

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests



Prayer Emphasis

During the school year, please make it a point to pray for our Westgate children and teens. Paper apples with the names of our kids ages 4 to 12th grade will be on a table in the back of the auditorium today. Choose one and make an extra effort to connect with the child and their family to let them know you are praying for them.



Breakfast Fellowship Next Sunday

Join us at **9:00 a.m. next Sunday, Sept. 4th**, for a Breakfast Fellowship. We will not have Bible classes that day. Come enjoy the good company and good food. You know it'll be tasty...don't miss out!

New Sunday Classes Starting Sept. 11th



The theme for the adult class in the auditorium will be *Pilgrimage Mixtape: The Psalms of Ascent*. The Psalms of Ascent (120-134) were sung by ancient worshippers as they traveled to Jerusalem for holy festivals. We will explore these Psalms and see what it means to view our lives as a holy journey or pilgrimage toward God.



The adult class in the fellowship hall will explore *The Parables of Jesus*. Each week we will unpack a different parable together. We will explore what these meant to ancient hearers and what they mean for us today. Each class will be led by a different teacher. It will be exciting to hear the different voices, styles, and viewpoints of people in our congregation.

Sermon Title: How can you believe if....

Scripture: John 5: 36-44

"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings, but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?"

Prayer Concerns

~The bone marrow biopsy for **Melody Loveland** is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 2nd. They will also do a heart test that day. Prayers for good results.

~Please continue to pray for **Eric Robinson** and his arm and nerve problems.

~Kaleigh Gutierrez, granddaughter of **Chester Lynd**, is recuperating from a stroke she suffered week before last. Please pray for a full recovery.

~**Erin Cogburn's** mom, Brenda Bricker, had a successful ablation and her heart cath on Monday was clear with no major blockages. She's home and recovering. They welcome our prayers.

~Please pray that Logan Cornutt (**Jackie Lee's** grandson) gets his appetite back.

~**Clarissa Pyeatt's** mom's husband, Ervin Spain, finished chemo a couple of weeks ago. They will do another scan in September to see if there are any other areas of cancer. He is working on getting his strength back. Many prayers for Ervin.

~Continued prayers for Nancy Stewart (**Kathryn Boerio's** mom) as she battles pancreatic cancer.

~Please pray for **Jim Hill's** sister-in-law Diana, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

~**Chester Lynd's** niece in Michigan, Amber Galloway, has cancer. She appreciates our prayers.

~Remember Jan Jordan, sister of **Linda Jones**, in your prayers as she copes with the effects of chemo.

~Julie Conly (daughter of **Jerry Varnado**) finished her second week of radiation. Please pray that it is effective and side effects are minimal.

Those unable to join us:

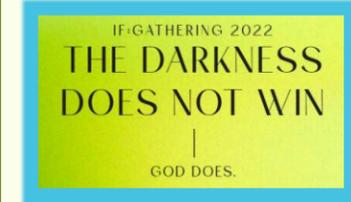
- ~Laverne Horn
- ~Ethel Gumm

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
- ~Ron and Geraldine Hill

Missionaries:

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



New Wednesday PM Class This Fall

Exciting news! Lettie Morrow will be starting a new class for ladies on Wednesday nights in the fall. This will start a week from **Wednesday (Sept. 7th)** in the parlor. She is going to show portions of IF:Gathering from this year. The 2022 tagline is "The darkness does not win—God does." She is planning to show a session and then have a discussion each week. Brady's class will be in the auditorium starting **Wednesday, Sept. 7th**.



Thank You

Thank you for the cards, calls, and visits during Dwayne's illness. The church has been a blessing to us during this difficult time. The meal after the service was wonderful and the plant sent to Dwayne's service will be a reminder of your thoughtfulness. We appreciate the support of our church family. Sincerely, Louise Hargesheimer and family

New Address

Please contact the church office if you would like Dorothy Emerson's new address!

Brady presenting Bibles to the incoming first graders





Happy Birthday:

Aug. 28th: Laverne Horn
Aug. 29th: Taylor Roberts
Aug. 30th: Laura Ashlock, Erin Dennis
Sept. 1st: Kevin McSherry
Sept. 2nd: Eric Robinson



Happy Anniversary:

Sept. 3rd:
Bud & Gayle Turnage



Our Calendar:

Aug. 28th: Promotion Sunday
Sept. 4th: Breakfast Fellowship **9:00 a.m.**
Sept. 5th: Labor Day
Sept. 7th: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**
Sept. 11th: Back to School Potluck
Sept. 21st: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**
Oct. 4th: Care Pack for Kids
Oct. 5th: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**
Oct. 10th: Columbus Day
Oct. 19th: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**
Oct. 23rd: Breakfast and WATS Day
Oct. 30th: Trunk or Treat, Missions Contribution

Jesus Breaking the 4th Wall — by Brady Horner

Probably the most famous verse in the Bible is John 3: 16: perhaps because it is a nice summary of the gospel, or because some crazy guy in the '80s named Rock'n Rollen popularized it at sporting events. The larger context of the verse shows us a beautiful moment. Here a prominent Pharisee named Nicodemus comes to secretly seek Jesus's wisdom at night. Nicodemus admits that Jesus is clearly from God because no one could perform the miraculous signs Jesus did. Thus, it's likely all the Pharisees knew this, but they didn't like what Jesus was teaching, and what they would have to give up, so they blatantly rejected him (perhaps we do the same).

In John 3 Jesus tells Nicodemus about entering the Kingdom of God by being born again. In verses 16-21 Jesus is still teaching Nicodemus, but it feels almost as if he is breaking the fourth wall, turning and speaking directly to the reader. You can feel Christ's invitation to future readers in statements like "whoever believes in him shall not perish" and "whoever believes in him is not condemned". He is not only speaking to Nicodemus, but to "whoever" meaning me and you. It is an invitation not to simply believe in God, but to believe that Christ and his works are from God; to believe that Christ is the Light and to "live by the truth" and come into the light. It's an invitation to do what many Pharisees couldn't, to admit our brokenness and accept God's saving grace.

John 3 doesn't tell us how the episode ends. The show *The Chosen* has an interesting take (guess) at how Nicodemus responds. However, Nicodemus is a recurring character in John, and he is clearly a Jesus sympathizer. In John 7 he attempts to talk some sense into the Pharisees who are ready to condemn and arrest Jesus. Then in John 19 he helps prepare and bury Christ's body. I'm not sure if he fully accepted Christ's invitation (that is offered to all of us) and remained a Pharisee, or if he tried to do what many of us attempt to do; accept Christ's invitation without changing who we are and how we live. What areas of your life need to be exposed, or given up, to "the light" in order to fully accept Christ's invitation?



Children learned that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and He knows our name. Many thanks to all our teachers for the many ways they model caring for Jesus's young sheep.

Children's Ministry News

In Luke 14:15-24, Jesus tells a parable about a great feast. The man hosting the feast invites many people, but they make excuses not to come. So, he invites the outcasts of society, who all come and enjoy the banquet. Jesus wants everyone to come to his feast in heaven because Jesus includes everyone.

Summary verse: "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)

Remember to pray for Westgate educators during the many beginning-of-school challenges. Matthew 5:16: "In the same way, let your light shine on others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Today, Bible class children promoted to reflect new grade levels in school. Children completed info on their teachers and schools. Watch the bulletin board in the hallway with this information as we ask God to bless and protect our children and our schools.

Children completed postcards to give to their teachers. Parents, please help children deliver this note as an encouraging reminder that Westgate is praying for them.

Youth Ministry News

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

Come check out the new and improved Youth House!

There will be no youth class on **Sunday, September 4th**. Come join us in the fellowship hall for breakfast instead!

Join us for dinner and movie night in the youth house on **Sunday, September 4th**!

Please pray for our students as they begin a new school year!



Reese, Dillon, and Alyssa give the new school year a thumbs up!

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:
August 21st:
Contribution: \$2,087.50
eGive: \$2,890.00
Total: \$4,977.50
Budget: **\$6,341.00**
Be A Blessing: \$23.77

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

Nursery Duty:
Cathrine Clements
Building Lock-up:
Aug.: Chris Meeks
Sept.: Matt Waldrip
Blessing Box
Counting:
Liam Meeks,
Beckett Williams