

The Informer

What's happening this month

APRIL/2026



*A family devoted to
the Word, to Worship, to the
Fellowship, & to the Ministry
of the Gospel*

STAFF

REV. BLAIR M. SMITH,
Senior Pastor

REV. CALEB BARTLETT
Associate Pastor

JARED KNIGHT
Worship Pastor

REV. ANDY STOKES
Pastor of Care & Counseling

DYLAN JACOBS
Youth Leader

PAIGE YOUMANS
Children's Director

PATTY HAMPTON
Ministry Assistant

COLE HANCOCK
Pianist

FROM YOUR PASTOR

One of the coolest things that happened on Easter Sunday was when Jesus appeared to 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus. He spoke to them and in Luke 24:27 we read: And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (ESV)

On Sunday mornings we have been in the Old Testament since the Fall and we have now passed the middle point of the series. We are “on the back nine” as the cool kids say. While we won’t cover every book we will cover the high points that will be markers as you study through the Old Testament. So let’s recap thus far.

Genesis — God creates the world (duh), Adam & Eve sin and bring death to all, but YHWH promises salvation from the evil one by a son born from a woman. Gen 3:15: I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”(ESV) So since Genesis 3 we have looked for that son. It was not Cain or Abel. It was not Seth, but the promise came through Seth’s line to Noah... but it wasn’t Noah. Fast forward to Noah’s great(x8)-grandson Abraham. God makes a covenant with Abraham to raise up a people who will bless all the families of the earth. But Abraham did not conquer the evil one. So we studied about Isaac, and how God chose Jacob not Esau, and then Joseph who was used to bring all of Jacob’s people to Egypt.

Exodus - It was time to leave Egypt so God called Moses from the burning bush and sent him to get His people. He brought them to Mt. Sinai and made another covenant with His people, though they sinned greatly even as He was amongst them. In disobedience they didn’t enter the promised land but wandered for 40 years. Leviticus we got some laws, but also some “case law” of how it was to be applied. The point of Leviticus is the holiness of God and we saw that with the “strange fire” during the worship of God. Numbers we saw what living in that law meant with the ice storm sermon entitled “Sabbath Sticks.” Then in Deuteronomy 6 we looked at “the Shema” and the greatest commandment and the commandment in which all the commandments fulfill... to love YHWH with everything.

Moving from Moses’ books we made it into Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. We saw how God was faithful to bring His people into the promise land and solemnly warned them to make sure they keep Him as their God. Joshua even closed his book with that: “as for me and my house we will...” Judges we looked at the example of Gideon’s calling and the nature of the people, and in Ruth how even during a time of disobedience God used a Moabite woman to fulfill His promise of a coming son. Ruth being the great-great grandmother of David. Leading us to where we are in 1 Samuel showing Israel’s desire for a king and then the greatest king’s sinfulness met with YHWH’s forgiveness.

After Easter we will pick back up in 1 Kings and see how David’s kingdom is split by the time his grandson Rehoboam comes to power. We will be following the prophets and the fulfillments of their prophecies. A good framework for the rest of this series is the time of the kings, exile, and return. We will be reading the books in order of their historical time, not in their Biblical order. We are all the way to 1 Kings, and we still haven’t seen the son of Genesis 3:15 to conquer the evil one... but that Easter Sunday those two disciples on the road to Emmaus saw Him. I pray we will continue to see Him as we finish through the rest of this series.

In Christ's love,
- Blair

Love Jesus. Love One Another.



7068 Nursery Rd.
Columbia, SC 29212



803-781-1345



www.firstbaptistirmo.org

Attendance

	Sunday School	Worship
3/1/2026	131	201
3/8/2026	130	179
3/15/2026	138	201
3/22/2026	146	213
3/31/2026	*	*



Last Month...

Finances

Budget Contributions	\$61,130.00
Budget Distributions	\$52,730.00
Restricted Contributions	\$44,050.00
Restricted Distributions	\$33,410.00

*Attendance numbers and finances for 3/31/2026 will be included in next months Informer.

New Members

No New Members

Easter Schedule

EASTER SUNDAY Schedule

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

9:00 AM

WORSHIP

10:15 AM



PALM
Sunday

MARCH 29 | 10:15AM



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**
CHURCH SERVICE

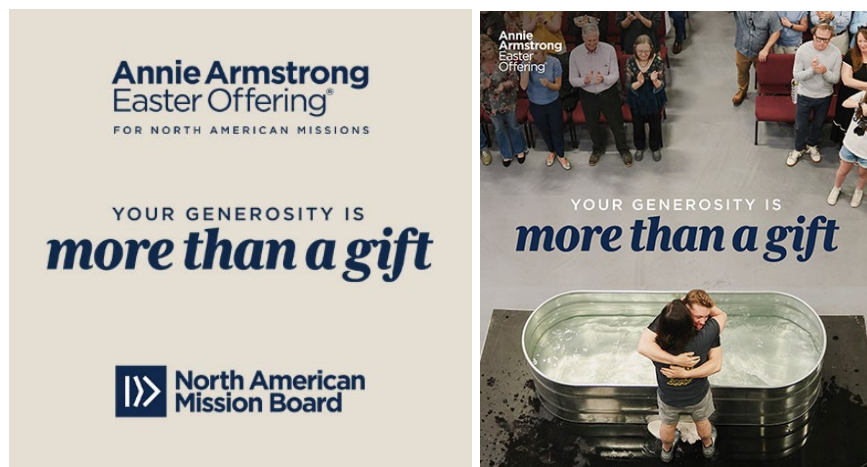
**THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND
6:30 PM**

Welcome



We are excited to welcome our new Worship Pastor Jared Knight and his family. Jared (from Hilliard, FL) married Christie (from Union, SC) in 2008. They have a daughter: Anna Grace (13), and two sons: Brayden (11) and Jeremiah (4). Jared graduated with a Bachelors in Church Music from The Baptist College of Florida (2007) and obtained a MA in Christian Studies with an emphasis on music from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (2012). He has been leading worship in ministries and churches for over 20 years in many different settings working full-time as an Associate & Worship pastor in churches in NC, SC, TN, and most recently Florida. His calling is “to model and lead the church to worship God genuinely and biblically (John 4:23-24), through music (Eph. 5:19), to the best of our ability (Ps. 33:3).”

Giving Updates



Thank you for your generous contributions to the 2026 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Your generosity is more than a gift. When you give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, it's not just dollars in an offering. It's the fuel God uses to send missionaries, plant churches, and bring the hope of Jesus to the lost across America.

Ministry Updates



Wednesday Night Dinner

Dinner begins at 5:15 in the FLC. The price is \$8 for adults and children 12 and under eat free (no take-outs). Please reserve your place by noon on the Tuesday before by calling the church office @ 803-781-1345, or signing up in your Bible Study class. Tickets will be handed out upon arrival.

April 1 – Chicken Nuggets, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert

April 8 – No Wednesday Night Meal

April 15 – Hamburgers, Pasta Salad, Chips, Dessert

April 22 – Nachos, Corn & Beans, Dessert

April 29 – Sub Sandwiches, Macaroni Salad, Dessert

AMAZING GRAYS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 - 11:30 am
Bring a Covered Dish (meat provided) and a friend



Our guest speaker on April first will be Tim Phillips. He will bring his guitar and lead us in singing the songs we sang in our youth. (ex. "Do Lord") In addition he will lead us in a brief devotion.

Ministry Updates

Nursery Schedule

	Sunday School (Babies)	Service (Babies)
4/5/2026	Haley Hall and Lindsey Smith	*Nursery Volunteers Needed*
4/12/2026	Lindsey Smith and Trina Spires	Barbara and John Cooley
4/19/2026	Meme Firestone and Valda Stokes	Karly and Brandon Carter
4/26/2026	Jennifer Branham and Heather White	Tim & Paige Youmans

	Service (Toddlers)
4/5/2026	Veronica Watson and Vicki Hall
4/12/2026	Autumn Parades and Veronica Watson
4/19/2026	Vicki Hall and Melissa Swofford
4/26/2026	Haley Hall and Brittany Hancock

*Sunday School for Toddlers available in the preschool classroom

Ministry Updates



Blood Drive **First Baptist Church of Irmo**

Family Life Center
7068 Nursery Rd
Columbia, SC 29212

Monday, May 4, 2026
2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Come to give blood May 1-17 and get a \$20 eGift Card, thanks to Amazon! See: rcblood.org/Amazon



[363] - Order ID: 1938412 - Item ID: 99005519 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 493895 - 2026-APL-0083 - AFB36 - 254680

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Our church is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive on Monday, May 4 from 2:30PM - 7PM in the FLC. This will be a great time to save lives and connect with the community. If you're interested in volunteering or donating blood or have questions, please contact Pastor Caleb (270) 313-9618.

Ministry Updates

College Ministry

Our college ministry is journeying through the book of Hosea this semester. We must praise God for one student who accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and we are excited for them to take their next step in faith! Our college students are learning the importance of prayer, discipleship, and applying the Bible to their daily life. Please continue to pray for them, their schools, and for the gospel to go forward!

Youth Ministry



Congratulations to Carter White for becoming an Eagle Scout!

Ministry Updates

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry at FBI has been busy this month and are planning even more fun adventures for the Spring and Summer. On March 14th and 28th, we hosted our first in-house mandatory Child Protection training class for anyone who volunteers with children birth through 18 years old, including nursery workers.

On April 4 at 10am, we will host our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We will offer breakfast, crafts, and an egg hunt, but most importantly, the children and their families will hear the true meaning of Easter. If you would like to provide candy for this event, please label donations for Easter and leave them in the church office.

Members of Children's Council attended the VBS Expo on March 21, and we are looking for volunteers to serve in the classrooms. Plans are already underway for this year's event, which is scheduled for the evenings of June 15-19. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Paige at 803-622-4861

The children's choirs will have their end-of-year performances on the evening of May 3. We'd love to have you in the audience for this special service.

Our last AWANA meeting and store will be held on May 6, so remind the children to continue earning Awana Bucks by memorizing their assigned scriptures. It will be a fun night for the children, so keep encouraging their efforts!

Thanks for your continued support of this ministry and the programs we provide!

Women's Ministry

Annual Women's Tea Party set for Saturday, April 18th from 11-1pm in the FLC. Join us as we recognize the fabulous 50 United States of America and the fantastic NAMB missionaries who serve across the country!!

Our Women's Group continues to meet every Sunday in the parlor at 4:30pm

Ministry Updates

Mission's Ministry

Monthly Budgeting Tips

Every month, we will be going over budgeting (financial) tips to have financial peace (Dave Ramsey).

This month we will be discussing buying used cars.

Dave Ramsey recommends buying used cars and paying cash. He recommends if you are struggling financially, buy a beater car and pay cash. Then save your money again paying cash and upgrade the car. Repeat the process. If your finances are good, he recommends buying a two or three-year-old used car and let someone else take the depreciation. Pay cash. Cars depreciate approximately 60% in four years.

The following is my guide for buying used cars:

- Buy from a private buyer (cheaper than a car dealership)
- Test drive the car on the interstate at a high safe speed for a prolonged period
 - Get a Car Fax, checking for accidents and mechanical problems
 - Pay your mechanic to check it out mechanically
 - Check out the reliability of the vehicle on the internet
 - Try to get the repair records from the owner
 - Have \$1000 to \$1500 to make necessary repairs
 - Try to buy a well-known reliability brand (I like Toyota).

Dave Ramsey says if you have over a million dollars' worth of assets, no debt, and a fully funded emergency fund, you can afford a new car.

Proverbs: 14:29 He who is impulsive exalts folly (the fools make impulse buys).

For any questions call Bruce Pharis at 803-730-3240.

Ministry Updates

WMU



Women on Mission will meet Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Missionary Davii will be joining us to share about serving in Greece and being a mom in the field. All ladies (and friends) of the church are welcome to attend.



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April 5 Missions & Music – No Class Tonight

April 12 All missions programs meet at 5pm

April 19 All missions programs meet at 5pm

April 26 All missions programs meet at 5pm
Last night of Mission Programs

May 3 No Mission's Programs
6:00pm Children's Choir Performance

Member Birthdays in April



- 1 – Sandra Huggins**
- 3 – LeVerne Logan**
- 9 – Jolene Derrick**
- 10 – Paula Ulmer**
- 10 – Lucius Cobb**
- 11 – Jennie Liedkie**
- 11 – Veronica Watson**
- 11 – Balin Gambrell**
- 12 – Eugene Cole**
- 12 – Cameron Youmans**
- 12 – Donna Estabrooks**
- 13 – Amy Gambrell**
- 21 – Charity Cook**
- 23 – Florence Sharpley**
- 28 – Austin Hall**
- 28 – Casey Feaster**
- 29 – Frances Austin**
- 29 – Rita Young**
- 30 – Kobe Becknell**
- 30 – Shirley Browning**