

NAFWB NEWS

2021 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021 | MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE | NAFWB.ORG

WALKING IN MEMPHIS

This week, thousands of Free Will Baptists will flood Cincinnati, Ohio, for the 83rd convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. With more than 3,000 pre-registered, convention planners anticipate a great turnout as Free Will Baptists gather in Duke Energy Convention Center for worship, fellowship, to carry out denominational business, and to vote on a new executive secretary.

About Cincinnati

Known originally as Losantiville (an unpopular name that didn't last long), Cincinnati was settled in 1789. The convenient location on the banks of the Ohio River led to rapid expansion, and Cincinnati soon became the county seat. As time passed, the city became a center for trade. Cincinnati soon became the largest city in Ohio and the most densely populated city in the U.S.

Today, Cincinnati remains the largest metropolitan center in Ohio and continues to grow. Many large corporations call it home: Proctor and Gamble, Kroger, Chiquita Brands, G.E. Aviation, Macy's, and Fifth-Third Bank among others.

Cincinnati is also well-known for the ingenuity of its citizens. The city was home to the first municipal fire department (1853), the first air mail system (by hot-air balloon, 1835), and the first concrete high rise building (1902). And, most important to some, the city is also credited with the invention of the hot dog. Here are a few suggestions to enjoy all Cincinnati has to offer:

Graeter's Ice Cream

Located on Walnut Street, Graeter's Ice Cream has been family owned since 1868, starting with Louis Graeter and his wife Regina and continuing for four generations. The couple began selling ice cream out of their home. As the story goes, their young son sneaked some chocolate from his mother and poured it into a pot of ice cream, inventing the signature "chocolate chunks." Graeter's is now the only commercial ice cream manufacturer in the world to use French Pot freezers. Its two-gallon batches are the smallest in the industry. Learn more: www.graeters.com.

Simply Rolled Ice Cream

Located near the corner of Race and 12th, Simply Rolled Ice Cream was inspired by street vendors in Thailand. The shop offers made-to-order ice cream rolls, both fun to watch and delicious to eat. The cream is never frozen until it transforms from liquid to ice cream rolls before your eyes. Choose from 20 mix-ins and toppings to suit your taste. A truly unique experience: www.simplyrolledicecream.com.

Cincinnati Zoo

The Zoological Society of Cincinnati was founded in 1873 and officially opened in 1875, making Cincinnati Zoo the second oldest in the United States. The original collection of animals collection was very small: eight monkeys, two grizzly bears, three deer, six raccoons, two elk, a buffalo, a

hyena, a tiger, an alligator, a circus elephant, and 400 birds, including a talking crow. Today, the Cincinnati Zoo has gained a reputation as a leader in preserving and protecting endangered animals. More than 1.5 million people visit each year to see more than 500 animals, one of the largest zoo collections in the country: www.cincinnati-zoo.org.

Great American Ball Park

Cincinnati is home to the Cincinnati Reds baseball team (a nod to the Cincinnati Redstockings, first professional team). Located on the banks of the Ohio in the heart of downtown, Great American Ball Park is known for innovative features, breathtaking views, and affordable seating. Fans will also want to visit the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame Museum. Learn more: www.mlb.com/reds.

Creation Museum

SHINE A LIGHT IN MEMPHIS

CONVENTION MANAGER RYAN LEWIS OFFERS A SERIOUS REMINDER THAT FREE WILL BAPTISTS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE HOST CITY.

The last 16 months have been tough on everyone. Jobs were lost, events were canceled, and "face-to-face" was replaced with virtual. When the National Association of Free Will Baptists decided to move forward with the 2021 National Convention, questions began to arise: "What will the convention look like?" "Will we all have to wear masks?" "Will people be ready to hold meetings in person again?" "How many attendees will show up?"

Many "forced" changes have been made in all of our lives during the last year, but through it all, one thing has become clear: **people need each other**. We need face-to-face conversation, smiling faces, and encouragement. Scripture admonishes us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together for a good reason. And this week serves as a great opportunity to get back what we lost.

But it will also be an opportunity for Free Will Baptists to put our testimonies on display. We are in a city that needs love and light. Some people are returning to work after months without it. Many are slowly adjusting back to life as "normal." So how can we make a difference? Try these:

Tip well.

Give grace & show patience.

Display love.

Be a light.

Meet the Speakers

Jeff Crabtree (Sunday School) has pastored Serenity FWB Church in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, since starting it in 1996. A pastor for nearly 40 years, Jeff holds degrees from Welch College (B.A. 1979), Liberty University (M.Div. 1989; M.A. 1993), and Acadia University (D.Min. 2005).

Josh Baer (Morning Worship) began pastoring Cramerton FWB Church (North Carolina) in July 2015, after serving as associate pastor for ten years. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Music and Bible from Southeastern FWB College, a Master of Ministry and Specialist in Ministry from Bob Jones University, and currently is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ben Gibson (Evening Worship) has pastored Phillips Chapel in Northwest Arkansas since 2001. Ben grew up in Colorado, where he worked for his dad as a carpenter and contractor. In 2000, Ben began attending Southeastern FWB College, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Bible and Pastoral Theology. Ben pastored two North Carolina churches before answering the call to his current ministry. Ben and his wife Fawn have two children: Ellie and Owen.

QUICK BITES

Looking for a quick bite to eat? Use this handy list to satisfy your crew's hunger pains:

+ Subway

221 E 4th Street | 513-421-1155
34 E 7th Street | 513-421-1113
425 Walnut Street | 513-381-2212

+ Skyline Chili

525 Elm Street (in DECC) | 513-419-7300
254 E 4th Street | 513-241-4848
643 Vine Street | 513-241-2020

+ Potbelly Sandwich Shop

511 Walnut Street Ste 13 | 513-381-5572

+ Chipotle Mexican Grill

1 Fountain Square Plaza | 513-579-9900

+ Jimmy Johns

171 E Freedom Way | 513-381-4800

+ Local Flavor

Hathaway's Diner | 441 Vine Street
Graeter's Ice Cream | 511 Walnut
Simply Rolled Ice Cream | 32 W 12th St

News, Updates & Announcements

General Board to Meet

General Board will meet Monday, July 22, 8:00 a.m. in Room 212 of the DECC.

Registration and Exhibits

Registration is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., in the Elm Street Concourse of the DECC. The Exhibit Hall opens Monday, July 22, 3:00 p.m. in Hall B of the DECC.

Laughter and Latté

Join WNAC for this ticketed event, Monday, July 22, 8:30 p.m., in room 205 of the DECC.

Download the App

Search NAFWB on the iTunes Store to get the latest info on your iPhone.

Youth Evangelistic Team Program

Watch the 2019 YET program: Hall C, Monday, 9:00

p.m.

Music Rehearsals

Convention Choir rehearsals start each evening at 5:30 p.m., and you can participate. Join more than a hundred voices to lift up the name of Jesus.

CTS Judges Reception

If you are serving as MC, Quizmaster, or Judge in any CTS Ministry Expo category, be sure to attend the Judges Reception Sunday, 9:00 p.m. in room 205 of the DECC.

Student Ministry Luncheon (With Jon Forrest)

Join the fellowship and fun with student ministry leaders, Monday, 12:00 p.m., in DECC, room 237. Jon will share insights on fighting to win life's spiritual battle. Attendees will receive a free copy of John's new book *Fight*. Tickets are available at the VIII Store on the second floor.