



Dr. Paul Noe, Pastor  
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

## July 2026 Newsletter



### America's 250th Celebration

Sunday, July 5th

Both 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM Services

Wear Your Patriotic Attire

No PM Services

### Special Gideon Speaker

**Nesto Loko**

Field Representative in France,  
the British Isles, and Sweden  
for the Gideons International

Sunday, July 12th

Both AM Services



### Quarterly Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 29th

6:30 PM

### Deacons Meeting

July 12, 2026

4:00 PM

Room WC106

### Backpacks - Sunday, July 12th

We will collect the filled backpacks on Sunday, July 12th. This will ensure the students receive the proper items necessary for the school year.



# JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

## PASTOR PAUL'S PARAGRAPHS

**Dear Members and Friends of Sweetwater Baptist Church:**

**Blessings and Happy Summer!** One of the great summer traditions in Baptist churches is Vacation Bible School. We had an awesome **VBS** during the dates of **June 8 – 12<sup>th</sup>** at **Rainforest Falls**. We explored God's creation and His nature all week. We had an enrollment of **81** children and **68** volunteers. The children raised **\$1,201.00** for the **Connie Maxwell Home** during the week. We also had at least **7** children to pray to receive Christ during the week. Praise the Lord! We are so grateful for the army of volunteers who worked so hard during the week. We are also thankful for **Mrs. Missy Ferraro** and her incredible leadership as **VBS Director**. *"Thank you Missy for making this year's school a complete success."*

On Sunday morning, **July 12<sup>th</sup>**, **Nesto Loko**, will be our special guest speaker. He is the Field Representative in France, the British Isles, and Sweden for **The Gideons International**. We are so blessed to have many Gideons in our church at Sweetwater. We are thankful for their ministry of the distribution of Bibles throughout the world. We will be receiving a **"love offering"** for the purchase of Bibles during the service. There is no greater investment that we can make as Christians than in the Word of God.

Please, continue to pray for your **Personnel Committee**. They have started the process again of searching for a new Minister of Music. Advertisements have been placed in various Baptist State papers and the Southern Baptist Convention website for the position. We are currently collecting resumes and will be talking with candidates soon. Please ask the Lord to give our committee wisdom and discernment in finding God's man for this very important position in the life of our church.

We are so blessed to live in the United States of America. **July 4<sup>th</sup>** is the **250<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of our Nation's independence. There will be many celebrations and patriotic events planned this month. As we enjoy these special festivities, we must never take our freedom for granted. We must be reminded that our liberty and blessings come from Almighty God. **Psalm 33:12** declares, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord . . ."

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.



**With a Pastor's Love,**

*Paul*  
**Philippians 1:3**



# BRIAN'S BRIEFS

## Men - Meal - Message

This month's Men - Meal - Message will be Monday, July 20 at 6:30PM. We had such a great time in June with about 50 guys. I look forward to seeing you guys this month for another exciting time of Bible Study and fellowship. The cost will be \$5.00 to help cover the cost of the meal. This will be a great time to invite your friends.

## Convictions, Compromise, and Compassion

Have you ever struggled with standing firm on Biblical convictions and being the salt and light that Jesus commands us to be. (**Matthew 5:13-16**). Yet Jesus hung out with sinners. Read **Matt 9:9-13**.

**Matthew 9:9-13** "As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. 'Follow me and be my disciple,' Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. **10** Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. **11** But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with such scum?' **12** When Jesus heard this, he said, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do.' **13** Then he added, 'Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.'"

### Few thoughts

1. Do your convictions tell you not to associate with certain types of people because it could be bad for your reputation or others might get the wrong impression?
2. Hanging out with "sinners" does not mean you are compromising your convictions.
3. Loving people and being salt and light does not mean you agree with the lifestyle of sinners or participate in their sinful activities.
4. If we are going to be salt and light we must rub shoulders and meet them where they are. Salt does no good left in the box or shaker. Light does no good turned off or covered up.
5. With a compassionate tone and encouraging words share how Jesus changed your life and the difference He has made in you.
6. You can share your Biblical convictions without being judgmental and hateful.
7. Pray and allow the Holy Spirit to convict them. We just have to be there, love them, pray for them, and allow them to see Jesus in us.

**Luke 18:11-12** "The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'"

# SENIOR ADULT NEWS

As we approach July 4th, the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our country. Let us remember that our country was founded on the principles of religious freedom and the equality and self determination of man. 53 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were professed Christians. Anglicans, Congregationalists, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Deists; coming together “to form a more perfect union.” Consider these statements from three of the signers:

*“The man must be bad indeed who can look upon the events of the American Revolution without feeling the warmest gratitude towards the great Author of the Universe whose divine interposition was so frequently manifested in our behalf. And it is my earnest prayer that we may so conduct ourselves as to merit a continuance of those blessings with which we have hitherto been favored.”*

- **George Washington** in a Sept. 28, 1789 letter to the Rev. Samuel Langdon

*“May every citizen in the army and in the country have a proper sense of Deity upon his mind and an impression of the declaration recorded in the Bible, ‘Him that honoreth Me, I will honor, but he that despiseth Me shall be lightly esteemed” (I Samuel 2:20).*

- **Samuel Adams**, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence

*“The Christian religion, in its purity, is the basis, or rather the source of all genuine freedom in government. . . . and I am persuaded that no civil government of a republican form can exist and be durable in which the principles of that religion have not a controlling influence.”*

-**Noah Webster**

As you celebrate the Fourth of July, pray for our country, that we would once again meet the requirements of 2 Chronicles 7:14 and seek God’s blessing and guidance.

**Your Team-Mate In Christ**

*Charlie*

**Senior Birthday Bash** (July Birthdays) on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00PM, RSVP 803-279-2821

**Lunch With Friends - Miller’s Bread Basket**

Tuesday July 21 @ 11:00 AM

Sign up in the foyer.

**Lunch With Friends - Flight Deck & Bible Outlet - Lexington**

Tuesday August 11 @ 11:00 AM

**ABA Senior Adult Celebration - Hillview BC**

Thursday September 10 @ 10:30AM - 1:00 PM





# FOLLOWING JESUS WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE A SOLO JOURNEY.

One of the things we're working toward this summer is helping our students become more connected to Christ and to one another. Real discipleship happens in community, and we're intentionally creating environments where those relationships can grow.

At the beginning of June students participated in a Leadership Workshop focused on servant leadership—the kind Jesus modeled when He came not to be served, but to serve. Students also began exploring their spiritual gifts through assessments designed to help them discover how God has uniquely wired them to serve His Kingdom. Our goal isn't simply to fill positions; it's to help young people understand that God has created them with purpose and gifted them for ministry.

Throughout June, students gathered every Friday night for our Late Nights in the Wild Game Building. These evenings brought together both our regular students and visitors for games, food, fellowship, and biblical teaching. As we walked through the Beatitudes, students were challenged to consider what it truly means to follow Jesus and live differently in a world that often pulls them in another direction.

As this newsletter reaches you, many of our students are heading to or returning from Crossroads Summer Camp (June 29–July 3) at Anderson University. Camp is always one of the highlights of the year—a time when students step away from the distractions of everyday life to focus on Christ, build lasting friendships, and grow deeper in their faith.

Looking ahead, we are excited for Faith & Family Night with the Augusta GreenJackets on July 10 and our Back-to-School Bash on July 19, where students will gather for lunch, games, water activities, and fellowship as we prepare to launch into a new school year.

On Sunday mornings, we are completing Quarter 1 of our Lines curriculum, Creation to Covenant, where students have traced God's redemptive plan from Creation through His covenant promises. In July, we begin Quarter 2, Slaves to Kings, exploring God's work through deliverance, law, and leadership. By walking through the historical events recorded in Scripture, students are learning that the Bible is not a collection of disconnected accounts, but one unified story that points to Jesus Christ.

Church family, thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and investment in the younger generation. Please continue praying that our students will grow in wisdom, courage, and faith as they prepare to enter what may be the greatest mission field many of them will ever have—their schools.

*"Let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together..."*

Hebrews 10:24-25

**Know Jesus. Live Bold. Lead Others.**

In Christ,  
**Jason Fitzgerald, Youth Pastor**  
Sweetwater Baptist Church  
[jfitzgerald@sweetwaterbc.church](mailto:jfitzgerald@sweetwaterbc.church)





# KIDZ Ministry CORNER



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for helping make this year’s Rainforest Falls VBS so wonderful! 81 children were able to explore the nature of God thanks to our 63 volunteers and countless prayers of many others. It truly takes many volunteers to help make VBS so meaningful for the children in our community. Seven children made a profession of faith this year, and we were able to already celebrate with a baptism on Father’s Day. Next year’s Vacation Bible School, Crave: Stirring Up a Hunger for Jesus, will take place the week of June 7 -11, 2027. Mark your calendars now!

In just a few short weeks our children will be returning to school. Please pray for our children, teachers, administrators, and the countless staff that will be part of our precious children’s lives during their school days. As you help prepare your child to return to school, please consider making an ABC list of the ways God has blessed you and your family over the summer break. Remind your children to pray for the upcoming school year, as well as giving thanks for the many blessings they have encountered over the summer.

I look forward to working with you to help make this a fantastic school year for our children!

Love,  
“Miss” Missy Ferraro

<b>Sunday, July 5, 2026</b>			
<b>8:30 AM</b> <b>Babies</b> - Dorrie Hentz <b>Toddlers</b> - Jada Dunn	<b>9:45 AM</b> Cindy O’Driscoll	<b>11:00 AM</b> <b>Babies</b> - Ginny & Avery Key <b>Toddlers</b> - Hannah McClure & Barbara Schmidt	
<b>Sunday, July 12, 2026</b>			
<b>8:30 AM</b> <b>Babies</b> - Maribeth Weikle <b>Toddlers</b> - Renee Stuart	<b>9:45 AM</b> Nancy Clark	<b>11:00 AM</b> <b>Babies</b> - Zack & Katie Canady <b>Toddlers</b> - Paul & Carol Bunch	<b>6:00 PM</b> Clydie Blackwood
<b>Sunday, July 19, 2026</b>			
<b>8:30 AM</b> <b>Babies</b> - Lori Preston <b>Toddlers</b> - Wendi Byrd	<b>9:45 AM</b> Amy Clark	<b>11:00 AM</b> <b>Babies</b> - Julie Little & Shelbie Johnson <b>Toddlers</b> - Amy & Terry Jarvis	<b>6:00 PM</b> Clydie Blackwood
<b>Sunday, July 26, 2026</b>			
<b>8:30 AM</b> <b>Babies</b> - Brenda West <b>Toddlers</b> - Taylor & Jordan Lyons	<b>9:45 AM</b> Katie Johnson	<b>11:00 AM</b> <b>Babies</b> - April & Claire Jernigan <b>Toddlers</b> - Christie Amerson & Elizabeth Rabb	<b>6:00 PM</b> 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



Jack Currier  
United States Army  
Cousin of Dave & Bonnie Redmond

CWO Jack Currier, US Army  
Stationed in Iraq  
Cousin of Dave & Bonnie Redmond



Trey Scott  
United State Air Force  
Grandson of John and Mary Dickenson

SSgt. Trey Scott, USAF  
Stationed at Dover AFB, MD  
Grandson of John Dickenson

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Worship Center

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 PM

FINANCE MEETING

Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>  
Immediately following the  
Midweek Service in Room WC 105

HISTORY ROOM

Open Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 5pm to 6pm  
& Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm to 5:30pm

SWEETWATER STAFF JULY BIRTHDAYS

Pastor Paul Noe – Sunday, July 26th

JULY DEACON SCHEDULE

5	(8:30AM) Abbie Prince	(11:00AM) Stan Tompkins
12	(8:30AM) Steve Lanham	(11:00AM) Archie Coleman
19	(8:30 AM) Dick O'Driscoll	(11:00AM) Terry Jarvis
26	(8:30 AM) Chic Morris	(11:00AM) Junior Johnson

MEN | MEAL | Message

Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>  
6PM-8:30PM in FH

(Sign up sheet  
in the Church Lobby)

UNITED STATES  
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

250th Independence Day:  
July 4, 2026

Church Office is closed  
on Friday, July 3rd

Women's Ministry News

CLEAN UP DAY  
JULY 25, 2026  
WILDCAME BUILDING

Chocolate and Friends

VINTAGE GARDENS BINGO  
JULY 11, 2026

BINGO

AUGUST 30, 2026  
FAITH, FAMILY,  
FUN LUNCHEON  
FOLLOWING 11:00 SERVICE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

MATTHEW 11:29  
BLOSSOM  
COTTAGE MINISTRY  
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*Ladies are you looking for  
a Ministry Opportunity?*

Blossom Cottage Bible Study Ministry is in need  
of **Cottage Hostesses and Facilitators.**  
The qualifications are not hard,  
just **Love the Lord** and desire to  
Minister to your Sisters in Christ.

♥ Please send us a Message to ♥  
[Blossombiblestudy@gmail.com](mailto:Blossombiblestudy@gmail.com)

Register Here

Chocolate and Friends  
SWEETWATER BAPTIST  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Nicki Carnes

August 1, 2026  
10:00AM

Nicki Carnes is an author and  
Church Planter from Augusta,  
GA where she and her husband,  
Nick, started Hope Church.  
She's the author of Friendship in  
the Fishbowl, a book,  
encouraging women to pursue  
authentic life-giving friendships  
in every season of life and  
ministry.



## CHURCH CALENDAR



### **SUNDAYS (JUNE 28; JULY 5, 12, 19, 26)**

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) (JUNE 28; JULY 12, 26) (July 19<sup>th</sup> see below)

Mission Kidz - 6:00-7:00PM (FH) (JUNE 28; JULY 12, 19, 26)

Evening Worship Service - 6:00PM (Worship Center) (JUNE 28; JULY 12, 19, 26)

### **MONDAYS (JUNE 29; JULY 6, 13, 20, 27)**

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

Food Pantry (By Appointment) - 2:00PM

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

### **WEDNESDAYS (JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)**

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

Kidz Choir - 6:00PM-7:15PM (WC102)

Midweek Service - 6:30PM (Worship Center)

Celebration Choir Rehearsal - 7:20PM

### **FRIDAYS (JULY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)**

Prayer - 6:00AM (Chapel)

### **WEEK OF JUNE 28TH - JULY 4TH**

JUNE 28th - Deacons Meeting - 4:00PM (WC106)

JUNE 29th - JULY 3rd - Youth Camp - Crossroads

JUNE 29th - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (FH)

JULY 1st - History Room is open 5:00PM-6:00PM

JULY 3rd - Church Office is closed today. (HOLIDAY)

JULY 4th - Independence Day - Happy July 4th!

### **WEEK OF JULY 5TH - JULY 11TH**

JULY 10th - Youth - Faith & Family Night with the Augusta Green Jackets

### **WEEK OF JULY 12TH - JULY 18TH**

JULY 12th - Return Filled Backpacks

JULY 12th - Deacons Meeting - 4:00PM (WC106)

JULY 13th - JULY 17th - Camp La Vida

JULY 13th - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (FH)

JULY 15th - Church Deadline for Submissions to JULY Newsletter

JULY 15th - Finance Meeting (immediately following Midweek Service) (WC105)

JULY 16th - Seniors Birthday Bash (July Birthdays) - 2:00PM RSVP

### **WEEK OF JULY 19TH - JULY 25TH**

JULY 19th - Youth - Back-to-School Bash - 12PM - 6PM (To register - see insert)

JULY 19th - Chocolate & Friends Volunteers Workers Meeting - 4:30PM (B212)

JULY 19th - History Room is open 4:30PM-5:30PM

JULY 20th - Men | Meal | Message - 6:30PM-8:00PM (FLC) \$5 will help cover cost

JULY 21st - Sr. Adult Lunch Trip - Miller's Bread Basket Blackville (RSVP)

JULY 22nd - Children's Choir Kickoff - 6:00PM-7:15PM (Gym)

JULY 25th - Chocolate and Friends Clean Up Day - 8:00AM (Wild Game Building)

### **WEEK OF JULY 26TH - AUGUST 1ST**

JULY 26th - Pastor Paul Noe's Birthday

JULY 27th - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (FH)

JULY 29th - Quarterly Business Meeting - 6:30PM (Worship Center)

AUGUST 1st - Chocolate & Friends - 10:00AM (Pavilion) RSVP requested