

Prayer Concerns

~**Ann Perez** has not been feeling well, and was in the hospital for a while. Please keep her in your prayers.

~Email from **Megeste Pierre**:
“My brothers and sisters, I hope that all is well with you and your family. Please, I'm requesting your prayers for my wife and I. We were expecting twins, a boy and a girl, unfortunately she had a miscarriage on July 1st. We lost both babies. It's been tough on us. Please, pray for comfort, peace and healing. Mèsi anpil”

~Haven Thames (**Cara Hill's** granddaughter) has sleep apnea and will be undergoing surgery to have her tonsils and adenoids removed. They are not sure the date yet. Please start praying for a successful surgery and easy recovery for Haven.

~Continued prayers for **Eric Robinson**, who is experiencing nerve problems in his arm.

~**Geraldine Hill's** 17-year-old great-niece, Rachel Schell, passed away Monday in Alabama. Our heartfelt sympathy to Geraldine and the Schell family. Please add Rachel's parents, Joe and Traci Schell, to your prayer list.

~Julie Blasingame was diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer recently. She is **Barbara Carneiro's** aunt. Please pray for Julie and her family.

~Please pray for **Chester Lynd's** son, Curtis. He has opted to undergo chemotherapy for his cancer. Pray for success and low side effects.

~Continued prayers for those recovering from recent surgeries, including **Steve Smith, Tori Rose**, and **Barbara Carneiro**.

Those unable to join us:

~Laverne Horn
~Ethel Gumm

Ongoing prayer concerns:

~Peggy Allen
~Deana Frazier
~Steve Henderson
~Ron and Geraldine Hill
~Nell Hopper
~Bill Jackson
~Melody Loveland
~Chester Lynd
~Dwight Painter
~Jim Prather
~Donna Scott
~Steve Smith
~Jim and Joyce Waddell
~Mickey Walker
~Patsy Williamson

Missionaries:

~Doug & Marge Reeves—Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX
~Megeste Pierre—Christian Family Center, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Westgatecofc.com

July 16, 2023

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests

Lueders Fun Day This Saturday

Come one, come all to Big Country Baptist Assembly in Lueders **this Saturday (7/22) at 4:00 p.m.**! This is the same venue where we had the All-Church Retreat, 248 FM 142, about 40 minutes away in Lueders. All members and visitors are welcome to come out and enjoy some summer fun free of charge. Bring lawn chairs, sunscreen, towels, fishing equipment (optional), and any other outdoor toys you would like. We will have use of the rec pond with the rope swing, zip line, and blob. If you don't want to swim, that's okay. It's fun just to watch people do the blob. The camp will provide supper around **6:00 p.m.** and we'll wrap things up after that. Hope you can make it!

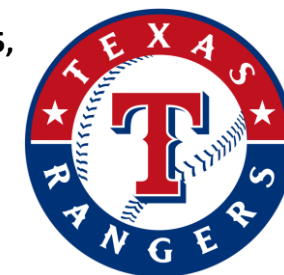


Summer Series Speaker

Be sure to join us **Wednesday night (7/19) at 6:45 p.m.** for the next speaker in our Summer Series, ACU Bible professor and former minister Rodney Ashlock. Dr. Ashlock received his BA from Harding, MDiv from ACU, and PhD from Baylor University. He is sure to have an excellent message, and it will be good to catch up with the Ashlocks.

Texas Rangers Trip

The Stovalls are organizing a group to go to the Texas Rangers game on **Saturday, Aug. 5, at 3:05 p.m.** The afternoon game will give folks an opportunity to go there and back the same day if they want to. Unfortunately, the All-You-Can-Eat section is full, but they can still get seats somewhere. Tickets are around \$40 – \$50. Remember the new stadium is air-conditioned! Please sign up on the clipboard in the hall if you are interested in this fun church family activity. See Steve or Juanita if you have any questions.



Upcoming Bridal Showers

Emma Longley is engaged to be married to Stefan Truett of Midland, Texas, in November. A bridal shower honoring Emma is scheduled for **Sunday, September 24.**

Emily Gumm is engaged and is planning to marry Andrew Clute in December. Emily's shower is slated for **Sunday, November 5.**

Babysitter Needed

Brandon and Nicole Davis are needing to hire a babysitter for their two preschool boys for 1 to 2 hours in the afternoon a few days each week. If you are interested or know someone who might be perfect for the job, please contact them. If you need their phone numbers, please email the church office: westgatecofc@gmail.com

Oh Baby!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
BABY SHOWER

IN HONOR OF

Paige DeFoore

JULY 30, 2023 • 2 - 3:30 PM

HOME OF SHERRY GUMM

registered at amazon and walmart

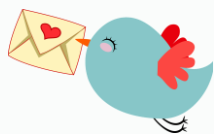
PLEASE BRING YOUR GIFT
UNWRAPPED,
IT WILL BE DISPLAYED
FOR ALL TO SEE.
THAT WAY WE'LL HAVE MORE
TIME TO SOCIALIZE
AND CHAT WITH THE
MOM-TO-BE!





Happy Birthday:

- July 17: Lily Crockett
- July 18: Trent MacDonald, Luke McSherry
- July 19: Emory Winter
- July 20: Haven Thames



Happy Anniversary:

- July 19: Brian & Shelley Doremus
- July 20: Noe & Janina Espinoza



Our Calendar:

- July 19: Summer Series – Rodney Ashlock 6:45 p.m.
- July 22: Lueders Fun Day 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- July 26: Summer Series – Gabe Fisher 6:45 p.m.
- July 30: Paige DeFoore baby shower 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
- Aug. 2: Family Fun Night – snow cones 6:45 p.m.
- Aug. 5: Texas Rangers game
- Aug. 6: Combined youth group and parent devo at MacDonald's house
- Aug. 7 – 13: youth group Bridging Week
- Aug. 7: Merkel ISD First Day of School
- Aug. 9: Summer Series – Carson Reed 6:45 p.m.
- Aug. 10: ACS First Day of School
- Aug. 16: Summer Series – Robert Baugh 6:45 p.m.

Uber Car Confessions – by Brady Horner

Uber, Lyft, and other rideshare companies have pretty much become the main way to get around any major city while traveling. Typically, whenever we travel, I end up riding shotgun and visiting with the driver. This is a cool way to get to know locals and grasp the culture of an area. I've met a lot of interesting people and learned some cool things from Uber rides. This article series will share some of these experiences and insights.

In Cairns, Australia, my family rode with a guy who was cool but kept blurting out all these stereotypes that Aussies have of us. They definitely think we are all dumb! He told us a story about an American being shocked that there are white people in Australia! If you didn't know that we need to talk. He also just assumed we hate all people of color. Not to say there isn't racism here, but you can tell the media has had its impact. Most interestingly, he noted that we Americans are weird about rules and laws. He pointed this out when we didn't wear seat belts in the back seat. He might be right about that one, because I thought Aussies were a bunch of rule followers! They drive the speed limit exactly (just a kilometer or two over gets you a ticket) and there is video surveillance everywhere. They were strictly locked down during Covid with little pushback. Another Uber driver I spoke with said Sydney lost its soul when they gave in to strict laws that prevented violent crime. They do not question if a rule should be in place; if it's a rule, just or unjust, they obey it.

Generally, Americans are quick to question rules. If they think they are dumb, they might disregard them. This likely comes from our distrust of authority and unshakable commitment to freedom. It's annoying when people think rules don't apply to them, but on the other extreme, it's frustrating when people blindly follow rules paying no attention to the spirit of the rule. Jesus addressed this with the Pharisees in Mark 2: 27 when he said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." The Pharisees were so caught up with following Sabbath rules that keeping Sabbath became a chore, even though the whole purpose of the rules was to help them rest! They focused on the letter of the law, rather than the spirit of the law. May we be people who are wise and adaptable enough to do the right thing with or without a rule that tells us to. May we be transformed people who follow the spirit of who God wants us to be, rather than rule followers who blindly tick boxes.



Hope Haven Donations

We are collecting sunscreen and Off! bug spray for Abilene Hope Haven, an organization here in town that works with those experiencing homelessness. Please place your donations in the box in the short hall.



Lauren's class made a "Thank You" sign to honor their parents.



Cathrine and Connie's class learned about God's commandment to honor their parents.

Children's Ministry News

- This morning our lesson comes from Exodus 20:15 and John 12:1-8.
- In this passage, God commands his people not to steal. Judas, one of Jesus's disciples, is the treasurer for the group. Instead of being responsible with the money, he secretly steals some for himself and then criticizes a woman who gives generously to Jesus, saying she's being wasteful.
- Our Bible Point today: **We don't steal.** As you talk with your children about stealing and the ramifications which come with it, take some time to discuss how they can turn this temptation around and give generously instead.
- Summary Verse: **"Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'**" (Matthew 22:37)
- Please continue to work on these memory verses: **"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."** (John 3:16) and Exodus 20:7: **"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."**
- Please pray for all of our teachers, administrators, and all those involved with education as they are just weeks away from beginning a new school year; we pray for wisdom, encouragement, and strength as they embark on a journey with a new class roster of students.

Youth Ministry News

Join us on **Sundays at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.** for class.

We want to give a huge thank you to those who served at Camp Beloved and Beyond last week!

Join us for our next Lake Day on **Tuesday!** We will meet at Westgate at **8 a.m.** and be back around **5!**

Please pray for all our students to have a great and formative summer!

Alyssa and her Buddy at Camp Beloved and Beyond!



Services at Westgate: Sundays—Bible Class 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m., Wednesdays—Bible Class 6:45 p.m.

Church office: 325-692-2300
westgatecofc@gmail.com

Offering:
July 9:
Contribution: \$2,711.84
eGive: \$5,199.00
Total: \$7,910.84
Budget: **\$6,917.00**
Be A Blessing: \$73.94

Lead Minister: Brady Horner (325-260-1903) pbhorner@gmail.com
Youth Minister: Clay Howell (615-879-0983) sch16a@acu.edu
Children's Education Coordinator: Jackie Lee (325-518-4767) lee-jacqueline@sbcglobal.net
Elders: Randy Bibb, Jim MacDonald, Steve Stovall, **Troy Tom**
Deacons: Manny Carneiro, Jon Cogburn, Eric Gumm, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, **Matt Waldrip**

Nursery Duty:
Kari White

Building Lock-up:
July: Jon Cogburn
Aug.: Eric Gumm

Blessing Box Counting:
Beckett Williams
Lane Winter