

FIRST PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH PROFILE



First Providence Baptist Church is a multicultural, multiracial, and economically diverse African American worship community. We were founded in 1860 on the banks of the Savannah River in a river town called Hamburg, South Carolina. We are located at 315 Barton Road, North Augusta, SC. 29841, in the Hamburg-Carrsville African American Heritage District. We are the oldest church in North Augusta.

Our church family consists of about 300 members, fifteen deacons and fifty plus ministries/auxiliaries. We are rising to meet this challenge of low attendance by offering our church service on four platforms: in-house service, Facebook, YouTube, and the First Providence Baptist Church website. In addition, our Sunday School lessons are delivered by email to members.

Our church is centered around five things. First, things we are passionate about. Second, things we believe are important to us. Third, things that make us distinctive. Fourth, things we will fiercely defend. Fifth, things we long to see happen.

1. **Passionate** - We are passionate about accepting people where they are and then teaching and guiding them toward a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. We do this through the love we show to each other as brothers and sisters in the body of Jesus Christ. As a result, they will be able to spread the good news, drawing others to the light of the Lord. Live as a family that is inclusive, tolerant, grateful, and proud of one another, a family with the ability and broad scope to understand the uniqueness of each individual. We strive to be a family without a judgmental attitude. We are passionate about Godly leadership. Leaders who can use their gifts, intellect, talents, and passions to make others great. Leaders who can lift others to a higher level, bless others, and transform others to the next level. We are passionate about following the principle that the Bible is God's Word and prayer is a conversation with God. Grace is the unmerited favor of God upon our lives.
2. **Important To Us** - Biblical Authority – the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. Autonomy of the Local Church – Each local church is an independent body accountable to Jesus Christ as its head. Priesthood of the Believer – Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and worship without the aid of a mediator. Two Ordinances – The New Testament provides for only two ordinances of the local church: the believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. Two Offices in the Church – The pastor and deacon are two biblically established local church offices. Finally, having Bible-based sermons and unambiguous teachings is imperative to strengthen our relationship with the Lord. The thing that makes all of this so important is that we need to serve the present age with truth, knowledge, and understanding.

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3. **Distinctive** - Our church is distinctive because it was founded by free African Americans and enslaved African- Americans with independent minds, giving them freedom of thought. Great things happen when people's minds are free on a single idea. Even the chains of slavery cannot stop the movement of the unified idea of great minds.
4. **Fiercely Defend as Jesus Christ Would** - We vigorously defend the basic principles of faith and the belief in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We fervently support our trust in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. We fiercely defend the fact Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin, was crucified, died, and was buried. We fiercely defend our belief in the resurrection of Christ, salvation by grace through faith, and the authority of Scripture. We also will preserve and protect the Baptist faith. We know that Jesus is Lord and believe in him. Therefore, we believe in complete immersion to be baptized with Jesus, and we will defend that ordinance. We will aggressively defend the right for all to vote without harassment, collusion, or fear.
5. **To See Happen** - We would like to see a continuation of improvement in the development of the Carrsville neighborhood. Helping the development of the Carrsville neighborhood would benefit the needs of all the communities around the river region. We want a clear vision and strategy for long-term church growth and growth in our faith journey. We also want to see the continuation of teaching the rich history of First Providence to upcoming generations, maybe a book written for children by a church member published and marketed by the church.

Buildings: Our church campus consists of the Sanctuary, Family Life Center, and Learning Development Center. Each building has a generous parking area.

Sunday Service: 8:30 a.m. - Morning Worship (until further notice)

Sunday School: Our SSL is e-mailed weekly to the membership in a PowerPoint Presentation (until further notice).

Our Mission: To promote spiritual, social, and economic development for all who seek Jesus Christ.

Our Vision: The First Providence Baptist Church is a Christ-centered congregation of believers spreading the gospel to bring unsaved and un-churched souls into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Thematic Scripture: "We can do all things through Christ, which strengthens us." Philippians 4:13

Theme: "Enter to worship and depart to make a spiritual difference."

Motto: To God be the glory!