

The Informer

What's happening this month

August/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

REV. JARED KNIGHT
Worship Pastor

REV. ANDY STOKES
Counseling Pastor

DYLAN JACOBS
Youth Leader

PAIGE YOUMANS
Children's Director

PATTY HAMPTON
Ministry Assistant

COLE HANCOCK
Pianist

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Dear Church family,

As much as I enjoyed going through the Old Testament with y'all I am even more excited about our new sermon series. I believe you already know my passion for God's Word. Well, out of all of the books of the Bible the gospel of John is my favorite. In some ways I can explain why and in some ways I can't. The way that truth and peace have simultaneously gripped my soul at different points in that text are just too heavenly for earthly words. The Spirit speaks through His Word and it does not return void, but I can testify that He has used this specific Word on me in such a transformative way. It is my prayer that this would be your experience too.

As we go through the gospel of John on Sunday mornings we will see Jesus from a different perspective than the other three gospels. It reads more like a novel than it does a history book. We get longer scenes and longer dialogue with His interactions. And out of all of the disciples John was probably the closest to Jesus as a friend. So much so that on the cross Jesus' gave John the responsibility of looking after His mother (and he was apparently the only disciple who was at the cross.)

Ultimately John tells us why he wrote the book the way he did in John 20:30–31- *³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.* This is truly the reason for the whole Bible, but John's goal was for the reader to see and believe in Jesus, and that is why I am so thankful for this book. John showed me my Lord, and for that I am forever grateful.

While it is John's testimony it is still God's Word, and so it not only reveals Jesus *then* but Jesus *now*. Which was Jesus' plan all along: *"And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."* (John 10:16)

So will you join me in praying for that to be done in this sermon series? That we will hear His voice? And that the sheep who are not of this fold yet will hear His voice and come to Him?

It is a joy to serve as your pastor and an honor to proclaim the word to you week after week! Thank y'all so much!

In Christ's love,
- Blair M. Smith

Love Jesus. Love One Another.



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www.firstbaptistirmo.org

Attendance

	Sunday School	Worship
6/28/2026	145	227
7/5/2026	130	203
7/12/2026	131	228
7/19/2026	137	229
7/26/2026	153	236



Last Month...

Finances

Budget Contributions	\$56,637.00
Budget Distributions	\$64,332.00
Restricted Contributions	\$12,040.00
Restricted Distributions	\$5,792.00



We now accept contributions directly through Zelle (no fees involved). If your bank uses Zelle, you can set up for a single or recurring transfer of funds. Just put in irmobaptist@yahoo.com as the email to send the contributions along with the amount. If you need assistance, contact Patty in the church office.

New Members



Beth Faulk
Ashley Stone



August Calendar



August 2 – 5 PM
Last Summer Session



August 9th – 5 PM
Ice Cream Social



August 16th – 5 PM
College Mission Trip Report



August 17th – 6:30 PM
CPR Training

OR

August 18th – 6:30 PM
CPR Training



August 23rd – 5 PM
Hymn Sing Sunday



August 30th – 5 PM
Chinese Ministry Night

Ministry Updates



Wednesday Night Dinner

No Wednesday night dinners in August

AMAZING GRAYS LUNCHEON



Wednesday, August 5 - 11:30 am - FLC
Bring a covered dish (meat provided)

It is time to come back to Amazing Grays! Our program this month will be our own Worship Pastor, Jared Knight. This will be a good time to get to know him as he shares his musical talents. Bring a covered dish and invite a friend!

Ministry Updates

Nursery Schedule

	Sunday School (Babies)	Service (Babies)
8/2/2026	Sam and Debbie Austin	John and Barbara Cooley
8/9/2026	Meme Firestone and Valda Stokes	Chris and Heather Fite
8/16/2026	Vicki Hall and Melissa Swofford	Karly and Brandon Carter
8/23/2026	Pete and Paula Dent	Nancy Hoover and Melissa McDonald
8/30/2026	Lynn and Hugh Mann	John and Robbin Smith

	Service (Toddlers)
8/2/2026	Tim and Paige Youmans
8/9/2026	Autumn Parades and Veronica Watson
8/16/2026	Amy Gambrell and Julie West
8/23/2026	Haley Hall and Brittany Hancock
8/30/2026	Brooks Criminger and Connie Spivey

*Sunday School for Toddlers available in the preschool classroom

Ministry Updates

Children's Ministry



The Children's Department has been meeting continuously this summer on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. We have Bible lessons, recreation, crafts, popsicles and more. We would like to thank the congregation for supporting this ministry through your prayers, time, and contributions. Special thanks to all the volunteers who have helped work with these young ones and those who faithfully serve in the nursery.

College Ministry



Please continue to pray for our college students as we study Acts. Pray for boldness, wisdom, and for the Spirit to guide them daily.



Our College Ministry is heading out to Kentucky for their mission trip!

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 “things to have second thoughts about buying”

RVs and vacations houses. For the time most are used, it is much cheaper to buy a motel/hotel room. A friend of mine owned a cabin and told me the first year he used it every weekend, the second year he used it about half the time. He was on ownership year 15. New cars depreciate approximately 60% in four years; Country club fees (most require a minimum restaurant usage which could be expensive); personal pools (neighborhood pool cost much less).

There are exceptions to all of these. Do not purchase the following: rent to own furniture, pay day loans, credit life insurance, and whole life insurance policies; zero interest furniture loans (most people do not pay them off in the time allotted), time shares (have a purchase fee and monthly fees) and solar panels; variable annuities, Door Dash deliveries (many times cost twice much), and things at a convenience store (gas station) except gas. Recently, we purchased some candy at a convenience store for \$6. Later, at a local grocery store the candy was \$1.50, all of these things are very expensive. Charitable donations at any chain retail store or fast-food chain restaurant check outs (some are scams and some only give partial amounts to the charity) (and I do not give to any charity I am not familiar with). Dave Ramsey says not to invest with insurance companies (invest with investment companies), do not buy product warranties or dental insurance because they are not good buys.

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

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

Ministry Updates

Mission's Ministry



Let's Talk Missions

Have a soft spot in your heart for missions and a genuine love for spending time with kids? If you find joy in helping young hearts grow, we've got a cool opportunity coming up! Our lively children's mission programs, which meet every Sunday evening at 5 PM in September, are currently looking for some awesome volunteers. We're searching for enthusiastic teachers and friendly assistants to help guide our young ones and make their mission experiences truly special. Positions available in Mission Friends (potty trained – preschool), Girls in Action or Royal Ambassadors (first through six grade). It's a fantastic chance to make a positive impact and share your passion. If this sounds like something you'd be excited to be a part of, or if you're just curious to learn more, please don't hesitate to contact Robbin Smith. We'd absolutely love to chat with you and see you join our team!



We Camp Thank You Enough!

The Girls in Action wish to express our appreciation to all who gave generous financial contributions to this year's camp scholarships. Your support enabled six participants from our GA program to experience a session at Camp LaVida. Attendees were able to immerse themselves fully in spiritual development, gain insight into local and global missions and foster personal and spiritual growth.

Our Acteens will return to Camp LaVida for this year's Made for More – Teen Girls Retreat, an enriching weekend retreat September 11-13, 2026.

Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action are penciling in an overnight event at Camp LaVida September 18-19, 2026, so go ahead and mark those dates on your calendar. The SC WMU office is still in the early stages of planning all the details, but as soon as they nail down all the ins and outs- you will know it is happening, once the countdown begins!

Ministry Updates

Mission's Ministry

WMU



We've got something special coming up that we'd absolutely love for you to be a part of. Our wonderful 'Women on Mission' group is gathering soon, and we think it's an experience you won't want to miss!

Whether you're just starting your journey or have years of wisdom to share, we welcome women of all ages to join us for a time of connection, inspiration, and discovery.

Get ready to embark on a fascinating journey (without even needing a passport!). We'll be diving deep into inspiring stories from missionaries around the world, learning about the incredible work they do, and exploring what it truly means to live a missional life with purpose and make a meaningful difference in today's world. It's a chance to broaden our horizons, feel connected, and find new ways to impact our own communities.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 am. So, mark your calendars! Tuesday, August 11th, at 11:00 am, it is over in Building 100. Come on over, have a seat, and let's grow together.

We can't wait to see you there!

Member Birthdays in August



2 – Carl Sellers	15 – Thomas Watson
2 – Donna McJunkin	15 – Paula Dent
3 – Jennie Anshus	16 – Lynn Sharpe
4 – Martin Essick	17 – Dylan Jacobs
5 – Teresa Hendrix	19 – Clay Youmans
6 – Jean Oakley	20 – Lindsay Hoover
6 – Annette Batson	24 – Jack Austin
7 – Kelly Padgett	27 – Don Davis
9 – Luke Cashatt	27 – Nita Hall
10 – EA Poole	27 – Nate White
11 – CE Shealy	31 – Brooklyn Smith
12 – Dick Reitz	