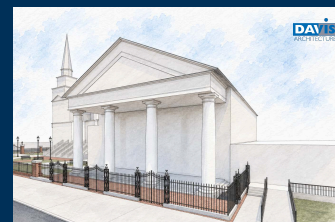


FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Pray
& Give



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

We are rebuilding the Sanctuary Plaza on solid ground and making long-needed improvements for accessibility, safety, hospitality, and future ministry. Join us in praying for this important project and giving above the tithe to make it happen!

FIRM FOUNDATIONS GIVING GOAL
\$1,000,000

RECEIVED TO DATE
\$269,034.79

more than
25%

REMAINING
\$730,965.21

First Baptist
of COLUMBIA / SC

FINANCE OFFICE

PO Box 1000

Columbia, SC 29202

(803) 343-8562

catherinehenderson@fbccola.com

FIRM FOUNDATIONS PLEDGE CARD

In response to God's provision, I will give above my regular tithe and offering:

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

GIFT/PLEDGE AMOUNT:

\$ _____

☐ GIFT ENCLOSED

☐ PLEDGE TO BE FULFILLED
BY DECEMBER 31

WAYS TO GIVE

Checks to **FBC** and write **Building Fund** in memo | Online at **FBCCola.com/Give**

Drop Card in Front Office, Giving Box or Mail to: PO Box 1000 Columbia, SC 29202

FAQ - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happened to the plaza to require this work?

When the former Ellis Building was demolished in 1992, portions of the basement and demolition debris were left underground and the area was filled and covered by the present plaza. Over time, that material has deteriorated and settled, creating voids beneath the plaza. After more than thirty years of periodic repairs, engineering studies indicated that the underlying problem needed to be addressed comprehensively.

What are we doing to correct the problem?

The affected area is being excavated to remove demolition debris, deteriorating materials, abandoned tanks, and other unsuitable material. The area will then be rebuilt with properly engineered and compacted fill before the plaza is reconstructed. Rather than continuing to repair individual areas as they settle, we are addressing the underlying cause.

Do we expect this work to solve the settling problems?

Yes. The purpose of the project is to remove the unsuitable material beneath the affected area and rebuild it on properly engineered ground. While no construction project can guarantee that a future issue will never arise, the work is designed to correct the underlying conditions responsible for the settling we have experienced.

Why are we installing a fence and gates?

The goal is not to close our campus to the community but to make the plaza more useful for ministry. Our Children's Center opens directly onto the plaza, only a short distance from busy downtown streets. An attractive brick and wrought-metal perimeter will allow the plaza to become a safe outdoor ministry and gathering space while also providing greater security for our buildings when the church is closed.

What other improvements are being made?

In addition to rebuilding the plaza, plans include a long-needed ADA-accessible entrance into the Lindsay Building, improved pedestrian flow, new landscaping, enhanced campus signage, and architectural improvements designed to complement our historic buildings. The goal is to create a plaza that is safer, more accessible, more welcoming, and more useful for ministry.

Why make these improvements now instead of simply replacing the plaza?

Before the structural problem was discovered, the church was already preparing to make improvements to this area. Because the plaza must now be excavated and reconstructed, completing these improvements at the same time avoids tearing into newly completed work later and allows us to address the entire area thoughtfully and economically.

How is the project being funded?

The total project goal is \$1,075,000. The church immediately applied \$75,000 previously allocated for plaza improvements, leaving a giving goal of \$1,000,000. Existing Building Fund resources allow construction to proceed without delay, but our goal is to fully fund the project through special gifts, restore the Building Fund to approximately its starting balance, and remain debt free.

How can I participate?

Pray for wisdom, safety, provision, and the successful completion of the work. Then prayerfully consider a special gift to the Building Fund above your regular tithe and offering. Gifts may be made now or pledged through December 31 and may include cash, checks, online giving, Qualified Charitable Distributions, or gifts of appreciated stock.

Our goal is bigger than repairing a plaza. We want to address this problem thoroughly, steward our resources wisely, and leave behind a safer, stronger, and more useful campus for the generations who will worship and serve here after us.

September 18, 2026

Dear Church Family,

When we began 2026, none of us anticipated that one of the significant challenges before our church would be found beneath the Sanctuary Plaza. After more than thirty years of periodic settling, we discovered that the time had come to address the problem completely.

By now, you have seen some of the work underway. Our goal is straightforward: remove everything beneath the plaza that could create problems in the future, rebuild on solid ground, and make improvements that will allow this important part of our campus to serve the ministry of First Baptist for generations to come.

What excites me is that we are doing more than repairing what is underground.

As the plaza is rebuilt, we have an opportunity to make long-needed improvements to one of the most visible and frequently used areas of our campus. Plans include: (1) a new ADA-accessible entrance into the Lindsay Building, (2) improved landscaping and pedestrian flow, (3) updated campus signage, and (4) a beautiful brick and wrought-metal perimeter that will complement our historic buildings while creating a safe and functional outdoor ministry space. With our Children's Center opening directly onto the plaza, this will allow an area that has primarily been a passageway to become a place that can actually be used for ministry.

This is why we are calling our giving initiative **FIRM FOUNDATIONS: Laying the Groundwork for Generations to Come**.

The total project goal is \$1,075,000. We immediately applied \$75,000 previously designated for plaza improvements, leaving \$1,000,000 to be funded. I am grateful to tell you that our church family has already given \$269,034.79—more than 25% of that need.

That is a wonderful beginning. But we still have work to do.

Because of God's provision and the faithful stewardship of those who came before us, First Baptist entered this project debt free with \$484,988 in our Building Fund. Those resources allow us to move forward with the work without unnecessary delay. Our goal, however, is to fully fund this project

through giving so that when the work is complete, our Building Fund is restored to approximately where it was when we began and our church remains prepared for whatever ministry need comes next.

This reminds of David's words as God's people gave toward the building of the Temple: *"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? For everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your own hand."* 1 Chronicles 29:14

So I am asking every First Baptist family to do two things: pray and give.

Would you prayerfully consider making a special gift above your regular tithe and offering to the Building Fund before December 31? Your gift may be given immediately, or you may make a commitment now that you intend to fulfill by the end of the year. You can give in the following ways:

- Give online through the Building Fund at FBCCola.com/give or setup recurring gifts,
- Give by check in the sanctuary, office or via mail — designate Building Fund on your check, or
- Give stock and other gifts (such as a QCD and RMD from an IRA) by contacting the finance office.

Whatever the amount, I hope every one of us will ask the Lord, "What would You have me give?"

For more than two centuries, generations of faithful people have worshiped, served, sacrificed, built, repaired, and prepared this church for those who would come after them. Now it is our turn.

Together, we can complete this work, remain debt free, replenish the resources entrusted to us, and leave behind firm foundations for generations yet to come.

Thank you for your faithfulness to Christ and your love for His church.

Serving Christ together,



Wes Church





FIRM

FOUNDATIONS

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE GIVING

Securely give at FBCCola.com/Give and select Building Fund.

CASH OR CHECK

Make checks payable to First Baptist Church and designate Building Fund on memo line.

Give during worship, in front office or mail to: First Baptist Church

PO Box 1000

Columbia, SC 29202

RECURRING & OTHER GIFTS

The Church Finance Office can assist you with establishing recurring electronic gifts or online giving.

NEED HELP MAKING YOUR GIFT?

Contact the First Baptist Church Finance Office for assistance with online giving, recurring gifts, QCDs, gifts of appreciated stock, or other giving questions.

CHURCH FINANCE OFFICE: (803) 343-8582

TAX-WISE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)

If you are 70½ or older, you may be able to make a gift directly from an eligible IRA to First Baptist Church. A qualifying QCD is excluded from taxable income and may satisfy all or part of a required minimum distribution. The distribution must be made directly from the IRA custodian to the church.

APPRECIATED STOCK

Giving appreciated stock directly to First Baptist Church may allow you to avoid capital-gains tax on the appreciation and, if you itemize, potentially receive a charitable deduction based on the stock's fair market value, subject to applicable requirements.

Tax laws and individual circumstances vary. Please consult your tax or financial advisor regarding the tax implications of your gift.

CONTACT FINANCE OFFICE TO LEARN MORE.



First Baptist
of COLUMBIA / SC