



SMYRNA BAPTIST CHURCH  
building community • equipping believers • serving Jesus



# SMYRNA SCROLL

## PASTOR'S CORNER

June 2026

### Dates to Remember

- \* 7th - SS Teacher Training - 12:30PM
- \* 11th - Pastor's Book Club - 11:30 AM
- \* 17th-19th - Senior Adult trip to Lancaster, PA
- \* 21st - Father's Day
- \* 24th - Summer Fellowship Dinner - 5:30 PM
- \* 29th - Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PASTORS' CORNER	1-2
A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROBERT	2-3
FROM DANIEL'S DESK	3
YOUTH	4
MUSIC MINISTRY	5
SMYRNA KIDS	6
CHURCH CALENDAR & BIRTHDAYS	7
VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE & OTHER	8

This past month has been, quite possibly, the most challenging and blessed month of my life. I've learned quite a bit about my limitations and, at the same time, I've come to understand some biblical truths by experience! Being totally immobile for several weeks and then needing assistance for basic tasks (like getting onto the stage) is humbling but it is also very instructive. I've been reminded that the Lord doesn't need my health or abilities to expand His Kingdom. I've been taught that I need the body just as much as anyone else. I've seen my wife's love and dedication and been humbled to consider the great blessing she is to me. I've also been reminded of some very basic truths as it relates to ministry and I want to highlight a few of those for our edification and encouragement today.

1. Presence is a powerful thing. Frankly (and transparently), I have not always believed this to be the case. Having never really been "homebound" for any length of time, I have been guilty at times of discounting the value of a visit. This is easy to do when you are free and mobile. Nevertheless, I was surprised to observe how encouraged I was by your presence and calls. There is something very special about knowing you've not been forgotten. I pray that all of us can be reminded that a simple visit, meal, phone call or card can mean the world to people. So many of you lifted my spirits in ways I cannot adequately express. Your ministry of simply being there is profoundly important! May we press into this ministry as a body! If you are aware of someone who is suffering, call them. Stop by! I expect that your intentionality means quite a bit... it did to me!
2. Time is precious and, therefore, best used intentionally. Somewhere around day 7 (of 17), I realized that I was not nearly as bored or stir crazy as I thought I would be. The reason, I believe, was that I had a goal for my time. Every day I woke up with the mission of reading a good book. I chose each work with a desire to grow in my understanding of Scripture. I found that these works ministered to me, they challenged me and they gave me something constructive to do. Paul encourages us to "make the best use of our time" (Ephesians 5:16). Best is a relative term. It denotes the foremost option available to you. It is possible to waste your time by contemplating all of the things you would rather be doing! A Christian must realize that God is Sovereign, He has ordained whatever season you are enduring and He has still commanded you to spend the time you have in ways that honor Him. So much of our "down time" is wasted... don't be guilty of this! Find things that stir your affections, feed your mind and soul and increase your faith in all circumstances and you will experience rich blessings.
3. The gathering of the saints is glorious. I wish I could describe to you the emotions that ran through my body when I was able to "finally" return to worship. Hearing you sing, laughing with friends, listening to a good sermon and praying with the saints was life-giving. Dear friend, coming to church might sound like a burden during certain seasons but, in reality, gathering with

the saints is precious!

4. Faith is magnified and strengthened in difficulty. This is a biblical principle (see James 1) and it is amazing to experience this truth in earnest. I have seen God's grace in so many things during my struggle. I have been taught to see the blessings He has provided; I have been forced to lean upon Him; I have been privileged to see Him come through and I have grown immensely as a consequence. Trials are hard (this is why they are TRY-ing!) but they are gloriously intentional. I know that many of you are experiencing trials of various kinds. Many of those trials are far worse than what I have endured but they are not categorically different in nature nor are they exceptions to the biblical teaching on the topic. Dear brother or sister, God is doing something in your trials. Look for His grace, expect His faithful intervention and instruction, and long for the growth you will experience.

Blessings,  
Pastor Aaron  
abobo@smyrna1897.org

### A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT ROWLAND, EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF CARE

Dear Smyrna Family,

As I sit here writing this morning, it is 3 days until my daughter Laura's wedding day. I'm not going to get all mushy on you as I will save that for the moment I walk her down the aisle and afterwards when we have our daddy-daughter dance. I want to focus for just a moment on how fast time flies and why that is a good thing. I recently heard a song that pretty much sums up how this feels. It says, "The days went fast but the years were slow." By the way, I later discovered it is an AI generated song which is absolutely nuts.

Let me say that the days going by quickly is good because we, as God's people, know where we are going. Every day that passes brings us one day closer to our final destination which is better than any vacation getaway you've spent 12 months planning for. There really should be a sense of excitement about meeting our Lord one day face to face. It would be good to quit acting like this life we are enjoying now is all there is and when it's over, we lose. Isn't that silly when you think of our journey and our future from a biblical and Christian perspective? Ask God to give you eyes to see and a heart that truly embraces our incredible, breathtaking destination.

Someone asked me recently if Johanna and I were dreading seeing Laura get married and leave our home to take residence in a new place. Our answer was no. Will we miss her at times? Of course we will. We will miss simply having her around and even extra hands to help out. I will miss jumping in the car and riding to Cook Out to get milk shakes at night or even Taco Bell. BUT, I am so thankful for all that we have enjoyed through this life and as many of you have heard me say, "We prepared our children to go." Now, let me explain that just a bit.

God helped us understand a long time ago that each of our children belong to Him first. Our duty as their parents was to raise them to know and love the Lord and to model for them what Christian living and relationships look like. We have not always done that perfectly, but we have tried to keep that vision in view, so we do not lose sight of whose they are and what He assigned us to do. Few things in my life right now thrill me more than seeing our sons lead and love their families. Frankly, I think they are doing a better job than I ever did praise the Lord. We anticipate that Laura and Matt will do this too.

You see, God gave us the privilege of being their parents, but He has a plan for their lives that is in many

ways separate now from Johanna and me. By His grace, hopefully Matt and Laura will find their way and their place and purposes too and bring our King much praise and glory. They have no greater cheerleaders than their mom and me but we do it as two who have let go of the role that we had and happily step into the assignment as it relates to being their parents from the role of companion with a little counseling thrown in when they ask for it. It has been an absolute joy to be their dad, and I know Johanna feels the same way about being their mom. We did our best to give each of them wings and it is thrilling to watch them jump from the nest and soar on the wings of eagles (Isa. 40:31). It is way up there with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that they will get to see amazing displays of His grace and the beauty of His creation and plans. Raise your children dear ones, give them strong, capable wings, and rejoice when they fly.

In His Strength,  
**Pastor Robert**  
rrowland@smyrna1897.org



## MESSAGE FROM DANIEL WATSON - PASTORAL RESIDENT

My most recent book was the classic work by J. I. Packer called, Knowing God. Packer's goal in writing this book was to break down the Christian faith into basic points. Whether we are thinking about what it means to become a Christian, how we grow in maturity once we have become a Christian, or what we ground our hope in for what comes after this life; for Packer it all comes down to John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." This is the answer to humanity's deepest need, it is the satisfaction of our desires as Christians and it is what we anticipate for heaven, knowing our great God more and more.

I don't know if I have chosen a favorite book that I have been assigned to read for my residency yet. If I have, I am changing my answer to this work by Packer. On a few occasions over the past few years, Pastor Aaron has asked me if I had read Packer's chapter on the adoption of believers into God's family. Up until last month my answer was always "No". I am glad that I can now change my answer to "Yes". As Pastor Aaron talked about this chapter and built up my anticipation to read it, it did not disappoint. It is a chapter of rich, devotional theology about our relationship to God as His children and the benefits we receive from Him as our heavenly Father. Here is a taste of what Packer has to say, "... God adopts us out of free love, not because our character and record show us worthy to bear his name, but despite the fact that they show the very opposite. We are not fit for a place in God's family; the idea of his loving and exalting us sinners as he loves and has exalted the Lord Jesus sounds ludicrous and wild-yet that, and nothing less than that, is what our adoption means. Adoption, by its very nature, is an act of free kindness to the person adopted." There is much more to say about this wonderful doctrine of adoption and Packer is a great teacher to learn from.

This work by Packer is not too long, but don't let that fool you about the quality of what he has written. Packer writes with the warmth of a seasoned Christian. He delights to share truth with fellow Christians so we too may cherish more of our heavenly Father who loves us. When you get the opportunity, check it out some time. You'll be glad you did.

**Daniel Watson**  
dwatson@smyrna1897.org

# 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- ✓ Limited spots



The Worship Ministry slows down a bit over the summer as far as rehearsals go. We work hard through the fall, winter and spring preparing music for weekly services, Christmas, Easter and Nights of Worship. Behind the scenes though, leadership is busy reviewing new songs, planning the fall season and Christmas music. We rely on this time to seek the Lord more fully for guidance as to what music to choose for the various groups to learn when we return to rehearsals in the fall.

For all of us, the Lord uses a slower pace, if we listen, to speak to our hearts and help us focus on what really matters in our lives; our relationship with Him, Bible study, prayer, discipleship. If we aren't careful, summer activities can pick up the pace of this life, and we can fall away from those things. We pray that won't be the case and that summer will be a time of spiritual growth for all of us! After all, aren't we to be continually growing (abiding) in the Lord all 12 months of the year and beyond?

*“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him bears much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” - John 15:4,5*

This summer we will continue our singing of traditional hymns each Sunday during June, July and August and into September. There will be a Summer Hymns booklet available in the foyer. Below is the list of hymns and you can also find them on the Smyrna Sunday Playlist on Spotify, along with updated songs for each Sunday. A majority of the hymns are well known but I would encourage you to look them up, sing them during the week and be ready to lift your voice each Sunday!

### June

*The Church's One Foundation, O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing, A Mighty Fortress, Blessed Assurance*

### July

*Standing on the Promises of God, Holy, Holy, Holy, All People That on Earth Do Dwell, Grace Greater Than Our Sin*

### August/September

*All Creatures of Our God and King, For the Beauty, It is Well, Come Thou Fount, All Hail the Power of Jesus Name*

### *Victory in Jesus*

In an article by Ryanne Molinari for The Gospel Coalition entitled, [Sing Old Hymns to Encourage New Life](#) she lists these reasons to sing hymns: We teach one another (Col. 3:16); We warn one another (admonishing); We weep with one another (Prov. 25:20), (2Cor. 7:10); We encourage one another (Phil. 3:14); We pray for one another; We include one another; We remember one another.” She further states, “By singing hymns, we honor the work and witness of those who came before-and who are praising God even now-as we look forward to rejoicing with them in eternity.” To read the article in its entirety, go to [www.thegospelcoalition.org](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org).

**“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” - Colossians 3:16**

Singing His Praises,  
Melodie Parsons

As we step into the summer season, I want to take a moment to celebrate what a wonderful year it has been in AWANA!

Our year ended so beautifully, and I am truly honored to serve alongside each and every one of you. Our AWANA Closing Ceremony was such a joy, and I am incredibly thankful for everyone who participated and helped make the evening so special. It truly took all of us working together to make it such a meaningful success.

As summer begins, my prayer is that each of you finds time to rest, refresh, and enjoy this season with your families. You have poured so much love, energy, and faithfulness into the lives of our children this year, and that investment does not go unnoticed. Thank you for serving so wholeheartedly!

Summer is often a season when school winds down and schedules become more relaxed, but let's be careful not to allow our calling to disciple our children to drift into the background. Discipleship is not a sprint—it is a marathon. Our children are only in our homes for a short time—just 18 years. That equals roughly 940 Sundays. What a powerful reminder that every moment matters. We have both the privilege and responsibility to intentionally point them to Christ in the big moments and in the small, everyday ones. Let's continue to be intentional this summer through meaningful conversations, prayer, time in God's Word, and simply living out our faith in front of them each day.



**Vacation Bible School registration opens June 1!** Be sure to register early; shirts can be purchased during registration. Shirts will be available for pickup beginning June 28 after service. We are so excited for all that God is going to do through this special week and cannot wait to see the ways He moves in the hearts of our children and families.

As we enter the summer months, we kindly ask all volunteers to *block out travel dates and absences in advance, whenever possible*. This helps us build smooth schedules, ensures we have the support needed each Sunday, and greatly reduces the last-minute scramble to fill spots on Sunday mornings. Your communication and planning truly help create a more peaceful and enjoyable experience for everyone serving.



Thank you again for your dedication, your love for children, and your willingness to serve so faithfully. It is such a blessing to partner together as we invest in the next generation and point them toward Christ.

With gratitude,

**Erica Chaplin**

[echaplin@smyrna1897.org](mailto:echaplin@smyrna1897.org)



# JUNE 2026

## BIRTHDAYS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Jennifer Perry Kyle Pitcock	2	3	4 Abigail Day Andrea Sims	5 Joan Barnett Cindy Evans Carl Ladd Norah Wells	6 Larry Caramela Sherrill Mellick
7 SS Teacher Training - 12:30 PM Calvin Barnett Eddi Foley	8	9 Caleb Elder Kathleen Spain	10	11 Pastor's Book Club - 11:30 AM	12 Madyson Holderfield	13 Louis Underhill
14	15	16 Ashley Elder	17-18 Senior Adult Trip to Lancaster, PA		19 Jason Collins	20 Joyce Chavis Jerry Morgan
21 HAPPY Father's Day	22 Hope Driggers Chase Harvey Samuel Mitchell	23 Kim Christopher Mackenzie Gammon Bodie Lunsford Bobby Olgers Ashley Shifflett Melissa Snellings	24 Summer Fellowship - 5:30 PM Adrie Delalcazar Zachary Kennedy Jake Mize Reagan Saye	25 Jason Chaplin Andrea Peavyhouse	26	27 Forrest Chappell Chena Crocker Brooke Dimaio Camden Etheredge Caitlyn Moore
28 Dawn Upton Lydia Mae Wamsley	29 Deacon's Mtg - 6:30 PM Carson Bain	30 Miller Jones Betsy Wilkes	<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b> 9:45 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Service			





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### 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.

## June 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
7 <sup>th</sup>	Pamela Reynolds	Terri Shell	Terri Driskill	Lisa Barnhouse		Ashley Bobo	Jamie Morini & Mary Chappell
14 <sup>th</sup>	Rudy Etheredge, Jr.	Nikki Russell	Danna Gammon	Amelia Servis	Kyle & Alyssa Pitcock	Laura Foley	Amie Davila & Megan Demaline
21 <sup>st</sup>	Kim Davis	Andrea Peavyhouse	Kim Davis	Meredith Outlaw	Glenn & Brittney Chappell	Sarah Brewer	Brad & Ashley Perkinson
28 <sup>th</sup>	Angie Chappell	Mykalah Tench	Chuck Page	Ashley Shifflett	Kristen Berry	Mike & Allie Lewis	Ashley Jones

**JUNE AT-GLANCE 2026**

- JUNE 7TH**  
SS Teacher Training  
12:30 PM
- JUNE 11TH**  
Pastor's Book Club  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
- JUNE 24TH**  
Summer Fellowship  
5:30 PM

**SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS**  
Weather permitting

June 24      July 29

August 19

Starts at 5:30 PM

We provide the meat and drinks - you provide a side dish or dessert

There will be water games set up for the kids so bring a towel!