



First Baptist Church

May 1, 2025

Dear Church Family,

What a wonderful beginning of the year at First Baptist Church! Almost every Sunday, we celebrate as new believers are baptized in worship. This past week we were thrilled to conduct baptisms in Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. We give God the glory for the mighty work He is doing.

The Lord is also working through our quarterly Advance training lunches led by the Discipleship ministry team. This past Sunday, more than 100 folks discussed how to Advance God's Kingdom in our homes in the face of spiritual warfare. The next training will take place in August.

As we approach summer, we have many opportunities for outreach, evangelism, and mission trips on the horizon. Please join us in asking God to do a mighty work through VBS, children's and student camps, mission trips, and music programs.

I'd also like to highlight our church planting efforts over the past three years. Through your regular giving to the church budget, we have invested more than \$150,000 in five church plants and church revitalization projects. This includes First Baptist Church Ridgeway, Good News Vietnamese Church of Columbia, New Creation Baptist Church of Columbia, First Chinese Baptist Church of Columbia, and Refuge Church Detroit.

We are excited to announce that we have just begun supporting our sixth church in three years: Palmetto Life Church at the former Park Street Baptist Church location. We planted Elmwood Park Church over 100 years ago, which became Park Street Church in 1926. In 2020, Village Church of Blythewood launched a downtown campus at this location. On Easter Sunday of this year, this became an independent congregation. Matthew Phillips is serving as pastor, and we are excited to financially and prayerfully support Palmetto Life Church.

When you give to First Baptist Church, you not only support ministry here, but across our state, nation, and world. We are committed to advancing the kingdom of God through these new ministries! Your generosity and God's blessing enable us to do this work. If you have not yet given to the church this year, I invite you to participate in the wonderful work the Lord is doing here.

Remember that you can give each Sunday in our sanctuary offering boxes, via mail, or through recurring digital giving via our website at www.FBCCola.com/give. Please contact me directly at 803-343-8581 or busterwhitlock@fbccola.com if I can be of service.

God Bless,

Buster Whitlock
Minister of Administration