

The Informer

September/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. 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

On two separate occasions I was asked this past month, “What is your vision for the future of the church?” To which I replied with a serious face (but jokingly): “I want us to grow to 20,000 members in the next 2 years.” It is a fair question to any leader, because if you don’t have a direction then you are just spinning wheels going nowhere or worse, going the wrong way. But the real answer I followed with was this: I want us to be the church God has called us to be. When we changed our mission statement a couple of years ago it was based off of Acts 2 and a description of what our church prioritizes. We are a church **family devoted** to the **word, worship, fellowship, and ministry of the gospel**. That’s who we are, and it is also who we want to continue to be.

So, my vision is that we continue to be that and that the Lord continues to add to our number each year. Acts 2:47 says about the early church: *...And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.* But v.47 only happens when vv.42-46 do. And so that’s the vision. To be an Acts 2 church according to the will and grace of the Lord in each of those areas.

In the **word** I want to continue our commitment to regular biblical teaching. And I’ve only preached through 4 whole books of the Bible (as the senior pastor), we’ve still got 62 more to go! I want us to raise up more teachers and increase in our Sunday Schools and small groups. I want to see children and students who come into our ministry be saved! And ultimately I want each member to know more Scripture and scriptural truth year after year.

In **worship** I want to continue our devotion to our multiple weekly corporate gatherings. I want to see our choir continue to grow, and the sanctuary be as the hymn says, “filled with loudest praise!” And where our Triune God is the end of our worship and not our own feelings. And Lord willing, raise generations of believers that prioritize worship!

In **fellowship** I want to see us continue to love one another and continually be ready to add more to those “one another’s.” After all, this is how Jesus said they will know we are His disciples if *we have love, one for another*.

And in the **ministry of the gospel**, I want us to maintain our faithfulness with the ministries God has given to us so that we can be faithful with new ones. I want our missions groups to continue to grow. I want us to progressively add to our support (in all ways) to missionaries and church plants. I want us to raise up and train pastors and missionaries to send out. I want us to be a foundation God uses to build new churches in Chinese, English, or whatever language. I want the Lord to use us for kingdom growth in ways we can’t even think or imagine! But ultimately I want us to continually grow in our desire to see the lost come to salvation!

That is what I want to see, what do you want to see? And what are you doing in each area to further this mission?

In a culture living in lies let us be the truth. In a culture engulfed in selfishness let us be selfless. In a culture full of organizations, let us be the church.

I am so thankful to be your pastor.

In Christ’s love,
- Blair M. Smith

Love Jesus. Love One Another.



7068 Nursery Rd.
Columbia, SC 29212



803-781-1345



www.firstbaptistirmo.org

Attendance

	Sunday School	Worship
8/2/2026	152	229
8/9/2026	163	237
8/16/2026	156	252
8/23/2026	168	243



Last Month...

Finances

Budget Contributions	\$55,961.00
Budget Distributions	\$50,708.00
Restricted Contributions	\$16,423.00
Restricted Distributions	\$14,637.00



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

No New Members

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.

September 9 – Nachos, Dessert

September 16 – Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Slaw, Dessert

September 23 – Chicken Nuggets, Man N Cheese, Green Beans Dessert

September 30 – Potato/Salad Bar, Dessert

AMAZING GRAYS LUNCHEON



Wednesday, September 2 - 11:30 am - FLC
Bring a covered dish (meat provided)

Looking forward to fall? Join us at Amazing Grays for great food and fellowship.

Our program this month will be our own Cheryl Tolbert, Toni Wright, and Connie Masterson. They will provide music and testimony.

Ministry Updates

Nursery Schedule

	Sunday School (Babies)	Service (Babies)
9/6/2026	Lindsey Smith & Trina Spires	Eric & Lisa Dowden
9/13/2026	Meme Firestone and Valda Stokes	Nancy Hoover and Melissa McDonald
9/20/2026	Vicki Hall and Melissa Swofford	John and Robbin Smith
9/27/2026	Brooks Criminger and Connie Spivey	Haley Hall and Brittany Hancock

	Service (Toddlers)	Sunday Evening
9/6/2026	Amy Gambrell and Julie West	No evening activities
9/13/2026	Autumn Parades and Veronica Watson	Katherine Green
9/20/2026	Tim and Paige Youmans	Tracy Cook
9/27/2026	Chris and Heather Fite	Melissa McDonald

*Sunday School for Toddlers available in the preschool classroom

College Ministry



The college group continues in their Acts series. Please pray for them as a new semester begins. Pray for boldness, endurance, and perseverance as they step back on campus and into their mission field.

Ministry Updates

Children's Ministry

For the remainder of the summer, we will be participating in the family programs on Sunday evenings. We will only offer baby nurseries during these Sunday evenings. Enjoy these special evenings of family worship!

We will also continue with "Wednesdays with Dylan" through September 2.

We will host Promotion Sunday on September 6. Also, on this date, we will begin our new children's Sunday school schedule with a 9AM mini worship rally prior to dismissing to the classrooms.



On Wednesday, September 9, we will begin our AWANA program with dinner at 5:15 and class at 6.



On Sunday, September 13, we will begin our regular fall activities with children's missions' programs starting at 5PM and Preschool and children's choirs starting at 6PM.

Our next community-wide children's event will be our Fall Festival on Sunday, October 25. More details will be forthcoming.

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 “Dave Ramsey’s negative and positive words”

Negative Words: credit scores, takers, I deserve this, victim, student loans, stress, borrowing, loans, crazy relatives, reverse mortgages, extended warranties, broke, variable annuity, solar panels, dental insurance plans, crypto, and debt.

Positive Words: planning, enjoy work, debt free, invest, save, term life insurance, giver, focused, mutual funds, compound interest, money markets, budget, peace, goals, emergency fund, sacrifice now for later, delayed gratification, generous, efficient, life changing, pray for financial wisdom, discipline, joint decisions, intentional, eating rice and beans-beans and rice, communication, purpose, under control, and balance checking account.

Proverbs 22:7 A borrower is a slave to the lender.

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

WMU



This month's topic: “What is the Cooperative Program & What is a Cooperating Church?”
Presented by Leisa Butler

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 am. So, mark your calendars! Tuesday, September 8th, 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!

Ministry Updates

Mission's Ministry



About Janie Chapman

More than a century ago, a woman with deep faith and unwavering conviction helped shape the future of missions in South Carolina. In 1902, Janie Chapman became the first president of South Carolina's Woman's Missionary Union and faithfully served for 22 years. She was known for her strong leadership discipline spirit, and passionate commitment to seeing the Gospel carried across the state and beyond.

But Janie Chapman's impact was about more than organization and leadership; it was about vision. She believed South Carolina Baptists could work together to meet needs, strengthen churches, send workers and make Christ known in every community. She challenged believers to pray boldly, give faithfully and live on missions every day. That vision still lives on today.

The Janie Chapman State Missions Offering continues her legacy by equipping South Carolina Baptists to share hope, strengthen churches, serve communities, develop leaders and start new works throughout our state. Every gift given carries the Gospel into neighborhoods, schools, churches and communities where people need the hope of Christ.

What began as the faithful obedience of one woman has become a statewide movement of believers working together for the sake of the Gospel. As South Carolina Baptists continue to pray, serve and give through the Janie Chapman Offering, they are carrying the baton Janie first helped raise more than 100 years ago – ensuring that future generations will continue to hear and experience the love of Jesus.



Go Boldly
Ephesians 6:19-20

Janie Chapman
Offering for State Missions

2026
State Goal: \$2,222,000

Our Church Goal:
\$ **8,000**

South Carolina WMU
God's mission. Our passion.

www.janiechapmanoffering.org

First Baptist Irmo

Member Birthdays in September



2 – Barbara Cooley	14 – Charlotte Rudisill
2 – Brian Koch	15 – Woody Taylor
4 – Stevee Speicher	15 – Pam Channell
5 – Jack Gober	18 – Heather Bedford
6 – Jacob Parker	19 – Myra Smith
6 – Anna Grace Knight	21 – Bill Benton
6 – Carolyn Sparks	21 – Danny Huggins
9 – Jim Raines	22 – Kenneth Smith
9 – Alexia Helsley	23 – Paige Youmans
10 – Kassidy Padgett	24 – Caleb Bartlett
10 – Sam Austin	24 – Joey Mikulecky
10 – Lisa Parker	24 – Sara Rushing
12 – Leslie Mikelz	24 – Sandra Sills
12 – Sonya Hancock	25 – Brittanie Case
12 – Meme Firestone	26 – Evan White
14 – Daniel Blackmon	27 – Katherine Green
	29 – Gabriel Green