

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests

Wednesday Summer Series

Wonderful guest speakers will continue through the end of August. Join us Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM.

August 4th: Family Fun Night- Movie/Game Night

August 11th: Jerry Taylor (ACU Professor of Bible, Missions and Ministry)

August 18th: Wes Crawford (ACU Professor of Modern and American Church History)

August 25th: Kevin Huddleston (Director of Ministries at Arms of Hope)

Family Fun Night

The last Family Fun Night of the summer will begin at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, August 4th. Please note the time change for this FFN. The reason for the earlier time frame is due to the game/movie night. There will be a family friendly movie set up in "Theo's room" as well as game tables spaced around the fellowship hall. Come and enjoy another night of fellowship with your church family! If all of that does not entice you to come, maybe the promise of a really good snack bar will. 😊

Espinoza Sip-n-See

On June 1st the Espinoza's welcomed their sweet little baby boy into their family. We will get to celebrate that precious baby at a Sip-n-See on Sunday, August 8th. After morning services, please make sure you stop by to meet baby Isaac and give Noe and Janina all the well wishes for their family of 5!

Sermon Title: The Captives are Free

Scripture: Ezra 1:1-5

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

"This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

"The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem."

Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.

Prayer Concerns

~**Mickey Walker** is needing prayers for the treatment he is starting in response to what seems like the reoccurrence of his prostate cancer. He will not be able to do radiation, but they are prayerful medication will cover it.

~Be in prayer for **Jennifer Hurst's** sister, Elise Gaura, and the surgeons who will be operating on her broken leg on Monday. Prayers for her pain and recovery as well.

~Prayers for **Jim and Joyce Waddell** and health struggles.

~Continued prayers for **Crystal Collier** and her back pain. She was scheduled to have surgery in July, but it has been postponed to the end of August

~ Continue to keep **Linda Jones'** sister, Jan Jordan, in your prayers as she continues her cancer treatments.

~**Nell Hopper's** brother, Ricky, had surgery last week. Prayers for his recovery.

~Continued prayers for **Melissa Bell's** brother, Michael. He is home from the hospital and doing very well. There will be another surgery in a few months as well. They are very grateful that he is opening his heart to God through this trying time as well.

~**Eric Robinson's** brother-in-law, Ben, is fighting papillary thyroid cancer. He's gone through a few surgeries to remove lymph nodes that keep coming up as cancerous. This last surgery left him with permanent vocal paralysis and some other nerve damage. Prayers for him and his family as they continue to fight this cancer battle.

~Diana Flanagan, **Kelly MacDonald's** mom, has been diagnosed with lung cancer and has started treatment.

~Please be in prayer for Julie Conly, **Jerry Varnado's** daughter. The signet ring carcinoma is back and she started chemo again. Continued prayers through this round of treatments as it seems to be producing positive results.

Those unable to join us:

~Laverne Horn

~Ethel Gumm

~Pat Suba

On-going prayer concerns:

~Peggy Allen

~Deana Frazier

~Bill Jackson

~Doris Wells

~Nell Hopper

~Dwight Painter

~Lue Gray

~Chester Lynd

~Melody Loveland

~Larry Loveland

~Hope Hodges

~Jerry Herttenberger

~Bradi Williams

~Steve Henderson

~Donna Scott

~Frances Welch

~Steve Smith

~Susan Tolle

~Patsy Williamson

Missionaries:

~Doug & Marge Reeves- Sunset School of Preaching, Lubbock, TX

New Brother-in-Christ

If you were not at worship last week you missed the wonderful sight of Mason McClendon giving his life to Christ. We are so happy to have another brother-in-Christ and we pray for his continued growth and knowledge.



Happy Birthday:

Aug. 1st: Laura Templeton
Aug. 2nd: Luke Morrow
Aug. 3rd: Heather Lott
Aug. 4th: Cathrine Clements
Aug. 7th: Ronald Hill

Happy Anniversary:

Aug. 1st: Dave & Sharlotte Smith
Aug. 2nd: Brady & Briana Horner
Aug. 4th: Aaron & Kami Winter
Aug. 6th: Jon & Erin Ashlock, Rodney & Laura Ashlock

Our Calendar:

July 31st: Ladies Event- Brick Painting

Aug. 4th: Family Fun Night

Aug. 8th: Espinoza Sip-n-See

Aug. 9th-15th: Youth Group Bridging Week

Aug. 12th: Abilene Christian School Begins

Aug. 14th: Adventure Cove

Aug. 18th: Jim Ned Schools Start Classes

Aug. 19th: AISD Starts Classes

Aug. 26th: Clyde Schools Start Classes

Aug. 29th: Boys Lead Worship/1st Grade Bibles

Covid and Communion

Most of us have struggled with communion during Covid; it just felt off in so many ways. It felt weird doing it at home with just family, disconnected from the rest of the Church. Drinking Robitussin and eating Styrofoam for "bread" felt wrong as well! Then we had no one to serve it, no passing of the tray, and (an issue specific to Westgate) no "table" on stage to serve from. To many of us, it didn't even feel like communion.

These changes in communion have forced me to rethink the meaning behind our traditions and what we do. Did I not like the changes simply because it wasn't what we have always done? That's not a good enough reason to take issue with it! Was there more to it than that? Why do we have the traditions in place that we have? First, we should humbly acknowledge that the way we do communion isn't necessarily the "right" or "Biblical" way. We don't get every detail of how it looked, but we know it was a full meal (not the tiny morsels we serve) and it was at an actual table. The practice we have of people bringing the communion to us as we sit and wait in rows does not come from a clear and objective reading of Scripture. It traces back to a Swiss reformer named Ulrich Zwingli in the early 1500's (before that people came to the front and received it from the priest like they still do in many Christian denominations).

I've done my own soul searching behind my valuing of our communion traditions. Here is what I've come up with...I like communion with just my family, but maybe private communion shouldn't really be a thing. Communion is something that should be done with the full gathering of the Body of Christ; it's a group act, not an individual one. For the same reason I like passing the trays and being served; it feels like I'm doing it with my brothers and sisters in Christ, I'm not alone. I miss the table too. It makes me think of an intimate family gathering around a table for a meal. Admittedly there is probably a lot more we can do to make communion more about community than the individual, but Covid has given me a new appreciation for the gathering of God's people. Why do you value the way we traditionally do communion? If you don't value it, what do you think should change?

Adventure Cove Event



Ending the summer with a bang. Join us for our rescheduled fellowship event at Adventure Cove on Saturday, August 14th at 7:30 PM. This is an after-hours party for just Westgate members and our guests. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Boys Lead Worship/1st Grade Bibles

Mark your calendars for Sunday, **August 29th**, as this will be our Promotion Sunday where our boys will lead worship and our incoming 1st graders will be presented with new Bibles! You won't want to miss it as it will be a special time for all! If you have an incoming 1st grader, please see Jackie Lee or Melissa Bell to make sure we have the correct spelling of your child's name on his or her Bible.

Children's Ministry News

This morning our lesson comes from Psalm 119:89-96 and 2 Kings 22-23. In this passage, the psalmist celebrates the eternal nature of God's Word. When the Israelites rediscover God's Word after it was lost in the neglected Temple, they celebrate the truths that are contained in it. God's Word is as true today as it was when it was first written.

This is a great lesson to remind our children that even though we, as parents, have witnessed so many changes from the time that we were their age to now, God's Word has always been true as it was in the beginning.

Our Bible Point this week is **God's Word is true forever.**

Summary Verse: "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Don't forget to continue helping your children with the memory verses from Psalm 23 and Psalm 119:105 since we are not meeting for Bible classes due to the Family Fun Night, which we hope you will attend!

Please keep all children, parents, and educators in your prayers as summer is ending and the new school year rapidly approaching! We would also like to pray for all our Bible class teachers and helpers within our congregation as we are thankful for their willingness to serve our Lord in guiding our little ones to walk in His path. Our Fall Quarter begins on September 5th, so if you are interested in teaching or serving as a helper, please see Jackie Lee.



"Wednesday Night Overflowing Blessings."

Youth Ministry News

Join us on **Sundays at 9 A.M.** and **Wednesdays at 7 P.M.** for class.

Bridging week will be **August 9th-15th**. We are so excited to welcome new 6th graders into the youth group as we participate in fun activities such as Primetime, a movie night, and a Lake Day

All youth students and families are invited to join us for a Family Devo at the MacDonald's' house from 6-8 P.M. on **Sunday, August 15th.**



Sonic fun after Wed. night Bible classes.

By the Numbers

June 25th:
Contribution: \$1,888.54
eGive: \$1,720.00
Total: \$3,608.54
Budget: **\$6,076.00**
Be A Blessing: \$129.39

Preaching Minister: Brady Horner (325-260-1903)

Youth Minister: Clay Howell (615-879-0983)

Children's Education Coordinator: Jackie Lee (325-518-4767)

Elders: Randy Bibb, Jim MacDonald, **Steve Stovall**, Troy Tom

Deacons: Don Bell, Manny Carneiro, CJ Chaney, Jon Cogburn, Eric Gumm, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, **Matt Waldrip**

Building Lock-up:

August: CJ Chaney