate the love of Christ.**

**For more information, contact:** Gregg Hemmen, executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region at [Gregg.hemmen@abccr.org](mailto:Gregg.hemmen@abccr.org) or Rick Kready, Chairman of the Search Committee at First Baptist Church Topeka [rick\\_kready@juno.com](mailto:rick_kready@juno.com)



**This year we won the trifecta.**

# Why Topeka?

Topeka is a small jewel in the Midwest. Topeka is the [capital city of Kansas](#), its name is of uncertain origin. The geography includes rolling hills and fertile farmland. The Kansas River runs through the city, separating North and South Topeka.

The present site was chosen in 1854 by a group of antislavery colonists from Lawrence, led by Charles Robinson. He was a resident agent of the New England Emigrant Aid Company. Topeka is 170 years old; our church is 168 years old.

Median Home price - \$169,700    Median Income - \$50, 870    Monthly Rent (2 BR) - \$940

Average Daily Temperatures	
<b>Population:</b> 125,449 (2022) Topeka and Shawnee County: 178,941	January 40 degrees
<b>Metro population:</b> 232,670 (US: 200th)	April 68 degrees
<b>Median Age:</b> 38	July 89 degrees
<b>Area:</b> 61.47 mi	October 69 degrees
<b>Racial make-up:</b> 68.9% White, 10% Black, 14.3% Hispanic, 1.4% Asian	July is our hottest month averaging 89 degrees and Annual snowfall 17.8 inches

Topeka has 147 churches (July 2024):

- 14.4% Catholic
- 11.3% Other Christian Churches
- 6.0% Baptist
- 5.9% Methodist
- 3.4% Lutheran
- 2.1% Pentecostal
- 1.8% Church of Jesus Christ



# Why Topeka?

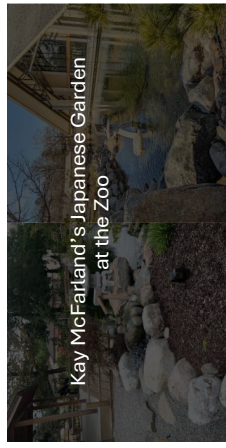
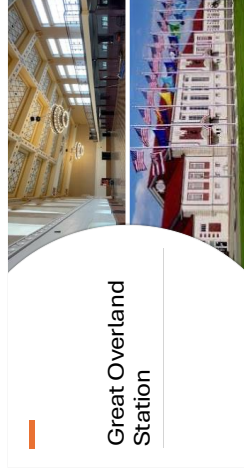
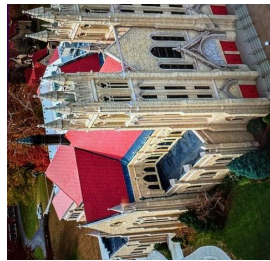
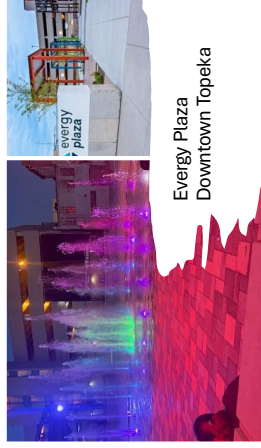
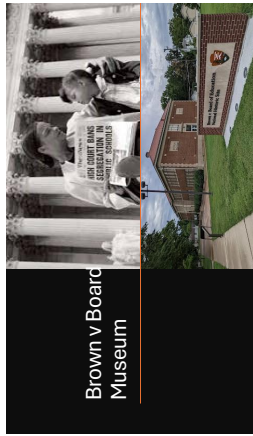
We are the Capital City! It's where the action happens.

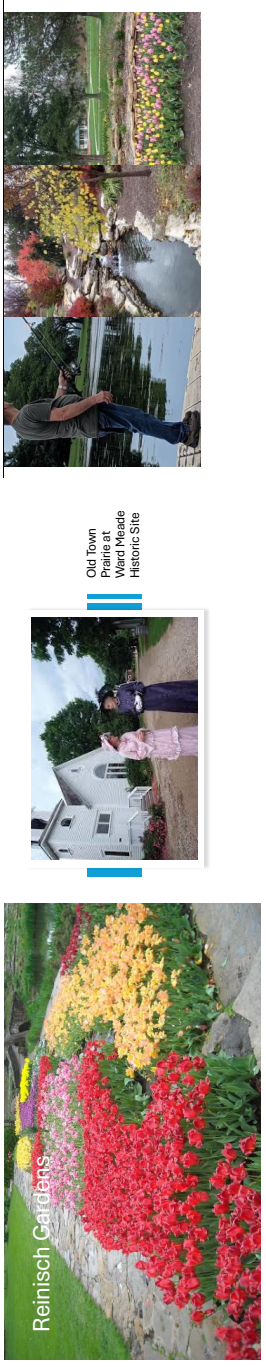
We have a vibrant downtown including Energy Plaza where live music is often heard during lunches and in the evenings. The domed, neoclassical State Capitol has murals and statues. And the Governor's Mansion hosts many fundraisers. Topeka has a vibrant business community and is represented by the [Greater Topeka Partnership](#).



Cedar Crest – Governor's Mansion

Below are photos of some of Topeka's fun spots to visit and our museums, etc. Each of these photos is linked, so just click on it and you will be taken to its website for more information.





Reinisch Gardens

Old Town Profile at Ward Meade Historic Site

**Charles Curtis Home (VP from KS)**  
First Vice President to have Native American Heritage (and only one to date)

Topeka has numerous biking trails and hiking opportunities as well. This is a picture of the Shunga Trail. There are trails on Lake Shawnee plus Landon Trail.

Topeka is also known as an arts town. We have NOTO Arts District in north Topeka plus Topeka Art Guild and Gallery, Beauchamp, The Sabatini, and Mulvane Art Museum on the west side of town. First Fridays are a lively night across the city with many venues hosting featured artists, live music, and free munchies.

Shawnee County has numerous schools. Five (5) High Schools, five (5) Junior High Schools and thirty-four (34) Elementary Schools, plus eleven (11) private schools. Here is a link to use to research them.  
<https://www.topekapublicschools.net/>



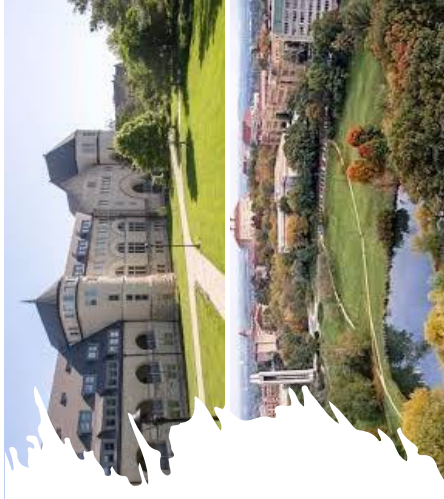
If you want more  
education... Washburn  
University and Washburn  
Institute for Technology



And in less than an  
hour:

[Kansas State  
University in  
Manhattan](#)

[University of Kansas in  
Lawrence](#)



Hospitals:

Stormont Vail

&

KU Medical  
Center St Francis  
Campus



Topeka has two hospitals when in need of medical care. Stormont Vail and University of Kansas Center at St. Francis Topeka Ks

See [www.stormontvail.com](http://www.stormontvail.com) and/or [www.kutopeka.com](http://www.kutopeka.com)



If you need a get-away... [MCI an international airport](#); a more leisurely [train ride](#) or major interstate: I-70, US-75, US-40 and K-4.

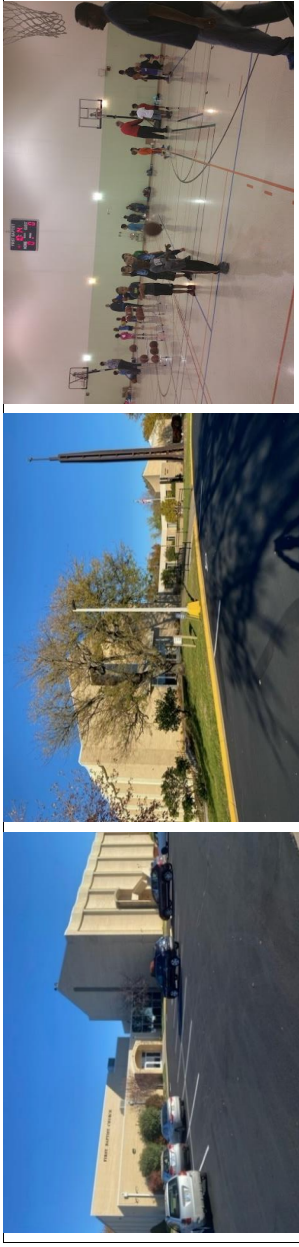
# Church History

On the evening of March 1, 1857, six friends of Joseph and Sarah Miller met in the Miller home to discuss forming a new church. When the meeting was over, six of the eight friends signed on to be the first members of the First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas. Worship services were held in the dirt-floored basement of the Miller home for several years. Then the small church moved to the second floor of the Joseph Miller Hardware and Tin Shop in 1862. In 1870, the decision was made to rent the “Red, White and Blue Hall,” a state-owned legislative building. Church services were held there for three years.

A limestone structure known as “The Stone Church” was completed in 1876. It was demolished and rebuilt with red glacial boulders from Richland Kansas, south of Topeka in 1904. A five-story educational complex was built next to the church in 1932.







The decision to move to the current location at 3033 SW MacVicar was made in 1966. In 2002, the Christian Community Life Center was added to include a gym, auditorium, and additional classrooms in February 2002. This has allowed us to offer Upward Basketball for the community, it has been going strong ever since. In 2006, our children’s Christian Education area transformed Sunday School to “Faith Forest.” Hallways and classrooms were painted and decorated to create the illusion of a forest. Rooms were transformed into the Wild Kingdom, Joy Jungle, and others. In 2010, Faith Forest Cove was built to enlarge the Faith Forest Sunday School area. In 2012, a classroom was converted into the Midland Prince Prayer Chapel and in 2013 we enlarged and re-decorated and designated a space for the Youth Group. In 2022, we added a designated Pastor for Nextgen to grow that area. During the Covid years, we were able to take services online for our congregation quickly. We were able to add online Sunday School sessions as well. Our Risk Management team stepped up and did a fantastic job.



# Church Covenant

**We believe in God the Father, and commit ourselves as baptized believers to His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior.** Influenced by His Holy Spirit, and instructed by the Scriptures, we consecrate ourselves to His service and unite with one another as His in this covenant.

**We will consistently seek to grow as Christians, making prayer and God's love the essence of our daily living.** Desiring to live together in His love, we will abstain from actions which are harmful or destructive to any person, and we will help one another to think, speak, and act as Christians. We will share each other's joys and try with tenderness and sympathy to bear one another's burdens and sorrows.

**We will strive to be responsible church members** through faithful attendance, study and giving of personal financial resources. Committed to experiencing, living out and sharing Jesus Christ with the world, we will enter into mission, at home and abroad, with vision and enthusiasm.

**As members of First Baptist Church of Topeka, we are joined in fellowship with Christians around the world.** We will, therefore, when moving from this area, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant.

Revised January 2020



# Mission and Vision

## Mission Statement

Sharing Christ, Nurturing People



## Our Mission

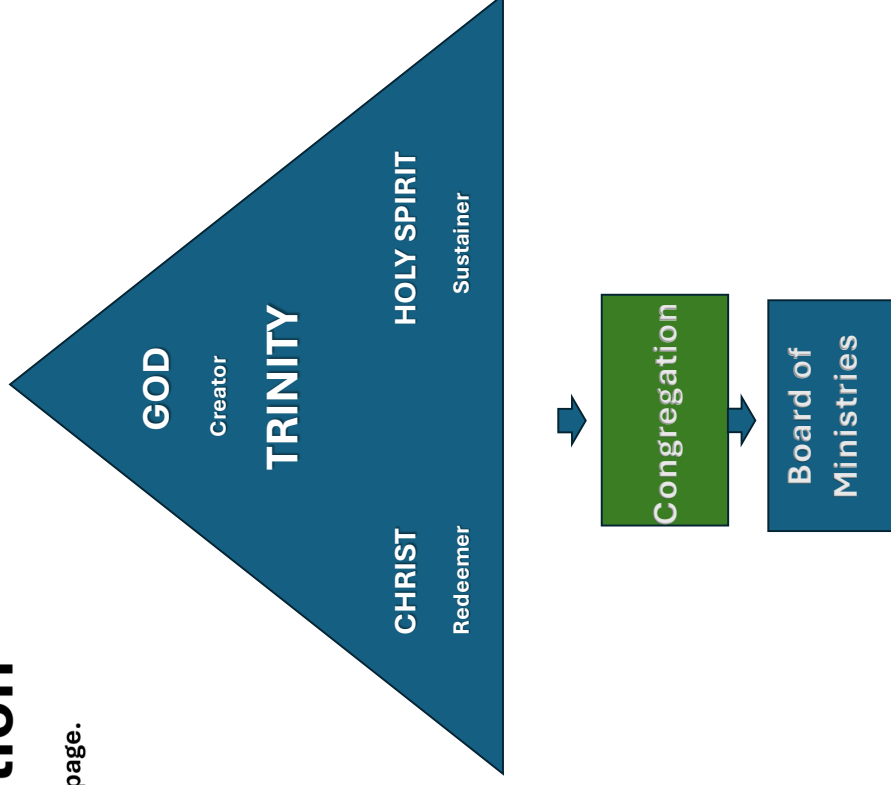
With energy and wisdom supplied by God's Holy Spirit, we will live as a community of believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, offering love and hope in a world of hate and despair. We will challenge people to find a personal relationship with God; and we will challenge people to achieve their full Christian potential.

## Our Vision

Go with open hearts and minds to serve and make disciples for Christ.

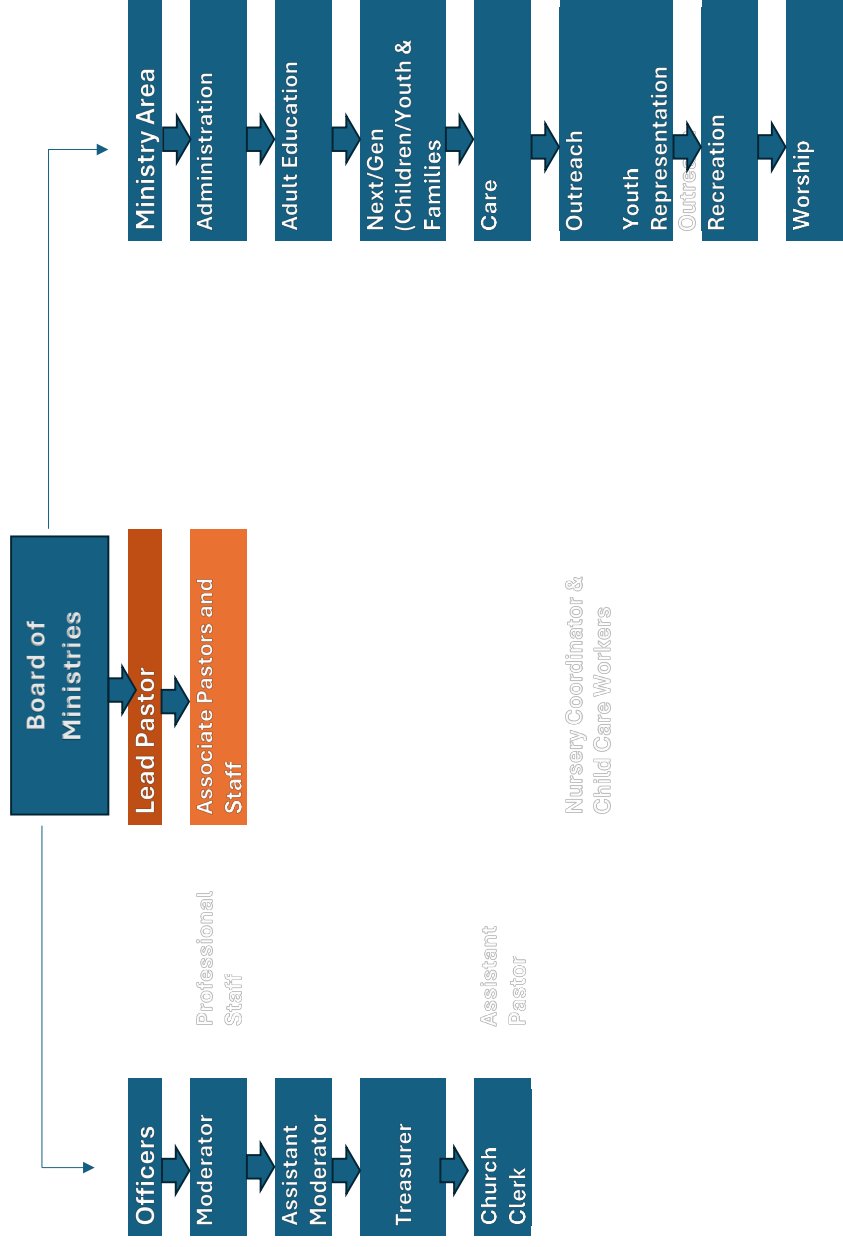
# Organization

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# Organization Continued



# Church Activities

## Weekly

Chancel Choir Practice  
Church Staff/Pastor Meeting  
Wednesday Family Night Meal and Programming  
Thursday Lunches with Pastor Janet  
Friday Retired Old Men Eating Out (ROMEOS)  
Sunday Morning Adult Sunday School Class  
Youth Sunday School Class Ministry  
Youth Afternoon Bible Studies and Activities

## Monthly

Women's Circle Groups  
Senior Adult Outings/Activities  
Dinner and a Movie  
Books and Brunch Club

## Yearly

Easter Service  
Youth Summer Camp  
Quest  
Youth Missionaries  
Trunk or Treat  
Pastor Appreciation in October

## Yearly continued

Participate in Community Thanksgiving Service  
Hanging of the Greens  
Upward Basketball  
Advent Workshop and Luncheon  
Christmas Eve Service

## Community Involvement

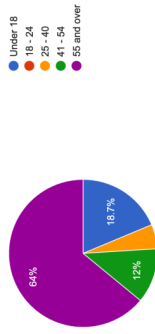
AA and NARC meetings  
Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts  
Daycare  
Doorstep  
Harvester  
Jardine Back Snacks  
Justice & Unity Mission Project Let's Help  
Ladies In Faith Together  
Meals on Wheels  
Pickleball Groups, Badminton and Line Dancing

## As Needed:

Garden Club  
Retreats

# Church Survey Highlights

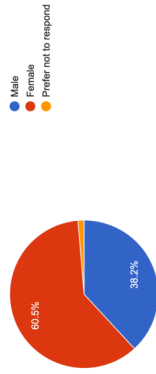
What is your age?  
75 responses



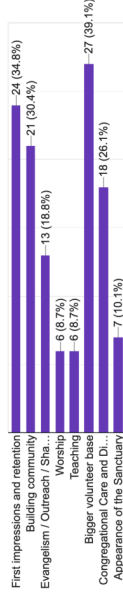
Why do you attend First Baptist Church, Topeka? (Choose up to 3)  
69 responses



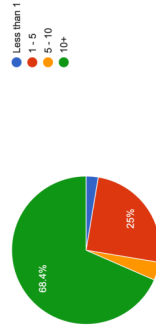
What is your gender?  
76 responses



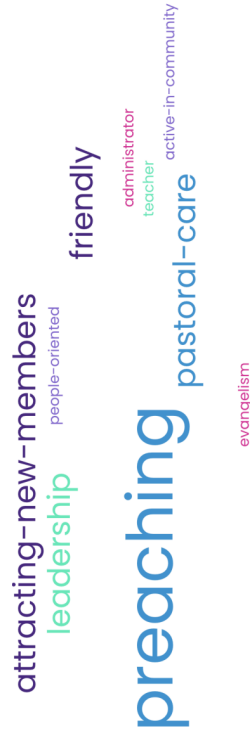
Where do you feel First Baptist Church, Topeka could use the most improvement? (Choose up to 2)  
69 responses



How many years have you been attending First Baptist Church, Topeka?  
76 responses



## Most Sought After Pastoral Strengths



[Click here for full survey results.](https://www.firstbaptisttopeka.org/)

# Invitation



**We invite you to come and work with us** to build on our successes, work through our obstacles and grow into the church we want to become: a vibrant church that rings with the sounds of children's laughter, leads people to Christ, makes a positive impact on the Topeka community, the surrounding area and supports our international ministries. We believe in Jeremiah 29:11 and know that God has plans for us to prosper and give others hope while doing so as well.

**Be part of a supportive, fun-loving church** dedicated to lifting one another up and supporting each other and those in our community.

**Our congregation is excited to welcome a new lead pastor** who wants to continue First Baptist's traditions of excellence and build on them to make us even more successful and impactful. Your presence will have a significant impact not only on First Baptist, but on the community at large. You will be able to see tangible results from your efforts.

**In Topeka, you will find a community that will welcome you, support you and help you** accomplish your goals. It is a collaborative city that will work with you in your efforts towards positive change.

May you listen to God's guidance with thoughtfulness and discernment.

**Contact Gregg Hemmen, Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region at [gregg.hemmen@abccr.org](mailto:gregg.hemmen@abccr.org) or Rick Kready, Chair of the Pastor Search Committee at First Baptist Topeka at [Rick\\_Kready@Juno.com](mailto:Rick_Kready@Juno.com)**



# Can you picture yourself here?

