



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

October 2025 Newsletter

JOIN US FOR SWEETWATER BAPTIST CHURCH'S

FALL FESTIVAL

October 26 | 4PM - 6PM

Admission is Free!

Games - Food - Hayrides
Trunk - or - Treat

WILD GAME PAVILION



OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR PAUL'S PARAGRAPHS

Happy Fall Y'all! Our annual **Fall Festival** will be on **October 26th** at the **Pavilion Building** from **4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**. We will be having lots of fun, food, and fellowship. This is one of our biggest outreach events of the year for our church. **Mrs. Missy Ferraro** always does an excellent job in organizing and directing the event. Please, invite someone to attend this year's festival with you.

Operation Christmas Child is in full swing at our church. It was a wonderful blessing to have **Alex Nsengimana** with us on Sunday morning, **September 21st**. Alex was a recipient of a shoebox in the country of Rwanda. This simple shoebox changed his life. Operation Christmas Child is a wonderful way for all of us to be a missionary to a child in a foreign land. A special *"thanks"* to **Mrs. Laurie Kinsey** for coordinating our program. Please, pick up a box in the main lobby or the elevator lobby. Your shoe boxes are due back by **November 19th**.

One of the ministries that we are reorganizing here at Sweetwater is our **Greeter Ministry**. We are so thankful to **Jerry and Shirley Hawkins** who started and organized this ministry many years ago. This is such an important ministry in making individuals feel welcome as they enter the doors of our church, especially our guests and visitors. I am so grateful for those who have been keeping our greeter ministry going for the last several years. If you would be willing to serve as a greeter here at Sweetwater, please fill out one of the volunteer forms in the Information Center and place it in the offering plate or the Vault.

Sweetwater, I am so proud of your commitment and love for missions. We are so blessed at Sweetwater to be a part of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. We far exceeded our Janie Chapman Offering for state missions in September. Our goal was **\$10,000.00** and we collected over **\$15,000.00+**. Praise the Lord! Thank you for your investment in the work of missionaries and ministries all across the state of South Carolina.

On **September 10th** **Charlie Kirk** was assassinated and martyred in Utah. His memorial service on Sunday, September 21st, was a testament of his love for his country, family, and the Lord Jesus Christ. God has certainly used his death to amplify the gospel and inspire countless Christians to live out their faith by following Charlie's example. Let's pray that we might have the same courage and commitment of Charlie in our own lives.

Thank you for the wonderful privilege of Serving You!

With a Pastor's Love,

Brother Paul
Philippians 1:3



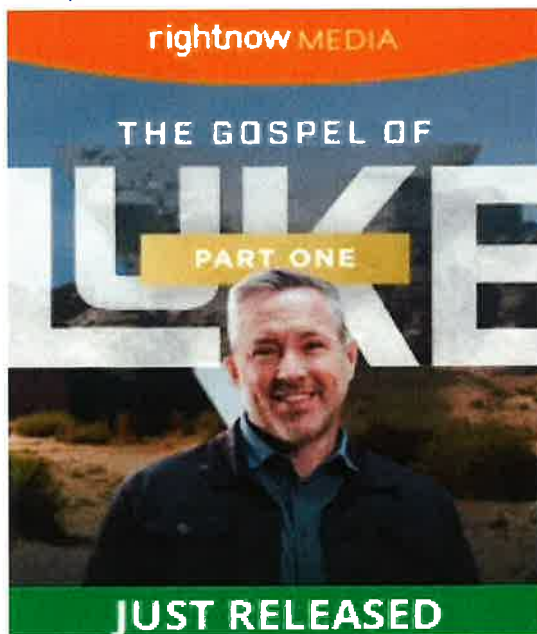
Music Moments with Mark

Dear Church Family,

Sometimes in our lives we face things that we never saw coming. There are moments when our faith is shaken by things that are outside of our control. It is in these valley experiences that we must follow the words of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." It would be easy to believe the false truth that perception is reality. Sometimes things we perceive to be true aren't true at all. The world would say trust your heart, however, that isn't what God's Word says. The Bible says in Jeremiah 17:10, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" So how do we move forward on this journey called life if we can't trust our own heart. Well, we need to turn to someone that does know the heart. We do what Jeremiah 17:11 says, "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds". If we want to have straight paths, we must trust in the Lord with all our heart. One of my seminary professors at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary once said, if you want to know the heart of God, then get into one of the four gospels(Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John). It is then you will find the heart of Christ and how he acted toward people, how he prayed, how he loved, how he showed compassion, and a multitude of other things. As you read more about Jesus through His word, you will be what Romans 12: 2 talks about by "being transformed by the renewing of our minds." We will become more Christ-like in our actions, attitudes, and relationships. I wish I could tell you that I've arrived and that I do this every day. The truth is as the old preacher once said, "I'm just a beggar telling another beggar where to find bread." I must remind myself and renew my mind daily so that my heart and mind are centered on Christ. May we get into the Gospels and model our lives after Christ. May he work through us to reach a dying world with the Gospel of Christ!

Love & Prayers!

Mark



The Gospel of Luke – Part 1 How Do You Respond To Jesus?

Who is Jesus of Nazareth, and what does he ask of us? For help answering these questions, we can turn to Luke's orderly account of Jesus's life and ministry—the Gospel of Luke. In this eleven-session series, pastor and author J.D. Greear will walk through the first half of Luke's Gospel, highlighting who Jesus is, what he did, and how the people around him responded. Luke shows us that Jesus is the savior who came to seek and save people in need, including us—and we must decide how to respond when He lovingly moves toward us.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/908565>

BRIAN'S BRIEFS

This month's spotlight is Ginny Key. Ginny makes sure that our education facilities and Worship Center stay clean and fresh for worship, funerals, and other special events. I have never met anyone who loves cleaning more than she does. From the nursery and preschool rooms, Sunday School Rooms, bathrooms, choir room, and worship center she has a game plan for each area.

- ▶ Floors are swept, moped and vacuumed
- ▶ Toilets are cleaned, toilet paper replaced (with the triangle shape at the end), soap refilled and hand towels replenished
- ▶ Pens, welcome/visitor cards are refilled, Bibles and Hymn books are straightened up and candy wrappers are dug out of the Lord's Supper Cup holders and in the cracks of the pews.
- ▶ Chairs in the Sunday School rooms are straightened and placed back in an organized manner; coffee stains are cleaned up
- ▶ Garbage Cans are emptied
- ▶ Exterior Doors are wiped down and cleaned
- ▶ Rugs are vacuumed
- ▶ Windows are washed inside and out
- ▶ Ledges, countertops, pews, piano, and organ are dusted
- ▶ Toys are wiped down, cleaned, and sanitized
- ▶ Magazines are put out

Depending on what events are going on or if there is a funeral she cleans before and after to make sure everything is ready and clean for Sunday. I realize I am missing a ton of other things that she does but she is priceless. I have never met anyone that takes more pride in her work than she does. Most people do not appreciate the work that goes into keeping a place this size clean. It is also very easy to overlook what takes place behind the scenes until it's not clean. When you see Ginny tell her thank you for her hard work.

Men's Bible Study
Monday Nights
6:30 pm
B-108

We are going through the Book of Jonah. Join us as we walk with Jonah through Receiving God's Call, Rebellion, Running from God, Repentance, Reconciliation, Responding to God's Will etc... We have a great bunch of guys from all ages.

SENIOR ADULT NEWS

In previous months Brian Ayers has been spotlighting church staff members and letting people know what they do for their area of ministry. I want to take this opportunity to let you know, at least some of what Brian Ayers, our Associate Pastor/Director of Operations does here at Sweetwater:

He leads and directs our Sunday School. Enlisting teachers, ordering materials and meeting needs.

He leads our Monday night Men's Bible Study. Preaches once a month and makes hospital and ministry visits when needed.

He coordinates all of our meals, purchases the food and does a lot of the cooking! (Something that I greatly appreciate!)

He takes care of all the building maintenance in all of our buildings. This is no small task with almost 100,000 square feet of buildings! He has a group of faithful volunteers that help with repairs and maintenance and saves the church a lot of money! THANKS GUYS!!

He coordinates the building usage, so that everyone has a place and time to meet. The Edgefield County Sheriff's Department and several community ministries use our building and he makes sure that it all works out! He also makes sure that tables and chairs are set up for all of our major events like our Joyous Senior luncheon.

He plans, organizes, and hosts our Wild Game Supper every year! This huge event draws 1,500 people to our campus and the Gospel is presented every year.

He and his crew of volunteers were out helping church members and people in our community after Hurricane Helene.

Thank you Brian, for all that you do!

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58

Your Team-Mate In Christ
Charlie

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apple Pickin' Trip on Thursday, October 9th
(Sign up sheet is in the foyer.)

Joyous Senior's Luncheon on Friday, October 17th at 11:45am
(For any change in reservation, call the church office.)



Sweetwater Youth Ministry

When the World Shakes, Jesus Remains

September has been a sobering month for our youth. With the assassination of Charlie Kirk, many students are wrestling with what it means to live faithfully in a world that is broken and often hostile toward truth. For older generations in our church, moments like this bring back memories of other tragedies—the assassination of JFK, or the events of September 11.

But here's the hope: **Jesus never changes**. Just as He walked with His disciples through uncertainty, He walks with us now. This is our opportunity—as parents, grandparents, and a church family—to walk with our students and show them that even when the world shakes, Christ is still our firm foundation.

Peculiar People: Following Jesus in Uncertain Times


This month, our youth have been studying a series called Peculiar People, focusing on the 12 disciples. These ordinary men—fishermen, tax collectors, and even doubters—were used by Jesus to turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6). Our students are discovering that if Jesus could use them, He can use us too.

And God is moving! In September, we celebrated **4 baptisms** from our youth. In the first two weekends of October, we are preparing to **baptize around 10 more**—all lives being transformed by Jesus. Church, thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. This fruit is evidence of God's Spirit moving through your faithfulness.



Fall Forward - November 8

 Friday–Sunday, November 8 weekend


 Evangelism Training + Community Outreach

WINTER EXTREME
EVE
SWEETWATER YOUTH



Our annual Fall Forward event is designed to equip youth with the tools to share their faith. Throughout the weekend, students will receive evangelism training and then immediately put it into practice by going into our community to share the gospel and their testimonies.

This isn't new for our group—students have already been preparing on Wednesday nights, learning how to communicate the gospel and their personal story of how Jesus has changed their lives. Fall Forward is the next step in that journey, and we are praying for boldness and fruit as they go out on mission.

 Church family, please join us by praying for this event, that God would use it to ignite a passion for evangelism in our youth and to reach people in our community who need Christ.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

- Hebrews 13:8

Thank you, Sweetwater, for standing with our youth. In times of uncertainty, we cling to Jesus, the one who never changes—and we are seeing Him move in incredible ways.

In Christ,

Jason Fitzgerald

Sweetwater Youth Ministry

jfitzgerald@sweetwaterbc.church

Sweetwater
Youth Ministry



KIDZ Ministry CORNER

Dear Church Family,

October is an exciting month for our children! We start our month off on school breaks for our local schools and round out the month with Fall Festival at our church. This year's Fall Festival will be held on the afternoon of October 26, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, at the Wild Game Pavilion. There will be games, Trunk - or - Treat, and plenty of free food for everyone. Lots of help is needed to help make this a successful outreach in our community. Please sign up to help with any of these activities as soon as possible.

In October, our Mission Kidz will be learning about the land and culture of Eastern Europe and how medical missionaries are on-the-go to share Jesus with its people. We will even be making rubber band cars to remind them to pray for missionary Harrison Martin. Mission Kidz meets on Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM, in the Family Life Center. Because of Fall Break and Fall Festival, Mission Kidz will not meet on October 5 or 26 this month.

As always, more help is needed in the nursery. There is a need for help during all the service times. Please consider helping to love on and help the youngest children grow to know God and His love for them.

Love,
"Miss" Missy Ferraro

   			
Sunday, October 5, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Brenda West Toddlers - Renee Stewart	9:45 AM Nancy Clark	11:00 AM Babies – Julie Little and Shelbie Johnson Toddlers – Hannah McClure and Barbara Schmidt	6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, October 12, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Lori Preston Toddlers - Jordan and Taylor Lyons	9:45 AM Cindy O'Driscoll	11:00 AM Babies – Katie Fitzgerald and Stacie Griffin Toddlers - Terry and Amy Jarvis	7:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, October 19, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - TBD Toddlers - Charity and Tyler Lyons	9:45 AM Susan Holley	11:00 AM Babies - April and Claire Jernigan Toddlers - Irina Taylor	7:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, October 27, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Jada Dunn Toddlers - Robin Lanham	9:45 AM Amy Clark	11:00 AM Babies - Ginny and Avery Key Toddlers - Eric and Tina Wiggins	FALL FESTIVAL

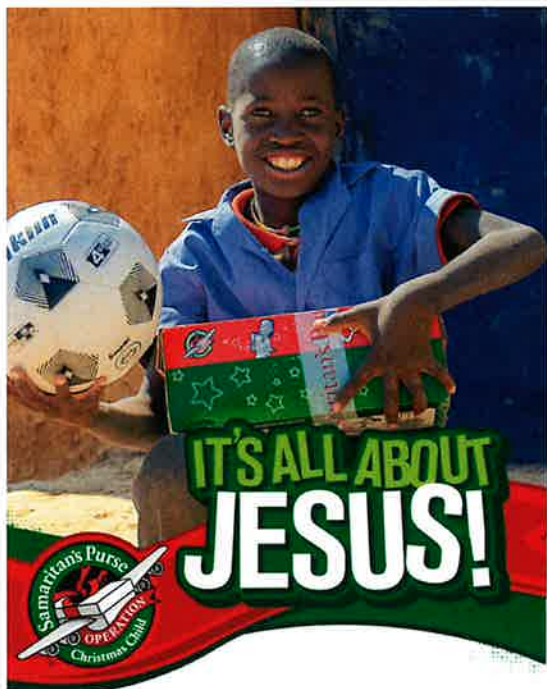
Nursery is also offered on Wednesday evenings during the service and during adult choir practice.
 Thank you so much for choosing to share God's love with the youngest children.
 Please contact Missy at (803) 270-4055 if you are unable to be in the nursery on your assigned day.



OCTOBER
IS

**PASTOR/STAFF
APPRECIATION
MONTH**

**LET'S CELEBRATE OUR PASTORS & STAFF
BY THANKING THEM FOR ALL THAT THEY
DO BY SENDING THEM A CARD, NOTE,
OR TEXT TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION!**



Visit samaritanaspurse.org/occ to learn more about how God can use a gift-filled shoebox given in Jesus' Name to transform a child, their family, and their community. VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Sept 28th

Deadline to sign up for OCC Distribution Day

Deadline to sign up to volunteer to work at an OCC Distribution Site in Atlanta or Charlotte in early December (TBD). Limited space available. Email Laurie Kinsey at kinseylaurie@aol.com or text her at 706-831-2115 if interested in participating.

Sun, Sept 28th

Wow! Items for sale in the skywalk

Sun, Oct 5th

Items for sale are:

9:30AM

- Soccer Ball with Pump \$6.00 each

to

- Gospel Dolls \$5.00 each

9:45AM

- Girls Dresses \$5.00 each

Wed, Oct 8th

Pack 100 Shoeboxes in the Gym

11:00AM

Neely Mission Group and Volunteers

Sun, Nov 9th

Deadline for Boxes to be Turned in at Sweetwater

Bring in earlier, if possible. It is important that the shoeboxes be returned by this deadline, because they will be delivered to a drop off site after Nov. 9th.



**Sunday,
October 26, 2025
4:00-6:00 pm**

We are planning for 600 people.

There are lots of opportunities to help.

SIGN UP in the notebook in the Children's Section of the Information Area in the foyer.

Also, there are opportunities to participate in Trunk or Treat.



Trunk or Treat cars

(Please try to buy candy for your own car)



Parking Attendants



Bags of individually wrapped candy (Lots of it!!)

Drop boxes will be located by the elevator and at the Welcome Center



Cookies or Cupcakes



Neely Mission Group

**Wednesday, October 8th
10:00 am - Noon
Fellowship Hall**

Bring any of the following items for Christmas Backpacks sent to Kentucky and Appalachian Mountain Children:

Pop-top cans of Beanie Weenies

Kids Coloring Books

Granola Bars

Crayons

Toothbrushes

Kids Card Games

Toothpaste



SWEETWATER'S

GOOD NEWS CLUB

2025-2026

We keep hearing that everything changed when God was taken out of the schools. But did you know we can go into public schools and share with children the Good News that Jesus Loves Them? If you want to know more about this opportunity, have a heart for children and looking for a place to serve outside the four walls of our church for a short time, that could make an eternal difference in the life of a child, please join us.

**Sunday, October 12th
5:00 pm
Room 106**

If you can listen to a child say a Bible verse, you qualify. Praying we will see you there.

HISTORY ROOM HOURS

1st Wednesday of the Month

October 1st

5:00-6:00 PM

3rd Sunday of the Month

October 19th

4:30-5:30 PM

SERVICE PERSONS OF THE MONTH



1st Lt Brendon LaPorte & Echo, US Army
Stationed in Anchorage, AK
Cousin of Archie & Wanda Coleman



Lt. Zack Szmanski & wife Lydia, USMC
Stationed at Paris Island in Beaufort, SC
Granddaughter of Richard & Wanda Kalb

FINANCE MEETING

Wednesday, October 15th
Immediately following the
Midweek Worship Service

SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING

6:00 PM, Sunday, September 28th

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, October 19th
4:00 PM
Room WC106

BUSINESS MEETING

6:30 PM, Wednesday, October 22nd

OCTOBER DEACON SCHEDULE

5	(8:30AM) Dick O'Driscoll	(11:00AM) Junior Johnson
12	(8:30AM) Grant Preston	(11:00AM) Chris McBride
19	(8:30AM) Matt Robinson	(11:00AM) Jeff Kervin
26	(8:30 AM) Chris Williams	(11:00AM) Archie Coleman



**Aiken Baptist
Associational Choir**
meets on Wednesdays
October 15th, 22nd, & 29th
at 1:00 PM
in the Choir Room

Women's Ministry News



October 18, 2025
War Binder Class

Winter/Spring Registration
November 1-30, 2025

blossombiblestudy@gmail.com

VINTAGE GARDENS BINGO

OCTOBER 11, 2025

Restored
November 1, 2025
10:00AM
Fellowship Hall

Faith Family Fellowship Churchwide Lunch

Sunday, November 30, 2025
Following 11:00
Worship Service
Gym
\$5.00/Person

VINTAGE GARDENS CHRISTMAS BOXES



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



CHURCH CALENDAR

SCHEDULE EACH WEEK

SUNDAYS (SEPTEMBER 28; OCTOBER 5, 12, 19, 26)(OCT 26th Fall Festival)

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

Sunday School - 9:45AM

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

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

Mission Kidz - 6:00-7:00PM (FLC) (OCTOBER 12, 19)

Youth Bible Study - 6:00-7:00PM (C202) (SEPT 28; OCTOBER 5, 12, 19)

Evening Worship Service - 6:00PM (Worship Center) (SEPT 28; OCTOBER 5, 12, 19)

MONDAYS (SEPTEMBER 30; OCTOBER 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)

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

WEDNESDAYS (OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

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

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

Kidz Choir - 6:15-7:15PM (October 15, 22, 29)

Midweek Service - 6:30PM (Worship Center)

Celebration Choir Rehearsal - 7:20PM

FRIDAYS (OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

Prayer - 6:00AM (Chapel)

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28TH - OCTOBER 4TH

SEPTEMBER 28th - OCC WOW Items for sale in the skywalk

SEPTEMBER 28th - OCC DEADLINE TO SIGNUP FOR DISTRIBUTION DAY

SEPTEMBER 28th - New Member and Prospective Member Class - 4:30PM (Sign up in the Information Center)

SEPTEMBER 28th - Special Called Business Meeting - 6:00PM

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

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

WEEK OF OCTOBER 5TH - OCTOBER 11TH

OCTOBER 5th - OCC WOW Items for sale in the skywalk

OCTOBER 8th - Neely Missions Group - 10:00AM-NOON (FH)

OCTOBER 8th - OCC Pack 100 Shoeboxes in the Gym - 11:00AM (GYM)

OCTOBER 9th - Apple Pickin' Trip (sign up sheet is in the foyer)

WEEK OF OCTOBER 12TH - OCTOBER 18TH

OCTOBER 12th - Good News Club Interest Meeting - 5:00PM (WC106)

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

OCTOBER 15th - Church Deadline for Submissions to November Newsletter

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

OCTOBER 17th - Joyous Seniors

OCTOBER 18th - Blossom War Binder Class

WEEK OF OCTOBER 20TH - OCTOBER 25TH

OCTOBER 19th - Deacons Meeting - 4:00PM (WC106)

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

OCTOBER 22nd - Business Meeting - 6:30PM (Worship Center)

OCTOBER 23rd - Seniors Birthday Bash (Oct Birthdays) - 2:00PM RSVP

WEEK OF OCTOBER 26TH - NOVEMBER 1ST

OCTOBER 26th - FALL FESTIVAL - 4:30PM-6:30PM (Pavillion Building)

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