

First Baptist Church-Minnesota City, MN



Our church building is 150 years old!

Celebration: September 13, 2025 at 2pm

The first Church organized July 12, 1852, in what is now Winona County. At first the folk met in homes and a school house. The present building, located at 140 Mill Street in Minnesota City, was dedicated on June 18, 1875.

Original furnishings in the Church:

- The Bible on the Pulpit is dated 1872
- The organ was purchased in 1880
- The tap-bell was donated in 1880 used to call the classes (begin and close)
- The chairs are the original ones but have been refinished
- Many of the books in the library are from the beginning date
- The old wood stove was used for heating and can still be used
- The complete immersion baptismal tank behind the pulpit
- The clock on the wall bought in 1890
- The kerosene chandeliers found in the attic and re-installed in 1970

Other notable facts about the Church:

- There was a steeple on the Church which was damaged by a windstorm and had to be removed
- The Church celebrated its Centennial on July 6, 1952
- The plaque in the front entry was presented by the Winona County Statehood Committee in 1958 in commemoration of a century of continuous service to the people of Winona County
- The roof has been replaced and the plastering has been re-done.
- Restoration of the Foundation and re-leveled floor completed May 2015
- 2016 start process to become a 501(c)(3) organization
- Handicap Ramp and new stairs May 2018
- Walls received new coat of paint 2022
- Refinished original flooring Oct 2023
- Installed Metal Roof and fixed the beams that were sagging November 2023
- Installed ceiling lights July 2024

On going facts about the Church:

The ministry and influence of this Church is impossible to record on paper, but is kept forever in the records of Heaven

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God always finds a way to provide the funding needed for the upkeep and maintenance of this beloved building. Please reach out if you feel led to donate.

“If These Walls Could Talk...”

The Historic First Baptist Church building is 150! We invite you to gather with us at the 150th Celebration on Saturday, September 13, at 2 pm.

Reaching 150 years is indeed a cause for celebration, and this is not just any building. The Historic First Baptist Church is the only public building remaining in Minnesota City still with its original form and furnishings - and still open to all.

The Minnesota City First Baptist Church is the oldest in Winona County, founded with the city in 1852, and this church building was built in 1875. Although it's no longer home to an active congregation, this beloved building has been faithfully maintained by a small group of people, now known as the Historic Church Foundation of Minnesota City, a 501(c)(3).

This group was not only interested in preserving this structure but in restoring it as a place where all could safely gather. Much has been accomplished even more than what is listed on the enclosed bookmark. These projects totaled more than \$46,000 since 2015 and were funded entirely by donations. In addition, Reinarts Studio gifted the repair and renovation of the stained-glass windows, some of which suffered damage over these many years.

The Historic Church Foundation has demonstrated their commitment to maintaining this special building for the community, but with any 150-year-old structure the work is ongoing. Exterior

repairs and painting are the next projects to prepare for the future. Donations have been the only source of funding, and your help is appreciated.

If these walls could talk, what stories they could tell! So many have been recorded - and more are yet to be told. In this fast-paced and ever-changing world, please help in continuing to preserve a place to step back in time and to bring people together, to hear the pump organ play and the greater community gather to sing, to connect with the past, and to share stories for the future generations.

All tax-deductible donations can be sent to:

**Historic Church Foundation of
Minnesota City PO Box 106 Minnesota
City, MN 55987.**

Thank you for your interest and support in maintaining the historic First Baptist Church building in Minnesota City. Updates and more stories can be found at the website minnesotacity.org

*From the Members of the Historic Church
Foundation of Minnesota City*