

First Foundation Inc.  
Form SC 13G  
February 09, 2018

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. )\*

First Foundation Inc.  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share  
(Title of Class of Securities)

32026V104  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2017  
(Date of Event which Requires Filing  
of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)
- Rule 13d-1(c)
- Rule 13d-1(d)

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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CUSIP No.  
32026V104

13G Page 2 of 7 Pages

1 NAME OF REPORTING  
PERSON  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION  
NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Basswood Capital  
Management, L.L.C.

2 CHECK THE  
APPROPRIATE BOX IF A  
MEMBER OF A GROUP\*  
(a)  
(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE  
OF ORGANIZATION  
  
Delaware

5 SOLE VOTING  
POWER  
  
0

NUMBER  
OF  
SHARES  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED  
BY  
EACH  
REPORTING  
PERSON  
WITH

7 SHARED VOTING  
POWER  
2,072,115  
  
SOLE DISPOSITIVE  
POWER  
  
0

8 SHARED  
DISPOSITIVE  
POWER

2,072,115

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT  
BENEFICIALLY OWNED  
BY EACH REPORTING  
PERSON

2,072,115

10 CHECK BOX IF THE  
AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN  
ROW (9) EXCLUDES  
CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS  
REPRESENTED BY  
AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

5.9%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING  
PERSON\*

IA

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CUSIP No.  
32026V104

13G Page 3 of 7 Pages

1 NAME OF REPORTING  
PERSON  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION  
NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Matthew Lindenbaum

2 CHECK THE  
APPROPRIATE BOX IF A  
MEMBER OF A GROUP\*  
(a)  
(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE  
OF ORGANIZATION  
  
United States

NUMBER  
OF  
SHARES 5  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED 0  
BY  
EACH  
REPORTING  
PERSON 6  
WITH

SOLE VOTING  
POWER

SHARED VOTING  
POWER

2,072,115

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE  
POWER  
  
0

8

SHARED  
DISPOSITIVE  
POWER

2,072,115

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT  
BENEFICIALLY OWNED  
BY EACH REPORTING  
PERSON

2,072,115

10 CHECK BOX IF THE  
AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN  
ROW (9) EXCLUDES  
CERTAIN SHARES

11 PERCENT OF CLASS  
REPRESENTED BY  
AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

5.9%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING  
PERSON\*

IN/HC

CUSIP No.  
32026V104

13G Page 4 of 7 Pages

1 NAME OF REPORTING  
PERSON  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION  
NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Bennett Lindenbaum

2 CHECK THE  
APPROPRIATE BOX IF A  
MEMBER OF A GROUP\*  
(a)  
(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE  
OF ORGANIZATION  
  
United States

NUMBER  
OF  
SHARES 5  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED 0  
BY  
EACH  
REPORTING  
PERSON 6  
WITH

SOLE VOTING  
POWER

SHARED VOTING  
POWER

2,072,115

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE  
POWER  
  
0

8

SHARED  
DISPOSITIVE  
POWER

2,072,115

9  
AGGREGATE AMOUNT  
BENEFICIALLY OWNED  
BY EACH REPORTING  
PERSON

2,072,115

10  
CHECK BOX IF THE  
AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN  
ROW (9) EXCLUDES  
CERTAIN SHARES

11  
PERCENT OF CLASS  
REPRESENTED BY  
AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

5.9%

12  
TYPE OF REPORTING  
PERSON\*

IN/HC

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Item  
1(a) Name of Issuer:

First Foundation Inc.

Item  
1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

18101 Von Karman Avenue  
Suite 700  
Irvine, CA 92612

Item  
2(a) Name of Person Filing:

The information required by Item 2(a) is set forth in Row 1 of the cover page hereto for each Reporting Person and is incorporated herein by reference for each such Reporting Person.

Item  
2(b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence:

c/o Basswood Capital Management, L.L.C.  
645 Madison Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10022

Item  
2(c) Citizenship:

The information required by Item 2(c) is set forth in Row 4 of the cover page hereto for each Reporting Person and is incorporated herein by reference for each such Reporting Person.

Item  
2(d) Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock, par value \$0.001 per share

Item  
2(e) CUSIP Number:

32026V104

Item 3 Statement filed pursuant to §§240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c):

The information required by Item 3 is set forth in Row 12 of the cover page hereto for each Reporting Person and is incorporated herein by reference for each such Reporting Person.

Item 4 Ownership:

The information required by Items 4(a)-(c) is set forth in Rows 5-11 of the cover page hereto for each Reporting Person and is incorporated herein by reference for each such Reporting Person.





Item 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:

Not Applicable

Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:

Not Applicable

Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person:

See Exhibit 99.1.

Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:

Not Applicable

Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group:

Not Applicable

Item  
10 Certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, each of the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 9, 2018

BASSWOOD CAPITAL  
MANAGEMENT, L.L.C.

By: /s/ Matthew  
Lindenbaum  
Name: Matthew Lindenbaum  
Title: Managing Member

/s/ Matthew  
Lindenbaum  
Matthew Lindenbaum, an  
individual

/s/ Bennett  
Lindenbaum  
Bennett Lindenbaum, an  
individual