

#GettingToKnowYou

An Interview with Pastor Jerry Birkholz, First Baptist Church, New Richmond, WI

Jerry Birkholz is the new pastor of First Baptist Church in New Richmond, WI. He officially began his role as pastor in December, 2018, but was the interim pastor at that location prior to that. Learn more about Pastor Jerry Birkholz [here](#).

Jerry was born in Freeport, Illinois in 1951. He was the oldest son of a dairy farmer and his new bride and grew up with two younger brothers.



His wife, Beth, is from Golden Valley, MN and her parents were dedicated Christians who helped start Grace Community Church of Golden Valley. Jerry and Beth were married there in 1975. Beth has been a stay-at-home mom and in Jerry's words, *"a very good pastor's wife"*.

Jerry and Beth have three sons and a daughter, who are all married. (Ben & Stephanie; Nate & Kris; Dan & Jodi; Christa & Justin) As families tend to find their own way in life, their children have spread out. Their three sons are all pastors in three different states and their daughter and her husband are faithfully serving as lay leaders in their church in St. Paul, MN. Jerry and Beth enjoy 10 grandchildren.

At the end of a busy day, Jerry likes to close it with a fresh hot cup of bold coffee and depending on the time of year and location it can be enjoyed on the deck, watching a 'pickers' flick, or sitting on a dock casting a line. When more time is available, Jerry likes to dabble with garage projects with cylinder indexes and yard projects including gardening and clearing brush. Spending time in the woods and lake is another favorite and camping is an activity he enjoys.

Jerry has been in ministry 41 years and we asked him if he could pinpoint anything that drew him to ministry. His reply was, *"A conviction from Romans 10:13....'how shall they hear without a preacher?'. A 'still small voice' impressing upon me that anyone could overhaul an engine, but not anyone could be a pastor. A third event was the untimely and early death of my Uncle John who was the spiritual giant of our family."*

As he shepherds at First Baptist Church, he is seeing everyday common people gravitating to God's word and gathering with a desire to be spiritually healthy. They are learning how to offer authentic worth to God.

Prior to filling the pulpit at this church, Jerry says, he didn't even know there was a New Richmond, WI. Now, as Jerry and Beth are attempting to be a blessing to this church, God has made the people of First Baptist a blessing to them.