

The Informer

JANUARY/2026

What's happening this month



*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. ANDY STOKES
Worship Pastor

DYLAN JACOBS
Youth Leader

PAIGE YOUMANS
Children's Director

PATTY HAMPTON
Ministry Assistant

COLE HANCOCK
Pianist

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Looking ahead...

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:4-7

The first couple months are already booked with ministry plans! In January (Sunday 25th) we will have a Lexington Baptist Association night of prayer. The goal of this is for us to pray together as partnered churches for gospel mission in our county this coming year.

At the beginning of February, we will have our Annual Chili Cook-off, and all proceeds will go towards our mission trip teams (the fan favorite of 2025 has been banned this year). That following week I will be taking Austin Hall and Danny Swofford with me to visit our sister church in Puerto Rico for a few days. We are going to encourage them, see their ministries, and plan the mission trips to come. The last two days of February (Friday Evening 27th & Saturday Morning 28th) we will be hosting a Marriage Conference. This will be for couples of all ages and, Lord-willing, an evangelism opportunity to reach our neighbors.

We have had some awesome blessings this past year and as we go into this new church year let us pray to be good stewards of what we have received. I have not had some heavenly vision, but I do believe the Lord has laid on my heart that there is going to be increased growth this year and for us to prepare. So, I am trying to be proactive to accommodate an increase in visitors and new members. This will be on 2 fronts. The first and most important is **hospitality**. Keep being the church we are, friendly and loving, and make an extra effort to greet new faces. A smile and “would you like to sit with us?” will go a long way.

The second is **organizational**. We will be switching to a more user-friendly system for engagement and information. There will be a First Baptist Irmo app to download which will be your first source of receiving and sharing information. DON'T WORRY! We will still continue to communicate via email as well; so if you do not have a smartphone or are not the best with technology you will be FINE. A major factor that has led to this change is that the majority of people visit church online before coming to visit. This system will allow us to make our services and content more accessible and the user engagement more interactive. Pray as we set up this new system in the coming weeks.

I could go on and on about projects and plans that we are working on and praying about! The cool thing is that in *all* that we do our goal is to reach the lost and equip the church. I am so thankful and blessed to be your pastor, and I am excited about being on mission with my church family this new year!

in Christ's love,
- Blair

Love Jesus. Love One Another.



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www.firstbaptistirmo.org

Last Month...

Attendance

	Sunday School	Worship
12/7/2025	128	189
12/14/2025	157	200
12/21/2025	132	193
12/28/2025	130	167

Finances

Budget Contributions	\$62,634
Budget Distributions	\$64,616
Restricted Contributions	\$25,757
Restricted Distributions	\$181,411



New Members



Ryan and Heather Wright



“One Voice”
LBA
prayer
GATHERING

SUNDAY JANUARY 25, 2026
5:30 PM AT
CONVENT BAPTIST CHURCH

787 CONVENT CHURCH RD,
LEESVILLE, SC 29070

JOIN US AS WE PRAY FOR A MOVE OF GOD
THROUGH THE COLLABORATIVE GOSPEL
MINISTRIES OF LBA CHURCHES”

This Lexington-wide prayer gathering event will be live streamed and our church will be one of the host churches for others to come pray with us. Please make sure to join us for this special time praying for the missions of the year to come.



LBA Disaster Relief Breakfast & Training

February 21, 2026
8:00 am

255 Two Notch Rd
Lexington, SC 29073



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) with a max family cost of \$30. Please reserve your place by noon on the Monday before by calling the church office @ 803-781-1345, or signing up in your Bible Study class. Tickets will be handed out upon arrival.

January 14 – Hot Dogs, Chili, Slaw, Chips, Dessert

January 21 – Taco Bar, Beans/Corn, Dessert

January 28 – Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Dessert

AMAZING GRAYS LUNCHEON



Amazing Grays will not meet in January 2026

As is our schedule, we do not have Amazing Grays in January or July. Mark your calendar to join us the first Wednesday in February (February 4, 2026) at 11:30 in the FLC for great food, wonderful fellowship and special program.

Ministry Updates

Nursery Schedule

	Sunday School (Babies)	Service (Babies)
1/4/2025	Sam and Debbie Austin	Barbara and John Cooley
1/11/2025	Lynn and Hugh Mann	Meme Firestone and Valda Stokes
1/18/2025	Lindsey Smith and Heather White	Vicki Hall and Melissa Swofford
1/25/2025	Pete and Paula Dent	Lisa and Olivia Dowden

	Service (Toddlers)
1/4/2025	Autumn Parades and Veronica Watson
1/11/2025	Connie Spivey and Brooks Criminger
1/18/2025	Amy Gambrell and Julie West
1/25/2025	Haley Hall and Brittany Hancock

*Sunday School for Toddlers available in the preschool classroom

Ministry Updates

Children's Ministry

AWANA



Awana classes will resume
Wednesday, January 14th at 6:10 pm



The Children's Mission and Music programs will return to the classroom on
Sunday, January 11, 2026 in the Family Life Center

We look forward to seeing
Mission Friends, RA's and GA's at 5:00 pm
Choir will follow beginning at 6:00 pm

Ministry Updates

Mission's Ministry

Lottie Moon



In 1873, Lottie Moon was appointed as a missionary to China, spending nearly 40 years sharing the gospel with love, courage, and unwavering faith. Her heartfelt letters home inspired churches to pray and give, sparking what we now know as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Today, this offering continues to fuel the work of missionaries who are taking the life-transforming message of Jesus to the nations.

Thank you for honoring Lottie's legacy. Your generosity and prayers have exceeded our churchwide goal and will help share the hope of the gospel around the world.

Prisoner Packets




For 49 years, South Carolina Baptists have provided a Christmas gift to every inmate in the state, bringing hope to nearly one million people over the life of the ministry.

Members of First Baptist Irmo and our Children's Mission programs contributed 105 prisoner packets to the SC Baptist Convention. Every single packet contained a Message of Hope, the story of Christ's love and forgiveness. A total of 17,500 bags were packed this holiday season, ensuring that every current inmate would receive a gift.


Ministry Updates

Mission's Ministry

Operation Christmas Child



A huge thank you to those that brought in packed boxes, those that donated money, those that prayed and those that visited the OCC operations center to participate in the final preparation of boxes. This year our church packed 63 boxes, paid for the admin fees for those boxes and provided an additional donation of \$735.00 directly to Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse. A group of youth even went to the OCC operations center and helped pack boxes for their final journey spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ across the world.



Monthly Budgeting Tips

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

The best way to build wealth is to be debt free, invest early in mutual funds (401K) using your income, which gives you compound interest. Many 401K plans have matching contributions (like 3 or 4%). You build wealth slowly. You do not need a great complex plan with investing. Keep it simple with good mutual funds over time. Mutual funds are a form of diversification. For example, if you put \$700 a month (the average car payment) in mutual funds at 10% interest from age 30 to age 70 you would have 5 or 6 million saved.

Do not play the stock market. Dave Ramsey does not recommend Certification of Deposits (CDs) as a general rule. He recommends money markets for your emergency funds. You have easy access without a penalty.

Retirement is not an age but a financial number

Ecclesiastes 11:2 – Give portions to seven, yes to eight, for you do not know what disaster may come upon the land (Diversification). Do not put all your eggs in one basket.

For a copy of a budget or for any questions call Bruce Pharis at 803-730-3240.

Ministry Updates

WMU



Revitalize. Revive. Revolutionize.

Serving God in the Mott Haven Neighborhood of the South Bronx.

Women on Mission invite you to join us on Tuesday, January 13th at 11:00 am in Building 100. This month we will learn about Andrew Mann, a Send Relief missionary in the South Bronx, one of the poorest communities in the United States. As a result of meeting the needs of children through afterschool and summer programs, Graffiti 2 church describes their model of community transformation as upside-down. This upside-down method begins with ministry, faith, and growth in the church. Come learn how Graffiti 2 has impacted a community that continues to transform and grow God's kingdom.

January Mission Focus



Our January mission focus is Snack Packs. Since the beginning of the 2025/2026 school year, we have delivered 498 snack pack bags to Dutch Fork Elementary School. This mission project focuses on providing snack packs for identified children in our local school district who are at risk of going through the weekends without food. Each bag contains 14 items. The program runs through the entire school year, and numbers may fluctuate weekly as children leave the schools and new ones come into the schools. If you would like to know more about this mission, contact Vicki Hall. Donations may be made to Patty in the office as well.

Member Birthdays in January



3 – Trey Waymyers

5 – Lisa Deichman

7 – Stephanie Searls

10 – GP Paredes

10 – Helen Mathewes

11 – Lee Spivey

12 – Tim Youmans

14 – Pete Dent

16 – Heather Fite

16 – Libby Gober

17 – Gene Woodrum

18 – Gracelynn Fite

20 – Sean Balik

20 – Brandon Carter

20 – Brooks Carter

20 – Shelby Cole

20 – Emmy Hall

24 – Chelsea Marlowe

26 – Keith Masterson

27 – Abigail Padgett

28 – Bill Dennis

28 – Bailee Smith

29 – JoshSmith

30 – Tracy Cook

30 – Mae Essick