

## First Baptist Church Profile

Two phrases guide our life as a community at First Baptist: Love First and 213Life. In every situation, our goal is to lead with love rather than judgement, anger, suspicion, or any other response. 213Life is a reminder that the profile listed below is how we do life as a part of God's Kingdom at our address, 213 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

### WORSHIP

*Music* – The music aspect of our Worship service is Contemporary and led by the band. We place a high value on creativity in music, which leads to choir specials, children leading worship, and special music during Advent and Holy Week.

*Ordinances* – We place a high value on the ordinances of Baptism and Communion. During baptism we use a Baptismal Covenant, and during Communion, those receiving for the first time are served up front as a family unit.

*Conversation* – We build the week around the Sunday Morning conversation. The goal of the message in Worship is to build a Conversation that lasts all week and is carried through a Midweek Podcast and Daily Readings.

*Lectionary* – The Lectionary guides many of our Conversations during the year, especially during the Seasons of Advent and Lent.

*Special Services* – Summit Series is a three week series in January that is led by a specialist in an area of Scripture. Educator Sunday is when we commission and celebrate the largest group of missionaries in the Church. P3 Sunday kicks off our Summer City Outreach called Praise and Party in the Park.

### CHRISTIAN CALENDAR, BIBLE STUDY, P3

*Seasons* – We observe Advent and Lent as a part of our yearly rhythm of Worship and Spiritual Formation.

*Sacred Days* – We have special services to celebrate Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday (Tenebrae), Resurrection Sunday, and Pentecost

*Bible Study* – Bible study is facilitated in small groups and is flexible in content, delivery, and leadership. We seek to create an environment that ministers to the whole family, regardless of how the family is made up. Our Wednesday Night ministries are focused on Children, Youth, and Choir, allowing our adults to find a place of service on those nights.

*P3* – Every summer, we reach out into the community through P3 (Praise-n-Party-in-the-Park). We do not do VBS, instead we take a VBS style event to the parks, invite the neighborhoods, and then follow up through continued contact.

### LEADERSHIP

We believe that Christ is the head of the Church and allows us to serve as a part of God's mission. The Deacons are the service body of the church. The Church Council is the administrative body of the church. The Staff serves alongside the Deacons and Church Council. We have a few teams that meet other spiritual and physical needs of the church. The leadership sets the standard of serving one another and the community in love. As a church, we seek to develop an inviting culture that focuses on inviting others into the community rather than only being welcoming when someone shows up.

### AFFILIATIONS

As a church, we align closest to the Baptist Faith and Message of 1963. On the state level, we are aligned with Texas Baptists. Locally, we are connected with the Sweetwater Ministerial Alliance.

When God moves someone from our Church, we celebrate their faith journey through a Sending at the end of Worship. We believe that those who move on have made us a better community of God and they are being sent as representatives of God and First Baptist to continue God's Mission in the world.