

September 2026

Dates to Remember

- * 7th - Office Closed - Labor Day
- * 9th - All Wednesday evening activities begin!
- * 17th - Pastor's Book Club
- * 20th - OCC Collection Begins
- * 26th - Kids Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at the Scott Farm
- * 28th - Deacon's Meeting - 6:30 PM



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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



SMYRNA SCROLL

PASTOR'S CORNER

September is always a busy month around Smyrna. We look forward to the opportunity to begin our Wednesday evening and Sunday night gatherings as well as numerous other events and ministries that fill up the calendar. Additionally, this year brings the new Sunday morning schedule which now includes two Sunday school hours (8:30am and 11:15am) which sandwich our one worship time (9:45am).

As you might imagine, organizing and guiding a change of this magnitude requires quite a bit of attention! To put things into perspective, we will be birthing 13 new Sunday school classes (kids, youth and adults) on one day! This is exciting but it is also laborious. There are many things to be done and numerous bases to cover. The days can be tiring but I have found that God always provides a bit of encouragement for us in our time of need.

Encouragement came to me this week through my good friend Chris Outlaw. Chris and I were catching up the other day when he shared with me a quote that helped him along as he was trying to balance parenthood, marriage and many work obligations. The quote goes this way, "what a blessing it is to be tired from the things you prayed for". Frankly, that thought hit me between the eyes like a 2x4. It reminded me that there was a day years ago when Pastor Robert and I walked the halls of our building dreaming about and praying for a day that all the rooms would be occupied with Sunday school classes.

Many of you don't remember this time but in the early days of our new building (2014-2017), we had several classrooms that were totally unoccupied on a Sunday morning. It was a great dream of ours to see more come to hear the Word and to raise up teachers who would faithfully teach the Bible to our people. We longed for the day that our building would be full during our discipleship hour. Now, some ten years later, we are so full that we have constructed another building even as we are actively using every square inch of the main building (including the gym and offices) and we still need more space. Praise the Lord!

I suppose I write this for two reasons. First, I know that change is hard. I have heard from some of you that you are a bit cautious regarding the new schedule. I know that we all have our routines and that birthing new classes and changing ministry times can be disorienting but I believe that we are all on the same page when it comes to our desire to see more people disciplined! We are working so hard and sacrificing so much because the prayer we prayed (for more to come to Christ and be disciplined) has been answered. Second, I write this to encourage you to keep going. God has blessed our ministry as we have endeavored to honor Him and faithfully follow His command to make disciples. I realize that growth requires adjustments, but I pray that we see multiplication as an answer to prayer even as the labor multiplies.

Blessings,
Pastor Aaron
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Dear Smyrna Family,

I have been looking forward to writing this entry for our newsletter because I wanted to thank you all for your amazing prayers lifted for me and my entire family as we have journeyed through some tough times lately with my brother Tim's illness and even our trip to Florida for some R & R. I have no doubt that prayer matters and that it makes a difference, but I want you to know that Johanna and I said that we could literally feel your prayers for us.

Every mile that we drove was sweet and uninterrupted. For example, when we came back from Miami on July 26th, we drove from Miami to Dinwiddie on interstate 95N and never once hit a slow down of any kind. It was as if God parted the Red Sea and gave us safe passage with blessings galore. We had no intention of driving the entire 937 miles in one day, but the traffic was so good, and we felt so refreshed that we just took our time and kept on going. It felt like we were traveling on eagle's wings (Isa. 40:31). Then there was the trip to Mississippi.

We were all a bit concerned with taking my elderly parents on such a long trip, but it was important that they see their dying son one more time. We took our time and once again, God parted the Sea, removed every obstacle, kept my Chevy Silverado with 330,000 miles running, and gave my parents an incredible sense of peace and good health for the whole trip. Your prayers were covering us completely as we traveled. We made it safely and comfortably to Pascagoula, Mississippi and the Lord opened doors for us there too.

We were able to help them get a hospital bed for my brother, provide some things he had a "taste" for to eat, and on Wednesday night before we had to leave the next day, the Lord provided a beautiful opportunity for me to tell him once again all about heaven, God's plan of redemption, the hope of God's promises, the great reunion that will some day take place, and how to get there. We talked about the gospel, the cross, mercy, grace, and forgiveness. I cannot tell you enough how I know you were praying for us. We will forever be grateful to each of you that remembered us and please don't ever doubt that your prayers, the prayers of the saints, move the heart of God.

Dear church family, I never want to face this world without you. I wish I were better able to tell you how important the family of God is; how important you are! When the Lord created the church, He created a really good thing. He created us for community and for sharing our lives together. I feel so sorry for people who have no idea what they are missing by not being a part of this fellowship. You matter, I matter, we all matter and our prayers do reach the throne room of heaven.

As Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "We are members one of another" (Eph. 4:25). Dear ones, we are connected at a deep, deep level. I am convinced more than ever that the members of Smyrna Baptist Church, our dear faith family, "are growing up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ" (Eph. 4:15). Commit to loving each other, to pray for each other, and rejoice in all the benefits of doing life together as God's family. Sometimes the benefit shows up as smooth sailing up I-95. Johanna and I are forever grateful that you are our family.

Love always,

Pastor Robert

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Stephen J. Wellum's book *God the Son Incarnate* is a fresh approach to Christology. He opens his book by surveying the landscape of epistemology that leads up to our current day. This backdrop provides a great contrast to the Bible's incredible teaching on truth and how it is known.

Wellum's Christology is staunchly biblical. He derives his understanding of the person and work of Christ directly from Scripture, and he is not ashamed to hold this position. Here is one way he describes it, "In doing Christology, then, we start from above with God's word written and continue reading Scripture as God's word-act revelation that provides both the facts and interpretation of those facts for an accurate and authoritative identification of Jesus Christ." Sadly, holding this high view of Scripture that Wellum has is not something that many current and past theologians have done. This is one reason Wellum is a commendable teacher to learn from.

In this work you will find explanations of the human and divine natures of Jesus. Wellum looks into the relationship of the members of the Trinity too. He also emphasizes the importance of the Chalcedonian Creed. As a Christian theologian, Wellum leads his readers through this branch of theology in order that we would come to cherish Christ more.

This work by Wellum is not a quick read but it is worth the time it takes to complete it. This is an academic book. However, its impact goes beyond merely filling your mind with facts and information. When you read this book and think through what Wellum teaches you, you will be equipped to better understand Jesus and His work. As a result of this you will grow in your appreciation for Jesus and all that He has done for you. Another great benefit that will come from growing in your understanding of Jesus is that your worship of God will become deeper. If you are looking for your next book to read, I encourage you to choose this one.

Daniel Watson

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New Sunday school schedule - beginning September 13th

8:30 AM classes

- 3, 4, & 5 Year olds - room #112
- Kindergarten & 1st - room #113
- 2nd & 3rd Grade - room #118
- 4th & 5th Grade - room #121
- Middle School Youth - youth room
- High School Youth - room #122
- Bridges - room #204
- Families in Fellowship - room #202
- Parents R Us 1 - room #200
- Melting Pot - room #129
- Refocus on Christ - room #123
- Generations - Choir room
- Pathfinders - room #131
- Aging Gracefully - room #125
- Women's Class - room #127
- Men's Class 1 - room #201

11:15 AM classes

- 3, 4, & 5 Year olds - room #112
- Kindergarten & 1st - room #113
- 2nd & 3rd Grade - room #118
- 4th & 5th Grade - room #121
- Middle School Youth - room #123
- High School Youth - room #122
- College & Career - room #203
- Hucky Miller's class - room #202
- Growing Families - room #201
- Parents R Us 2 - room #200
- Empty Nesters - Room #129
- Ladies Precept - room #126
- Men's Class 2 - room #125

Worship Service 9:45 - 11:00 AM

WELCOME TO CHOIR

Open House

Wednesday, September 9

for returning choir members and
those interested in choir
September 9, 2026

6:00 pm Preschool & Kidz Choir
6:30 pm & 8:15 pm - Adult & Teen Worship choir



The Worship Ministry will be kicking off our fall rehearsals with an Open House. Children K5-12 years olds meet at 6:00 p.m. in the choir room, and preschoolers will meet with Carla Temple in the children's area. Adult and Teens (12 & up) will meet in the choir room. There are two options for rehearsal for adults and teens, 6:30 p.m. or 8:15 p.m. No audition is required. We are a volunteer choir with varying levels of abilities. **If you've not been involved in a choir and have an interest, this is a great opportunity to come see what it's all about. We'd love to see new faces in this important area of ministry!**

Here are some thoughts on how to gather well for corporate worship from an article I recently read of Rob Brockman's for The Gospel Coalition:

- 1. Live a Life of Worship:** There is very little benefit for a Christian on Sunday who has no intention of following Christ with their entire lives, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.' Matthew 15:8. We will never get the full benefit of the gathering when our hearts are far from God all week long.
- 2. Prepare You Heart in Advance:** First, ensure that you are in right relationship with others. Second, ensure that you are in right relationship with God. Third, get good sleep. So, watch the plans you make Saturday night and take time to prepare the practical things that will be needed in the morning, so you aren't rushed or drowsy.
- 3. Pray for the Gathering:** Pray for those teaching the Word, for the planning of the worship service, that the congregation would come prepared, that any unbelievers present would see the living God and be saved, and that your own worship would be honoring to God.
- 4. Come Early and Stay Late:** Make time in your Sunday for fellowship. There may be an opportunity for you to pray with others, to comfort a hurting saint, to use your spiritual gifts, or serve practically.
- 5. Resolve to Sing Loudly:** Singing has a God-intended function of stirring our love and affections for God. 'For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.' Psalm 147:1."

Singing His Praises,
Melodie Parsons

We are now three weeks removed from a phenomenal summer camp. As I reflect upon the 4 days we spent together, I am overwhelmed with joy and thankfulness that I get the opportunity to watch our students mature in their faith. Having been at Smyrna for 12 years now, I have had the privilege of watching some of our 6th graders grow and mature since birth! This is the first generation that has come to be since my time started and what a joy it has been to watch them grow.

I am so thankful for the leadership of Aimee Kennedy who located and planned our camp and I'm grateful for several others who either helped organize or went with us a few weeks ago. Our student ministry model is based on the biblical assumption that student ministry should not be the primary disciple making force in a student's life. Instead, parents take the lead while the church at large (older, younger and in between) is to come alongside to help in the responsibility to raise disciples. I believe we are seeing the fruit of this conviction and others are as well. As we were leaving camp, the leadership of the facility earnestly asked that we return because of the quality of the group. Our students were (by and large) respectful, courteous, engaged and cooperative and this is a testament to the level of investment and guidance they are receiving at home and within our body. Parents, you are doing an excellent job, and I pray you take a moment to see the progress that is being made and give God the glory accordingly!

As we turn the page to the new school year, I do want to remind you of our Wednesday evening Bible study which will begin on September 9th at 6:30. We will pick up our study of the book of Romans and we would love for your student to be present with us! By way of encouragement, I want to remind you parents that every decision you make communicates something about what you value or, to state it in more detail, what you consider to be "the good life". Is the height of your student's existence realized on the sports field or in the classroom or at his/her part-time job or is there something more meaningful and central to life than these (worthy) pursuits? I would implore you to make gathering with the saints a priority for two simple reasons. First, our gatherings are crucial to our discipleship. God has ordained that a church exists to encourage and strengthen and equip us to follow Him. Don't ignore such a marvelous means of grace! Second, our gatherings now are a precursor to our eternity. The joy that we experience as we make relationships with those who also love and follow Christ is unparalleled in the world. As a parent of multiple youth, I can attest that there is no greater joy than to see my kids grow in their relationships with fellow believers. Let's do all we can to put our students in the best possible position to know and love Jesus and that includes making their relationships with other believing children central to our parenting strategy!

A MESSAGE FROM ERICA CHAPLIN, CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR

Dear Smyrna Kids Families,

September always feels like the start of something new. School is back in session, routines are changing, and here in Children's Ministry, we are stepping into a full and exciting season together.

One of our biggest changes begins September 13 with our new Sunday morning schedule. We know this will take some time for everyone to adjust — our children, parents, teachers, and volunteers. Please give your kids and yourselves grace as we settle into a new rhythm. We fully expect the first few weeks to involve some learning, shifting, and figuring things out together, and that is okay. Our goal is to continue creating safe, welcoming spaces where children are loved, cared for, and taught God's Word each week.

As we make that transition, I also want to remind every family how important it is for you to check in your children each Sunday. Even when your child knows exactly where to go, check-in is an important part of our safety

process. It helps our leaders know exactly who is in their care and gives us the information we need should we need to reach you. Thank you for helping us care well for every child entrusted to us.

September also means **AWANA is back!** We are excited for another year ahead and all that God will do through our kids and leaders. This year we are especially excited to welcome Scotty Leshner as our new AWANA Commander. Stepping into a new leadership role takes a willing heart and the support of the people around you, so I hope our AWANA teams, parents, and church family will encourage Scotty and support him as he begins this new role. I know he will do well because he has such a wonderful group of Smyrna families and volunteers serving alongside him. We are looking forward to a great year together!

If you have not already done so, please register your child(ren) for AWANA now. Registering early helps us plan well and make sure books, uniforms, and supplies are available as children earn them throughout the year. You can scan the QR code located on the bulletin boards, in the bulletin, or register in your Church Center app.

To all of our Children's Ministry volunteers — please mark September 26 on your calendar now for our Fall Volunteer Lunch at the farm! This has become one of those events I truly look forward to each year. I love seeing our volunteers and their families come out, slow down, enjoy a meal, laugh together, and simply have a relaxing day on the farm. There is no training and no agenda to accomplish. It is simply time for us to enjoy being together outside of the classrooms and schedules where we normally see one another. I hope you will make plans now to join us. I would really love to see all of our Children's Ministry volunteers and their families there!

As another school year begins, please know that we are praying for our students — for their friendships, their learning, their confidence, their challenges, and the opportunities they will have to show the love of Christ wherever they learn! We are also praying for the many teachers and administrators in our church family, whether you are serving in a public school, private school, homeschool, or another learning environment. Thank you for the tremendous investment you make in children and families each day. We are praying for wisdom, patience, strength, and encouragement for you throughout this year!

There is so much ahead this fall, and I am thankful we get to walk through it together. Thank you for trusting us with your children, for serving alongside us, and for being part of what God is doing through Smyrna Kids.

With love,
Erica

GET TO KNOW OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Aimee Kennedy

Teaching: Truth Hunters-4th and 5th grade

- Favorite Bible verse: Philippians 1:6
- What I wanted to be as a kid: Teacher
- Favorite animal: Gibbon

Something my students may not know about me: I love to play pickleball!

Laura Hoyle

Teaching: 2nd & 3rd grade

- Favorite Bible story: Ephesians 2:1-10
- Favorite snack: Ice cream (but it has to be chocolate!)
- Beach or mountains: Beach

Kids can always ask me about: Photography

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

WED 09 **WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES BEGIN!**
Dinner @ 5:30 PM, Kids Choir @ 6:00 PM, AWANA, Youth, Bible Study, & Choir Practice @ 6:30 PM

NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE **SUN 13**
8:30 AM - 1st Sunday school hour
9:45 AM - Worship Service
11:15 AM - 2nd Sunday school hour

SUN 13 **SMYRNA 'U' BEGINS**
6:00 - 7:00 PM every Sunday evening
Two 7-week sessions of in-depth theological studies to help you in your Christian walk

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON **SAT 26**
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the farm
Farm, Dinner, coming soon!

Questions? Call the church office at 854-485-6363

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Happy Birthday		1 Brenda Bishop Sophia Davila	2	3 Evie Bowers Christy George	4 Reda Demaline	5 Hunter Chaplin Melody Day Jamie Morini
6 Audrey George Linda Mohr	7  Dave Gray, Jr.	8 Katie Antkowiak Tyler Polk	9 ★★ All evening activities begin! Amber McCaffity	10 Bryant Gammon Meredith Outlaw	11 Cheryl Gray Emma Leshar Wyatt Parson	12
13 New Sunday schedule begins! Chip Bain Robert Rowland	14 Maggie Ford Landyn Montgomery	15 Donna Upton	16 ★★ Rhonda Kester John Mize	17 Pastor's Book Club - 11:30 AM Angel Davis Samantha Kidd Chris Outlaw	18 Kelyn Barchanowicz Jennifer Young	19
20 Nathan Foster Ed George	21 Lane Green	22 Rachel Patrick	23 ★★ Matt Long Michele Snead	24 John Lake Miller Jack Perkinson	25 Jody Harrington Chris Miller Avery Tench	26 Kids Volunteer Appreciation Lunch Camille Joyner Malcolm Schweizer
27 Samantha Dalton Addie Goertz John Joyner Sandra Underhill	28 Deacon's Mtg - 6:30 PM Sabrina Rusek Sariah Williamson	29 Joel East, Jr. Brayden Holderfield	30 ★★ Sabrina Rusek Sariah Williamson			

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

(beginning Sept. 13th)

8:30 am - Sunday School

9:45 am - **Worship Service**

11:15 am - Sunday School

6:00 pm - Smyrna U classes

★ ★ **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE (begins Sept. 9th)**

5:30-6:15 - Dinner

6:00 - 6:30 - Kidz Choir

6:30 - 7:30 - Mid-Week Bible Study

6:30 - 8:00 - AWANA, Youth & Worship Ministry Practice

8:00 - 8:45 - Youth Choir Practice

**SS Class Dinner Schedule**

- ◇ 9th - Men's & Women's
- ◇ 16th - Refocus on Christ
- ◇ 23rd - Youth - Middle School
- ◇ 30th - Families in Fellowship (Glenn Chappell's class)

BOP (Beautiful Older People)
Monthly Luncheon


- ◇ Great food, fun & fellowship
- ◇ Guest Speakers, informative topics
- ◇ Special Music

 Sit-down lunch
 \$5 pp

For Men & Women 55 & up!
Next Meeting:
September 9, 2025 @ 11am



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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.

Sept. 2026 - Sunday School volunteer schedule

DATE	9:30 AM - 10:45 AM		10:45 AM - 12:15 PM				
	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	1'S & 2'S	3'S	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
6 th	Pamela Reynolds	Sariah Williamson	Terri Driskill	Lisa Barnhouse	Scotty & Heather Leshner	Jennifer Miller & Nikki Russell	Amie Davila & Megan Demaline
NEW SS Schedule	8:15 AM - 9:30 AM			11:00 AM - 12:15 PM			
	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	1'S & 2'S	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	1'S & 2'S	
13 th	Kim Davis	Jenna George		Kim Davis	Kristin Andrs	Brooke Dimaio	
20 th	Rudy Etheredge, Jr.	Pam Kissner	Karen Sheppard	Karen Wilmoth	Cheryl Smith	Johanna Rowland & Becky Nelson	
27 th	Angie Chappell			Lesly McBride			

Worship service volunteer schedule

New Worship Schedule	10:45 - 12:15				
	CHECK-IN DESK	NURSERY	1'S & 2'S	3'S	4'S
13 th	Kim Davis			Sarah Brewer	
20 th	Alison Adams		Meredith Outlaw		
27 th	Chuck Page				Mykalah Tench