

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on Saturday, November 22, 1823, eleven Baptists met in the home of Charles Hardin to organize the first church of any denomination, First Baptist Church, within Columbia, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church has acknowledged and lamented its early history of supporting race-based chattel slavery and is working to build a more inclusive, equitable world; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church has, from its early history, been a leader in supporting women at all levels of church leadership and involvement; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church was instrumental in establishing Stephens College, previously known as Columbia Female Baptist Academy, as church member James L. Stephens donated \$20,000 in 1870; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church was also instrumental in ensuring Columbia and Boone County became the home of the University of Missouri as founding church member William Jewell led the effort to raise the money to outbid other counties; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church has been a leader in campus ministry and helped establish one of the first Baptist Student Unions in the country, the Baptist Student Union, now known as The Mizzou BSU, located in the middle of the University of Missouri campus; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church founded the Child Development Center, which for more than 50 years provided high-quality preschool education for all children, no matter their religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church was a founding force in the Odyssey Chamber Music Series and has opened the Sanctuary to host hundreds of concerts enriching the lives of many; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church has supported the community through its Extra Mile transition house, allowing families with children experiencing housing instability temporary housing and resources to gain permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, for the past 200 years, the mission and ministry of First Baptist Church have been maintained by its committed and dedicated members; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church is a vibrant community of Christ-followers striving for unity not uniformity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor of the City of Columbia, Missouri do hereby proclaim Sunday, November 12, 2023 as

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DAY

in the City of Columbia, Missouri, in celebration of its 200 Year Anniversary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed hereto the seal of the City of Columbia, this 12th day of November, 2023.

*Barbara Buffaloe*

Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Sheela Amin*

Sheela Amin, City Clerk

