



FAMILY CHURCH | 2026

MAY NEWSLETTER



A WORD FROM A PASTOR ADAM SMITH - PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP



Summer is a time for rest for many. Well, at least that is the plan. Students count down the days until school is out and parents count down the days until that planned family vacation that you've been saving up to go on. Those long Summer days often turn to long days of yard work, travel ball, and vacations that offer little rest as the family runs from activity to event back to another activity. Vacation is just never quite long enough, and it always feels like everyone needs a vacation after their vacation. In the midst of it all, bodies are sore, minds are racing, and hearts seem restless. It's no wonder

that God built into the fabric of His creation a blueprint for rest, namely the Sabbath. Many debates are still had among Christians today as to what to do with the nature of the Sabbath. Is it still a command for New Covenant Christians to keep? Is it a principle to follow? What do we do with it? While the intent of this writing is not to exhaust the debate, the creation order and the words of Jesus are clear for us two key things: 1) True rest is only found in Jesus, and 2) Christians are to cease from labor in normal rhythms. The first is most obvious. As we run, work, labor, and exhaust ourselves, we have to set our eyes on the reality that only Jesus can calm a weary heart and mind. While this does not give us physical rest, a heart that has been found its spiritual rest in Christ is poised to understand that it does not have to keep going in order to find hope, peace, or joy. All that he or she has is in Christ. This is why Jesus told us that He is Lord of the Sabbath (Matthew 12:8). It was something that He created it for us and dictates to us how we ought to find true rest in Him. The second part is that Christians then must recognize that Christ has made us finite creatures who need to cease from normal routines of labor and busyness. God is the only one who doesn't need sleep. However, he built it into the very framework of civilization for our sake. We cannot keep going and going no matter what the battery commercial states. You need rest. Such rest is not merely a day of lounging around on the couch, but a heart check to remind us that we are finite and God is the one who has all power and control. So many find themselves exhausted even in their rest because they fail to either allow themselves to rest or merely consider ceasing from labor their means of finding rest. This Summer, may we be a people who understand where true rest comes from and seek to pursue Christ in all things, and thus not busy ourselves with the trappings of the world, thinking it will bring the peace that busy hearts long for in this life.



KIDS WEEK 2026 | JUNE 15-19

Kids Week is coming **June 15–19**, and we're inviting all kids, **Pre-K through 5th grade**, to be part of it. It's going to be a fun, high-energy week filled with games, teaching, and activities designed just for them. Kids Week is a **free** event hosted right here at our church, and it's a great opportunity for kids to invite friends and be part of something exciting this summer.

Sign Up with the QR Code!

THE 'RINTH 2026

Students, get ready—The 'Rinth 2026 is coming! Mark your calendars for **May 25–29** as we head to **Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island** for an incredible week of worship, teaching, games, and time together as a student ministry. Registration is now open, and the cost is **\$425**, so make plans to join us for the best week of the summer and **reserve your spot using the QR code.**



GRADUATION SUNDAY | GRADE 12 FDM

Graduation Sunday is **May 3** during the **10:45 AM** service, and we're looking forward to celebrating our high school and college graduates. **Our Grade 12 Family Discipleship Milestone** will also take place that morning with a class at **9:30 AM** in **Room 211.**

MEAL SCHEDULE

May 6: Chicken Tacos

May 13: Pizza

May 20: No Midweek

May 27: No Midweek



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP MILESTONES

Newborn Grade 1 Grade 5 Grade 7 Grade 12



Child Dedication



Bible Foundations



Passport to Purity



Guardrail Guide



Rite of Passage

Newborn (May 10)

Our Family Discipleship Milestone for newborns is coming up on **Sunday, May 10**, at **9:30 AM** in **Room 211**. This class is designed for parents of newborns and focuses on what it looks like to begin raising your child in Christ from the very start. **Baby dedication** will take place during the service that morning as a time for parents to publicly commit to raising their child in the Lord.

DEACONS

SECURITY'S SCHEDULE

- May 3:** Drew Shoemaker
- May 10:** Dean Staples
- May 17:** Gatlin Lunsford
- May 24:** Kris Martin
- May 31:** Howie Barrett

JOIN OUR SERVE TEAMS!



Prayer Team

Join a dedicated group that prays weekly for specific needs and during our worship gatherings.



Security Team

Help provide a safe, welcoming environment by monitoring entrances, kids' check-in, and guiding guests.



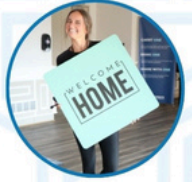
Setup & Event Team

Serve behind the scenes by setting up, tearing down, and supporting events for our church and community.



Welcome Team

Greet guests with warmth, offer directions, and create a friendly first impression from the parking lot to the door.



Midweek Meal Team

Assist with preparing, serving, and cleaning up weekly meals during our Midweek gatherings.



Backpack Love Team

Pack and deliver weekend food bags for local kids and families in need, while praying over those we serve.



DEACON'S SCHEDULE

- May 3:** Stacy Davis
- May 10:** Andrew Brooks
- May 17:** Benji Carlisle
- May 24:** Jimmy Cauley
- May 31:** Wayne Parrish

SECURITY TEAM

FROM THE PERSONNEL TEAM

SABBATICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Personnel Team is delighted to see that our **Lead Pastor, Chris, will be taking a sabbatical this May and June** to celebrate God's faithfulness and invest in his long-term health and effectiveness.

Having led Family Church for twelve years as a revitalization project, we have seen many lives transformed, substantial growth, and the congregation become strong and poised for continued momentum. Although the Personnel Team had his sabbaticals planned for years five and ten, pressing needs—including new staff transitions and eminent domain challenges with the county—made them unwise at those times. Now, with Family Church healthy and thriving, this is the perfect season for him to step away for intentional rest. He is incorporating in his sabbatical:

- Physical rest and recovery - rebuilding his energy re-establishing healthy daily-life rhythms.
- Deeper intimacy with God - through unhurried prayer and Scripture reading.
- Emotional and mental decompression - processing the upcoming season of ministry with joy and gratitude.
- Strengthening family relationships - with undivided time together.
- Re-visioning for future ministry - prayerfully discerning God's direction for the next season in the life of Family Church.
- Gaining Fresh Insights – by meeting with ministry leaders of various churches who have overseen campus expansions and significant building projects.

This sabbatical will be a much needed and well-deserved opportunity to ensure that Pastor Chris is able to continue to serve us as Lead Pastor for years to come with a sustained passion and continued faithfulness.

Our other pastors and staff will continue to lead us during Chris' sabbatical. Adam and Caleb will be preaching during this time as well.



**FAMILY
CHURCH**