



📍 404 East Gilman Street, Sheffield, IA 50475

📞 (641) 892-4421

✉ info@firstgracebaptist.com

🌐 www.firstgracebaptist.com

## ***FGBC Church Profile***

First Grace Baptist Church (FGBC) of Sheffield, IA is an evangelical church family that values sound biblical teaching, genuine worship and intimate fellowship. Our desire is to make life-long disciples of Jesus, growing together in faith and encouraging one another to love and good works. While the last two years of Covid have been a challenge for many, our church has experienced rapid growth and change as we have welcomed many new faces into fellowship.

FGBC is an incredible story of the faithfulness of God! In the early 2000's, two small struggling churches (First Baptist Church and Grace Baptist Church) were led by God to unite as one congregation and join the Southern Baptist Convention. Over the following decade, the church grew as souls were saved and lives were transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. We moved into our new building in 2010 completely debt free. From 2015-2018, we averaged 120 people attending FGBC. In 2019 there was a transitioning of leadership and as the search began for a new lead pastor, attendance dropped into the 80s. However, we have seen God bless and there has been a fresh wind of excitement and expectation over the last 18 months as attendance has grown back to nearly 120 again.

One look at the demographics of First Grace shows you why we are looking for a family pastor! Among our regular attenders (defined as coming 2x/month or more), 65% are families with children ages 0-18. If all the children are here at the same time, we have over 50 from nursery through high school with the majority of them being ages 1-12. The remaining 35% of our attenders are predominately empty-nesters and widows/widowers.

We have also seen God's faithfulness through the finances of FGBC. Upon announcing the desire to add a family pastor, our giving substantially increased allowing us to allocate funding to support this new staff member. Our 2022 annual budget increased \$46,000 from fiscal year 2021 bringing our current budget to \$206,000. In addition, we are allocating a significant portion of our income toward local, national, and international missions. For the last two years we have designated 16.5% of our annual budget toward outreach and missions.

Our church body is excited to see what God is doing in our midst. With so many young families, we recognize the need to train and disciple parents as they disciple their children. There is also a need for leadership and development of our children's and youth ministries. We look forward to see what God will do through the leadership of a family pastor, helping us to build the kingdom of God.