

First Baptist Church

Holyoke, Colorado



CHURCH and COMMUNITY PROFILE

1000 East Johnson Street | P.O. Box 465 | Holyoke, Colorado 80734
970-854-2452
www.holyokefbc.com

To Prospective Pastoral Candidates:

The First Baptist Church of Holyoke, Colorado would like to thank you for considering our church as a place to minister the hope of Jesus Christ. Such a decision requires both parties to be seeking God and the leading of His Holy Spirit. Prayer must be the foundation for any decision we make to partner in this exciting adventure.

Our mission is *to share Christ and Build Believers*. Our vision is *to be a community where, in Christ, we pursue a better way to live where outsiders seek to belong and where everyone is equipped and encouraged to fully trust Jesus and serve him*. We are looking for a pastoral candidate who can embrace our mission and vision.

We are located on the eastern plains of Colorado. As an agricultural community, we call to God for our very livelihoods as we plant the seed, watch it grow, and reap the harvest. Our trust is in Him. We desire a pastor that seeks to understand a people who live off the land. He needs to be willing to lead us as we seek to touch the world around us. The fields are ripe for harvest here. We need a leader to manage the harvest.

While the majority of our residents are Caucasian, we have an increasing Hispanic population that is also an integral part of our body. They participate primarily in the Sunday night service led by our Hispanic pastor. We look for ways to bridge the gaps and fellowship together. Our new pastor must have a desire to cultivate and grow that relationship.

We are blessed with a new church building, but much more than that, the vision to reach our city and beyond. We seek a shepherd who can help us actively show God to the world in what we say and do.

If you believe God is preparing your heart for a ministry in this place, we welcome that discussion. We believe God will lead us in recognizing whether we are to be a team together.

The Holyoke First Baptist Church Search Committee



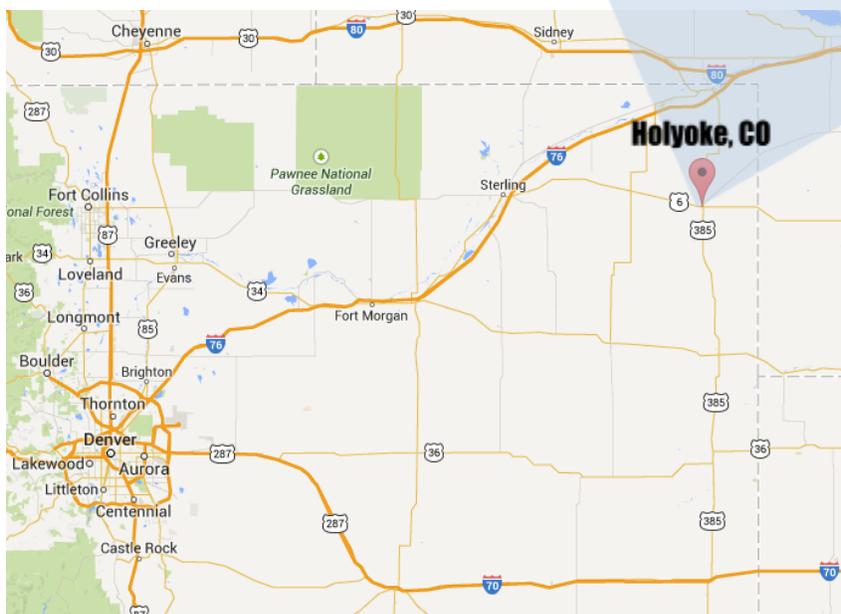
Our Church Story

The First Baptist Church of Holyoke was formally organized in February 1888 with just four members. Church membership grew steadily, and in 1891, Sunday school programming was added.

In 1893, the first church building, located at 343 S. Baxter Ave., was erected. First Baptist continued to expand over the next several decades, and in 1928, the original church building was torn down and a new one built in its place. An education wing was added in 1961. Most recently, a new church facility was built at 1000 E. Johnson St., and the first services were held there in January 2013.

In 1974, church members voted to leave the American Baptist Association and join Conservative Baptists of America as part of the Rocky Mountain Conservative Baptist Association.

In 2008, the Spanish speaking church, Vida Abundante, joined First Baptist. Other important ministries offered at FBC over the years include youth groups, vacation Bible school, children's church, and various Bible studies and small groups.



Our Church Facility



The construction of the current Holyoke First Baptist Church facility was finished debt-free in March of 2013. The previous church building was constructed in 1928. The current congregation felt that a new facility was needed due to growth in attendance numbers and also due to the cost of continuing maintenance on an older structure. The older structure's stairs made it difficult for elderly and handicapped attenders to access many areas of the building. This new structure is primarily on one level and is very friendly to all levels of mobility.

The current 14,000-square-foot structure includes a beautiful 6,100-square-foot sanctuary that comfortably seats 250 persons in individual upholstered chair style seating. Additional personal comfort is provided by a digitally controlled heating and cooling system. The elevated front platform is very adequate for speaking presentations, as well as providing room for a vocal and instrumental praise team. Room lighting as well as professional stage lighting are digitally controlled. A sound and light booth in the sanctuary incorporates a complete 32-channel, 4,000-watt sound system, with full stage monitoring, that is wired for listening by zones throughout the building. An individual wireless assisted personal listening system is also available in the sanctuary.



A Mac computer with worship software is used in conjunction with the video projection system that is installed in the sanctuary. This system includes dual 6,000 lumen projectors, as well as a 65-inch high-definition monitor on the back upper wall for video monitoring by those on the stage platform. Dual Roland electronic keyboards provide many sounds for everyone's musical enjoyment. A large sound-proof cry room with one-way glass is located at the rear of the sanctuary and is available for those parents with young children. An additional classroom is located at the rear of the sanctuary and is used at this time for an adult Sunday school class. A large storage area is located behind the platform stage and is very useful for music filing and other storage needs.



Young children will also enjoy our large nursery. The room is divided into two sections, with one side designed for babies



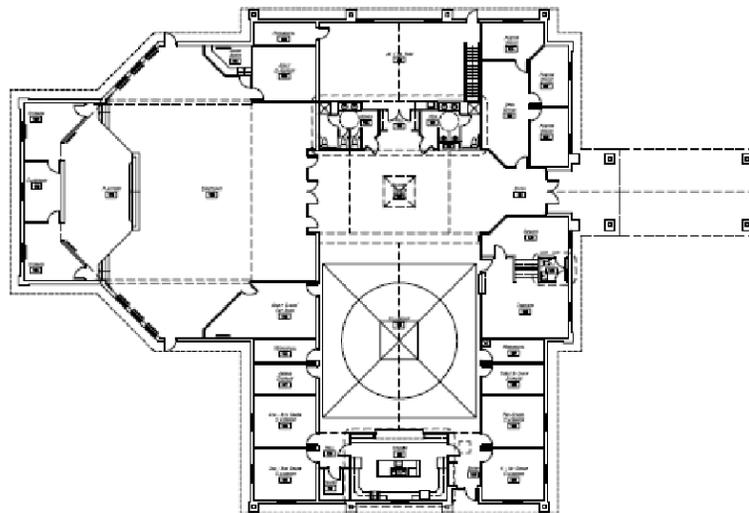
and the other side designed for younger children. There are plenty of toys and supplies to keep the little ones entertained. This also includes a flat-screen television for their viewing. Child-friendly restroom facilities are also located in the nursery.

A 2,600-square-foot multi-purpose fellowship hall is used on a regular basis. The adjacent kitchen is equipped with modern appliances to give those preparing food the largest advantage possible. There is a convenient chair and table storage room just off of the fellowship hall area. Four classrooms surround this area and are equipped with video capability for teaching purposes. There is also a loft area above the kitchen that functions as a lounge area especially designed for high school students and young adults. This area has comfortable furniture, television and coffee service available and is appropriately named Higher Grounds. There is also a larger classroom with a loft located on the north end of the fellowship hall that is used regularly for a large adult Sunday school class as well as children's church. It is equipped with video capabilities and is also used by other community groups.



An administration office is located at the entry area to the building and provides room for a church secretary, two pastors and a meeting room. A men's and a women's restroom are also provided in the entry area. These are ADA compliant and each includes a shower area. There is also a tiled portion in the entry way that provides an area for a portable baptistry that can be assembled and filled when needed. This provides a very personal feel for this type of service by allowing friends, family and fellow believers to gather around the unit during this type of meaningful baptismal service.

This is a beautiful facility and should meet our needs for many years to come.



Holyoke, Colorado

Colorado is one of the most beautiful states in the country, featuring a diversity of plains, foothills, and mountains. Holyoke, population 2,500, is located on the plains of northeastern Colorado. Holyoke was established in 1888 and is a prosperous, progressive city, located in one of the best farming areas of Colorado. Visitors praise the community's well-kept appearance and are impressed by the beautiful lawns, trees, and picnic parks.



Over 145 businesses serve visitor and residents' needs alike and utilize its high-quality education, health care and technology in serving people. Located at the crossroads of U.S. Highways 6 and 385 in northeast Colorado, Holyoke is surrounded by excellent dry and irrigated cropland. It is less than an hour's drive to both Interstate 76 and 80. Holyoke is the county seat of Phillips County and is a progressive but peaceful place to enjoy life.



Sterling is one hour west, and Denver is only another hour and a half hour west after that. We have the opportunity to enjoy wide open spaces, traditional values, no traffic congestion, cutting-edge technology, high-quality schools, recreational opportunities, and most importantly, sunsets and stars.



Holyoke has many amenities that are often available only in larger communities. We have two parks with fun family attractions including one with water features. Did we mention the year-round indoor swimming pool? We have a baseball park that is second to none as well as a skateboard park next to it. The Lions Club fishing hole is a great place for kids to fish. If you enjoy fishing or boating, North Sterling Reservoir and Enders Lake are an hour away, and Lake McConaughy is just a few miles further.



There are three golf courses close, including a municipal course in Holyoke and the internationally-acclaimed Ballyneal south of town. This area is also known for its excellent pheasant hunting with 30,000 acres of walk-in-access hunting available.



The Peerless Theatre is a community-funded state-of-the-art theatre that shows current movies and hosts other events. The Phillips County Event Center is a new facility that can host events of any size right next to a brand new enclosed rodeo arena and Phillips County Raceway. Melissa Memorial Hospital is a new facility with 24/7 flight-for-life services, which are located next to the church to meet the health care needs of your family.

Sitting back and relaxing, enjoying the fresh air and peace and quiet, or getting involved in local charities or organizations – all of this and more make up the special quality of life residents enjoy in Holyoke and Phillips County.

With reasonable costs of living, quality amenities, and time for your favorite hobbies, it's a great place for all ages to live, entertain, and rejoice in life. For more information on Holyoke and Phillips County, please visit www.city-data.com/city/Holyoke-Colorado.html, www.phillipscountycolorado.org, and www.holyokechamber.org.

Our Vision, Mission and Values



Our Mission

SHARING CHRIST & BUILDING BELIEVERS

Our Vision

To be a community where, in Christ, we pursue a better way to live where outsiders seek to belong, and where everyone is equipped and encouraged to fully trust Jesus and serve Him.

Our Belief Statements

God - The One and only, Everlasting Creator, is Holy, Merciful with unquenchable love for all.

Christ - The sole bridge to God, connects through His salvation to the Eternal Godhead.

The **Holy Spirit** - Indwells, comforts, teaches, convicts, and unites us to His truth.

Scripture - The eternal, living word of God compels (connects) us to God through Christ.

Church - One unified Body, intentionally building loving relationships, sharing our gifts in order to bring our world to Christ.

Worship - Intentionally honoring God individually and together with reverent hearts praising His majestic Person.

Humanity - All are incomprehensively and wonderfully made in God's image, destroyed by sin and restored through Christ's sacrifice.

Sin - Separates us from God, but salvation comes through the redemptive work of God in Christ.

Edification - Perceptively, intentionally, and selflessly builds people in unity toward spiritual maturity.

Prayer - Connects Christ-followers intimately with the Person, program (purposes) and power of God.

The Purpose of Holyoke First Baptist Church
is to glorify God through
Evangelism
Worship
Fellowship
Edification
and Service

Our Leadership

OUR LEADERSHIP

Our Pastoral Staff

Rick Reitz – Intentional Interim Pastor

Ismael Lopez – Hispanic Pastor/Ministry

Laura Beth Schroetlin – Administrative Assistant

Our Elected Leaders

Deacon Board

Along with the lead pastor, the board oversees the spiritual life of the church, and aids in administering the ordinances. Among other duties, they act as a hearing and counseling board, examine membership applications, promote the spiritual welfare of all members, and foster community outreach.

Deaconess Board

These women assist with the ordinance of baptism and coordinate the Lord's Supper. They assist with other duties assigned to them by the Deacons, such as visitations.

Trustee Board

In cooperation with the Deacons and the membership, the trustees oversee the real estate of the church and are responsible for its maintenance, repair and good standing with insurers and entities such as businesses and government.

Other Ministry Leaders and Committees

Worship leaders, church clerk, financial secretary, treasurer, finance committee, audit committee, ushers, women's ministry, Christian education director and coordinators, small group ministry coordinator, missions committee, children's ministry and others.

Current Ministries

The ministries of First Baptist Church serve to carry out our vision: To connect intimately with God, deeply with one another, and intentionally with people who need Christ. Each of the ministries below exists to fulfill one or more of those purposes.



Vida Abundante

Vida Abundante is our Hispanic Ministry.

Vida Abundante was established as a church in 1997 and became a part of FBC in 2008.

As a part of First Baptist Church, we offer a Sunday evening worship service as well as some programs and activities to reach the Hispanic population in this area.

Home Bible Studies

Our home Bible studies allow us to study the Word of God in a warm, comfy environment and gives us the opportunity to bring the Gospel into the community.

Summer Bible Camp

We have an annual family camp with the purpose of evangelize the Hispanic population and to teach the word of God to families. During the day we have Bible classes and fun activities and, in the evening, we have a worship service.

Children's Ministries

Our children's ministries strive to provide children with Godly care, biblical education, and of course, lots of fun!

- Sunday School
- Children's Church
- Nursery
- BASIC Training
- Vacation Bible School/Camp
- Operation Christmas Child Gifts





Youth

Youth programs at FBC focus on both Christian education and real-life application of biblical principles. Programs range from high-energy, recreation based to contemplative and intellectually challenging, encouraging outreach, fellowship, and individual spiritual growth.

- Sunday School
- Vida Abundante Youth Group
- Support of Local Chapter of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (non-denominational)

Adult Ministries

A wide variety of adult programming is offered at First Baptist. Some are ministries that cater to those exploring or just starting their walk with Christ, while others focus on specific subjects (topical Bible studies) or are exclusive to certain members of our church body (Spanish-speaking, men's, women's groups).

- Sunday School
- Small Groups
- Spanish Bible Studies
- Men's and Women's Bible Studies
- Community Prayer
- Spanish Prayer Groups

Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry at First Baptist Church is a broad term used to describe all the different and varying women's groups within the church. FBC's Women's Ministry encompasses three arms of church ministry: Study, Service, and Social.

There are currently two women's groups meeting regularly to encourage and equip one another through God's word. One meets during the day and the other in the evening to accommodate different schedules.

The second arm of Women's Ministry at FBC is service. We strive to show Christ's love by loving others, both within the church and outside it.

FBC courtesy committee coordinates the preparation and delivery of meals to those in our body who are in need to due to sickness or injury. They also oversee the delivery of flowers, cards, and gifts in times of celebration and loss.

The Funeral Committee provides a reception including a hot meal for the families of those whose funerals are held here at FBC.

Women's Ministry organizes events that encourage people to fellowship together. We hold an annual women's event/fellowship where ladies, young and old, are invited to gather to eat good food and enjoy one another's company.

Missions

First Baptist Church supports a number of missionaries locally, in the United States, and around the world. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

- Ismael & Esmirna Lopez, Missions Door
Location: Holyoke, CO, Imperial NE, and surrounding areas.
Outreach: Evangelism and Church Planting among Spanish language immigrants.
- Gary & Laurie Scheer, World Venture
Location: US, and Rwanda, Africa
Outreach: Training African Pastors and American missionaries.
- Tim & Janet Hall, World Venture
Location: US
Outreach: Mission recruitment and missionary training.
- Rick & Sonja Cleaver, Youth Challenge, Camp Machasay
Location: Grant, NE, Holyoke CO and surrounding areas.
Outreach: Youth of the area, camp ministries.
- Mike and Micaila Frazier, Youth Challenge, Camp Machasay
Location: Grant, NE, Holyoke CO and surrounding areas.
Outreach: Youth of the area, camp ministries.
- Randy & Marlene Green, Mission Mobilization International
Location: Based in Colorado Springs, CO
Outreach: American and International police officers.
- Tim & Joy Butler, Youth for Christ
Location: Denver, CO, USA
Outreach: Denver's inner city and incarcerated youth.
- First Baptist Church of Holyoke also supports Orphans in Uganda through HOPE Uganda, Caring Pregnancy Resource Center, Northeast CO, and the general funds of Conservative Baptists America and the Rocky Mountain Church Network (RMCN).

Our Worship Services

FBC has a Sunday morning traditional-style worship service and a Sunday evening, Vida Abundante, worship service for those who speak Spanish.

During the Sunday morning service attendees participate in corporate worship as they join the praise team in singing both contemporary and traditional worship music. Sunday morning service attendees can also expect to join in fellowship both before and after the service. Childcare is available for families with young children during the service as well as during the Sunday school period which takes place prior to the service. Children in preschool through 3rd grade have the opportunity to participate in children's church during the sermon, while children in 4th-6th grades have the opportunity to participate in our Grapple program. The average attendance for the Sunday morning service in 2019 was 96 people, while the average attendance in 2020 was 65 people. During the service, attendees have the opportunity to grow in their love of Christ as they hear a message of guidance, growth, and encouragement as they walk their daily path as a disciple for Christ.

During the Vida Abundante Sunday evening service, attendees will find a relaxed, casual atmosphere with genuinely warm and friendly people. Music is a major feature of worship, before, during, and even after the service itself. Any given service may include traditional hymns, hand-clapping gospel songs, contemporary compositions, or reverent worshipful choruses. Sunday school classes are offered for children and teens, and nursery services are provided for our youngest children. Each week, attendees are challenged and uplifted with messages primarily focused on evangelism that effectively minister to the first-time visitor.



Our Finances

Holyoke First Baptist Church began back in 1888 and has always been tied to the agricultural economy of Phillips County. God's blessing in the harvest is often reflected in the giving of our people.

Over the last 10 years, our giving is shown, some love gifts were given to our missions:

	Offerings	Mission
	<u>Plus Love Gifts</u>	<u>Giving</u>
2011	\$231,759	\$61,734
2012	\$234,199	\$58,135
2013	\$326,257	\$57,527
2014	\$236,092	\$62,013
2015	\$300,297	\$62,081
2016	\$256,612	\$67,097
2017	\$321,142	\$71,533
2018	\$276,459	\$69,990
2019	\$305,681	\$69,541
2020	\$258,630	\$67,559

In 2008, we began to discuss the possibility of building a new church. The church's heart and admonition was to build debt free. From 2008 through 2014, our body brought forth \$1,747,108, and the dream was realized as a new church was built and occupied debt free. We serve an awesome God.

The building program occurred while regular offerings were maintained and actually increasing. The agricultural community has been blessed with great commodity prices and production for several years, and that is reflected in the hearts of our people.

When moving to the new church facility, a decision was made to stop formal offerings and place offering boxes at the rear of the sanctuary.

Pastor Job Description

So what is the Job?

✓ Love God and Always Seek God First

The First Baptist Church of Holyoke recognizes that our pastor must give God preeminence in his life. As you seek and find God, the tasks and journey will be defined step by step.

✓ Embrace our Mission and Vision

We have embraced the mission of sharing Christ and building believers. We have a vision to be a community where, in Christ, we pursue a better way to live where outsiders seek to belong, and where everyone is equipped and encouraged to fully trust Jesus and serve Him.

✓ Be a Servant Motivator

We need a pastor who works collaboratively with our church leaders to accomplish our joint mission and vision.

✓ Has the Heart of a Shepherd

We need a pastor who nurtures the congregation and equips the congregation to fulfill the great commission.

✓ Connecting with People and Community

We need a pastor who has testimony outside the walls of our church and who is involved in the community.



Pastor Qualifications

We believe God uniquely gifts leaders and prepares them for specific kinds of ministry. Personal character and ministry skills are essential. Beyond these essentials, leadership style, personality, cultural background, and family dynamics are all significant factors in determining compatibility and fit for a particular ministry.

Here is the checklist we believe God will use to help us and prospective pastoral candidates determine compatibility and fit with Holyoke First Baptist Church.

- ✓ Meets biblical standards for spiritual leadership (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Titus 2:1-10, 1 Peter 5:1-4, and 2 Timothy 2:24-26)
- ✓ Affirms the statement of faith and belief statements from Holyoke First Baptist Church found at <https://www.holyokefbc.com/>
- ✓ Is a passionate and effective communicator of God's word
- ✓ Has a comprehensive and growing understanding of the word of God
- ✓ Has a heart to reach all people of our multi-cultural community
- ✓ Is spiritually gifted with the capacity and desire to care, teach, and lead the congregation
- ✓ Experience – Previous pastoral experience is desired
- ✓ Education – A Seminary Degree is preferred

If you can imagine yourself

- shepherding in a rural, agricultural area,
- sharing the love of Jesus with all ages of people,
- equipping our congregation to evangelize and make disciples,
- and embracing and encouraging all people in our area,

then we invite you to pray, seek God's leading, and contact us to see if we are of one heart and clearly hear God's voice telling us that we should be a team.

For more information or to take the next step, please e-mail holyokefbcsearchteam@gmail.com.