



Dear South Fellowship Family,

Advent is a season of beginning. It is the start of a new year in the church calendar and an opportunity for us to "begin again." And we begin by... waiting. We wait and prepare together as a local church to celebrate God's unequalled and greatest gift of his Son at Christmas. We are also reminded that, as God's global Church, we wait together and across generations for Jesus's return.

We acknowledge the magnificence of His gift of Jesus, and we also reflect on how God continues to bless South Fellowship church, including:

- Inspiring Baptism Sundays in May and November, during which 24 children and adults publicly shared their decision to walk in the way of Jesus!
- The first adult missionary visitations trips from South since the pandemic.
- A MomCo group that continues to welcome women into Jesus-centered community and discipleship, including those that find themselves outside of a Christian community.
- Record numbers of families (around 160 per week) receiving food through our Food Bank.
- An ongoing faithful and healthy Celebrate Recovery community.
- A thriving Student Ministry that provides a place for students to belong and to grow in Jesus.
- A flourishing Kids Ministry that grows as families within our community invite others.
- The joy of sharing our resources with more than 25 local and overseas partners.
- A process of discernment during which the elders at South felt God's call to invite women to serve on the elder board.

As we end 2024, we are thankful for all that God has done, yet we are also aware that there is much opportunity. We believe that South offers something important to Littleton and its surrounding area. At South, people grow in relationship with our generous, gracious, and loving God. According to Barna Research Group, about 30% of our society is not engaged in a church community because their past church experiences have been negative or "toxic." South is continually blessed by new people who enter our community wounded but stay because they experience God's love and grace here.

Paul is a man who calls South Fellowship home. In 2022, Paul was in jail and came to know Jesus there. Thanks to some wonderful friends, he found his way to South. South has become a safe place for Paul. South allows him to grow while recognizing that he has a past. Paul may greet you when you arrive on Sunday, or he might prepare the donuts and coffee you will enjoy. Paul's transformation is happening right now in our community. Paul's is just one of many stories that God is redeeming here at South!

In November, our teaching focused on "The Generous Life." Our guest speaker, Dave Sherman, invited us into giving that was not just subtractional (I lose when I am generous) or transactional (I gain something when I am generous), but transformational (I am transformed toward the image of God when I am generous). This type of giving recognizes that we give TO Jesus THROUGH South Fellowship out of gratitude for what he has done in and for us.

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As the board of elders at South, we invite you to respond to what God is teaching us as a community. We would like to see giving in balance with the budget. Currently, we are \$57,000 behind on giving.

If you have never given to South but you attend, we invite you to participate in giving at South. You may even find yourself moved to establish a regular contribution. If you already participate in regular giving within your church community, our invitation is to contribute beyond your normal giving. As you pray, please ask God to show you how you might be part of His provision. Please know that we, as elders, are asking ourselves the same questions and that we are praying with you!

You may participate via the Church Center app, online at [southfellowship.org/give](https://southfellowship.org/give), in person on a Sunday morning, or through mail.

Finally, at South, we never want giving to be driven by guilt but rather by invitation to transformation and as a way to participate in what God is doing. The invitation to each of us is to give out of our gratitude as transformed children of God. We are no longer prisoners to the world's view of money but can live in God's promise that:

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. - 1 Timothy 6:6-7*

Grace & Peace,

South Fellowship Elder Board



Alex Walton



Bill Wizeman



Dan Elliott



David Shugert



Jimmy Jones



Jonathan (JD) Dunn



Mike Galuzzi



Peter Persson



Steve Schroeder