

NOVEMBER 2025

Dates to Remember

- * 8th - Middle School Youth Trip - Tree Time Adventures 8-12
- * 12th - BOP Luncheon 11AM
- * 14th & 15th - Friendsgiving Meals
- * 17th-24th - OCC Shoebox Collection dates
- * 20th - Pastor's Book Club at church 11:30AM
- * 22nd - Church Christmas Decorating 9-12

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SMYRNA SCROLL

PASTOR'S CORNER



November may be my favorite month of the entire year. I love the leaves, I love the change in temperature, I love the opportunity to slow down a bit at the end of the month and I love Thanksgiving.

It is no secret in my house that this is my favorite holiday. I have always loved the opportunity to gather with cherished family and friends to feast (a very wonderful joy indeed!), talk, laugh and reflect upon God's goodness. There is something marvelously medicinal about taking time to consider the many blessings that we so often take for granted. Indeed, there is great wisdom in the old hymn writers' exhortation to "count your blessings, count them one by one". I have found that when we take the time to count our blessings, specifically and intentionally, the goodness of God floods our souls in a unique and lovely manner.

It is with this foundation that I submit to you 10 blessings I would submit to you to consider as we reflect upon God's goodness to us in 2025:

1. I am thankful for a marvelous co-laborer. Very few churches have the privilege of enjoying the leadership of a man who has been so dedicated to the same flock for nearly 25 years. His gifts, strengths, wisdom and diligence are immense blessings. I am thankful for the privilege of sitting under his teaching every other week and grateful that we get to serve together.
2. I am thankful for over 50 baptisms in 10 months! What a joy it has been to see people (young and old) come to Christ over this year. May we never grow tired of seeing the testimony of faith in our midst.
3. I am thankful for my Sunday school class. Here is one thing I've learned in ministry... I need community. My class is a joy and an encouragement to me in countless ways. They fill me up before I stand to preach. They encourage me with their words and lives that are devoted to the Lord. They minister to me when I need help and they inspire me to keep growing.
4. I am thankful for the many godly teachers at Smyrna. They are one of the richest blessings I experience. We are richly blessed by men and women who so earnestly desire to stand before their small group and rightly divide the Word of God.
5. I am thankful for the immense growth in our church. Sunday, we had over 450 people present for worship! Our Wednesday night gatherings have grown by nearly 40 percent this fall and our deacons are considering how to handle the "issues" created by more folks coming to park and sit at Smyrna.
6. I am thankful for a marvelous staff. We have so many folks (full and part time) that work diligently to cover the bases here at Smyrna. We are blessed by their ministry which requires far more of them than many realize.
7. I am thankful for the Word of God. The journey through Exodus has reminded me that the Bible is so rich from cover to cover. Oh how I have

praised the Lord and wept with joy as He has shown me truths and encouraged my soul in preparation. I pray that you sense the wonder that Robert and I have in God's Word and I pray you share it yourself.

8. I am thankful for godly, encouraging and kingdom minded senior adults. Folks, our seniors don't get near the credit they deserve! When you look around at our church you won't find angry, bitter or self-consumed seniors. Instead, I see men and women who love Jesus and others and who earnestly desire to serve Him. There is nothing more encouraging to me than to see a godly, older saint who is pressing in and seeking to bless others rather than seeking their own benefit.
9. I am thankful for godly, young families. Our church has absolutely exploded in this arena and it is a marvelous blessing, on the rare occasions that I am given the chance to worship with another faith family, I am reminded that what we have at Smyrna is unique. In a world in which fewer and fewer families are making worship a priority, it is a joy to see godly husbands who lead their wives and children well and godly wives who serve and nurture with equal excellence.
10. Finally, I am thankful for the future we are guaranteed. While I don't know what this world will come to, I do know that our future is secure in a far better place for eternity!

Blessings,

Pastor Aaron

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A MESSAGE FROM ROBERT ROWLAND, EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF CARE

Dear Smyrna Family,

On Wednesday October 15th, we held our bi-annual business meeting. It may have been the most well attended to date. At least in my memory. The meeting lasted for an hour and a half. When it was over I think Brad Perkinson summed it up well. He said, "I just love our business meetings." Friends, if you've never attended one, I encourage you do so. We get to hear of the amazing things that God is doing in all of the areas of ministry in the life of our church family. I'm pretty sure that what took the longest was voting in 45 new members each by name. Oh what a joy to be able to say that. Of those 45, only 4 were transfers.

We heard that the finance team presented a budget that was actually reduced slightly from this year. We are well aware that finances are tight as we surge ahead in our effort to pay off our mortgage. The financial report was presented wonderfully by Brittney Chappell as she encouraged us to strive to be sacrificial and faithful to our responsibility to advance the Lord's work through this local body of believers. The personnel team, safety team, buildings and grounds and so on all have performed beautifully throughout this year and together we applauded our Smyrna family for the exceptional service rendered to the Lord.

Folks, the atmosphere in our business meetings is flavored by our unity. I have, as many of you have, heard of horror stories in business meetings. I have actually had a few people tell me years ago that they chose not to come to our meetings because of what they had experienced in the past at such meetings. I can tell you, ours are not like that. We are together, seeking God's will, celebrating His accomplishments through us, and focusing on how to extend and or maintain ministries to His glory. You will not find arguing, contention, discord, or ungodliness in our

meetings. I encourage you to come and be encouraged by the sweetness that characterizes this church family and the focus on the Lord Jesus that gives us purpose and unity. God has been so good to us, and I stand with you excited about what He is doing and what He is planning in the future for this church family. I think 2026 is going to be an exciting year. Oh yeah, and Happy Thanksgiving!

Devotedly,

Pastor Robert

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FROM THE DESK OF DANIEL WATSON, PASTORAL RESIDENT

During the month of October, I read God, Marriage, and Family by Andreas J. Köstenberger and David W. Jones. In this work these authors attempt to lead Christians to think correctly about aspects of their marriages and families. They also placed a strong emphasis on living out the truth of Scripture. This second edition of the book was published in 2010. In this work they provide us with a helpful resource on how to live faithfully and godly in the midst of our sinful culture.

The authors present the case that the primary area where spiritual warfare occurs is in our minds. The way we think, what influences our thoughts and how we act on them are crucial matters of focus. They derive this from 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. In light of this passage, they proceed to take us to the book of Ephesians. While this quote is going to be long, I think it is helpful to use as a foundational grid for your next encounter with the book of Ephesians. It is stated this way, "...believers ought to saturate their minds with scriptural teaching regarding their new position in Christ. To go no further than the book of Ephesians, which contains the primary passage on marriage and the family, Ephesians 5:21-6:4, we learn that Christians have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Eph. 1:3): they were chosen in Christ to be holy and blameless (Eph. 1:4, 11); were predestined to be adopted as his sons and daughters in Christ (Eph. 1:5, 11); were redeemed and received forgiveness of sins through his blood (Eph. 1:7); and were given the Holy Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing their inheritance (Eph. 1:13-14). While they used to gratify the cravings of their sinful nature prior to their conversion to Christ (Eph. 2:3), they were raised up with Christ and seated with him in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6). They have been saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8). On the basis of this understanding of their new position in Christ, believers will be able to deal effectively with the various temptations and struggles that confront them in their marriage and families." Knowing who you are in Christ is essential to live fruitfully for Him in your marriage, family, or any other arena you are in.

Köstenberger and Jones do go into much more detail on subjects such as what marriage is, the roles of men and women in marriage, how to raise children, spiritual warfare and implementing Scripture into your daily life, as well as some pitfalls our culture offers as counterfeits to God's good designs. This work is a biblically saturated resource that can help us as we strive to live as light in a lost, dark world.

Sincerely,

Daniel Watson

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YOUTH

Our students have had a busy few weeks to kick off the fall semester. Wednesday evenings have been wonderful as we began a journey through the book of Romans. In addition to our large group studies, we have been breaking into small groups which have been wonderfully led by many godly adults. The relationships that are being built around the truth of the Word are a marvel to see! I pray that your student would consider joining us as we grow together.

Additionally, our high school students just enjoyed time at the Chesterfield Berry Farm. A special thank you to John and Kristin Clay for planning the outing and for several other adults who accompanied the students. Additionally, our middle school group will be headed to Tree Time Adventure Park on Saturday November 8th. You can sign up below.

Blessings,
Aaron Bobo

Middle School Youth Trip



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PARK AND FITNESS CENTER

TREE TIME

Saturday, November 8th
8:00 AM – 12 Noon
\$40 per person
Register on the Church Center App







It's that time of year, time to mark our calendars for all the holiday festivities that surround Thanksgiving and Christmas! It is hard to believe that November is already here! Our Kids Choir will be leading us with a special song of thanksgiving on Sunday, November 23rd. We are so thankful that parents are seeing the importance of having their children learn at an early age to use their voices to worship and praise the living God!

Go ahead and mark Sunday, December 14 at 11:00 AM on your calendar. The worship ministry is hard at work on this year's Christmas worship experience, "Let the World Sing Gloria"! This presentation involves our Kids Choir as well as the Worship Choir & Band. It's always a special time of worship as we put the emphasis on the incredible gift of Christ's birth.

As a reminder, look for Smyrna Sunday Playlist on Spotify. Each week songs for the following Sunday are uploaded so you and your family can become more familiar with songs we sing each week and participate fully as we unite our hearts and voices in worship.

Singing His Praise,
Melodie Parsons

Hello Families,

As we step into November, my heart is full of gratitude for the many ways God is working in and through our ministry. Each Sunday, I see the joy on the children's faces as they learn about Jesus, sing songs of praise, and build friendships that reflect His love. It's a beautiful reminder that what we do together truly matters.

This season, I'm especially thankful for each of you—parents, volunteers, and families—who make our ministry such a vibrant, faith-filled community. Your dedication, encouragement, and prayers keep our mission strong. Together, we're planting seeds of faith that will grow for years to come.

Volunteer Appreciation

Our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was a true highlight of the season. With 80 wonderful guests gathered at the farm, the day overflowed with laughter, legacy, and love. Thank you to everyone who serves so faithfully in our ministry. Your hearts for children and families are such a blessing. This special time together was a beautiful reminder of the love and teamwork that make our ministry thrive. I plan to make this an annual tradition—a time to honor your faithful service with joy and surprise!

Operation Christmas Child

We're in the final stretch of our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) collection—packing parties wrap up on November 9, so let's finish strong together! Each Sunday School class has been collecting different items to help fill shoeboxes with love and care. Our children's classes are bringing in small toys, and their excitement is contagious! It's a beautiful way to teach compassion and global awareness through hands-on giving. Thank you for helping us share the love of Jesus in such a tangible way.

Parent Information Meeting – November 16

We invite all parents to join us for this vital gathering. Together, we'll explore what's expected to keep our children safe—physically, emotionally, and spiritually—and how your partnership helps us succeed. Your presence matters, and your role is irreplaceable in building a ministry where every child is known, protected, and loved. When families, volunteers, and leaders share understanding and purpose, we create a safe, nurturing, and faith-filled environment where every child can flourish.

As we enter this season of gratitude, may we pause to see God's hand in every detail—His faithfulness in our ministry, His joy in our children, and His peace in our homes. My prayer is that your hearts are refreshed, your families are strengthened, and your days are filled with reminders of His goodness. Together, let's continue to walk in thankfulness, serve with joy, and trust the Lord to bring a beautiful harvest from every seed of love we've sown!

With Gratitude and joy,
Erica Chaplin
echaplin@smyrna1897.org



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45 am - Sunday School
 11:00 am - Worship Service
 6:00 pm - Smyrna U classes

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NOVEMBER 2025**BIRTHDAYS**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Abram Barchanowicz Noah Perkinson Lailah Sims
2 OCC Packing Party - 12:30 pm Deborah Cates	3	4 Catherine Parson David Wamsley	5 Mary Chappell	6	7 Ella Dahowski Eric Sohn John Tucker	8 Middle School Youth Event 8-12 Afton Demaline Edith McAlpine
9 OCC Packing Party - 12:30 pm Jim Erdmann Nora Puttkamer	10 Carrie Baker Alicia Dalton	11 Payton Ivey Kalley Saye	12 BOP Luncheon @ 11 AM Allen Andrs	13 Patrick Hege John Means Olivia Sohn	14 Friendsgiving Dinners Harper Goertz	15 Bobby Rowland
16 Parent Education Luncheon @ 12:30PM Franklin Chappell Debbie Schmidt	17 Carla Temple	18 Laura Hoyle	19 Krista Jones	20 Pastor's Book Club - 11:30AM @ Smyrna	21 Skylar McCoig	22 Church Christmas Decorating 9-12 Ricky Elder
OCC Collection Week						
23 Homeschool Christmas Bazaar 12:30pm OCC Collection Week Rhett Cornett	24 Deacon's Mtg @ 6:30 PM Taylor Springston	25 Brian McCaffity Jennifer Miller	26 No Evening Activities Charles Frain	27  Glenn Chappell Jack Hoyle	28 Molly Carson William Dimiao	29 Allison Bobo Autumn McCoig
30 No Evening Activities				★★WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE 5:30-6:15 - Dinner 6:00 - 6:30 - Kids Choir 6:30 - 7:30 - Mid-Week Bible Study 6:30 -8:00 - AWANA, Youth & Worship Ministry		
HAPPY BIRTHDAY						





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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.

November 2025 - Children's volunteer schedule

DATE	9:30 - 10:45		10:45 - 12:15				
	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	1 & 2'S	3'S	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
2 nd	Erica Chaplin	Leah Pierce	Alison Adams	Becca Mize	Chris & Brooke Dimiao	Burke & Christy George	Sarah Mae Wamsley
9 th	Jason Collins	Gina Perkinson	Danna Gammon	Johanna Rowland	Drew & Kristen Berry	John & Kristin Clay	Kurt & Ashley Jones
16 th	Kim Davis	Catherine Parson	Kim Davis	Sabrina Rusek	Hucky & Lindsay Miller	Jessica Etheredge	Ricky & Ashley Elder
23 rd	Scotty Leshner	Holly McCaffity	Audrey Erdmann	Mary Tucker	Laura Foley	Mike & Allie Lewis	William & Lori Chappell
30 th	Terri Driskill	Melissa Taylor	Pamela Reynolds	Ashley Shifflett	5 th Sunday Family Worship - No children's classes today - only nursery available		

SMYRNA 'U' CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS

Nov 2 nd -	Ashley Bobo & Amanda Joyner
Nov 9 th -	Allison Lewis & Lindsay Miller
Nov 16 th -	Brittney Chappell
Nov 23 rd -	Erica Chaplin & Meredith Outlaw
Nov 30 th -	NO SMYRNA U
Dec 7 th -	Ashley Elder & Laura Hoyle



SS Class Dinner Schedule

- ◇ 5th - Aging Gracefully & Generations
- ◇ 12th - Parents R Us
- ◇ 19th - Melting Pot
- ◇ 26th - No Meal - Thanksgiving Holiday

NOVEMBER AT-A-GLANCE

2025

14th - 15th Friday-Saturday
Thanksgiving Meals at Member's homes
More details coming soon!

16th Sunday
Parent Education Luncheon immediately following worship service

17th - 24th Monday-Monday
OCC Collection/Drop-Off Week
Mon-Fri - 6-8 PM
Sat 10 AM - Noon
Sun 1-3 PM
Mon - 10 AM - 1 PM

22nd Saturday
Church Christmas Decorating
10:00-12 Noon
Breakfast @ 9 AM