

SweetWater

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

September 2025 Newsletter

HISTORY ROOM HOURS

1st Wednesday of the Month
5:00-6:00 PM

3rd Sunday of the Month
4:30-5:30 PM



Operation Christmas Child Churchwide Kick Off

Sunday, September 14th
8:30 & 11:00 AM Worship Services
Guest Speaker from Rwanda



Sweetwater Youth Group - August 20, 2025



New Member and Prospective Members Class

Please, sign-up in the Information Center.

Sunday, September 28th

4:30PM

Special Called Business Meeting

Sunday, September 28th at 6:00PM

in the Worship Center



SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR PAUL'S PARAGRAPHS

Dear Members of Sweetwater Baptist Church:

Blessings!! Sweetwater has a rich and vivid history. Our church was founded in **1832**. That is **193** years of history! We are blessed to have an outstanding **History Room** in the Chapel Building that helps to preserve our important history. It is named after our beloved, former pastor and first-lady, **Dr. Eleazer and Nina Benenhaley**. **Paul and Carol Bunch** have agreed to open the History Room a couple of times a month for people to visit and enjoy the exhibits and artifacts that are on display in the Sweetwater History Room. The History Room will be open the First Wednesday of every month from 5:00-6:00 pm and the third Sunday of the month from 4:30-5:30 pm. This would also be an excellent time to browse the **Church Library**. Let me encourage you to plan to visit the History Room or Library at your convenience. Also, if you have something that you would like to submit for display in the History Room pertaining to Sweetwater, please just let me know.

We are so blessed to be a part of the **South Carolina Baptist Convention**. **The Week of Prayer for State Missions is September 7-14**. Our **Janie Chapman Mission Offering** goal this year is **\$12,000.00**. Every dime of the offering goes to support our missionaries across the state of South Carolina. Let me encourage you to prayerfully consider what God would have you to give towards this very important offering throughout the month of September.

I am so excited about our **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox kickoff on Sunday morning, **September 14th**. **Alex Nsengimana** from the country of **Rwanda** will be our guest speaker. Alex was a recipient of a shoebox as a child and accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. He will be sharing his inspirational story with us during both morning services. You will also have the opportunity to pick up a shoebox at that time to bless a child somewhere in the world just like Alex. Please, invite someone to attend with you to hear this incredible testimony of how a shoebox changed a child's life.

On Sunday afternoon, **September 28th**, I will be leading a **New Members and Prospective Members Information Class** in Room WC106. This class is for new members who have joined recently or those who are thinking about making Sweetwater their church home. There is a sign-up sheet in the Information Center for those who are interested in attending.

Also, your **Nominating Committee** is busy working to secure individuals to serve in the various leadership positions in the church. There will be a special called business meeting on Sunday evening, **September 28th**, for the purpose of approving the 2025-2026 Nominating Committee Report and electing deacons.

Fall is just around the corner. I am so excited to see how God is going to bless us as a church during the fall months. Let's pray together that God will do something special in our midst during the Fall of '25.

Thank you for the joy and privilege of serving you!

With a Pastor's Love,

Paul
Philippians 1:3



HISTORY ROOM



History Room Open

1st Wednesday of the Month – 5:00-6:00 PM

3rd Sunday of the Month – 4:30-5:30 PM

September Hours

Wednesday, Sept. 3rd - 5:00-6:00 PM

Sunday, Sept 21st - 4:30-5:30 PM

(This would also be a wonderful time to visit the Church Library.)

New Member and Prospective Members Class

(Please, sign-up in the Information Center)

Sunday, September 28th at 4:30PM

in Room WC106

Special Called Business Meeting

*For the Purpose of Approving the Nominating Committee Report and Electing Deacons

Sunday, September 28th at 6:00PM

in the Worship Center

BRIAN'S BRIEFS

This month's spotlight is our Associate Pastor of Senior Adults Charlie Crews. Charlie has been with us 18-months and has jumped in with both feet and making a huge difference. While I am sitting behind my desk writing this article Charlie and his wife Nancy are on a well-deserved vacation. Charlie does an outstanding job ministering to our senior adults.

1. Charlie oversees our Joyous Seniors luncheon which meets the 3rd Friday of each month from September – May.
2. He spends countless hours each week visiting hospitals, nursing homes, rehab centers, and wherever else our senior adults find themselves trying to get back on their feet.
3. Charlie and Nancy visit many of our seniors that are homebound, recovering from surgeries, or just need an encouraging visit.
4. He follows-up with visitors through a phone call or personal visit.
5. Follows-up with New Members and takes them a packet about the church.
6. He sings in the adult and Aiken Baptist Associational Choir.
7. He sings when time allows with the Singing Churchmen.
8. Charlie fills the pulpit on Wednesday Nights in the absence of our pastor.
9. He also fills in as choir director for Mark in his absence.
10. Plans trips and outings for the Senior Adults.
11. He is an encouraging to the staff as he is willing to help do anything.

Make sure you tell Charlie how much you appreciate all that he does.

Men's Bible Study
Monday Night
September 8
6:30 pm
B-108

We will be going through the Book of Jonah. Please read, study and focus on Jonah and his attitude and adventure relates to us men today. We will examine topics Rebellion, Running from God, Repentance, Reconciliation, Responding to God's Will etc... I am looking forward to being back together with you guys.

SENIOR ADULT NEWS

I can't wait for the temperatures to get cooler and the fellowship to get warmer! Please take note of these opportunities to gather together!

Back to Mayberry!

Senior Adult Lunch and Ministry Fair

Thursday, September 11th

10:30-1:00 @ Clearwater First Baptist Church

We will meet in front of the sanctuary at 10:00 AM and carpool over to Clearwater. Please call our Associational office at 803-648-0204 and reserve your spot for lunch!

Birthday Bash

Thursday, September 18 @ 2:00 PM

All of our Seniors who are celebrating a birthday in September and their spouses are invited to our house!

Joyous Seniors Luncheon

Friday, September 19 @ 11:45 in the Gym

Please call the church office before Sept 15th to reserve your spot for the new year.

Church Apple Pickin' Trip

Thursday, October 9th

More information to come!

Christmas Shopping Trip to Myrtle Beach

Monday & Tuesday, December 1 & 2

Trip includes: beach-front accommodations, Dinner at Chesapeake House, Christmas Show at the Alabama theater, Breakfast and bus transportation; for \$200 per person/double occupancy. Not included in the price are 2 lunches and a tip for the driver. We will be traveling with the Seniors from FBC N Augusta. And yes, we will be shopping at the Tanger Outlets and the Bass Pro Shop!

We have a very limited amount of rooms, so do not wait to make your reservation! To make your reservation I need \$50 deposit per person! I will receive reservations starting Sunday September 7th
This trip will fill up fast! For more information, call Charlie!

See you in Church!

Charlie

Music Moments with Mark

Dear Church Family,

I am super excited about what God is doing in the music ministry of Sweetwater Baptist Church. Our Sweetwater Kidz Choir had **31kids** in attendance at our first rehearsal this past month! I want to thank Mrs. Dawn Gillespie, our Kidz Choir Director, and all the volunteers(over 15!) that are helping make it such a great success. **Over half of the kids are not members of Sweetwater.** The kids are excited about learning music and praising God through singing! Here's a few photos from our first rehearsal!



In closing, I want to point you to another important study on RightNow Media for parents with kids and youth helping them learn how to disciple your kids like Jesus. I just ordered my copy of the book from Amazon for less than \$20. It goes along with the videos found on RightNow Media. It is an encouraging, practical guide to help disciple your kids and teenagers to follow Christ. I pray it is a blessing to you and equips you with the necessary information to lead your family!

Love & Prayers!

Mark

DISCIPLE THEM LIKE JESUS: Leading Your Kids The Way Christ Led the Twelve

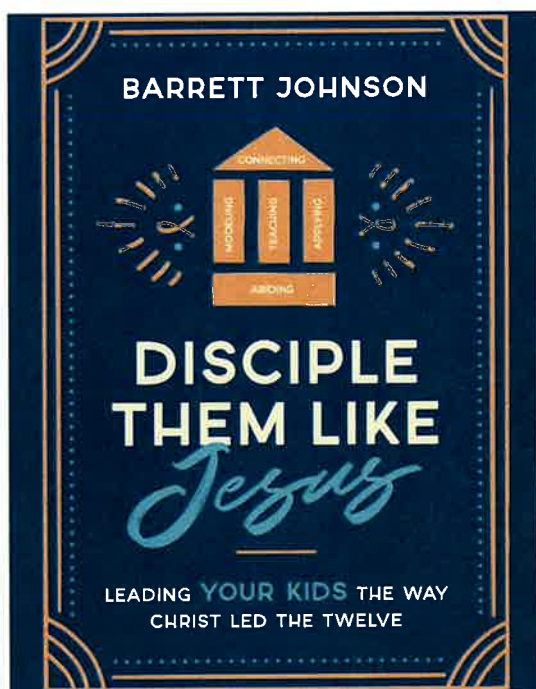
**When It Comes to Growing Disciples at Home,
Take Your Cues from the Master**

In the whirlwind of modern parenting, it's easy to lose sight of what our priorities should be. But at the end of the day, your primary job is to nurture an authentic faith in your kids.

Addressing the unsettling trend of young adults abandoning their faith soon after leaving home, author and speaker Barrett Johnson offers a clear blueprint grounded in the model of Jesus and His twelve disciples. He advocates for intentional discipleship within the family unit while exploring such pivotal questions as "What did Jesus do to empower ordinary individuals to transform the world?" and "How can I learn from Jesus' example and put it into practice with my children?"

This book guides you through a practical, step-by-step approach, inviting you to embrace Jesus' proven principles to foster a vibrant, enduring faith in the next generation. Follow this link to learn more about Disciple Them Like Jesus

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/885475>



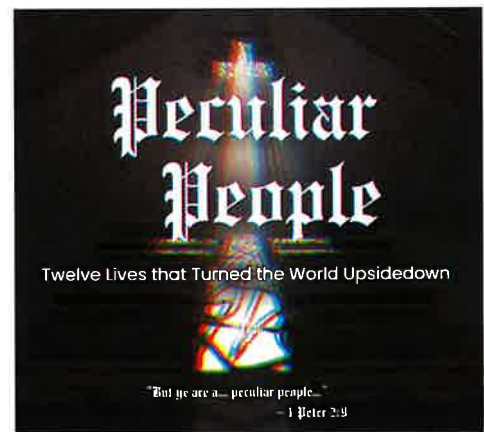
SweetWater Youth Ministry



In August, nearly **40 of our students and leaders** joined thousands of others at the **Tim Tebow FCA Fields of Faith event in Aiken, SC**. Tim shared the gospel powerfully, and our students were challenged to stand boldly for Christ in their generation.

Turning the World Upside Down

This month in youth, we're walking through a series called Peculiar People, where we are studying the lives of the twelve disciples. These were not the men most people would have chosen—fishermen, tax collectors, zealots, and even doubters. Yet Jesus called them, equipped them, and used them to turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6). Their stories remind us that God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called. Our students are discovering that following Jesus isn't about having it all together—it's about surrender, obedience, and letting God use ordinary lives for His extraordinary mission. If Jesus could use a handful of imperfect men to change history, then He can—and will—use this generation too.



As a church, we must pause and ask ourselves: Are we truly making disciples who live differently, or are we simply doing church as usual? The next generation is not looking for a faith that is safe, comfortable, or easy. They are longing to see a faith that is bold, authentic, and lived out in everyday life. They don't just need more programs; they need models—men and women who show them what it looks like to follow Jesus wholeheartedly in a world pulling them the other direction. The youth of Sweetwater are watching us. What they see in our lives will either confirm or contradict the message we preach. The church that raises up a generation with a sent faith—one that goes, serves, and makes disciples—will be a church that turns the world upside down again.

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” – 1 Peter 2:9

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

SweetWater
Youth Ministry



KIDZ Ministry CORNER

Dear Church Family,

Our children are growing in the Word! Please help them to continue growing through prayer, reading the Bible with them, and being an active part of our church family.

This month our children will learning about the missionaries, Erik and Danni Naylor and discover how they share love and hope with the people of Lahaina, Hawaii, during Mission Kidz on Sunday nights. They will be reading how Paul and Silas were intentional with sharing God's word with the people of Thessalonica. Through learning about the missionaries, as well as Paul and Silas, our children will be better equipped to share God's love with everyone around them. Don't forget that we will have special Hawaiian food on September 7.

Our church nursery still needs more volunteers! Please stop by the nursery desk or contact me to get background checked and added to the nursery rotation. We have quite a few new babies and young children joining our church family, and they all deserve to learn about God's love.

Love,
"Miss" Missy Ferraro

			
Sunday, September 7, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Brenda West Toddlers - Renee Stewart	9:45 AM Nancy Clark	11:00 AM Babies - Zack and Katie Canady Toddlers – Hannah McClure and Barbara Schmidt	6:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, September 14, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Maribeth Weikle Toddlers - Jordan and Taylor Lyons	9:45 AM Cindy O'Driscoll	11:00 AM Babies - Nancy Britt and Stacie Griffin Toddlers - Terry and Amy Jarvis	7:00 PM Clydie Blackwood
Sunday, September 21, 2025			
8:30 AM Babies - Lori Preston 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, September 28, 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	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



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

Lt Col Mark O'Driscoll, USMC
Stationed at NATO HQ in Norfolk, VA
Son of Dick & Cindy O'Driscoll



Jamie Wilmoth
United States Air Force
Son of Jim & Shirley Wilmoth

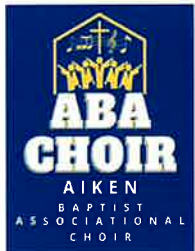
Lt Col Jamie Wilmoth, USAF
Stationed at Shaw AFB in Sumter, SC
Son of Jim & Shirley Wilmoth

FINANCE MEETING

Wednesday, September 17th
Immediately following the
Midweek Worship Service

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, September 21st
4:00 PM
Room WC106



**Aiken Baptist
Associational Choir**
meets on Wednesdays
at 1:00 PM
in the Choir Room

SEPTEMBER DEACON SCHEDULE

7	(8:30AM) Steve Lanham	(11:00AM) Allen Simmons
14	(8:30AM) Chris Williams	(11:00AM) Junior Johnson
21	(8:30AM) Phillip Dickert	(11:00AM) Archie Coleman
28	(8:30 AM) Chic Morris	(11:00AM) Jeff Kervin

Women's Ministry News





Discover how God used an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in my life ...



Alex Nsengimana

Growing up in Rwanda. Alex Nsengimana experienced firsthand the tragedies of his nation's genocide. At the height of tribal unrest, the genocide claimed the lives of his caregivers. Fleeing for his life, Alex escaped gunmen and eventually ended up in an orphanage. He received a shoebox from Operation Christmas Child a year later and remembers being so excited to have a gift to call his own. The shoebox gift sowed seeds of hope and love that he desperately needed. He realized that God had a specific plan for his life. Alex now serves with Operation Christmas Child, paying forward the hope and love he received through a shoebox gift. Join us for a special time of Alex telling his story of redemption and forgiveness.

Operation Christmas Child Churchwide Kick Off

Sweetwater Baptist Church
Sunday, September 14th
8:30 & 11:00 AM Worship Services

Guest Speaker: Alex Nsengimana

Come hear Alex Nsengimana share how Operation Christmas Child Shoebox changed his life and pick up your OCC boxes..



Investing in the Kingdom
Philippians 2:4

Week of Prayer for State Missions September 7-14, 2025

Scan QR code for
digital Prayer Guide
or receive Prayer Guide
on Sunday, Sept 7th with
the church bulletin.



The Sweetwater Janie Chapman Offering goal is \$12,000. Support mission efforts across South Carolina.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Sun, Sept 14th

Build shoeboxes in the Fellowship Hall

(Volunteers Needed; See Laurie Kinsey for more information.)

Sun, Sept 21st
Sept 28th & Oct 5th

Operation Christmas Child Churchwide Kick off

Alex Nsengimana from Rwanda, Guest Speaker

8:30AM & 11:00AM Worship Services

Pick up OCC boxes to fill

Wed, Oct 8th

Wow! Items for sale in the skywalk

(Soccer ball with pump \$6, Dresses \$5, Gospel Doll \$5)

11AM

Pack 100 Shoeboxes

(Church Volunteers and Neely Group in Gym)

Nov 9th

Deadline for Boxes to be Turned in

Delivery to local drop off location (Nov 10-16 TBD)

WMU[®] God's mission. Our passion.

Attention Ladies!

A new year of Neely Mission Group will begin in September. Our first monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10th at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be planning our monthly activities so don't miss it! Please bring a door prize to share and as always, invite others! Mark your calendars and never miss a meeting:

Neely Mission Group Meetings for 2025-2026

2025

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

December 10th

2026

January 14th

February 11th

March 11th

April 8th

May 13th

CHURCH CALENDAR

SCHEDULE EACH WEEK

SUNDAYS (AUGUST 31; SEPTEMBER 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)

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

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

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

MONDAYS (SEPTEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 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 (SEPTEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24; OCTOBER 1)

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

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

Kidz Choir - 6:15-7:15PM

Midweek Service - 6:30PM (Worship Center)

Celebration Choir Rehearsal - 7:20PM

FRIDAYS (SEPTEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26; OCTOBER 3)

Prayer - 6:00AM (Chapel)

WEEK OF AUGUST 31ST - SEPTEMBER 6TH

AUGUST 31st - Fifth Sunday Food Drive

AUGUST 31st - Faith, Family, Fun Lunch - immediately following 11am Worship Service - FLC \$5/person (RSVP)

SEPTEMBER 1st - Church Office Closed - Happy Labor Day

SEPTEMBER 3rd - History Room is open 5:00PM-6:00PM

SEPTEMBER 6th - Restored - 9:00AM-1:00PM (FLC) (RSVP)

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7TH - SEPTEMBER 13TH

WEEK OF PRAYER - JANIE CHAPMAN - STATE MISSIONS

SEPTEMBER 8th - Men's Bible Study - 6:30PM (B108)

SEPTEMBER 10th - Neely Missions Group

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14TH - SEPTEMBER 20TH

SEPTEMBER 14th - Operation Christmas Child Churchwide Kickoff and Guest Speaker Alex Nsengimana

SEPTEMBER 15th - Men's Bible Study - 6:30PM (B108)

SEPTEMBER 15th - Norma Pate Bible Study - 6:30PM (FH)

SEPTEMBER 15th - Church Deadline for Submissions to October Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 17th - Finance Meeting (immediately following Midweek Service) (WC105)

SEPTEMBER 18th - Seniors Birthday Bash (Sept Birthdays) - 2:00PM RSVP

SEPTEMBER 19th - Joyous Seniors

SEPTEMBER 20th - Men's Prayer Breakfast - 8:00AM-9:00AM (Fellowship Hall)

SEPTEMBER 20th - Blossom Women's Fall Gathering

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21ST - SEPTEMBER 27TH

SEPTEMBER 21st - OCC WOW Items for sale in the skywalk

SEPTEMBER 21st - Deacons Meeting - 4:00PM (WC106)

SEPTEMBER 21st - History Room is open 4:30PM-5:30PM

SEPTEMBER 22nd - Men's Bible Study - 6:30PM (B108)

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28TH - OCTOBER 4TH

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

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

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