



# FBC Monthly Encourager

Volume IV, No. 12 December 2025

## A Christmas Adoption

### Galatians 4:4-7

One of my favorite Christmas hymns is *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.”* I love it because it captures the heart of Christmas as a rescue mission. It begins, *“Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.”* Christmas is the story of a God who came down to save us—not because we were worthy or searching for Him, but because of His sovereign love and amazing grace. However, redemption is not the end goal.

Paul says it this way in Galatians 4:4–7:

*“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”*

Galatians 4 reminds us that the true goal of redemption is adoption. Yes, Christmas is about redemption. Paul says Christ came “to redeem those who were under the law.” We were slaves to sin, unable to earn our way to God. But Christ entered our world to buy us back at the price of His own blood.

But Paul goes even further. Christ redeemed us *“so that we might receive adoption as sons.”* He didn’t just set us free; He brought us home.

Because of Jesus, we are no longer orphans. No longer slaves. No longer outsiders. In Christ, we become beloved sons and daughters of the living God—fully welcomed, fully known, fully loved. If you are in Christ, you are an heir of God and a co-heir with Christ.

While I certainly enjoy a good rescue mission story, Christmas is about much more than a rescue. It’s the story of a Father who sent His Son so that lost sinners could become His children forever.

***Abiding in Christ,  
Pastor Jason Pounds***

# *Worship* MINISTRY

## *Christmas at FBC Sweetwater*



Sunday, December 7th  
The children's choir will lead our  
Hanging of the Greens program  
during the AM service.



Sunday, December 14th in the  
AM service the adult choir will  
present their Christmas musical.





# Student Ministry in December

In times of pain, struggle, heartache, and discouragement... the Gospel of grace and love is our supreme source of joy and peace. For 2 weeks, we will look at the Gospel itself. By the grace of God, we're able to know and experience a good, complete Gospel.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> - "God and Man"

December 10<sup>th</sup> - "Jesus and Surrender"



## Important Dates & Upcoming Events

December 17<sup>th</sup>: Youth Christmas Party!

December 21<sup>st</sup>: We'll be having breakfast in the fellowship hall with children's ministry during Sunday School!

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: New Year's Retreat

Students need to be fully registered, waivers done and tear off portion of brochure given to me, by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. I need everything by the 10<sup>th</sup> so I can place the t-shirt order!

I want all our students there and will do whatever I need to get them there! This weekend is centered on the reality that we exist to glorify God and will give students the opportunity to learn and embody that. It WILL NOT be boring!!! We'll have plenty of fun and eat some GREAT food!! If you have any questions contact Jordan directly @ 423-458-9696



### **Sunday School**

All children's, from bed babies to High School seniors, Sunday School classes will meet in the fellowship hall for a joint Sunday School class on Sunday, December 21. We will have breakfast together beginning at 9:45am. Jordan will begin the lesson at 10:15am. It will be a blessed time of fellowship.

### **Choir Kids**

The children will be singing twice during December. They will need to be in the Sanctuary at 9:30 on the morning of December 7 and December 14. The children's choir will lead our Hanging of the Greens program Sunday, December 7 during the morning service. They have a song with the adult choir on December 14 during their Christmas musical.

### **Children's Church Helpers**

Dec. 7 - Emery Edgemon, Tennessee Hall, Elliott Pounds

Dec. 14 - Chloe Rogers, Eva Rogers, and Huck Roy

Dec. 21 - Everett Pounds, Myles Palmer, and Riley Bivens

Dec. 28 - Ava Watson, Mabry Watson, and Kaylee Huckaby

### **Awanas**

Dec. 3 - Neon Night

Dec. 17 - Awana Christmas party

Dec. 24 - no Awanas

Dec. 31 - no Awanas

### **Mission Kids, GA's, and RA's**

Our Children's Mission groups are entering a float in the Sweetwater Christmas parade. Be on the lookout for "Christmas Around the World".

### **Upcoming Events**

Dec. 6 - Parent's Night Out 4-10pm  
The choir children will practice their "Kids Sing Christmas!", eat, we will play lots of games, eat some more, finish with the movie, "The Star, and eat again.

Sign up on our Facebook post, text Trish, call the office, or at the connect center.

# FBC Missions News

## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

First Baptist packed 96 shoeboxes this year for Operation Christmas Child.

Thank You!



## **Valley Park Thanksgiving Meal**

THANK YOU to all the Volunteers that helped with the Thanksgiving Meal for the residents at Valley Park.

## **Valley Park**

Sunday School at Valley Park is increasing each week, one week we had 17 in attendance. Thanks to each one that has helped with this mission. We want to start more events at our Community Center after the first of the year.

## **Christmas Card Post Office**

The Christmas Card Post Office, will be open starting Sunday, November 30th. Church members can send cards to each other. Just drop them off, they will be sorted for you, and your mail will be available for you to pick up.

(DROP OFF AND PICKUP TABLE IS LOCATED JUST PAST THE WATER FOUNTAIN  
IN THE VESTIBULE)

## **Community Christmas Food Boxes**

We will be assembling food boxes on Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 9:00 am at Sweetwater Primary School, then we will be delivering our boxes starting at 12:30 pm for the parking lot. We will have around 50 families that we will be delivering to.



# A NOTE FROM YOUR FBC BUILDING COMMITTEE

## *Building Committee Update*

**November 18, 2025**

Dear Beloved Congregation,

This month, the major milestone was that core drilling officially began. Core drilling is a critical step that will verify whether our developed site plan is truly feasible. Please pray that all goes smoothly with this process and that we will be able to move forward confidently with the current site plan.

If the core drilling results are acceptable, the next step will be to obtain bids from the excavation companies we have already identified. After consulting with excavating companies as well as civil and architectural experts, everyone agrees that completing all site excavation at one time is the most cost-effective approach. Once the full site is prepared, we will be able to add individual sections of the plan one phase at a time.

We have also identified the desired utility locations for the property. The water service can come from a nearby road that has a line large enough for all our needs. For sewer service, we have requested an easement to access the sewer in Willow Creek and hope to receive a response by the first of the year. Early discussions indicate that this should not be a problem, but we ask for continued prayers as we pursue this easement, it is by far the best option for our sewer connection.

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 us continue to trust in God's perfect timing and direction.

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Blessings,

**Daryl G. West**

*Chairman - Building Committee*

Sweetwater First Baptist Church

303 Wright St, Sweetwater, TN 37874

(423) 271-7181 cell



# Awana™

**November 26 - Happy Thanksgiving**  
**No Club**

**December 3 - Neon/Glow Night**  
**December 17 - Christmas Party & BINGO Night**  
**(Wear your favorite Christmas Outfit)**

**December 24 - Merry Christmas**  
**No Club**





TOGETHER  
AT  
Wednesday Night  
DINNER

FOOD FAMILY FELLOWSHIP FRIENDS FUN

**December 3**

**Beef Stew, Green Beans, Corn Bread,  
Salad, Brownies & Ice Cream**

**Kids Option: Hamburger & Fries**

**\$10.00 Adults & Youth, \$5.00 K-6th Grade**

*Meals for 1st time Guest are free!*



**Women's Christmas  
Wreath-making and Brunch**

**December 6, 10:00 am**

**Fellowship Hall**

**\$30 place in offering plate labeled Embrace by  
Nov. 23**







**WELCOME to our Newly Ordained Deacons: Brian Bean,  
Tony Carroll, Stephen Powers, Josh Ramsey and Gabe  
Russell**



Elizabeth, **THANK YOU** for more  
than 50 years of faithful joyful service  
to the library ministry of First Baptist  
Church Sweetwater. Your dedication  
has shaped generations, nurtured  
countless hearts, and quietly  
strengthened the life of our church.

We are deeply grateful for your  
steadfast love, your commitment, and  
the legacy you continue to leave  
with us.





## Christmas Holiday Schedule

### December 5th

7:00 pm Mission Children in Sweetwater Christmas Parade

### December 7th

9:45am Sunday School & Nursery

11:00 am Hanging of the Greens Program led by our Children's Choir

6:30 pm Special Called Business Meeting (2026 Budget)

### December 14th

9:45am Sunday School & Nursery

11:00 am Adult Christmas Program during Service

\*Special Called Business Meeting to vote on 2026 Budget

### December 17th

5:00 pm Last Wednesday Meal for the Year

### December 20th

9:00 am Christmas Boxes Preparations & Delivery

### December 21st

9:45am Sunday School & Children/Youth will meet for a joint Sunday School Breakfast together

11:00 am Sunday Morning Worship

5:00 pm Christmas Caroling for All w/Cookies & Hot Cocoa

### December 24th

\*Church Office Closed

2:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

\*NO Evening Activities

### December 25th

Church Office Closed

### December 28th

9:45am Sunday School & Nursery

11:00 am Sunday Morning Worship

\*NO Evening Activities

### December 31st

\*NO Evening Activities

## SPECIAL CALL BUSINESS MEETINGS

Be sure to pick up a copy of the proposed 2026 Budget at the Connect Center and look it over before the meeting on December 7th, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The Finance Committee will be available to answer any questions you might have on that evening. On December 14th, 2025 following Morning Worship there will be a Special Called Business Meeting to Vote on the 2026 Budget.







***Sweet Treats for Renew***  
Got a sweet tooth or love to bake? We need  
desserts for Renew on ***Monday nights at***  
***6:00PM!***  
Please bring ***25 servings*** to the church kitchen by  
***5:30PM***  
Sign up at the Connect Center to share your  
favorite goodies!



### ***Kitchen Towel Drive***

We are asking for donations of ***new or gently used dish towels*** to be used in our church kitchen. Your help is greatly appreciated as we work to keep our ***kitchen*** well stocked and ready for ministry!

Please bring donations to the church office or kitchen area.

Thank you for your generosity!





*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**

**First Baptist Church  
303 Wright Street  
Sweetwater, TN 37874  
423-337-3533**

**Website:  
[office@sweetwaterfbc.org](mailto:office@sweetwaterfbc.org)**