



FBC Monthly Encourager

Volume IV, No. 10 October 2025

Christ Above All Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1:15–20, ESV)

This passage is one of the clearest and most powerful statements about the supremacy of Jesus Christ in all of Scripture. Paul lifts our eyes to see Jesus not only as Savior but also as Lord over all creation. Take note of three truths that flow from these verses.

1. Jesus Reveals God Perfectly (vv. 15, 19).

Paul calls Christ “the image of the invisible God.” In a world that constantly asks what God is like, the answer is found in Jesus. He is not simply a reflection of God—He is God in the flesh. Jesus is “fully God and fully man.” In Christ, the fullness of deity dwells bodily (v. 19). To know Him is to know the Father.

2. Jesus Rules Creation Supremely (vv. 16–17).

Everything we see—and even what we cannot see—exists because of Jesus. Thrones, dominions, rulers, and authorities all fall under His sovereignty. He created all things, He sustains all things, and He holds all things together. Nothing in this universe is outside His control. This truth gives believers great comfort: the One who saved us also sustains the world by His power. We can rest confidently and live courageously for His kingdom know He is Lord over everything.

3. Jesus Reconciles Sinners Completely (vv. 18, 20).

Christ is not only Lord over creation but also the head of the church. He is the “firstborn from the dead,” guaranteeing our resurrection through His. Through His death on the cross, Jesus secured peace between God and man, reconciling all things to Himself. This is the heart of the gospel—that sinners are forgiven and made right with God through the shed blood of Christ.

This passage calls us to worship. Jesus is not merely an addition to our lives—He is our life. He is the Creator, Sustainer, Head of the Church, and Savior. We must ask ourselves: *Is Jesus preeminent in my life? Do I treasure Him above all else?* The call of Colossians 1 is to see Christ as supreme and to live in joyful submission to Him.

*Abiding in Christ,
Pastor Jason Pounds*

Senior Adult Ministry



What's the Buzz?



Saturday, October 11th

Smokin' F Feedlot

We will depart the campus at 4:30. Haden Lynn will be the entertainment that night. He is a well known Elvis impersonator. Please contact the church office to sign up for the bus.



Thursday, October 23

The senior adult ministry will be enjoying a train ride on the Hiwassee Loop to see the beautiful Fall colors. We will depart the church campus at 11:30 and have lunch in Etowah before getting on the train at 1:30. The train returns around 6:00 PM. Cost for the trip is \$50 per person. I would like to order the tickets for this trip by the end of July as the Fall dates fill up very quickly. This trip is a wonderful fellowship opportunity and is a very relaxing journey down the Hiwassee river gorge.



Hee Haw Senior Fellowship Dinner!
Saturday, November 1st at 5:00

All seniors are invited to a fun filled night of laughter and music all done in the style of Hee Haw! The dinner will be held at the Lambert's event center in Niota. Transportation will be provided from the church for those that may need it. Invites will be coming by mail as well. You will not want to miss this!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Important Dates for Trunk or Treat

Sept. 28-Halloween candy collection boxes go out and Trunk or Treat volunteer sheet will be in the Connect Center.

Oct. 5-Trunk or Treat meeting in the Children's Church room after morning service. We need volunteers for the Biblical scenes, to decorate their vehicle, and help prep hotdogs at the Church. We are also looking for people who live in high traffic areas, that are willing to share Church information at your home.

Oct. 19-Trunk or Treat meeting in the Children's Church room after morning service for anyone who missed the first meeting or has questions.

Oct. 29-Members who are sharing Church information at your home may pick up the items in the Fellowship Hall during supper or in Trish's office after supper.

Oct. 31-Trunk or Treat Day!! You may arrive to set up your trunk, anytime after 12pm. The parking lot will be blocked off for Trunk or Treat use only.

**HELP SPREAD GOD'S LOVE
THROUGH TRUNK OR TREAT !!!!**



We are in need of extra help in the Nursery on Wednesdays. If you would like to volunteer, there will be a sign up sheet in the Connect Center. We welcome volunteers that can be there each week, on a rotating schedule, for the full time from 5:30-7:30, or part of the time.



"The Bible might be the most Beloved and neglected book in America" said Jana Magruder.

Let that sink in for a moment. Lifeway reported in a study that 89% of households own a copy and 41% own multiple copies, but only 20% have read the Bible in its entirety. It is great that our children see and have access to a Bible at home, but are they seeing us use it and are they seeing us bring it to Church. We will be challenging our children in October to bring their Bibles each time they come to Church. If your child does not have a Bible and needs one, please let us know.

*Thank you to all our volunteers
who share and love on our
kiddos!!!!*

FBC Missions News



VALLEY PARK NEWS:

We are now having Sunday School and Breakfast each Sunday (9:00-10:30) at the Community Center @ Valley Park. We still need a couple of more teachers that would be willing to come and teach 1 Sunday a month. We have classes for adults and children.

The SASSY SISTERS group will begin having a ladies event, at the center on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

REMEMBER MISSIONS START ONCE WE STEP OUTSIDE THE CHURCH!

REMEMBER—"Wherever HE leads I will go"

A NOTE FROM YOUR FBC BUILDING COMMITTEE

Building Committee Update

September 22, 2025

Dear Beloved Congregation,

A new chapter started with our building project this past month. We officially kicked off our Civil Engineering phase of the project and are eagerly looking forward to their input into our site plan. During this phase we are refining the site plan that we developed with Studio 4 into something more tangible. We begin to apply consideration for water runoff, slopes, excavation, utilities, and how that all will play into the overall site plan.

Currently we are working as a united effort with Studio 4 and Joe Ferowich (our civil engineer) to bring all ideas and considerations into a final site plan. Architecturally they are looking at the flow of spaces, the centrality of the common areas, and the safety of our church and children. Civil is focused on minimizing any excavation work, detailing the slope of the property between the areas, and making sure that the layout is functional for our spaces.

Our desired outcome from civil engineering is a final design for our site, and an understanding of the cost requirements for the land development side of the project. Piecing together the land pricing components and the building pricing components, we can begin to understand the full scope of the project. We are still a bit out, but we are moving toward having the information we need to decide as a congregation the best path forward, and what the initial phases may look like.

We humbly ask for your continued prayers—for our Staff, Trustees, and Building Committee—as we seek God's will for our church and community. Please pray for us as the Spirit leads, and especially for **wisdom, love, unity, clarity**, and a **deep desire to follow God's will and timing** in every step of this journey.

Stay tuned for more updates, and let's continue to trust in God's perfect timing and direction.

Blessings,

Daryl G. West

Chairman - Building Committee

Sweetwater First Baptist Church

303 Wright St, Sweetwater, TN 37874

(423) 271-7181 cell



October Happenings

FINISH THE Vision

Capital Campaign

2,646 0%



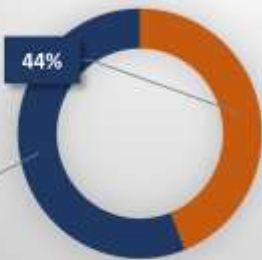
■ 3 Year Goal:
\$1.2 Million

■ Commitment:
\$1,197,354

1,200,000 100%

Offerings Year to Date 09/28/2025

44%



56%

■ 3 Year Goal:
\$1.2 Million

■ Offerings YTD:
\$675,437.90



There will be collection boxes on all three floors for Halloween Candy donations. We need lots of individually wrapped candy for our Trunk or Treat event.

TOGETHER AT Wednesday Night DINNER

FOOD FAMILY FELLOWSHIP FRIENDS FUN

October 1st

Chicken Cordon Blue, Potato Casserole, Carrots, Salad, Roll & Ice Cream Bar

Kids Option: Chicken Nuggets & Fries

\$7.00 Adults & Youth, \$3.00 K-6th Grade

Meals for 1st time Guest are free!

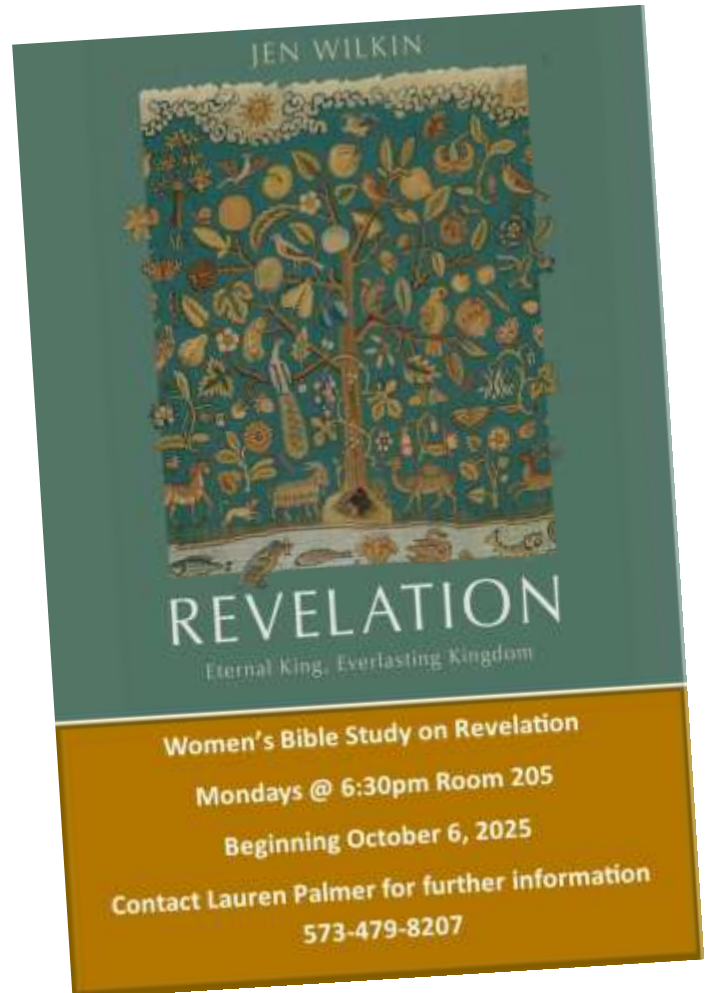




WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

A NINE-WEEK BIBLE STUDY
FROM GALATIANS 5

Men's Ministry Bible Study
October 1, 2025
Room 305 : 6:30pm



Desserts Needed!



FOR RENEW RECOVERY MONDAY NIGHTS AT 6:00 PM, **PLEASE HAVE DESSERTS TO CHURCH BY 5:30 PM.** PLEASE SIGN-UP AT THE CONNECT CENTER. ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT LORETTA NAPIER @ 423-999-0947.

Thank you!



SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS



"WOW" ITEM

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal
- Shoes

TOYS

- Toy cars
- Jump ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators



ACCESSORIES

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)



DO NOT INCLUDE

candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

SHOEBOX LABEL

NAME THE CHILD'S AGE CATEGORY

2-4 Years Old	<input type="checkbox"/>
5-9 Years Old	<input type="checkbox"/>
10-14 Years Old	<input type="checkbox"/>

BOY

GIRL

STEP 1: PEEL & ATTACH LABEL TO SHOEBOX

STEP 2: To Donate and Follow Your Box
SCAN THE QR CODE on the label OR enter the nine-digit code below at samaritanapurse.org/trackbox
000-000-000

STEP 3: DISCOVER THE DESTINATION
 of your shoebox using our look-up tool at samaritanapurse.org/label

Your donation of \$100 per shoebox is critical to help cover collection, processing, shipping to over 100 countries, breaking for local churches, disaster materials, and other costs.

Use collection shoebox information for samaritanapurse.org to ensure proper distribution.

© 2015 Samaritan's Purse

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be available to pickup on **October 5, 2025**. Please return boxes by **November 16, 2025**.

Thank You!

Oct. 5- Trunk or Treat meeting in the Children's Church room after morning service.

County & City Schools on Fall Break

October 13-17, 2025

No Evening Activities on Sunday, October 12

&

No Wednesday Night Meal or Activities on October 15.

Awana

October 8 - Camo & Can Night
(Wear camo clothing & bring a canned good for Blessing Box)

October 15 - Fall Break

No Club

October 29 - Fall Fun Night
(Costumes may be worn but nothing scary or evil allowed)

New Faces Lunch in your Honor

- Who:** Visitors and recent new members
- What:** A Time to Help Us to get to know each other better
- When:** Sunday October 26 immediately after morning worship.
- Where:** Fellowship Hall
- Why:** To get to know you better
 To give you a chance to ask questions
 To give you information about us

The Path The Way

Movie date: Friday, October 3rd @ 6:30 pm

Directed, Produced and Written by: Mark McHenry

Featured actors: Mark McHenry, Terri Bonds, Roger Robinson & more

Plot: A man suffering from addiction, pain and bad choices meets a new friend with her testimony of struggles shows him where real hope is. (Renew Recovery Community as the program)

Ministry: His Vision Entertainment, on YouTube

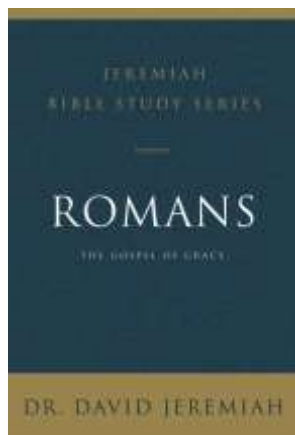


Library News

Collectable books are available for a donation to Finish the Vision.

If interested, please stop by the library on Sundays 9:30-11:00 am or Wednesdays 3:30-6:30 pm through October.

Be sure to join us in the fellowship hall for a special movie time. Popcorn will be freshly popped and ready to enjoy. Come for Fun and Fellowship!



Romans Bible Study

Our characters Bible study wraps up on Wednesday, September 17th. We will begin a brand new 12 week Bible study in the book of Romans. Join us around the table in the fellowship hall each Wednesday at 11:00 as Dr. David Jeremiah guides us through this powerful book in the New Testament. Call the church office to let us know you need a book. Cost for the book is \$10.00.

Volunteers needed

Kitchen dishwashing volunteers needed on Wednesdays.

Volunteers must be 18 years old or older.

Please sign-up at the Connect Center for SOME or EVERY Wednesday!

Shifts needed:

3:00-5:00 pm

&

5:00-6:30 pm

Please call Loretta @ 423-999-0947 or sign up at the Connect Center.



Pastor Appreciation Day
Sunday October 13, 2025

*Jeremiah 3:15-I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.



A Celebration of Life for Sharon Barrone

Saturday, October 11th

11:00 am-1:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Men's Ministry Clay Shoot Event



Calling All Men & Boys – Ready, Aim, Fellowship!

Youth Welcome – Must be able to hold gun on own comfortably (Eye and Ear Protection Required), Parent or Guardian required.

Date: October 18, 2025

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Iron Mountain Sporting Clays - 410 Hardin Rd, Kodak, TN 37764

Cost: \$0.50 per Clay, Golf Cart \$25, Shotgun Rental \$20, Box Shells \$13

Register by: October 3, 2025

Bring: Your shotgun (Rentals Available), Ammunition, safety gear, and a friend!

Note: Limited loaner equipment available – Golf Cart, Gun Rental

Sign up today!

Contact Daryl West at (423) 271-7181 or sign up in the Church Vestibule.



"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." – Proverbs 27:17

Let's aim for fellowship, fun, and a whole lot of clay dust!



Men's Ministry Camping Trip October 10 – 11, 2025

Come and bring the boys for a time of fellowship, games, and fun on our new property. We will begin setting up Friday afternoon and plan on departure Saturday afternoon. Bring your tents or small RV, chairs, and outdoor games. Porta Potty's will be onsite. Signup in the Vestibule.



Join us for a "Soup"er Supper!!
Whose Soup will be "Soup"er
Duper?

Bring soups, sandwiches, &
desserts!!

Please sign-up at the Connect
Center to let us know what you
would like to bring. Thank You

Our FBC Quarterly Business
Meeting will follow the
Fellowship!

Sunday, October 19th @
6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall



Deacon Elections Results

The following Men were Elected:

- Brian Bean
- Tony Carroll
- Stephen Powers
- Josh Ramsey
- Gabe Russell



Our Mission: Spreading the light of Jesus by loving one another and glorifying God.

Our Vision: Engage in inspiring worship encourage spiritual growth, reach youth an young families, witness to the unsaved and minister to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of member and non-members.

Contact Us

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office@sweetwaterfbc.org**