



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

May 2026 Newsletter

National Day of Prayer
 Thursday, May 7th
 Prayer Service in Chapel
 11:00 AM



**Mother's Day
 and Baby/Child Dedication (11:00 AM Service)**
 Sunday, May 10th

If you would like to dedicate your baby/child,
 please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Deacons Meeting
 Sunday, May 17th
 4:00 PM
 Room WC106

Memorial Day - May 25th



Church Office is closed Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day.

Fifth Sunday Food Drive
 Sunday, May 31st

For the Sweetwater Food Pantry
 Please, place your non-perishable food items in the
 Collection Bins in the Main Lobby and Elevator Lobby



**Graduation
 Recognition**

Sunday, May 31, 2026
 11:00 am Church Service



MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR PAUL'S PARAGRAPHS

Dear Members and Friends of the Sweetwater Baptist Church:

Blessings! These are exciting times at Sweetwater. On Sunday evening, **March 29th**, during a special called business meeting our church made an important and historical decision to construct a much-needed **Ministry Center** (Office Complex and Administration Building). The recommendation from the Long-Range Planning Committee/Building Steering Committee was overwhelmingly approved by a 92% vote (137 yes and 12 no). This facility will be the hub of all future ministries of the Sweetwater Baptist Church. Thank you Sweetwater for your overwhelming support of the Long Range Planning Committee and the future of our church.

The National Day of Prayer will be on **Thursday, May 7th**. This is an important day set aside for the purpose of praying for our communities, nation, and world. We will have a **National Day of Prayer service** in the **Chapel at 11:00 am**. We certainly have a lot to pray for with the 250 Anniversary of the founding of our great nation, the situation in the middle east, and the uncertainty in the world. We will be utilizing a "prayer guide" printed by the The National Day of Prayer Task Force. I hope your schedule will allow you to be part of this special time of seeking God.

May 10th is **Mother's Day**. We will be having a **baby dedication** during the **11:00 AM** morning worship service. If you would like to dedicate your baby, please call the church office (803-279-2821) to sign-up. This will be a special service as we highlight the new additions to our church family.

Memorial Day will be on **May 25th**. Memorial Day is a time that we reflect on the brave men and women in uniform who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. This important day reminds us that freedom isn't free. In the same manner, Jesus Christ paid the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. He died on the cross for our spiritual freedom and salvation. We must never take for granted our national freedom as well as our spiritual freedom in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.



With a Pastor's Love,

Paul
Philippians 1:3



BRIAN'S BRIEFS

Men's Bible Study Monday Nights

6:30PM

Room B108

Studying James through Mid-May

A WORD FROM JASON (GUEST COLUMNIST):

If you've spent any time around Sweetwater, you've seen the results of Brian's work—even if you didn't realize it. From buildings to grounds, across more than 100,000 square feet and 55 acres, Brian plays a vital role in making sure everything functions the way it should so ministry can happen without distraction.

But Brian doesn't do it alone. He leads and equips a faithful team of volunteers who serve across countless projects, giving their time and effort to care for this place we call home. His leadership not only gets things done—it brings people together to serve.

Beyond what you see, Brian is a tremendous resource to our staff. With decades of ministry experience, he brings wisdom, perspective, and steady leadership that impacts far more than just facilities. Personally, I'm grateful for how he supports, encourages, and invests in those around him.

And if you know Brian, you know this—he's fun, he's genuine, and he cares deeply about people. He consistently puts others first and reflects Christ in the way he serves, leads, and lives.

Sweetwater is blessed because of Brian—not just for what he does, but for who he is.

Jason

Associate Pastor, Minister to Youth



Vacation Bible School

June 8 - 12, 2026

9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon

4 Years to Rising 6 Graders

Please scan the QR code to register
your child for this fun adventure.



Adult and teen volunteers can sign up in the Volunteer Book located in the main lobby.

SENIOR ADULT NEWS

Chuck Lawless, a Dean at Southeastern Seminary wrote an article that appeared in the Baptist Courier. In it he had twelve reasons why church leaders should spend intentional time with Senior Adults and how beneficial it can be. Here are the twelve reasons:

1. They have gospel stories to tell. They've lived life, and they know the faithfulness of a God who has never let them down. Their testimonies are worth the time to listen to.
2. They'll be grateful for the attention you give them. Few people appreciate face-to-face time like senior adults do. They'll remember the hour you spent with them more than you likely will.
3. They will encourage you. Most senior adults have great respect for their church leaders. Even when they disagree, they still respect the position - and they want to be an encouragement.
4. They might tell you something you need to hear. Sometimes they're "in the know" more than you think. They might know a ministry need or concern that you need to hear so you can follow up.
5. They can be really funny. Some will say whatever they're thinking, and they're not worried about making an impression. I love listening to seniors laugh about their own lives.
6. They need to know your heart as much as your message. They usually trust the Word of God; what they need to do is trust you. You can earn that by spending time with them.
7. They'll pray for you. Some folks say they'll pray, but they never get to it. Others - like many senior adults - really do pray.
8. They often have unbelieving family members to reach. They can usually point to generations of people who need Jesus, including some folks who live in your church's ministry area. Your seniors can be a connection to evangelistic prospects.
9. They're often influencers in the church. Genuinely love them, respect them, and spend time with them, and they might help you fulfill the vision God's given you for your church.
10. They - like all of us - still need discipleship. They may not always understand how deeply they need discipleship, but I've always found senior adults open to learning from someone who loves them.
11. They'll need your ministry at some point. I have fond memories of ministering to senior adults in times of illness or death, especially when I've been friends with them prior to the crisis.
12. If you're not already there, you'll be a senior adult someday. Learn what you can now from joyful, trusting seniors so that you'll be the same witness when you get there.

Your Team-Mate In Christ

Charlie

Joyous Senior's Luncheon on Friday, May 15th @ 11:45am featuring the Sweetwater Band
(For any change in reservation, call the church office.)





This Isn't an Event—This Is Who We're Becoming.

What we are seeing in our youth is not temporary excitement—it's lasting change. Students are beginning to take ownership of their faith, not just attend, but live it.

We're seeing it in how they lead. Students are stepping up to lead **Bible studies in their schools through FCA**, with more signing up to take on leadership roles. Two students recently led a devotion before our Wednesday night gathering—evidence that this faith is becoming their own.

We're seeing it in how they serve. During the **Sidewalk Prophets concert**, students weren't just present—they were serving, greeting, and helping create an environment that welcomed others from our community. Moments like these reflect the heart of what we've been praying for: reaching young people and families with the gospel.

We're seeing it in how they grow. Students are taking Scripture seriously: reading, preparing, and coming ready to engage. Parents are noticing the difference. Many have shared that their students don't want to miss church—they look forward to it. Conversations are changing. The way they treat one another is changing.

We also saw this momentum in a powerful way at our recent **Parent Meeting**, where nearly **100 parents and students gathered** to discuss the future of our Student Ministry alongside church leadership. Families shared ideas and spoke into what they believe God is doing and where He is leading. That kind of engagement doesn't happen by accident—it reflects a growing desire for discipleship, partnership, and a ministry rich in adult leaders that is truly making an impact.

Through our **Lines series**, students are beginning to understand the historical events recorded in Scripture as one unified story of God's redemptive plan. And through the **Spiritual Disciplines**, what they've learned is becoming how they live.

*We are not trying to create better church attenders—
we are raising disciples who follow Jesus daily.*

Church family, this is our moment—not just to watch, but to walk with them. Encourage them. Pray for them. Model it for them.

This is who we're becoming, and it's only the beginning.



“So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in Him, being rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith...”
Colossians 2:6–7

In Christ,
Jason Fitzgerald
Youth Pastor, Sweetwater Baptist Church
jfitzgcrald@swcctwaterbc.church



KIDZ Ministry CORNER



Dear Church Family,

It's time to say YES to VBS! Everyone is invited to join in the fun and fellowship June 8-12, 2026, from 9:00 AM to noon, as we show children what it means to be rooted in a true relationship with God. Children ages 4 years through rising Sixth Graders are invited to attend. This year's theme is **Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God**. We always have such a great time as we help our youngest children learn how to navigate the storms of life as God would have them do so. Please scan the QR code to register your child for this fun adventure. Adult and teen volunteers can sign up in the Volunteer Book located in the main lobby.



Each month in Mission Kidz, your children learn about missionaries around the world through Bible study, games, and food experiences. We are continuing to work on our Pinewood Derby cars. The race will take place on May 31, in the gym, at 6:00 PM. Parents are invited to join us for this fun event. 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



Sunday, May 3, 2026			
8:30 AM Babies - Maribeth Weikle Toddlers - Jada Dunn	9:45 AM Amy Clark	11:00 AM Babies - Ginny & Avery Key Toddlers - Hannah McClure & Barbara Schmidt	6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, May 10, 2026			
8:30 AM Babies - TBD Toddlers - Robin Lanham	9:45 AM Nancy Clark	11:00 AM Babies - April & Claire Jernigan Toddlers - Eric & Tina Wiggins	6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, May 17, 2026			
8:30 AM Babies - Brenda West Toddlers - Taylor and Jordan Lyons	9:45 AM Cindy O'Driscoll	11:00 AM Babies - Christie Amerson & Katie Fitzgerald Toddlers - Paul & Carol Bunch	6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, May 24, 2026			
8:30 AM Babies - Elizabeth Rabb Toddlers - Wendi Byrd	9:45 AM Amy Clark	11:00 AM Babies - Zack & Katie Canady Toddlers - Irina Taylor & Casey Miller	6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, May 31, 2026			
8:30 AM Babies - Alyss Marchant Toddlers - Renee Stewart	9:45 AM TBD	11:00 AM Babies - Cameron & Cassidy Stampley Toddlers - Terry & Amy Jarvis	6:00 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



Sgt. Dan Preston & wife Caitlin, US Army Reserves
Stationed at Fort Hood, TX
Son & Daughter-In-Law of Grant & Lori Preston



Capt. Jacob Mathis, USAF
Stationed at Warner Robins AFB, GA
Son of Darrow & Lynn Mathis

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, May 17th
4:00 PM
Room WC106

FINANCE MEETING

Wednesday, May 13th
Immediately following the
Midweek Service in Room WC 105

NEELY MISSIONS GROUP

Wed., May 13th
10:00AM-12:00PM
in the Fellowship Hall

MAY DEACON SCHEDULE

3	(8:30AM) Jim Reece	(11:00AM) Junior Johnson
10	(8:30AM) Chris Williams	(11:00AM) Stan Tompkins
17	(8:30 AM) Abbie Prince	(11:00AM) Archie Coleman
24	(8:30 AM) Steve Lanham	(11:00AM) Terry Jarvis
31	(8:30AM) Stan Tompkins	(11:00AM) Junior Johnson

Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering



North American
Mission Board

Sweetwater Baptist Goal : **\$24,000.00**

Amount Given : **\$23,417.50**

Check Church Bulletin for most recent amount given.

Women's Ministry News

*Mother's Day
Photo Booth
May 10, 2026*

The Neely Group
May 13, 2026
10:00AM Fellowship Hall
Meets the second Wednesday
of every month for service
projects and fellowship!

*Chocolate
and
FRIENDS*
Sweetwater Baptist
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

**PLANNING MEETING
JUNE 14, 2026**

**EVENT
AUGUST 1, 2026**



*June 27, 2026
10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall*

*MATTHEW 28
BLOSSOM
COTTAGE MINISTRY
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY*
**May 16, 2026
Summer Gathering**

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAYS (APRIL 26; MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

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 APRIL 27; MAY 4, 11, 18, 25; JUNE 1)

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) (through mid-May)

WEDNESDAYS (APRIL 29; MAY 6, 13, 20, 27; JUNE 3)

Aiken Baptist Association Choir - 1:00PM (Choir Room) (No rehearsal on April 29)

Kidz Choir - 6:00-7:15PM (room next to the Nursery; except meet in the Worship Center on May13th)

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

Midweek Service - 6:30PM (Worship Center; except meet in the Chapel on May 13th)

Celebration Choir Rehearsal - 7:20PM

FRIDAYS (MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; JUNE 5)

Prayer - 6:00AM (Chapel)

WEEK OF APRIL 26TH - MAY 2ND

MAY 1st - MAY 2nd - Women of Joy Conference at Myrtle Beach

WEEK OF MAY 3RD - MAY 9TH

MAY 4th - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (FH)

MAY 6th - History Room is open 5:00PM-6:00PM

MAY 7th - National Day of Prayer

MAY 7th - Prayer Service in Chapel - 11:00AM (Chapel)

WEEK OF MAY 10TH - MAY 16TH

MAY 10th - Mother's Day and Baby/Child Dedication - 11:00AM (Worship Center)

MAY 10th - Mother's Day Photo Booth available self-serve

MAY 13th - Neely Missions Group - 10:00AM-NOON (FH)

MAY 13th - Kidz Choir in Worship Center - 6:00PM-7:15PM

MAY 13th - Midweek Service in Chapel - 6:30PM

MAY 13th - Finance Meeting (immediately following Midweek Service) (WC105)

MAY 15th - Joyous Seniors - 11:45AM-1:00PM (FLC) RSVP \$10/person

MAY 15th - Church Deadline for Submissions to JUNE Newsletter

MAY 16th - Kidz Choir Rehearsal - 10:00AM-12:00PM (Worship Center)

MAY 21st - Seniors Birthday Bash (May Birthdays) - 2:00PM RSVP

WEEK OF MAY 17TH - MAY 23RD

MAY 17th - Kidz Choir Sings - 6:00PM (Worship Center)

MAY 17th - Deacons Meeting - 4:00PM (WC106)

MAY 17th - History Room is open - 4:30PM-5:30PM

MAY 18th - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (FH)

MAY 26th - Dwayne Steedley's Birthday

WEEK OF MAY 24TH - MAY 30TH

MAY 25th - Memorial Day - Church Office is closed today. (HOLIDAY)

MAY 26th - Ginny Key's Birthday

MAY 30th - Kidz Choir Swimming Party - 10:00AM-1:00PM

WEEK OF MAY 31ST - JUNE 6TH

MAY 31st - Graduate Recognition Sunday

MAY 31st - Fifth Sunday Food Drive