

Glasgow First Baptist Church, A Bridge to Truth and Hope
Glasgow, Missouri
Howard County

The year 2020 marks 200 years of the Glasgow First Baptist Church gathering for worship.

The Baptist church was organized as the record states “on the Saturday before the second Sabbath in April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty, in the town of Chariton”. The congregation first came to be known as the “Old Chariton Baptist Church”. In 1827, because the town of Chariton was abandoned when the Missouri River changed its course, the church moved to Monticello, which was its location for many years. Then, in 1860 the church sold its property and moved to Glasgow. Here they built a house of worship at the southeast corner of 4th and Commerce Streets and the church changed its name from Chariton Church to “The Glasgow Baptist Church”. However, in 1866 a large part of the membership that lived in the country determined that they preferred to have a meeting house nearer their homes, thus once again becoming the Chariton Baptist Church and the building was sold to the Presbyterians. After some years the congregation, which held worship services in the public school and later in the building that today houses the Glasgow Missourian, erected the present building in 1871. The church building was “dedicated to the worship of God” on November 5th, 1871. During this period and in this place was the first revival meeting after the Civil War.

Today, over 200 years later, the church is alive and active in service and worship and fulfilling their mission as a bridge of love. The congregation celebrated their 200th anniversary by intentionally giving back to the community. “We hope to show love by meeting physical, emotional and spiritual needs,” shared Rev. Ryan Edwards, “We do not share our mission and activities to boast but simply to express our united effort in loving and supporting our community.” During the beginning of the Covid pandemic, members assisted the food pantry with free food delivery from Columbia. The church has also partnered with the school to provide back-to-school items as well as an ongoing supply closet for students in need throughout the year. In spite of the pandemic, 50 students, led by a team of young people from the Crossroads Baptist Association and assisted by members of the congregation, enjoyed a gorgeous June morning of Vacation Bible School in the City Park. The church hosted a community wide “No Sale Sidewalk Sale” in October with gently-used clothes, toys, shoes, household items, etc. arranged on tables along the sidewalk in front of the church building FREE to the public. The Children’s Sunday School Department presented “The Awaited King” as their Christmas program and a Christmas-eve Candlelight service honoring the Savior’s birth was celebrated in the recently renovated building complete with new carpet and seating.

The church continues to fulfill their mission of crossing all barriers as a bridge to Truth and Hope found in Christ. The family of Glasgow First Baptist Church loves others and has a focused desire to meet needs, share Jesus and be a lighthouse to the city on the banks of the Missouri River.



Figure 1 - Glasgow Baptist Church