



A Profile of our Church and Community

First Central Bible Church, founded in 1830, is an independent fellowship of believers in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Characterized by visitors and newcomers as a friendly and loving body of believers, we are also known as a church that is steadfast in preaching sound, biblical doctrine.

Chicopee is one of the oldest communities in Western Massachusetts. The city is located at the crossroads of two major highways, the Massachusetts Turnpike and Interstate 91. Our city lies halfway between Boston, MA and Albany, NY and is directly north of Springfield, MA, within ten miles of the Connecticut border. This multi-ethnic community has a current population of almost 56,000 with a median income of \$53,225. Chicopee's religious profile identifies as predominantly Roman Catholic and one fourth of the population claims no identity with any church.

The Chicopee public school system is comprised of 15 schools and about 7,800 students. This includes one early childhood program, nine elementary schools, two middle schools, one alternative school (grades 6-12), and two newly-built high schools.

First Central draws the majority of its approximately 150 members and attenders from Chicopee, but a good number of our church families commute from surrounding communities, including some from northern Connecticut. Our church body is made up of a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and a wide range of ages.

During our search for an Assistant Senior Pastor, our church body is led by a 4-member Council of Elders, which includes our current Senior Pastor. A Board of Deacons and a Board of Deaconesses also work to serve the body here at First Central. We have a staff consisting of: a Children's Ministry Director, one full-time office manager/treasurer, one part-time secretary, a facilities manager and custodial staff.

Sunday morning worship service is held at 10:30 A.M. Sunday morning bible studies (Sunday School) is available for all ages and include adult classes, a youth/teen group, and children's classes. Our Wednesday evening programs include bible study and prayer meeting, Team Kid, and youth/teen programs. A variety of classes and bible studies for adults are scheduled periodically, with a number of men's and women's prayer groups and/or Bible studies held at the church or hosted at members' homes. A nursery is provided for most worship services as well as other major ministries.

Music is an integral part of worship at First Central and consists of biblically based music led by a worship team.

In 1995, First Central completed a major building program which added a gymnasium, a library, offices, more classrooms, an elevator, and a commercially-equipped kitchen. The sanctuary seats about 265 and underwent a major updating and renovation in 2018. All areas of the church are air-conditioned and handicap accessible.



Our outreach ministries include Team Kid (preschool through grade six), Teen Ministries, Women's Christmas Event, Men's Breakfast, The Lord's Pantry, Senior Saints' Luncheon, and Vacation Bible School. The church has also sponsored Trunk-or-Treat and Easter outreach events.

First Central is a missions-minded church. We currently support 24 missionary families and/or missionary organizations, partnering in local ministry with the Springfield Rescue Mission, Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, and Pinebrook Camp. We also host 'What In The World' lunches with our supported missionaries as they visit and report to the church body. Over the years, a number of our church family have been called to the mission field and several of our members have chosen other full-time ministries. In addition, many of our teens and members of our church family have participated in short-term missions trips.

For a Statement of Faith and additional information about First Central, please access our website at: www.firstcentral.church

Drafted by the Elder Council and Pastoral Search Committee—March 2022