



Inman First Baptist Church  
14 N. Howard Street  
Inman, SC 29349

(864) 472-9069  
[www.ifbc.net](http://www.ifbc.net)

# INMAN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## Church Profile - 2026

### **Location:**

Inman First Baptist Church is located in the small town of Inman, nestled in the foothills of South Carolina. Many of the members of IFBC work in the cities of Spartanburg and Greenville, two rapidly growing cities in the Upstate area.

### **Alignment Among Baptists:**

Inman First Baptist Church maintains dual alignment with both the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). Members are given the opportunity to designate the recipient of their mission offerings according to personal conviction.

The church affirms the leadership of women in ministry, recognizing and supporting the ordination of women and their service in roles such as deacons and other positions of spiritual leadership

### **Our Vision:**

Our church operates as a unified family committed to identifying and using their spiritual gifts and led by men and women with leadership gifts.

### **Our Purpose/Mission:**

Our purpose is to draw others into God's presence, guide them in their spiritual journey, and equip them for ministry in the Church, their community and the world.

### **Our Values:**

- Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- God desires His people to worship Him passionately.
- The Scriptures serve as a catalyst for the transformation of individuals and the church.
- Excellence honors God and inspires people.
- Every aspect of church life should be characterized by love, support, forgiveness and care for one another.
- The church should be culturally relevant and minister to the whole person – mind, body and spirit.
- All followers of Christ are called to be faithful stewards of their time, spiritual gifts and financial resources as they honor and serve Christ.
- The two great commandments taught by Jesus are to love God and to love others as ourselves.
- While we acknowledge that we are not perfect, we are committed to living out Jesus' commandments of love.



### **History:**

Established in **1861**, Inman First Baptist Church has a long and faithful history of being used by God as an instrument for transforming hearts and lives. Since **1937**, the church has been served by only four full-time pastors:

**Rev. J. E. Lehman** (1937–1955)

**Rev. James R. Bruce** (1955–1980)

**Dr. Don Bishop** (1982–2004)

**Dr. Paul Moore** (2007–2026)

Between **2004 and 2007**, for 26 months, the congregation was led by several interim pastors as the church prayerfully searched for Dr. Moore. Additional historical information may be found on our website at [www.ifbc.net](http://www.ifbc.net).

### **Staff:**

Inman First Baptist Church presently or in the recent past has had the following ministers and staff. Vacant positions are noted with an \*.

Pastor\* - until his formal retirement date in the spring of 2026

Minister of Spiritual Formation and Engagement

Minister of Music\* - the search for this position has been deferred until a new pastor is selected. This has been a full-time position.

Minister of Family Life – currently served by an interim minister

Other full-time staff: one Finance and Communications Administrator, one Administrative Coordinator, one Facilities Administrator and one administrator partially funded by the Inman First Baptist Church Child Development Center (IFBC CDC)

The CDC is a self-supporting mission of the church with 15 staff supervised by the Director of IFBC CDC

For more information, go to [www.ifbc.net](http://www.ifbc.net).

# CONGREGATIONAL/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**Membership:** 657(on roll); 367 active resident members

**Average Worship Attendance:** 184

**Average Sunday School Attendance:** 175

**Adult Choir Members:** 20

**Children's Choir Members:** 15

**Women's Ministry Members:** 30

**New Members by Baptism:** 8

**New Members by Transfer of Letter:** 5

**Average Monetary Gift per Active Member:** \$2781 per year

**Occupational and Educational Breakdown:** Information is not specifically gathered regarding the occupational and educational levels of the membership; however, members of Inman First Baptist Church are quite diverse in occupational type and educational levels. Most are high school graduates; many have college degrees, with some holding advanced degrees. In the professions there are doctors, dentists, nurses, architects, engineers, teachers, librarians, chaplains, social workers, financial advisors, insurance brokers, realtors, accountants and bankers. There are management personnel in textiles/manufacturing, hospital administration, nursing home administration and information technology. There are also small business owners and skilled craftsmen such as electricians, plumbers, and carpenters. There are medical technicians as well as government and community service employees such as first responders and members of various law enforcement departments/agencies. Many of these members work in the rapidly growing metropolitan areas of Greenville and Spartanburg.

Below is information about yearly trends in membership, worship attendance, baptisms, Sunday School enrollment and average attendance:

Year	Total Members	Active Members	SS Enrollment	Avg SS Attendance	Avg Worship Attendance	Total Giving
2021	601	318	105	15	140	\$810,907.90
2022	615	332	123	46	161	\$783,504.91
2023	632	349	342	79	174	\$840,206.31
2024	646	362	375	128	175	\$855,320.99
2025	657	367	390	175	184	\$893,917.37

# MINISTRY INFORMATION:

## Worship, Christian Education and Programs

### Sunday Morning Worship:

The Sunday morning worship service begins at 10:30am and is a blended service, including traditional worship hymns as well as praise songs. Our church follows this style of worship to appeal to a broader audience, especially to younger groups who are more attune to contemporary Christian music. A piano and organ as well as some other instruments such as guitar, drums and violin accompany the hymns and praise songs. Presently, there is no Sunday night worship service.

### Wednesday Night Activities:

Wednesday night programs begin at 6:00pm as do activities for the children and youth. The choir practices at 7pm. The church typically also has a Wednesday night supper for members at 5:30.

### Sunday School:

Sunday School begins at 9:30am and includes classes for all age groups. Classes use a variety of study literature and materials. The following list of classes with the number enrolled as well as the average attendance for a recent six-month period give a snapshot of class and attendance information.

SS Class	Enrollment	Average Attendance
Children and Youth Classes*		
Infants to 1s	1	1
2s and 3s	1	1
4s and 5s	3	2
Grades 1-3	36	11
Grades 4-6	19	7
Youth	34	10
Adult Classes		
Agape	19	13
Anna/Caring	23	10
Coed-4	25	11
J and J	54	18
Ludie Brady	13	5
Pathfinders	29	12
Ralph Barnwell	24	17
Ready Class	27	13

\*We usually have higher attendance in children's church ranging from 25-30 kids. On Sunday nights, we usually have 20 students participate in youth.

**Music Ministries:**

Music is an important part of our worship. We sing together in worship to glorify God and have music activities throughout the week for different age groups. There are choir activities for preschool ages through senior adults.

**IFBC Kids Choir:** This choir is composed of kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade children. Leaders teach both music and spiritual concepts and the children learn to worship through song.

**Orchestra:** Although we do not have a full orchestra our church encourages the use of many kinds of musical instruments in worship. Guitar, drums, and other instruments as well as the more traditional piano and organ regularly accompany our worship music.

**Sanctuary Choir:** Our sanctuary choir is usually made up of about 20 members each Sunday morning. While this choir rehearses every week for the Sunday service, the focus is on worship not performance. The ability to read music is helpful but it is not necessary to join the choir.



### **Children and Youth Ministries:**

Our children are our future. Inman First Baptist Church makes every effort to lay the foundation for a faith that will extend into adulthood. The biblical foundation for the Children's Ministry at Inman First Baptist Church is found in Jeremiah 17:8:

*"They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit."* (NLT)

**IFBC KIDS:** The mission of IFBC KIDS is to equip parents to lead their children towards a relationship with Jesus, assist volunteers to shepherd children in safe and developmentally appropriate environments, and encourage children to grow in Christ by teaching them biblical truths in relevant and creative ways.

- IFBC KIDS is for children at birth through third grade. Children are invited weekly to Sunday school at 9:30am.
- In the fall and spring, IFBC KIDS meets from 6:30-7:30pm. on Wednesday evenings for fun filled nights of learning about God and how to serve others.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) is held each year in mid-June.

**Shift:** 4th-6<sup>th</sup> grade students meet every Sunday morning at 9:30am in their own space as a small group.

- The preteen years are critical years. During these years students are asking questions like: Who am I? Who are my friends? What do I feel? And what is faith? We want every student who enters this space to feel loved and welcomed. We want this to be a safe space for them to bring their struggles and anxieties. A place they can grow together in fellowship and come to understand what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus.
- In the summer our students have the opportunity to join other CBF churches at CAMP PRISM in Flat Rock, NC for a several-day-long camp offering fellowship and spiritual growth.

**IGNITE:** IGNITE exists to move our students towards spiritual maturity and growth in their relationship with Jesus Christ, connecting with the church, and engaging the community. IGNITE is for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and meets weekly for Sunday School at 9:30am.

- On Sunday evenings, IGNITE meets at 6:00pm for supper, worship and small groups.
- During the fall and spring semesters of school, IGNITE seeks to grow closer to God and one another through retreats.
- In the summer, the youth have an opportunity for spiritual growth and missional engagement through PASSPORT CAMP.



### **Inman First Baptist Church Child Development Center (IFBC CDC):**

IFBC CDC is an outreach ministry of Inman First Baptist Church with a director and 15 staff workers. The CDC provides care for children 3 months – 4 years during the day as well as a preschool only program for 2k - 4k. Our Afterschool program provides care for 5k – 8th grade in the afternoons. We are proud participants of Spartanburg Quality Counts. Quality Counts is a program designed to aid in children's development from birth through 5 years old. The program helps determine if a child is meeting their milestones and if not provides tools to proactively aid development.

### **Women's Ministry Team:**

The IFBC Women's Ministry is based on the biblical foundation found in Hebrews 10 24:25:

*“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”* (NLT)

The Ministry holds many events throughout the year including a Book Club, a Chili and Cornbread Cookoff, a Women's Bible Study focused on Spiritual Gifts, and many more. The members of the Ministry have been led to establish additional ministries, including Pockets of Hope and Threads of Hope.

### **Ministry Connections Teams:**

The gift-based ministry program at Inman First Baptist Church affirms that every Christian is a minister and that each believer is called to serve. The church currently offers **at least 39 opportunities** for members to engage in meaningful service. These opportunities are organized into **ministry teams**, providing a place for every individual to use his or her God-given gifts in service to the Lord.

A complete and current list of ministry team opportunities may be found at:

<https://www.ifbc.net/ministry-connections-team>

Inman First Baptist Church remains open to supporting additional gift-based ministries as needs arise and as God leads.

### **Corner of Hope:**

The Corner of Hope was started in 2012 after the church was gifted a building in downtown Inman. After consultation and prayer, a need was realized for a furniture bank. Since 2012, the Corner of Hope has impacted 1,000 families. Each family has been offered the hope of turning a house or apartment into a home through the gift of mattresses, tables, chairs, sofas, and household goods. In 2020, the needs of the Corner of Hope had outgrown the space provided by the downtown location and the church was able to sell the building and build a new space on church property. The Corner of Hope is operated completely by volunteers. The Corner of Hope continues to minister to Spartanburg County and prays for ways in which God will work through them to impact more neighbors, incorporate more volunteers, and look for more partners in the fight against furniture poverty in our community. Visit <http://www.cornerofhope.net> to read more about the work of this critical ministry.



**Pockets of Hope:**

The Pockets of Hope Ministry was established in 2024. This ministry exists to reflect the love and abundance of Jesus by serving women and other caregivers who may often feel unseen. They offer new and gently used pocketbooks, accessories, and other essentials in a boutique-style (free) shopping experience. The team wants every woman to know that Jesus not only sees her but delights in her, and to remind each one they are valued, seen and cherished. The moms/caregivers/girls who are already attending the Threads of Hope shopping day for their children or self are the main benefactors of this ministry. Other women are referred through our church ministries such as Benevolence. A typical shopping day will bless 25-50 women.

**Threads of Hope:**

Threads of Hope started in 2022 with a vision to provide clothes, shoes, socks, and underwear to low-income children and their families of Spartanburg School District One through a unique “shopping” experience. It began in one room on the third floor, but through generous support and donations from IFBC they have growth to take over the former children’s church area on the first floor. This ministry will serve approximately 80 children in 20 families per event. Prior to each of our five shopping days throughout the year, the team reaches out to the schools and District to get names and addresses of the children to invite to the shopping day. On the shopping day, the parents/guardians bring the invitation card and shop for each of their children and themselves.

**Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Ministry:**

Some years ago, the Caring Sunday School Class began wrapping and filling shoe boxes to send to children in foreign countries through Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse Ministry. As the program grew, the Caring Class began appealing to other Sunday School classes and the congregation to help wrap and fill boxes. In 2024, the Ready Sunday School Class took over the OCC Shoe Box effort. Our church filled 265 shoe boxes last year (2025).

**Special Events:**

Special Events are planned periodically throughout the year by our Special Events team. Regular events include Easter Morning Breakfast, July 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch and our very popular Christmas Lunch. Other events are held as needed and requested.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

## Including Building and Grounds

### **Buildings:**

The campus of IFBC includes the following buildings:

Worship area/sanctuary built around 1927 and seats approximately 700

Education wing built around 1958

Family Life Center built in 1985

Office/Education complex, atrium built in 1997

### **Appraised Value of Buildings and Property:**

Church Building: \$12 million (insured value)

Land: \$500,000

### **Description of Acreage, Buildings and Indebtedness:**

10.5 Acres: the land on the north side of Church Street is occupied by the Sanctuary, Educational Building, Family Life Center, a cemetery, a children's playground and parking areas. The land on the east side across Rhinehart Street (2 lots) is undeveloped. The land on the south side of Church Street is occupied by parking areas. Further east, beyond the south side of Church Street there is a ball field. And our Corner of Hope building is contiguous with the south parking lot.

Total square footage is approximately 103,460

The Sanctuary (built in 1927) is 13,700 square feet, seats approximately 700 with the basement home to the youth programs.

The Educational Building (built around 1955) totals 13,932 square feet and is three stories. This building houses classrooms, the Computer Learning Center, Library and mechanical areas.

The second Education Building (built in 1997) is 57,066 square feet and is also three stories. This building has offices, an atrium, the choir area, the fellowship hall, a parlor, Sunday School classrooms, preschool and children's classrooms and the Child Development Center.

The Family Life Center (built in 1985) is approximately 50,000 square feet which includes the gymnasium, day care areas, a craft center, a weight room and additional classrooms.

Vehicles: the church and CDC have three 15-passenger vans.

### **Indebtedness:**

NONE!

### **Church Assets:**

**Reserve Fund:** \$132,540

**Building Fund:** \$816,657

**General Fund:** \$121,711

**Total Income 2025:** \$893,917

**Total Expenses:** \$856,968

**Foundation:** \$300,000

See following pages for the 2025 Annual Financial Report Attached and 2026 Annual Budget

## INMAN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

2025 APPROVED Budget

Percentage Missions	BUDGET	ACUTAL
Cooperative Program	\$2,500.00	\$2,137.00
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	\$37,183.40	\$32,041.00
Greater Spartanburg Ministries	\$2,323.96	\$1,665.00
Mobile Meals Service	\$2,323.96	\$1,665.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$2,323.96	\$0.00
Christmas in Action	\$2,323.96	\$1,665.00
<b>Total % Missions</b>	<b>\$48,979.25</b>	<b>\$39,173.00</b>

\*These figures are based on undesignated offering that is money that is contributed to the general operating budget.

Budgeted Missions	BUDGET	ACUTAL
Hope Center for Children	\$500.00	\$500.00
Haiti Bible Mission	\$7,500.00	\$6,875.00
Miracle Hill Ministries	\$500.00	\$458.00
Gideon's	\$300.00	\$300.00
International Missions Ministry	\$3,400.00	\$3,400.00
Upstate Japanese Ministry	\$900.00	\$900.00
St. Luke's Free Clinic	\$1,000.00	\$350.00
516 NOW	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$300.00	\$295.00
<b>Total Budgeted Missions</b>	<b>\$17,400.00</b>	<b>\$16,078.00</b>

Personnel	BUDGET	ACUTAL
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$520,000.00</b>	<b>\$487,837.00</b>

Family Ministries	BUDGET	ACUTAL
Youth Ministries	\$15,750.00	\$12,793.00
Youth Food Pantry	\$1,500.00	-\$40.00
College Ministries	\$2,000.00	\$117.00
Preschool/Children's Ministry	\$12,800.00	\$5,349.00
<b>Total Family Ministries</b>	<b>\$32,050.00</b>	<b>\$18,219.00</b>

Support & Group Ministries	BUDGET	ACUTAL
CHEERIOS	\$1,000.00	\$1,069.00
Health Team	\$625.00	-\$1,995.00
Senior Adults	\$2,000.00	\$1,225.00
Women's Ministry	\$3,000.00	\$1,298.00
Hospitality (Bereavement)	\$2,500.00	\$2,403.00
Wednesday Night Meals	\$2,000.00	\$1,583.00
Church Events	\$4,000.00	\$2,012.00
<b>Total Support &amp; Group Ministries</b>	<b>\$15,125.00</b>	<b>\$7,595.00</b>

Educational Program	BUDGET	ACUTAL
Christian Growth & Development	\$3,000.00	\$4,222.00
Literature & Periodicals	\$5,860.00	\$5,068.00
Sunday School Operations	\$500.00	\$261.00
<b>Total Educational Program</b>	<b>\$9,360.00</b>	<b>\$9,551.00</b>

Outreach Ministries	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Benevolence	\$14,000.00	\$8,189.00
Backpack Ministry	\$15,000.00	\$16,325.00
Recreation	\$4,500.00	\$4,639.00
Vacation Bible School	\$4,600.00	\$4,648.00
Guest Welcome	\$2,250.00	\$1,820.00
Harvest Day	\$600.00	\$287.00
<b>Total Outreach Ministries</b>	<b>\$40,950.00</b>	<b>\$35,908.00</b>

Worship Ministry	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Music	\$7,000.00	\$4,245.00
Worship Technology	\$3,500.00	\$8,886.00
<b>Total Worship Ministry</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>	<b>\$13,131.00</b>

Communications	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Programs & Software	\$2,500.00	\$2,735.00
Public Relations	\$2,000.00	\$940.00
<b>Total Communications</b>	<b>\$4,500.00</b>	<b>\$3,675.00</b>

Program Support	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Business Mileage	\$8,000.00	\$5,147.00
Church Flowers and Decorating	\$3,000.00	\$543.00
Pastoral Speakers	\$500.00	\$225.00
Volunteer Appreciation	\$3,000.00	\$1,141.00
Buses & Vans Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$6,130.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$706.00
Pastoral Expenses	\$500.00	\$283.00
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>\$20,500.00</b>	<b>\$14,175.00</b>

Operations	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Annual Review	\$6,500.00	\$10,500.00
Legal Fund	\$500.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,000.00	\$519.00
Office Equipment & Supplies	\$9,000.00	\$17,659.00
Postage	\$4,000.00	\$4,126.00
Printing	\$4,000.00	\$3,264.00
Reconciliation Services	\$700.00	\$375.00
Bank Fees	\$1,000.00	\$1,012.00
Business Communicaiton	\$4,000.00	\$1,375.00
Office IT Support	\$5,000.00	\$3,920.00
Church Operating System	\$7,000.00	\$7,590.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$43,700.00</b>	<b>\$50,340.00</b>

Building & Grounds	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Church Property Insurance	\$50,000.00	\$40,332.00
Cleaning & Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$3,442.00
Repairs and Upkeep	\$30,000.00	\$13,534.00
Utilities	\$90,000.00	\$83,448.00
Grounds Maintenance	\$18,500.00	\$18,000.00
Security	\$10,000.00	\$3,658.00
HVAC Service Contract	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
<b>Total Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$215,500.00</b>	<b>\$174,414.00</b>

## INMAN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

### 2026 Proposed Budget

Percentage Missions	
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	\$37,487.00
Greater Spartanburg Ministries	\$2,342.94
Mobile Meals Service	\$2,342.94
Christmas in Action	\$2,342.94
<b>Total % Missions</b>	<b>\$44,515.81</b>

\*These figures are based on undesignated offering that is money that is contributed to the general operating budget.

Budgeted Missions	
Hope Center for Children	\$500.00
Haiti Bible Mission	\$4,000.00
Miracle Hill Ministries	\$500.00
Gideon's	\$300.00
International Missions Ministry	\$3,500.00
Upstate Japanese Ministry	\$900.00
St. Luke's Free Clinic	\$1,000.00
516 NOW	\$3,000.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$300.00
Southern Baptist Convention	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Budgeted Missions</b>	<b>\$16,500.00</b>

Personnel	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$520,000.00</b>

Family Ministries	
Youth Ministries	\$15,750.00
College Ministries	\$2,000.00
Preschool/Children's Ministry	\$12,800.00
<b>Total Family Ministries</b>	<b>\$30,550.00</b>

Support & Group Ministries	
CHEERIOS	\$2,500.00
Health Team	\$800.00
Senior Adults	\$2,000.00
Women's Ministry	\$2,000.00
Hospitality (Bereavement)	\$2,500.00
Wednesday Night Meals	\$2,000.00
Church Events	\$4,000.00
<b>Total Support &amp; Group Ministries</b>	<b>\$15,800.00</b>

Educational Program	
Christian Growth & Development	\$3,000.00
Literature & Periodicals	\$7,000.00
Sunday School Operations	\$500.00
<b>Total Educational Program</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>

Outreach Ministries	
Benevolence	\$14,000.00
Backpack Ministry	\$15,000.00
Recreation	\$4,500.00
Vacation Bible School	\$4,600.00
Guest Welcome	\$1,925.00
Harvest Day	\$600.00
<b>Total Outreach Ministries</b>	<b>\$40,625.00</b>

Worship Ministry	
Music	\$3,500.00
Worship Technology	\$3,500.00
<b>Total Worship Ministry</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>

Communications	
Programs & Software	\$3,000.00
Public Relations	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Communications</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>

Program Support	
Business Mileage	\$8,000.00
Church Flowers and Decorating	\$2,500.00
Pastoral Speakers	\$500.00
Volunteer Appreciation	\$2,800.00
Buses & Vans Maintenance	\$6,000.00
Kitchen Supplies	\$1,500.00
Pastoral Expenses	\$500.00
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>\$21,800.00</b>

Operations	
Audit Review	\$10,000.00
Legal Fund	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,000.00
Office Equipment & Supplies	\$9,000.00
Postage	\$4,200.00
Printing	\$4,000.00
Reconciliation Services	\$700.00
Bank Fees	\$1,000.00
Business Communication	\$3,500.00
Office IT Support	\$5,000.00
Church Operating System	\$7,000.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$46,900.00</b>

Building & Grounds	
Church Property Insurance	\$50,000.00
Cleaning & Maintenance	\$4,500.00
Repairs and Upkeep	\$30,000.00
Utilities	\$90,000.00
Grounds & Cemetery Maint	\$26,000.00
Security	\$10,000.00
HVAC Service Contract	\$12,000.00
<b>Total Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$222,500.00</b>

# CHURCH GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE

## How we are Governed: Pastor/Deacon/Congregational Led Church

A – The Head of the Church – Christ is “the head over all things to the church, which is his body...” (Eph. 1:22,23). Unless the head directs the body, the body acts erratically. When the head controls each part of the body individually, there is perfect coordination between the members. This should be true in the local church, which is the local manifestation of His body. Then the members “have the same care for another” (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-31).

B – This model allows the pastor and the deacons to be leaders within the body of Christ. The deacons will be leaders of business and administrative matters while the pastor is considered to be the spiritual leader of the congregation. The deacons are not considered to be overseers of the pastor, and the pastor is not considered to be an overseer to the deacons. They are to be considered equals among equals. The deacons and the pastor are ultimately responsible to the congregation, and the congregation is responsible to the deacons and the pastor. The pastor may present his items of interest to the deacons for approval to be presented to the congregation for adoption. Under this model the church will have committees and ministry teams that have been approved by the congregation. The pastor will serve as Ex-officio member of these committees and ministry teams. It is in this role that he can exert his leadership as the Shepard of the Flock. Hebrew 13 says for the congregation to obey those that rule over you and submit yourselves for they watch for your souls... vs 17. The pastor is God’s prophet, as he faithfully serves the Lord and preaches his Word, he is to be counted worth of double honor (1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:19). However, the pastor is not to be a Lord over God’s heritage (1 Peter 5:1-4).

He has no right to be autocratic, dictatorial or domineering.

The congregation will vote on most all major decisions such as:

1. Hiring of Ministry Staff
2. Election of Deacons
3. Election of church leadership, teachers and committees
4. Church Budgets
5. Land Acquisitions
6. Building of new structures

The pastor will have authority over the staff. He will assign their duties and their assignments. He will carry out the policy and procedures as approved by the personnel committee. He will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the church. He will work very closely with the deacons in carrying out this responsibility.

It is evident, therefore, that the Lord has designed the church with internal, interlocking powers and responsibilities. The church is to be the subject to the pastor. Yet the pastor is subject to the church, in another sense, for he is called by them and may be disciplined by them.

There is no problem here except for those who will not be subject to the Head of the Church. It is not difficult for a Bible taught church to be subject to the overseer or pastor that God has sent. Neither is it difficult for a faithful pastor to be sensitive to the will of God's people. It is a delightful relationship that exists between the pastor, the deacons and the people when we are all subject to Christ the Head.

It is vital that this happy relationship should always be evident in each church. When there are jealousy, bitterness, self-seeking and strife, the testimony of the Lord suffers, saints and sinner are cause to stumble, and the church loses its power to be a blessing because the Holy Spirit is grieved. Pastor and people must both recognize that the honor of the Lord and the welfare of His church must take precedence over personal differences. Let us suffer wrong. Let us "lose face". But the Lord must not be dishonored, His church to be divided, or sinners be offended.

# STRENGTH & GROWTH AREAS

Inman First Baptist Church has many strong areas of ministry and some areas that at one time were strong but now need more attention. Most of the strength areas were mentioned in the part of this profile under ministry programs. Additionally, the below programs are considered by many in our congregation as strengths:

- Sunday morning worship hour
- Our Minister of Spiritual Formation and Engagement has been faithful in his place of service for over 15 years. He has ably filled in preaching, planning worship services and helping with the children's ministry. He also leads Senior Adults, Intergenerational Small Groups, teaches the Pathfinders SS class and initiates many church wide activities. Not to mention all the Advent and Lenten materials and Podcasts. His ability to lead and include all is invaluable.
- The choirs. Though we will resume our search after the Senior Pastor Minister is filled, the music ministry has been viewed as a strength, especially when one realizes that the focus is on worship and not performance, and that the ability to read music and have voice training is not necessary to join our choir.
- Church Facilities. The church building – worship area, classroom space, offices, atrium, choir area, welcome center, gym and family life center – are all modern and very adequately furnished. The church is fairly up to date on technology and has effectively used PowerPoint in worship services and has videotaped services for a number of years.
- The Modern Maturity Group. This group seems to keep on ticking regardless of circumstances. Monthly dinner meetings and planned activities provide fellowship, entertainment and worship experiences that seem to be enjoyed by all.

While the above areas represent strengths, there are areas that many church members and probably a new pastor would feel are need areas. Some of these were much stronger in the past and include:

- Staff vacancies. In addition to the upcoming retirement of our pastor, we have several vacancies or positions filled on an interim basis. These include our Minister of Music and Minister of Family Life. As previously noted, searches for open or interim positions have been deferred until a new pastor has been called.
- Drama and other ministries. Historically, IFBC had an active drama ministry. This ministry contributed to the worship service in special ways and perhaps could be energized again.
- Communication. This has been a historical concern which the church has made strides in addressing in recent years. We now communicate with our congregation via Weekly Announcements, Monthly Newsletters, regular podcasts, streamed and archived worship services and Bible studies on YouTube, weekly text messages, and many other communications.

## **Input from IFBC Members as to what they like best about IFBC as of January 2026:**

- Missions/Ministries such as, but not limited to:
  - Corner of Hope (home furnishings)
  - Threads of Hope (clothing for children in Spartanburg 1 school district)
  - Pockets full of Hope (pocketbooks filled with items the mothers could use)
  - Benevolent weekly mission (food/clothing/help with utilities)
  - Cheerios: providing cheer to homebound and nursing home patients
  - Backpack Program: providing food over the weekends to children in Spartanburg District 1)
- Openness to creating a new ministry when there is a need
- Bible Studies
- Sunday School Classes
- Women's Ministries
- Music
- Youth & Children's programming
- General Fellowship
- An affirming church
- A church that allows women to be deacons and respects the ordination of women
- A Welcoming Church
- Hospitality
- Like a family
- Provides compassion and care when there is a death in the family of a church member; provides a meal for the family prior to or after the service
- Senior Trips
- Youth Trips

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## Including Facts about Greenville and Spartanburg County

Inman is a small town in Spartanburg County, SC with a population of 2,200. However, our post office services over 50,000 homes. Inman is about 15 miles from Spartanburg, SC and about 45 minutes from Greenville, SC. Spartanburg County has a population of 328,000 and Greenville County has a population of 560,000.

Inman is also about 45 minutes from Hendersonville/Asheville, NC and the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway. Inman is about four hours from South Carolina's beaches.

Inman residents have easy access to two major interstate systems, I-26 and I-85.

Listed below are some entertainment and cultural opportunities within a few minutes drive:

- Harvest Day every fall in Inman – an annual celebration in downtown Inman that celebrates Inman's agricultural roots. IFBC has participated by having a booth with information and a little gift for those that stop by.
- Music on Mill – a popular event sponsored by the Inman Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the downtown Inman Businesses and the City of Inman every Friday during the month of June.
- Music on Main – summer concerts in downtown Spartanburg
- Market on Mill – a monthly open market with various vendors held on Mill Street in Inman April, May, September, October and November.
- Apple Festival in Hendersonville, NC
- October – Octoberfest & Music on Mill Fall Edition, downtown Inman.
- Fall for Greenville – a food and entertainment festival in downtown Greenville
- November – Veterans are honored every Veteran's Day with a special parade held downtown followed by a more formal recognition ceremony at Chapman High School.
- December – Light Up Inman
- Dickens of a Christmas in Spartanburg



- Nearby Spartanburg offers a variety of events all year long. Learn more by visiting [www.visitspartanburg.com](http://www.visitspartanburg.com)
- Chapman Cultural Center – located in downtown Spartanburg serves to provide cultural leadership for Greater Spartanburg by developing, strengthening, and promoting the scope, excellence, and educational role of the arts, humanities, and sciences and to further their significance in the life of our community. Learn more about their activities at [www.chapmanculturalcenter.org](http://www.chapmanculturalcenter.org) and ways to get involved.
- The Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium and the Peace Center in Greenville offer Broadway shows and concerts among other events
- The Bon Secours Center in Greenville offers concerts and sporting events including the SEC Women’s Basketball Tournament
- The Children’s Museum has locations in both Spartanburg and Greenville
- The Greenville Zoo – this 14-acre zoo is home to giraffes, curious orangutans, cuddly red pandas, majestic lions, and many more animals. The zoo is among only 10% of US exhibitors to be AZA-accredited, meaning they display steady commitment to animal welfare. The staff promote conservation through youth education programs throughout the summer and school year.
- Hub City Spartanburgers – in the spring of 2025 the minor league baseball team dubbed the Spartanburgers opened their season in downtown Spartanburg



- BMW Zentrum – the only BMW museum in North America, which is located at their plant site in western Spartanburg County.
- Recreational Opportunities nearby: Both Spartanburg and nearby Greenville, SC offer a wealth of family friendly recreational activities to enjoy including the Swamp Rabbit Trail in Greenville, SC a 28-mile multi-use trail system that runs along the Reedy River connecting Greenville County with restaurants, schools and parks. In the works: The Saluda Rail Trail will begin in Inman and end in Zirconia, NC. This is an exciting project for Inman as this will foster positive economic growth while encouraging healthy family friendly activity. For more information on recreational opportunities including nearby lakes, and streams visit: [www.spartanburgparks.org](http://www.spartanburgparks.org), [www.visitspartanburg.com](http://www.visitspartanburg.com).
- Greenville Swamp Rabbits – is a pro-hockey team located in nearby Greenville, SC.
- Regional activities – Upstate SC has a host of recreational opportunities and the proximity to the NC mountains makes this a desirable area for anyone wishing to connect to nature.

**Schools:**

There are seven distinct public-school districts in Spartanburg County offering a variety of academic, athletic, and arts programs for over 45,000 students across 75+ schools. These schools operate independently covering areas like Spartanburg City, Boiling Springs, Inman, and Woodruff, with a mix of suburban and rural, award-winning schools. Inman is in District 1 which includes Campobello and Landrum and has two high schools – Chapman HS (Class AAA) and Landrum HS (Class AA). This district is recognized as a Purple Star School District with a focus on student achievement and a 2025 bond initiative. This school district is highly regarded, recently ranking #14 for “Best School Districts in South Carolina” and earning the statewide Purple Heart District designation for supporting military-connected families.

The district achieved a 94.4% graduation rate in 2025 which ranks top in the state. Students in this district consistently outperform state averages in most SC READY tested areas. The 2025 Bond Referendum (\$140 million) was passed with no tax increase to replace aging facilities specifically targeting O.P. Earle Elementary School (Landrum, SC) and Mabry Middle School (Inman, SC).

There are also seven higher education institutions located in Spartanburg. They include, Converse College, Wofford College, University of SC-Upstate (USC-Upstate), Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg Community College, Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Growth:** About 25 families are moving into Spartanburg County per week, so we are ready for growth.

**For Expectations of our Senior Pastor, please review our Senior Pastor profile which can be seen here: [Senior-Pastor-Profile.pdf](#)**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST  
IN OUR CHURCH**