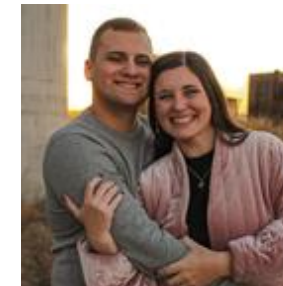


Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests



Bridal Shower Today

A bridal shower honoring Lauren Gumm, bride-elect of Logan Cole, will be held this afternoon at Juanita Stovall's house (-----) at **2:00 p.m.** Lauren is registered at Bed, Bath, and Beyond, Target, and Zola. Hostesses are Cathrine Clements, Janice Hill, Briana Horner, Holly Howell, Kelly MacDonald, Christie Pruitt, Juanita Stovall, Misty Tom, and Angie Wier. All the Westgate ladies are invited to come celebrate Lauren and Logan.



Welcome Little One

Josh and Caroline Wright welcomed Annie Emilia Wright last Wednesday! Annie was 7 lbs. 5 oz. and 20 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well. They appreciate the prayers as they adjust to being a family of three. Be watching this week for an email about a Meal Train to bless their family with 2-3 meals.

Graduation Celebration

Just three weeks until we celebrate our high school graduates on **Sunday, May 22nd**! We'll have a slide show and potluck meal and then shower them with graduation gifts. The seniors this year are Emily Gumm, Caleb Powell, Shelby Rose, and Tim Tarkenton. Congratulations Class of 2022!



Sermon Title: The Captives Are Freed

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

~Our condolences to the family of **Pat Suba**. We will all miss Pat's smile and love for Westgate children. Her visitation will be held in the Westgate fellowship hall Monday night from 6-8. A private family burial will be at the Veterans Cemetery.

~Prayers of thanksgiving that **Caroline Wright and baby Annie** are doing well!

~Continued prayers for **Chester Lynd**, who is still having chest pains.

~Please remember to pray for **Eric Robinson**. He is having arm and nerve issues.

~Glenn Kemp, brother-in-law of **Nell Hopper**, is cancer free!

~**Lydia Lyon** is recovering from a broken hip and knee after a serious car accident. Keep praying for her recovery.

~**Jackie Lee's** grandson Logan is at MD Anderson in Houston undergoing clinical trials. Please pray for Logan and his family.

~Please continue to pray for Westgate educators as the school year ends: "Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always", I Chronicles 16:11.

Those unable to join us:

- ~Laverne Horn
- ~Ethel Gumm

Ongoing prayer concerns:

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

Missionaries:

- ~Doug & Marge Reeves- Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX

Pat Suba Visitation & Thank You Note

The visitation for Pat Suba will be at Westgate this **Monday night, May 2nd, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, come and go. The family will be there so you can extend your condolences. Be thinking of a memory to write down on a note card (provided) so Ms. Pat's family will know what she meant to this congregation. Pat's daughter Lea brought by this thank you note written by Pat before she passed away:

There are many ways to say "Thank You", but all of them together would never begin to express my feelings for my church family.

For 14 years you have given me love, laughter and TLC. You have shared my ups and downs. You have let me love your children—a blessing beyond words—and shared your love for God, church and family.

In deep gratitude,
Pat Suba

You're invited to:

Bridal Shower

For
**KELSEY SANDERS &
NOAH PRUITT**

MAY
SUN | 15 | 2022
2pm

709 Scott Place
Abilene, Texas, 79601

Registered: Amazon-Bed, Bath, and Beyond-Dillard's-Target
Please bring your favorite recipe to share with the happy couple!



Happy Birthday:

- May 2nd: Arieal Lynd
- May 4th: Sherry Hurst, Joyce Waddell
- May 5th: Vivi Arche
- May 7th: Sherry Gumm



Our Calendar:

- May 1st: Bridal Shower for Lauren Gumm 2:00 p.m.
- May 8th: Mother's Day
- May 14th: ACS Graduation
- May 15th: Bridal Shower for Kelsey Sanders, bride-elect of Noah Pruitt 2:00 p.m.
- May 22nd: Graduation Celebration
- May 26th: Clyde Graduation
- May 27th: WISD Graduation
- May 27th-28th: AISD Graduations
- May 30th: Memorial Day
- June 1st: Family Fun Night
- June 2nd: Family Life Center End of School Party 6-8 p.m.
- June 5th: Bridal Shower for Stefani Stovall 2:00 p.m.
- June 12th: Bridal Shower for Paige MacDonald 2:00 p.m.
- June 18th: VBS at Festival Gardens 10:00 a.m. – noon

The Democratization of Truth—by Brady Horner

As I have been reflecting on Jesus's last week in Jerusalem challenging Temple authority, I can't help but see how history repeats itself. Jesus was critiquing a system that became so powerful, so comfortable, so much a part of the assumed norm, that it was easily corrupted. No one could really do anything about it! It needed to be attacked. Many of our institutions today are starting to look similar. Our trust in traditional institutions and authorities as a culture is quickly deteriorating. We are looking to alternative sources for truth, hope, and help. This is good and bad.

Think about it, very few people really trust the government (although we are more likely to trust them when they tell us what we want to hear). We don't trust mainstream media sources, so we turn to obscure online sources. "Big Pharma" has been critiqued so heavily that even people who aren't hippies are looking to alternative forms of medicine. Distrust and failures in the public school system has led to a huge growth in homeschooling (if you think about it, many homeschooling families tend to be anti-institutional). People distrust traditional sources of education and science so much that modern people have been duped into believing the world is flat. Saying "I'm spiritual not religious" often means "I like God, but don't trust institutionalized religion." The deconstruction movement that questions mainstream Christianity's practices, use of the Bible, and systems we have set up, is more popular than ever.

Most of these movements that question authority and institutions are led by people like the disciples... "uneducated ordinary men." The internet has taken people like this (who haven't worked their way up to the top by traditional means) and given them a mike and a platform. Honestly, many online "influencers" shouldn't be influencers. There is a lot of bad information out there, it's the blind leading the blind. However, some of these voices should be heard. We need to listen to these people who see things from a different angle, people who aren't just regurgitating what the "corrupt systems" have told them. Ultimately, we are living in a world where everyone and everything has a voice and it's hard to know what to trust...what a mess. The democratization is great, the confusion is not. This next article series will explore some of the repercussions of this new democratization of truth.



May Love Grub

A delicious meal of hamburgers and hot dogs will be served this **Wednesday night (5/4) at 5:45 p.m.** Don't miss out! Thanks to the Carneiros and Powells for all their hard work with the Love Grubs and lots of other fellowships throughout the year!

Children's Ministry News

In 2 Kings 6:8-23, God has been showing the prophet Elisha secret battle plans from the enemy country of Aram. The king of Aram is mad and sends a great army to surround Elisha and his servant. But Elisha can see another army all around them—God's army. God opens the eyes of Elisha's servant to see the army, too. God is everywhere, so we look for him around us.



Many thanks to all the youth helpers who assisted in the combined class last week. Elijah and the chariot of fire was taught as we explored the mysteries and the promises of God.



Please sign-up in the hallway to help with our birth to three children on Wednesday nights. Appreciation to all volunteers. An older elementary child can assist if desired.

Plan to join us for Field Day VBS, *Growing Strong in God's Truths*, on **June 18th, 10 a.m. – noon.** Families are invited to attend and cheer.

Youth Ministry News

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

Thank you so much for all your hard work to make the Youth Auction and Brisket Burn as successful as it was! Thank you to our Westgate family for supporting the work we will be doing this summer.

If you are a graduating senior, please send me the pictures and the song you want in the slide show by **Sunday, May 8th.**

We will have dinner in the youth house on **Wednesday, May 25th!**

Please pray for our students as they work hard to finish this semester!

Layla and Noah working hard to set up for the auction!

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

April 24th:
Contribution: \$949.33
eGive: \$3,070.00
Total: \$4,019.33
Budget: **\$6,341.00**
Be A Blessing: \$23.03
Youth Auction: \$6,580.00

Lead Minister: Brady Horner (325-260-1903) email: pbhorner@gmail.com

Youth Minister: Clay Howell (615-879-0983)
email: sch16a@acu.edu

Children's Education Coordinator: Jackie Lee (325-518-4767)
email: lee-jacqueline@sbcglobal.net

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

Nursery Duty:

Zoey Robinson and Alyssa Chaney

Building Lock-up:

May: Jon Cogburn
June: Eric Gumm