

· w o r s h i p i n n o v a t i o n ·

First Baptist Jefferson

Over the last ten years, FBC Jefferson has become a church that has grown numerically because we allowed people to worship God in more than one way. Our Modern Service (formerly known as REACH) added many changes that allowed people the opportunity to worship through song, testimony, visual media, and impactful delivery of God's Word. Though the Modern Service was growing, our community, including young families, loved our Traditional Service and the subtle changes made to help present Jesus' teachings through song, choral pieces, instruments, and relevant preaching. One thing was clear; as long as they found people who loved them and created community with them, they felt most at home at FBC Jefferson. Through both styles of music and dynamic sermons, members and guests left feeling inspired, and continued to return week after week, longing for a deeper relationship with God and others. Due to this growth, more space was made available for our worship services.

As these two services became strong and thriving, we added a third service. This service has elements of both, but unique in its own approach. Though FBC Jefferson now offers three separate services, the church has remained united by keeping Christ first. We continue to celebrate the high holy days together; like Easter and Christmas.

In addition to one full time music staff member, we added a part time worship leader with a modern focus. Since each worship style requires a different skill set, musical training, and experience, we have ensured that both our worship leaders are coached by a third party consultant to help make our worship experience as powerful as possible.

Within our traditional worship, we have maintained our commitment to following the Christian calendared seasons of Lent and Advent. We have built on the traditional aspects, seeking to explain these traditions to those who attend; continuing to educate the reasons why we do what we do. A new hymnal was also purchased for our Traditional Service that reflects a balance between a love for the old hymns and some of the newer hymns which help us express our worship to God in meaningful ways. Each week within our Traditional Service, different musical elements have been introduced, such as the full choir, soloists, cello, violin, guitar, children's choir, etc. to name a few. Though the preaching is of the traditional style, the sermons are delivered in a dynamic, impactful, and relevant way to help us draw closer to the Lord.

The Traditional Service has also greatly benefited from the upgrades in technology. Retractable screens and shades, that are used at the touch of a button, allow us to view videos and presentations when necessary and without sun glare. However, most days, you can see the sun shining through the beautiful stained glass. This, along with an improved sound system has given the sanctuary a much-needed aesthetic and technological upgrades.

As for the Modern Service, the music has been greatly improved by our part time worship leader. Through coaching and bringing in additional talented vocalists and musicians, we have created two dedicated musical teams who share in leading our modern worship service with songs that top the Christian charts. We have created a dynamic, exciting atmosphere in this service that many people, from all generations, have come to love. The church purchased or upgraded all the technological equipment used in all services and it continues to improve, which allows us to share the message through videos, graphics, banners/signs, and even the sound of our amazing musicians. The sermon is delivered in an energetic, relevant, powerful way that has brought young and old to the altar of our Lord.

Because of all the technological upgrades needed in our services, we established our trained Media Team. This team of professionals work hard every week to ensure our audio and visual needs are met, as well as help to make our sermons impactful through video and sound. They have also contributed to our interactive website and social media where members and guests can stay up-to-date, give, volunteer, share, and see pictures and video of past events and services.

All these upgrades contributed to our growth and after 5 years, we were running out of room. Therefore, it was time to create a state of the art worship facility. Our new facility was created so the church could worship together. The worship facility is able to hold both traditional and modern styles of worship, which was needed as both services grew beyond their capacity.

In addition to our upgrades in technology and worship space, we also added a refreshment area for welcoming guests and members prior to each of our services. To help accommodate our families with young children, we created a family worship room with a live feed of the service(s) or special event(s).

In addition to Sunday morning worship, we have quarterly community worship events outside the walls of the church building. These worship events include not only our members and guests, but other churches' within our community. We have been able to make meaningful connections with many in the Jackson County area that are unchurched through these community worship events.

The past 10 years have been a truly remarkable journey. We have seen these changes met with uncertainty, hesitation, and excitement. As with any change in our lives, these are natural reactions. Unlike the world, as a church we can find comfort in the fact that God is always God. Nothing we have done in the past, nor anything we do in the future, make us deserving of the unchanging grace of Christ Jesus. That is why we should worship him in every way possible.

Psalm 150