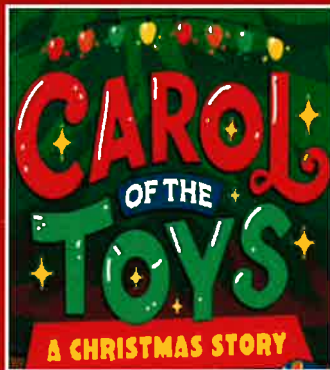
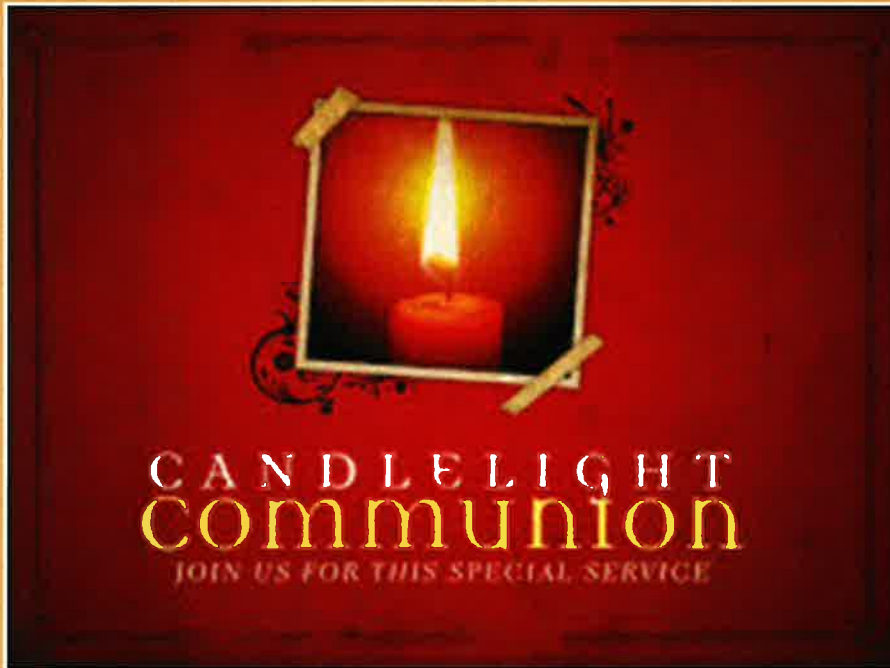




Dr. Paul Noe, Pastor
Rev. Mark Abbott, Associate Pastor/Minister of Music
Rev. Brian Ayers, Associate Pastor/Director of Operations
Rev. Jason Fitzgerald, Associate Pastor/Minister of Youth
Rev. Charlie Crews, Minister of Senior Adults
Mrs. Missy Ferraro, Children's Coordinator
Mrs. Tina Lancaster, Office Manager/Financial Secretary
Mrs. Renee Hope, Ministry Assistant

December 2025 Newsletter

Candlelight and Communion Service
Sunday Evening - December 21st
6:00 PM



See Music Moments page for more details.

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR PAUL'S PARAGRAPHS

Dear Members and Friends of Sweetwater,

Blessings! It is hard to believe that we find ourselves in the Christmas season.

The greatest news in human history is the news that Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. The Angel of the Lord declared to the shepherds in **Luke 2:10**, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you **good news** of great joy that will be for all the people." (ESV) News is an acronym that stands for North, East, West, and South. The good news of Jesus Christ is to be spread north, east, west, and south. Note three things about the "**good news**" of Christ's birth and the redemption of mankind.

First, the Christmas story is **TRUTHFUL** news. **Ephesians 1:13** states, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation . . ." **Billy Graham** once stated, "Christmas is not a myth, not a tradition, not a dream. It is a glorious reality."

Secondly, the Christmas story is **JOYFUL** news. The meaning and message of Christmas fills our hearts with joy. **Isaiah 12:2 and 3** declares, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."

Thirdly, the Christmas story is **WONDERFUL** news. This news is wonderful because our Savior Jesus Christ has come to save us from our sins. **First John 4:14** reminds us of the following, "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world."

One of my favorite hymns is "***Tell Me the Story of Jesus***" by Fanny Crosby. The first stanza is as follows:

**"Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.**

**Tell how the angels, in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
"Glory to God in the highest!
Peace, and good tidings to earth."**

Merry Christmas!!

With a Pastor's Love,

Paul

Philippians 1:3



Veteran's Recognition Picture From November 9th, 2025



Thank You For Your Service



HISTORY ROOM HOURS

Wednesday, December 3rd & Wednesday, January 7th
(1st Wednesday of the Month)

5:00-6:00 PM

Sunday, January 18th
(3rd Sunday of the Month)

4:30-5:30 PM



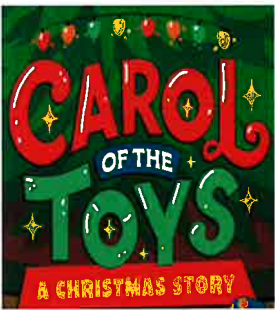
Music Moments with Mark

Dear Church Family,

It's that time of year again. I hope you will mark your calendars so that you don't miss out on any of the things happening here at Sweetwater as we celebrate the Christmas season. Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones!



Don't forget that we'll be celebrating the season of Advent as we remember the true meaning of the season! Advent is the celebration of something that is to come. We celebrate Advent as we remember the coming of the Christ child, and that one day soon He will come again as King of Kings and Lord of Lords!



"Carol Of The Toys" is the 2025 Kidz Choir Christmas Musical that will be presented on Sunday Night, December 7th @ 6:00PM in the Worship Center of Sweetwater Baptist. Please come support our kids as they help us find the true meaning of Christmas!



Join us on Sunday Night, December 14th @ 6:00PM as the Music Ministry of Sweetwater Baptist presents "A Night Of Christmas" with Michael O'Brien. It will be a wonderful time of worship as our Celebration Choir joins Michael O'Brien in this special time of worship. Join us as we celebrate the reason for the season!



Join us for our annual Candlelight Communion Service on Sunday Night, December 21st at 6:00PM. It will be a special time of worship together as a church family. Please make every effort to invite your family and friends for this worship experience! Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

Mark

BRIAN'S BRIEFS

This month's spotlights are on our administrative assistants, Renee Hope and Tina Lancaster. There is no way I can list everything that these ladies do for us here at Sweetwater. They both serve so faithfully the Pastor, Staff and Congregation each week.

Renee has been at Sweetwater over 3 years as our administrative assistant/receptionist.

- » She answers the phone which is a full-time job within itself
- » Keeps the church Calendar for all events and programs
- » Schedules the usage for the Chapel, Fellowship Hall, Gym, and Wild Game Buildings
- » Produces the weekly bulletin, prayer sheet, and monthly newsletter
- » Schedules and corresponds with all the people for the food pantry each week
- » Updates and enters all the Sunday School records
- » Corresponds with all visitors
- » Plus supports the Pastor and staff with anything they need done

Tina has been with us a little over a year. She serves as our financial secretary.

- » Responsible for all things financial: Contributions, paying bills, budgets, payroll, writing checks, plus a host of other items
- » Works with Finance
- » Attends finance meeting and church business meetings
- » Orders Sunday School literature, magazines, and devotions
- » Orders supplies or materials for me (Brian)
- » Keeps me on task (that is a full-time job) and informed when we get notifications from one of our subs, utilities, contracts etc ...
- » Supports the Pastor and staff with anything they need done
- » There are a host of other responsibilities that Tina does behind the scenes.

Let these ladies know how much you love and appreciate them when you see or talk to them again. This is a busy place with lots of moving parts. They help us juggle each and every day.

Men's Bible Study

Winter Kick-Off Monday, January 12

6:30 pm

B-108

We will be diving into the book of James.

SENIOR ADULT NEWS

CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

by Patricia L Cisco

*Today, December 23rd, another Christmas nears.
I try to keep tradition up while holding back my tears.
I know I have been blessed for all the many years
of love and joy and family and times we had to share.*

*The presents wrapped, the tree is lit, the wreath upon the door,
but pondering all the Christmases past and tears begin to fall.
This Christmas will be different,
for some very special loved ones have received God's final call.*

*Then I dry my tears and say a special prayer.
Dear God, my gift to you is that soul I loved so dear.
I thank you for their life and love
I was so blessed to share.*

*Now all that I can ask of you is to keep them in your care!
I also want to offer you my each and every tear.
Now I promise to make Christmas joy for those I still have here
and put a smile upon their face while we have time to share.*



Everyone looks forward to Christmas! The lights, the carols, the joy! But for some, Christmas is a difficult time of the year. An empty chair around the table is reminder of a loved one gone to be with Jesus. Yes, it can be a difficult time for those who have lost a loved one. Let me offer you some encouragement from from God's Word. The Lord loves you and has not forgotten you! (Jer. 31:3) Your church family and your friends love you and want to bless you this Christmas! Allow them to do so.

Let me encourage you to do these four things this Christmas:

1. **Trust** God to meet your needs. He knows your needs even before you ask! Matt. 6:8; Isaiah 43:2; 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:6.
2. **Rest** in the promises of God's Word. Prov. 30:5; 1 Kings 8:56.
3. **Love** the family that you have, they are hurting as well. John 15:12-13; Matthew 22:36-39.
4. **Pray** for God to restore your joy. Psalm 51:12; Psalm 30:5; Neh. 8:10.

The lights and decorations are always beautiful at Christmas! But not nearly as beautiful as Christmas must be in heaven! God bless you this Christmas.

Charlie



UPCOMING EVENTS

Myrtle Beach Seniors Trip on Thursday, December 1st and 2nd
(for those who signed up)

Senior Birthday Bash on Thursday, December 18th @ 2:00PM
at Charlie & Nancy's House

Joyous Senior's Luncheon on Friday, December 19th @ 11:45am
Special Guest: The Garden City Chorus
(For any change in reservation, call the church office.)

Joyous Senior's Luncheon on Friday, January 16th @ 11:45am
Special Guest: Dawn Smith Jordan, Singer/Inspirational Speaker



A Season of Growth, Service, and Gospel Boldness

November was an incredible month for our youth ministry. During Fall Forward, our students received hands-on evangelism training and then immediately put it into practice. They served through a local missions' project and then went door-to-door sharing the gospel in our community.

Some of the conversations were encouraging, and some were challenging—but all were real. God used this weekend to stretch our students, deepen their faith, and strengthen their fellowship with one another.

Learning to Think and Live Biblically

We also began a new series called Mindful Conduct, walking through 1 Peter 1:13–21. Students are learning what it means to set their minds fully on Christ, to live holy lives, and to honor God with their thoughts, choices, and conduct. This has been a rich study, and we will continue it throughout December as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.



Serving Beyond Ourselves

In November, we took a team of youth and adults to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte, NC. This was a powerful opportunity for students to see firsthand how small acts of service can have global impact. Our students packed, prepared, and prayed over boxes that will carry the gospel to children around the world. We are so thankful for their servants' hearts.

Looking Ahead: Winter Xtreme – Gatlinburg, TN

Later this month, we will take a group of youth to Winter Xtreme in Gatlinburg. This weekend includes dynamic preaching, powerful worship, Christian concerts, and an afternoon for our group to explore downtown Gatlinburg together. This trip is always a highlight of the year and a meaningful time for students to grow spiritually and build Christ-centered friendships.

A Thankful Heart & A Church that Prays

Church family, our youth are growing spiritually, stepping out in boldness, loving others, and seeking to honor Jesus in real and tangible ways. Thank you for praying, giving, supporting, and cheering them on. Your investment is making a difference—not just in this ministry, but in the future of the church.

As we close out 2025, we ask you to continue lifting our students up in prayer. Pray that they would stand firm in the truth, walk closely with Jesus, and shine His light wherever they go.

"Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." – 1 Peter 1:13

In Christ,
Jason Fitzgerald
Sweetwater Youth Ministry
jfitzgerald@sweetwaterbc.church



KIDZ Ministry CORNER

Dear Church Family,

I want to start by thanking Mrs. Elane Casteen and Miss Avery Key for being special guests during our Kidz Missions time in November. These two sweet ladies acted out the life of Lottie Moon for children and even served them cookies just like Lottie would have. It was definitely a blessing to have them join us as we learned about how missions impact everyone.

There are two exciting events for your children to attend this month. On the evening of December 10, we will be heading to Christmas on Breezy Hill. Please make sure you sign up with Missy or on the form in the welcome center. Also, we will have our annual Birthday Party for Jesus on December 17, at 6:30 PM, in the Family Life Center. We are asking that children bring a new coat, jacket, hoodie, or socks to donate to a local school. If you are unable to bring one of these items, we would still love to have your child join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Keep in mind that there will be no Sunday evening activities for our children during the month of December. This will allow the children to enjoy the special services that are planned for Sunday evenings.

Love,
"Miss" Missy Ferraro

    			
Sunday, December 7, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Brenda West Toddlers - Jordan and Taylor Lyons	9:45 AM Susan Holley	11:00 AM Babies - Christie and Mitchell Amerson Toddlers - Hannah McClure and Barbara Schmidt	6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, December 14, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Angie Stuckey Toddlers - Jada Dunn	9:45 AM Nancy Clark	11:00 AM Babies - Ginny and Avery Key Toddlers - Katie and Vernon Johnson, Irina Taylor	7:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, December 21, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Lori Preston Toddlers - Renee Stewart	9:45 AM Christie Amerson	11:00 AM Babies - Katie Fitzgerald and Stacie Griffin Toddlers - Amy and Terry Jarvis	7:00 PM Clydie Blackwood Christie Amerson
Sunday, December 28, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Alyss Marchant Toddlers - Robin Lanham	9:45 AM Cindy O'Driscoll	11:00 AM Babies - April and Claire Jernigan Toddlers - Paul and Carol Bunch	7:00 PM Clydie Blackwood

Nursery is also offered on Wednesday evenings during the service and during adult choir practice.
 Thank you so much for choosing to share God's love with the youngest children.
 Please contact Missy at (803) 270-4055 if you are unable to be in the nursery on your assigned day.



Sweetwater's Christmas Angel Tree Is Up

"Christmas Angel Tree" Recipients from Mossy Creek Elementary School have been specifically selected by the school's guidance counselor.

The Sweetwater Angel Tree is upstairs near the elevators.

To participate, select one or more labels from the Angel Tree and sign the clipboard (so we can contact you if necessary).

Each label has the child's gender, age, race, clothes sizes, and toy wishes. How much you spend on your selected child(ren) is entirely up to you. Toy wishes are only suggestions!

All gifts should be wrapped or put in a big gift bag with the label attached. Wrapped gifts MUST be placed under the Angel Tree no later than Sunday, December 14th. If you cannot meet this deadline, please contact Sharon Mathis, 803-292-3614. All gifts need to be delivered to the school for distribution to kids before their Christmas break, so please meet the deadline!

Pick up your labels TODAY!!!

TOGETHER

함께
ENSEMBLE
JUNTO
一起
ZUSAMMEN
معاً

WEEK OF PRAYER
for International Missions



Day 1



Emiko and Hannah Moreno



Day 2



Day 3



Katee Shepard



Day 4



Day 5



Day 6



Day 7



Day 8

Please, pray about the amount that God would have you to give to support missions across the world.

SERVICE PERSONS OF THE MONTH



Fred Funderburg, Jr.
United States Army
Cousin of Paul & Laurie Crews

MSG Fred Funderburg, Jr., US Army
Stationed at Ft. Bliss, El Paso, TX
Cousin of Paul & Laurie Crews



Jerod & Meghan Tew
United States Navy
Great Granddaughter of Lib Zahner

Jerod & Meghan Tew, US Navy
Stationed at San Antonio, TX
Great Granddaughter of Lib Zahner

Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
Goal - \$28,000.00

NO FINANCE MEETING
and
NO DEACONS MEETING
for the Month of December

NEELY MISSIONS GROUP

Wednesday, December 10th
10:00AM-12:00PM
Fellowship Hall

DECEMBER DEACON SCHEDULE

7	(8:30AM) Chic Morris	(11:00AM) Archie Coleman
14	(8:30AM) Dick O'Driscoll	(11:00AM) Stan Tompkins
21	(8:30AM) Grant Preston	(11:00AM) Junior Johnson
28	(8:30 AM) Matt Robinson	(11:00AM) Chris McBride

Women's Ministry News



BLOSSOM
COTTAGE MINISTRY
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Winter/Spring Registration
November 1-30, 2025
blossombiblestudy@gmail.com

RE-STORED
paleo 25

JANUARY 31, 2026
10:00AM

\$25.00/PERSON

FELLOWSHIP HALL

VINTAGE GARDENS BLESSING BAGS



Each year we provide Christmas blessings to 80 families at Vintage Gardens. Each bag costs approximately \$60 to make. Any donation amount is welcome!



CHURCH CALENDAR

SCHEDULE EACH WEEK

SUNDAYS (NOVEMBER 30; DECEMBER 7, 14, 21, 28)

Early Worship Service - 8:30AM (Worship Center)

Sunday School - 9:45AM

Morning Worship Service - 11:00AM (Worship Center)

Children's Worship - 11:00AM (FLC)

No Mission Kidz in December

Youth Bible Study - 6:00-7:00PM (C202)

Evening Worship Service - 6:00PM (Worship Center)

MONDAYS (DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22)(No Activities Dec 29)

Food Pantry and Clothes Closet - 1:00-2:00PM (Donations)

Food Pantry (By Appointment) - 2:00PM

Clothes Closet - 2:00-4:00PM (Shopping)

WEDNESDAYS (DECEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room) (No Activities Dec 24 & 31)

Faith & Fun (Youth) - 6:15-7:15PM (Gym) (No Activities Dec 24 & 31)

Kidz Choir - 6:15-7:15PM (No Activities Dec 24 & 31)

Midweek Service - 6:30PM (Worship Center) (No Activities Dec 24 & 31)

Celebration Choir Rehearsal - 7:20PM (No Activities Dec 24 & 31)

FRIDAYS (DECEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26; JANUARY 2)

Prayer - 6:00AM (Chapel)



WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30TH - DECEMBER 6TH

LOTTIE MOON - Week of Prayer

NOVEMBER 30th - Faith, Family, Fun Lunch (immediately following 11am WS) (FH) (RSVP requested)

DECEMBER 1st & 2nd- Myrtle Beach Trip Seniors (for those who signed up)

DECEMBER 3rd - MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE is in the Chapel 6:30PM

DECEMBER 3rd - KIDZ CHOIR REHEARSAL Worship Center

DECEMBER 3rd - History Room is open - 5:00PM-6:00PM ask Pastor for firm time

DECEMBER 4th - OCC Trip Charlotte (for those who signed up)

DECEMBER 6th - Vintage Gardens Christmas

WEEK OF DECEMBER 7TH - DECEMBER 13TH

LOTTIE MOON - Day 8 of Week of Prayer

DECEMBER 7th - KIDZ CHOIR CHRISTMAS MUSICAL - 6:00PM

DECEMBER 10th - Neely Missions Group - 10:00AM-NOON (FH)

DECEMBER 10th - CHRISTMAS on Breezy Hill for children - 6:30PM

DECEMBER 13th - Men's Prayer Breakfast - 8:00AM (FH)

WEEK OF DECEMBER 14TH - DECEMBER 20TH

DECEMBER 14th - Faith, Family, Fun - Soup & Share Lunch (immediately following 11am WS) (FH) (RSVP)

DECEMBER 14th - CHRISTMAS CONCERT w/ Michael O'Brien - 6:00PM

DECEMBER 15th - Church Deadline for Submissions to January Newsletter

DECEMBER 17TH - KIDZ BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS - 6:30PM (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

DECEMBER 18th - Seniors Birthday Bash (DEC Birthdays) - 2:00PM RSVP

DECEMBER 19th - Joyous Seniors - 11:45AM (FLC)

WEEK OF DECEMBER 21ST - DECEMBER 27TH

DECEMBER 21st - CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE - 6:00PM (Worship Center)

DECEMBER 24th - MERRY CHRISTMAS EVE (Church Office is Closed)

DECEMBER 25th - MERRY CHRISTMAS (Church Office is Closed)

DECEMBER 27th - Youth Winter Xtreme Gatlinburg (for those who signed up)

WEEK OF DECEMBER 28TH - JANUARY 3RD

DECEMBER 28th, 29th - Youth Winter Xtreme Gatlinburg (for those who signed up)

JANUARY 1st - HAPPY NEW YEAR (Church Office is Closed)