

August 2026

Dates to Remember

- * 2nd - Matt Papa tickets go on sale!
- * 9th - River Baptisms following worship service on the Nottoway River.
- * 10th-13th - Youth Summer Camp - Cedar Ranch Retreat
- * 16th - Promotion Sunday
- * 19th - Summer Fellowship Dinner at 5:30 PM
- * 20th - Pastor's Book Club at 11:30 AM

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SMYRNA SCROLL

PASTOR'S CORNER

I am so looking forward to our journey through the book of Titus to close out 2026. Paul's writing to his pastoral protégé is slam full of important and helpful insight into the life of the local church. This past Sunday we began our preaching with a reminder of the Apostle's philosophy of ministry. The very fact that he wrote to Titus at all shows us how much value Paul placed on personal discipleship.

If you recall, we were reminded Paul understood the principle of multiplication. While Titus (and Timothy and others) may have required a good amount of investment up front, the goal of the ministry was to reproduce disciples who would pour into others. Over the years, this method would gain quickly as multiples of faithful men and women would grow up into disciple makers.

It strikes me that this method makes sense on paper and it undoubtedly reflects the pattern that was modeled for us in the ministry of Christ and Paul, but it also requires a bit of patience and faith. We need to be patient when walking with others in the faith! As Peter and James and John show us, disciples often show their warts! They are going to make mistakes and say foolish things and even fall into sin at times. These moments can be very challenging for the disciple maker! We can be tempted to give up and move on, but I would implore you to stay the course with those who show fruit and an earnest desire to repent and move forward.

Second, we need faith! Sometimes we can look at the world around us and be overwhelmed by the obvious need and wickedness. If we aren't careful, we can buy the lie that our seemingly meager efforts to disciple a few won't make any difference in the grand scheme of things. This might seem obvious, but it is patently false! Do not despise small beginnings church family. One disciple can turn into hundreds and thousands in our lifetime if we simply move forward in faith that God can do exceedingly and abundantly more than we could ever imagine with our faith-filled actions.

As we walk through Titus, I want you to think often about your place in the epistle. Obviously, Paul wasn't writing with you in mind, but the Holy Spirit inspired his words for the good of the church, which means that there are great lessons to be learned. If the Spirit thinks that a letter to a single disciple can help us today, who are we to say otherwise? Therefore, let us

read the book with eyes wide open, seeing in Paul's words a pattern for our own investment and may we do so with the same conviction that God can use our efforts to raise up one to create a wave of Gospel fruit in the future that we cannot fathom.

Blessings,
Pastor Aaron
abobo@smyrna1897.org

A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT ROWLAND, EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF CARE

Dear Smyrna Family,

I am sitting here writing today having just come off a 7-day cruise with my wife. It was just the two of us for a week and it was wonderful. Traveling to the port in Miami was part of the joy of just getting away from it all and sharing focused time with her. I recommend it highly! The point that I want to make today is that it is important for us to take breaks, relax, let go of the day-to-day grind, and just catch our breath. Even Jesus walked away from ministry and to the Father to refuel on occasion. If He needed to do it, don't you think we do as well. By the way, I did not take a vacation from my walk with our Lord. I read my Bible, read other Christian books, and prayed every single day as Johanna and I worshipped the Lord and marveled at the beauty in creation.

There is an important reality that I want to highlight briefly today. The use of time is a zero-sum game. In other words, if you use a set amount of time in one place, it automatically takes that time from anything else. So, when you say yes to one person's request, you cannot say yes at the same time to another person. If I use my time in this area, it is taken from another area. Now, there are certainly plenty of things that we must do that require amounts of our time. We must go to work, eat, sleep, drive to places, etc. I am really talking about all the demands that other people place on you that are often not truly your responsibility.

When I think of all the times I said yes to someone else's "need" and the fact that I was walking away from my wife, my children, my home, and my responsibilities there, only to lose that time with them and never get it back, it weighs on me. I thank God that they all understood, most of the time, that it was what God called us to as a family and serving others and our King was a privilege. At the same time, there were plenty of times when someone was just unrealistically demanding who cost me time that I should not have spent on them. I am not lamenting, just trying to let you know that it is perfectly fine and not unchristian to say no sometimes in order to invest your time in a better way or better place.

Now, some of you seldom give your time to others, so don't let this be a reason why you allow yourself to feel okay about being selfish. We are called to self-denial and to service as children of God. The challenge is to find the proper balance where you cover all your God-assigned bases well. God has given us all the time we need to do all that HE calls us to do. The problem is that sometimes we take on responsibilities and duties that are not ours to take and end up getting run down,

overworked, stressed out, and joyless on our journeys. Please fight against that dear ones by learning to say no to the overly needy, thoughtless, and irresponsible people out there that will try to pull you into their mess.

So, learn to get away, take a vacation, and realize that you are not God and that the world will keep on spinning even if you let go of the ropes for a time to rejuvenate, reconnect, and fall back in love with the life that He has graciously given you. I know getting away with Johanna was absolutely amazing. We spent our week focused on each other and resting and guess what. The world didn't fall apart; The Church didn't fall apart; My parents survived; We came home having had a wonderful vacation. Take a break church family. Enjoy the summer and get yourself ready to rock-n-roll in various ministries as we fire back up in 6 weeks.

Devotedly,

Pastor Robert

rrowland@smyrna1897.org



MESSAGE FROM DANIEL WEATSON - PASTORAL RESIDENT

Recently I finished reading *The Cross of Christ* by John Stott. In this work Stott investigates crucial aspects related to the cross through the overarching theme that the cross is the centerpiece of Christianity. He looks at the righteousness of God, the wrath of God and the holiness of God. He continues with other themes like substitution, propitiation, as well as what Jesus frees us from and frees us to. Still further, Stott endeavors to explain what the Father did to the Son, what Jesus did for us, the depth of our sin, the fullness of the atonement that only Jesus' sacrifice could give, and other factors that are related to the cross. This work dedicates multiple pages to explaining 2 Corinthians 5:21, the "great exchange" as it relates to what Jesus did on the cross. With Stott as your guide, this book will take you deeper into the great work God did through His Son on the Cross. You will gain a better understanding of the seriousness and ugliness of sin. It will also show you the magnitude of God's grace and remind you of the real hope we have in Christ. This hope is because of the victory He has through His death, resurrection, ascension and present reign as King.

It is not always easy to choose just one quote to sum up a book, so I will not do that here. Rather, I will give you a quote of what should result from reading this work, "there is no joy comparable to the joy of the forgiven". One of the reasons Stott goes deep into the cross is to show us the glory and beauty that comes from our sins being paid for. The more we understand what Jesus did for us, the greater our joy in Him will be. If you decide to read this book, keep Stott's quote about joy in the back of your mind as you journey through it.

Daniel Watson

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YOUTH

CEDAR RANCH RETREAT

YOUTH CAMP

WORSHIP – STUDY – GROW



Facilities/Amenities:

- 68 Acre Ranch in Culpeper, VA
- Bunk Beds
- Three meals a day/Snacks
- Camp T-shirt
- Worship Center

Activities:

- Worship/ Bible Study/TAWG
- Nature Explore
- Swimming Pool/Pond
- Team Games
- Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, GAGA Pit

AUGUST
10-13

SAVE THE DATE

- ✓ Cost is \$275 per camper
- ✓ Registration opens May 1st, 2026
- ✓ Limited spots



Scholarships are available



Smyrna Baptist Church presents

MATT PAPA

Writer of "His Mercy is More", "Christus Victor" and many more

AMERICAN FOLK SONGS & HYMNS TOUR

Thursday, October 22-7p.m.

Doors open @ 6:15 pm

18971 Carson Road.Dinwiddie.Va. 804.469.9363

Tickets are on sale now!



We are so excited to be welcoming Matt Papa with guests, Zack and Maggie White on Thursday, October 22, at 7 p.m. Our choir will be joining them on a couple of songs as well! We sing many of Matt's songs in our worship services. Tickets are available for our congregation beginning Sunday, August 2, for \$25 per person. Scan the QR code for tickets or contact Audrey in the church office to purchase tickets. Beginning Sept. 1, tickets will become available to the public and prices will be \$30 so you will want to get your tickets before September 1 to lock in the \$25 price. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from the heart of the writer of many songs that we sing in worship here at Smyrna.

Summer activities begin to wind down toward the end of August, and our thoughts turn toward fall with all the ministry opportunities that start up. There's room for more in the choir! We will continue with the two worship choir rehearsal times, Wednesdays at 6:30 and 8:15. We would love to fill the platform with worshipers that love the Lord and love singing. I hope to see some new faces!

Singing His praises,
Melodie Parsons

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23, 24

What an incredible month it has been in Smyrna Kids! We are praising God for a wonderful week of VBS and are deeply grateful for every volunteer who gave their time, energy, and heart to serve our children. We are also thankful for the parents who entrusted their children to us and supported the week in so many ways. Most of all, we celebrate every child who joined us, learned God's Word, and experienced the love of Jesus. Thank you for helping make VBS such a meaningful and successful week!

As summer begins to wind down, we are praying for our children, families, teachers, and school staff as they prepare to head back to school. May this new school year be filled with growth, encouragement, and opportunities for our children to shine the light of Christ wherever they go.

Believe it or not, it is already time to begin thinking about AWANA! Registration opens **August 1**, and we are excited for another year of helping children know, love, and serve Jesus through Scripture, discipleship, and lots of fun. Be watching for registration information and opportunities to serve.

Sunday Morning Volunteer Needs

Beginning **September 13**, our church will move into two Sunday school hours. This is an exciting opportunity to serve more families, but it will also require additional dependable volunteers in our children's ministry.

To provide a safe, welcoming, and productive environment every Sunday morning, we will need **19 volunteers serving each week**.

Our greatest needs are:

- Nursery volunteers during all three service times
- 1- and 2-year-old volunteers during all three service times
- 3-year-old volunteers at 9:45
- 4-year-old volunteers at 9:45

This new structure will be an adjustment for all of us, so consistency and dependability will be especially important. When our classrooms are fully staffed, other volunteers can focus on welcoming families, assisting with check-in, and helping children get safely to the correct classrooms.



It is always helpful to update your availability from time to time, but it is especially important as we prepare for our new Sunday morning structure. A volunteer survey will help us better understand where and when you are available to serve. You can access the survey using the QR code below, and it will also be sent by email and text.

Please be honest when completing the survey. If a particular age group is not the right fit for you, that is completely okay! We want you to serve in an area where your gifts, personality, and strengths can be used well. Finding the right fit allows you to serve with greater confidence and joy while helping us build a stronger, more dependable ministry team for our children and families.

Whether you can serve weekly, twice a month, or as part of a dependable rotation, there is a place for you. Please begin praying about how God may be calling you to invest in our children and support the families of Smyrna Baptist Church.

As we move into this next season, please know how deeply loved and appreciated you are! Our children's ministry runs because faithful volunteers continue to say yes, show up, love children, support families, and serve wherever they are needed. We never want to take that for granted. We are so incredibly grateful for each of you and for the heart you bring to this ministry. Thank you for helping make Smyrna Kids a place where children are known, loved, safe, and pointed to Jesus!

With gratitude,

Erica Chaplin

echaplin@smyrna1897.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</u> 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Service						1 Faith Driggers
2 Emma Kennedy	3 Diane Burton Ted Scott	4 Kathy Miles Naurice Wells	5 Tyler Adams Bonnie Slayden	6 Amelia Servis	7 Layke Montgomery	8 Kristine Sohn
9 Nottoway River Baptisms Bemmie Scott	10 Youth Camp - Culpepper, VA	11 Tiffany Harvey Andrew Jones Janelle McCoig	12 BOP Lunch @ 11:00 AM Lucas Lane	13 Phylise Lewis	14 Billy Cizek Carol Morgan Gabi Perkinson	15 Billy Cizek Carol Morgan Gabi Perkinson
16 Promotion Sunday Jim Harris	17 	18 Ryan Clay Brett Clary Ashley Perkinson	19 Summer Fellowship 5:30 PM Vivian Rowland Joshua Servis	20 Pastor's Book Club - 11:30 AM Tony Lunsford	21 Jann Etheredge James Kester Blakely Perkinson	22 Kristin Clay Brad Perkinson Brady Neville
23 SS Teacher Training William Chavis	24 Deacon's Mtg - 6:30 PM Amie Davila	25 	26 	27 Bobby Perkins Amanda Tanner Wirt Wills, Jr.	28 Heather Leshar Marlow Puttkamer Piotr Rusek	29
30 Kids Volunteer Training Grayson Hoverstock	31 					

All Wednesday evening activities
will resume September 9th!





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www.smyrna1897.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Smyrna Baptist Church exists for the purpose of building up a community of fully equipped believers who give glory to God with every aspect of their lives.

August 2026 - Children's volunteer schedule

DATE	9:30 - 10:45		10:45 - 12:15				
	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	1'S & 2'S	3'S	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
2 nd	Audrey Erdmann	Leah Pierce	Alison Adams	Krista Jones	Johanna Rowland	Laura Foley	Carla Temple
9 th	Jason Collins	Gina Perkinson	Erica Chaplin	Meredith Outlaw	Marisol Joyner	Jennifer Miller	Sarah Mae Wamsley
16 th	Kim Davis	Holly McCaffity	Kim Davis	Mary Tucker	Cheryl Joyner	Brooke Dimaio	Jessica Etheredge
23 rd	Scotty Leshner	Mykalah Tench	Audrey Erdmann	Nikki Russell	April Green & Kristen Berry	Ashley Bobo	Lori & William Chappell
30 th	Angie Adkins	Sariah Williamson	Amanda Joyner	Melissa Taylor	5 th Sunday Family Worship - No children's classes today - only nursery available		

AUGUST EVENTS SCHEDULE 2026



09/ HOTTOWAY RIVER BAPTISMS
SUN
Immediately following the morning service, we will drive down to the Hottoway River to baptize. A hot dog lunch will be served afterwards.



16/ PROMOTION SUNDAY
SUN @ 11 AM
We will recognize children starting kindergarten and 1st grade morning up to 10:45.



16/ CELEBRITY CRUISE INFORMATION MEETING
SUN @ 12:30
Cruise Dates: January 8-15, 2028
If you are interested in learning more details about our group cruise, you must sign up for the luncheon by August 15th.



19/ SUMMER FELLOWSHIP DINNER
WED @ 6:30
Church will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. We ask you to bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be water games for the kids, so bring a bowl.

MORE INFORMATION

CALL 804-469-9363

Y'ALL ABOARD WITH SMYRNA!

Celebrity Cruise Information Meeting

i Info meeting will be **Sunday, August 16, 2026** immediately following worship service

🍴 Lunch will be provided at the meeting

📅 **UPCOMING VOYAGE DATES**
January 8-15, 2028

SIGN UP SHEET IN THE FOYER FOR THE INFORMATION MEETING

YOU MUST SIGN UP BY AUGUST 9TH!

Can't attend? See James or Rhonda Kester