



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

February 2026 Newsletter

February is "I LOVE MY CHURCH" Month

I ♥ MY
CHURCH

Sunday, February 1, 2026
Dr. Elijah Soritau
From Emanuel University and Seminary
Oradea, Romania
Will be our guest Speaker
in Both AM Worship Services



**Super Bowl
Sunday
February 8th**

**Maximum participation in Sunday
School, Worship, and Financial Giving**



**Please, bring a can of Soup
to Super Bowl Sunday
for the Sweetwater Food Pantry.**



**Coming Up!
Wild Game Supper
Saturday, March 7th
beginning at 4:00 pm**

**Chris Wells - Guest Speaker
Chaplain with Bassmaster Elite Series
Mike and Kim Blackwood - Guest Singers
Eudora Farms - Children's Program**

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

A Special “Thank You” to Mark Abbott!

Thank you, Mark, for ten plus years of service to the Sweetwater Baptist Church as Minister of Music and Worship. We will be praying for you as you begin this new chapter of ministry as a hospice chaplain. We are grateful for your hard work and dedication to the music ministry of Sweetwater. You will always be special to us, and we pray the very best for you and your family in the days to come.

**We Love You!
Sweetwater Baptist Church Family**

Reception for Mark, Alyson, and Noah Abbott

February 22nd

Immediately after the Evening Worship Service

In the Family Life Center

There will be a box for you to put your cards, letters, and expressions of love in for Mark and his family.

PASTOR PAUL'S PARAGRAPHS

Dear Members and Friends of Sweetwater Baptist Church,

Blessings! February 14th is Valentine's Day. It is a day set apart to focus on affection, charity, and love. I would like to declare that February is **"I LOVE MY CHURCH"** month at the Sweetwater Baptist Church.

There are several ways that we can express our love for Sweetwater this month and throughout the year. First, **PRAY** for Sweetwater. The greatest thing we can do for our church and for one another is to pray. Paul expressed to the church at Rome his ongoing prayers for them. He writes in **Roman 1:9**, "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers." Let's pray for the staff, leadership, members, and ministries of Sweetwater throughout the month in a persistent and specific way.

Secondly, we can express our love for Sweetwater in our **ATTENDANCE**. Our faithful attendance is an indicator of our love for our church. **Psalms 122:1** states, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Let me encourage you to express your love for your church this month through your attendance in Sunday School, worship, and other activities. You will be blessed and so will the church.

A third way that we can express our love for Sweetwater is through our **FINANCIAL GIVING**. Your church depends on your faithful tithing and giving to support its many ministries. **Second Corinthians 9:7** says, "... for God loves a cheerful giver." I hope you will prayerfully consider making a sacrificial, monetary gift to Sweetwater in February as an expression of your love and affection.

Also, let me take this opportunity to express my love and gratitude to you for the privilege of serving you as your pastor. You are a wonderful church family, and it is a joy to serve you. Also, thank you for your prayers and concern for me as I anticipate hip replacement surgery on February 9th at Burke County. Your concern has been overwhelming, and I am truly grateful.

With a Pastor's Love,

**I ♥ MY
CHURCH**

Paul
Philippians 1:3



Music Moments with Mark

Dear Church Family,

I don't know about you, but it seems that sometimes the struggles of this life can be overwhelming at times. Amid whatever you might be going through in this journey called life, I pray that the words to the song I share with you today will remind you of the faithfulness of God. Tim Challis cowrote this song and he writes,

"Every song has a story, and the story of this song is one of sorrow and loss, a story of passing through a dark valley. But it is also a story of God's sweet comfort and of his people blessing his name even in the darkness. I trust that it will give words to your heart as it has to mine."

May God give you peace this year. Peace amid whatever you might be facing, dealing with, or even going through. May He remind you of His presence and that the Good Shepherd is there through it all.

In The Valley(Bless The Lord)

Verse 1

When the path that I feared
Is the way He has set,
And I long to give in and retreat,
Still to Jesus I hold
As I face every step,
For the Lord, He will give me His peace.

Chorus

Bless the Lord, He will give me His peace.
Bless the Lord, He will give me His peace.
And if I should remain in the valley today,
Bless the Lord, He will give me His peace.

Verse 2

When the road that I tread
Fills my heart with despair,
And it seems like my grief has no end,
Still to Jesus I hold,
Who will walk with me there,
And the Lord, He will give me His strength.

Chorus

Bless the Lord, He will give me His strength.
Bless the Lord, He will give me His strength.
And if I should remain in the valley today,
Bless the Lord, He will give me His strength.

Verse 3

On the road that You walked
With the weight of the cross,
All my pain and my sorrow You held.
So to You I shall hold,
You redeem every loss.
For my Lord, You have given Yourself.

Chorus

Bless the Lord, for He gives me Himself.
Bless the Lord, for He gives me Himself.
And if I should remain in the valley today,
Bless the Lord, for He gives me Himself.

Finding Peace in His Presence,
Mark

BRIAN'S BRIEFS

2026 is going to be a banner year for us here at Sweetwater Baptist. I am praying for record breaking Sunday School and worship attendance, baptisms, people involved in different ministries, mission opportunities, and everyone closer in their relationship with Jesus.

I have one more ministry spotlight to brag on. That spotlight is our volunteers. I know just the volunteers that I am involved with help save the church tens of thousands of dollars each year. There are very few breakdowns we have to call a "professional". Our guys are better than most professionals I can assure you.

All of our ministry teams and their leaders from Children's, Youth, Women's, Blossom, Sr Adults, Wild Game, Benevolence/Food pantry, WMU, Music, Audio/Video, and there are dozens more. Thank each of you for your service to the Lord and let's win people to Jesus.

Let me encourage each of you to get involved in a ministry this year.

CALENDAR

Monday Nights - Men's Bible Study

We are diving into the book of James. We meet in Room B208 at 6:30 pm on Monday nights.

February 8 - Super Bowl Sunday

Maximum participation in Sunday School, Worship, and Financial Giving.

Please bring a can of soup for the Sweetwater Food Pantry.

February 21 - WAFJ will be having their annual Date Night. There may be a few tickets available, check on the wafj.com website to purchase tickets. Thank you to our sound and video team and our parking team for helping during this event.



March 7 - Wild Game Supper on Saturday, March 7 at 4 pm. Keep your eyes open for the volunteer sign up book. Chris Wells will be speaking. He is currently the Chaplain for the Fellowship of Christian Anglers of the Bassmaster Elite Series. Mike and Kim Blackwood will be leading worship for the wild game supper and will be leading us in worship Sunday morning.

March 8 - One Worship Service at 10:00 am in the Worship Center

Chris Wells - Guest Speaker

Mike and Kim Blackwood - Guest Singers



SENIOR ADULT NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It's a time of new beginnings for a new year! It's a time that many make resolutions. (I made one once that only lasted two days!) Like the rich young ruler in Mark chapter ten, when we do things in our own strength and our own wills we often fall short of our best intentions. And sometimes in doing so we miss God's desire for our lives.

This year I want to be like the little boy with the sack lunch in John chapter 6. He gave all he had to Jesus, who used what he gave to bless and feed the five thousand. This new year I want to seek the Lord with all my heart. To see where He leads, to discover and accomplish His will for me. It starts with surrender of our wills. It leads us to service for Jesus and His kingdom; and the result is the sovereign Will of God in our lives. And that's a pretty good resolution.

"Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."
Psalm 37:4

Your Team-Mate In Christ
Charlie

UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Birthday Bash on Thursday, February 19th @ 2:00PM at Charlie & Nancy's House

Joyous Senior's Luncheon on Friday, February 20th @ 11:45am

Special Guest: **Kevin Pollock and Karen Jones** providing music. Kevin is the Musical Director for Trinity on the Hill Church in Augusta. (For any change in reservation, call the church office.)



KEVIN POLLOCK



DAN WILLIAMS

Joyous Senior's Luncheon on Friday, March 20th @ 11:45am

Special Guest: **The Called Quartet**. The lead of the Called Quartet, Dan Williams, is the Minister of Senior Adults at Lexington Baptist Church.

ARE YOU SEEKING A PLACE TO SERVE?

The Children's Medical Center Ministry Needs Your Help

8 food closets are maintained monthly for children who receive life-saving treatments, and we meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 to place God's Word on each item of food. Then at the end of the month, the items are delivered to the hospital.

If you would like to learn more, please call Shirley McBride at 803-640-5779 or talk with anyone listed below.

Jim & Shirley Wilmoth
Donnie and Laney Casteen
Cindy O'Driscoll
Chuck & Sandy Nail
Martha Clifton
Rich & Margaret Long
Sandy Barrs
Patsy Walker

Financial contributions to the CMC Ministry are always welcome.
Thank you for your generosity and support.

WAYS TO GIVE

Give conveniently this week in the following ways:

IN PERSON

Please see an usher



In front of the
Welcome Center Desk

OFFERING BOX

THE VAULT

in the hallway between
Welcome Center
and Elevator



ONLINE

sweetwaterbc.church/giving



ShelbyNEXT | Giving
Finance



In front of the
Church Office
drop into the
Locked Mailbox

DRIVE-THRU



MAIL

Sweetwater Baptist Church
198 Sweetwater Road
North Augusta, SC 29860

Designations for any ministry can be made in the memo section of the check.



Celebrating Growth, Community, and God's Faithfulness

The past few months have been full of momentum, connection, and spiritual growth in our youth ministry — and we want to pause and thank God for what He is doing among our students.

MONTHLY RECAP

In December, we hosted a bonfire event in partnership with FCA, welcoming students from Strom Thurmond, Fox Creek, and North Augusta High Schools. It was a powerful night of fellowship and connection, bringing students together across schools and pointing them to Jesus. That same month, we traveled to Gatlinburg, Tennessee for Winter Xtreme 2025, where our students experienced strong biblical teaching, meaningful worship, and Christ-centered community. It was especially encouraging to see how much our youth have grown together over the past year as they worshiped Jesus side by side.

We kicked off January with a youth party in the Wild Game Building for a night of fun, laughter, and community — an exciting way to begin a new year together.



Serving same day as the bonfire



FCA Bonfire



FCA Bonfire

Winter Xtreme 2025



Youth Christmas Party



WHAT'S AHEAD

Looking ahead to February, we're excited to take a group of our young ladies to the Sadie Robertson Huff event at Millbrook Baptist Church in Aiken, SC. We're praying this night will be a time of encouragement, truth, and spiritual renewal as they are challenged to live boldly for Christ.

SUNDAY NIGHT LAUNCH

In addition to these events, Sunday nights have become a key launching point for our youth each week. Rather than simply gathering, we are intentionally sending students into the week ahead and encouraging them to live out their faith at school, at home, and among their peers. Through worship, teaching, prayer, and community, students are reminded that Sunday night isn't the end of church for the week—it's the beginning of their mission field. Our desire is that every student leaves equipped, encouraged, and confident to walk with Jesus and represent Him well in the days ahead.

CURRENT STUDIES

Alongside this, we began an apologetics study in January titled "Is It True? Why Do We Believe the Bible?" This series is helping students move beyond a borrowed or surface-level faith and into a confident, thoughtful belief rooted in truth. They are learning not only what they believe, but why they believe it—equipping them with answers to the real questions young people are asking today. Our goal is to see students develop a faith with a solid biblical foundation, one that can withstand doubt, culture, and challenge while pointing others to Christ.

Church family, God is clearly at work in the lives of our young people—and you are a part of it. Your prayers, support, and encouragement matter more than you know. We invite you to continue walking with us: pray for our students, celebrate what God is doing, and invest in the next generation as they grow in faith and devotion to Jesus.

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." – Hebrews 10:24

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

Sweetwater
Youth Ministry



KIDZ Ministry CORNER



Dear Church Family,

When I think of February, I think of God's great love for all of us! I am also reminded that He wants us to love everyone as He loves us. This is such a difficult concept for our school-aged children to understand. This month, we will focus on how to show love to others that we may not be comfortable around. Loving others can mean praying for those we don't understand and showing kindness to others. Help your child pray for and show kindness to others this month.

This month in Mission Kidz, your children will be learning about missionary projects in Central Asia. We will learn about how Missionary Nina Griffin works with university students and what Project 3000 is. Our Bible focus will be on the Apostle Paul. If your child is not currently joining us for Missions Kidz on Sunday nights, then please don't wait! All children aged 3 through Fifth Grade are welcome!

Please consider signing up to help in our nursery. You can be part of helping to our youngest children learn about God's unending love.

Love,

"Miss" Missy Ferraro

 <div>FEBRUARY 2026</div>			
Sunday, February 1, 2026			
8:30 AM Babies - Maribeth Weikle Toddlers - Jada Dunn	9:45 AM Christie Amerson	11:00 AM Babies - Zack & Katie Canady Toddlers - Hannah McClure & Barbara Schmidt	6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, February 8, 2026			
8:30 AM Babies - Alyss Marchant Toddlers - Renee Stewart	9:45 AM Amy Clark	11:00 AM Babies - Ginny & Avery Key Toddlers - Eric & Tina Wiggins	7:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, February 15, 2026			
8:30 AM Babies - Brenda West Toddlers - Taylor and Jordan Lyons	9:45 AM Cindy O'Driscoll	11:00 AM Babies - April & Claire Jernigan Toddlers - Paul & Carol Bunch	7:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, February 22, 2026			
8:30 AM Babies - Angie Stuckey Toddlers - Jackie Lyons & Wendy Byrd	9:45 AM Nancy Clark	11:00 AM Babies - Christie Amerson and Katie Fitzgerald Toddlers - Terry and Amy Jarvis	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.

SERVICE PERSONS OF THE MONTH



Bryce Huneault
United States Army
Great Grandson of Lib Zahner

Bryce Huneault, US Army
Stationed at Port Huenme, CA
Grandson of Lib Zahner



Michael O'Driscoll
United States Marine Corps
Son of Dick & Cindy O'Driscoll

Maj. Mike O'Driscoll, USMC
Stationed at NSF Indian Head, MD
Son of Dick & Cindy O'Driscoll

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, February 15th
4:00 PM
Room WC106

FINANCE MEETING

Wednesday, February 11th
Immediately following the
Midweek Worship Service

NEELY MISSIONS GROUP

Wednesday, February 11th
10:00AM-12:00PM
Fellowship Hall

SWEETWATER BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY ROOM

Come visit the History Room

Wednesday, February 4th
from 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 15th
from 4:30 to 5:30 pm



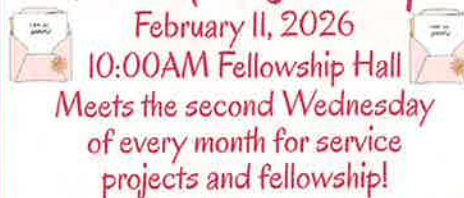
FEBRUARY DEACON SCHEDULE

1	(8:30AM) Abbie Prince	(11:00AM) Terry Jarvis
8	(8:30AM) Steve Lanham	(11:00AM) Junior Johnson
15	(8:30AM) Dick O'Driscoll	(11:00AM) Stan Tompkins
22	(8:30 AM) Chic Morris	(11:00AM) Archie Coleman

Women's Ministry News



The Neely Group



Women's Ministry Meeting February 22, 2026 4:30 PM



John Dickenson's
Sunday School
Room

Faith Family Fellowship Churchwide Lunch

Sunday, March 29, 2026
Following 11:00
Worship Service
Gym
\$5.00/Person



CHURCH CALENDAR

SCHEDULE EACH WEEK

SUNDAYS (JANUARY 25; FEBRUARY 1, 8, 15, 22)

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

Sunday School - 9:45AM

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

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

Youth Bible Study - 5:30-7:00PM (C202)

Mission Kidz - 6:00-7:00PM (FH)

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

MONDAYS (JANUARY 26; FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16, 23)

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

Food Pantry (By Appointment) - 2:00PM

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

Men's Bible Study - 6:30PM (B108)

TUESDAYS (JANUARY 27; FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 24)

Good News Club - 2:00-4:00PM

WEDNESDAYS (JANUARY 28; FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25)

Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room)

Kidz Choir - 6:00-7:15PM

Faith & Fun (Youth) - 6:00-7:15PM (Gym)

Midweek Service - 6:30PM (Worship Center)

Celebration Choir Rehearsal - 7:20PM

FRIDAYS (JANUARY 30; FEBRUARY 6, 13, 20, 27)

Prayer - 6:00AM (Chapel)

WEEK OF JANUARY 25TH - JANUARY 31ST

JANUARY 26th - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (FH)

JANUARY 31st - Restored - 9:00AM-1:00PM (FLC) (RSVP)

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1ST - FEBRUARY 7TH

FEBRUARY 4th - Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room) (Return from Winter Break)

FEBRUARY 4th - History Room is open 5:00PM-6:00PM

FEBRUARY 5th - Youth Females 6th-12th - Sardi Robertson Huff + LO Worship - RSVP required

FEBRUARY 7th - Blossom Spring Gathering

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 8TH - FEBRUARY 14TH

FEBRUARY 8th - SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY, Bring canned soup to support our Food Pantry

FEBRUARY 9th - Church Deadline for Submissions to March Newsletter

FEBRUARY 9th - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (FH)

FEBRUARY 11th - Neely Missions Group - 10:00AM-NOON (FH)

FEBRUARY 11th - Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room)

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 15TH - FEBRUARY 21ST

FEBRUARY 15th - Birthday of Tina Lancaster

FEBRUARY 15th - Deacons Meeting - 4:00PM (WC106)

FEBRUARY 15th - History Room is open - 4:30PM-5:30PM

FEBRUARY 18th - Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room)

FEBRUARY 18th - Finance Meeting (immediately following Midweek Service) (WC105)

FEBRUARY 19th - Seniors Birthday Bash (Feb Birthdays) - 2:00PM RSVP

FEBRUARY 20th - Joyous Seniors - 11:45AM-1:00PM (FLC)

FEBRUARY 21st - WAFJ Date Night with Andrew Ripp - RSVP

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22ND - FEBRUARY 28TH

FEBRUARY 22nd - Women's Ministry Meeting - 4:30PM (B214)

FEBRUARY 23rd - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (FH)

FEBRUARY 25th - Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room)

MARCH 7th - WILD GAME SUPPER - 4:00PM | Speaker: Chris Wells | Music: Mike and Kim Blackwood

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Dr. Elijah Soritau
From Emanuel University and Seminary
Oradea, Romania
Will be our guest Speaker
in Both AM Worship Services



Super Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 8th



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