

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests



Ladies Supper This Tuesday

Ladies, make plans to join us **this Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.** for the next Ladies Supper. McAlister's soups with salad and French bread are on the menu, so come on out for the great food and fellowship. Clair and Heather are hosting, and babysitting will be provided. We will also be signing up for Ladies Committees for 2023. If you are unable to join us, the sign-up sheets are on clipboards in the hall across from the kitchen.



Love Grub This Wednesday

We'll have another great Love Grub at **5:45 p.m. Wednesday evening**. Our world-renowned chefs are preparing fajitas with all the trimmings! Dessert helpers can pick up ingredients in the kitchen this morning to make sopapilla cheesecake. Please pitch in some money that night to cover the cost of your family's meal if you're able. Take the survey on the inside of the bulletin to help with planning future Love Grub meals.



Contribution Letters

It's getting close to tax preparation time again. The office will be happy to provide anyone with a 2022 contribution letter upon request. The best way to request a letter is through email at westgatecofc@gmail.com.

Marriage Retreat

The Westgate Marriage Retreat is coming up **January 27 – 29**. Twenty-six couples are signed up to go to Granbury. This week please begin praying for safe travels, rest and rejuvenation, stronger relationships, and enriched marriages.

Sermon Title: Rest in a Restless World

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5: 12-15

"Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day."

Prayer Concerns

~**Chad Longley** is back at work on a reduced schedule. Continue praying for Chad's recovery.

~**Eric Robinson** is having problems with the nerves in his arm and appreciates our prayers.

~Continued prayers for **Melody Loveland**. She has Stage I follicular cell lymphoma.

~**Troy Tom's** mom is back at assisted living. She is receiving home/hospice care to provide a higher level of care. All her vitals are good. Please pray for her.

~**Chester Lynd** is recovering from his fall. Remember to keep praying for his shoulder to heal properly.

~Please begin to pray for all those going on the Westgate Marriage Retreat.

~Remember the youth group in your prayers. They are on the Mystery Trip and scheduled to return Monday.

~Continue to remember **Jim Hill's** sister-in-law Diana in your prayers. She has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

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

~Please continue to pray for **Kathryn Boerio's** mom and dad, Myron and Nancy Stewart.

~**Jackie Lee's** grandson Logan Cornutt is finished with radiation for now. Doctors will do scans a few weeks from now. Please pray for Logan and his family.

Those unable to join us:

- ~Laverne Horn
- ~Ethel Gumm

Ongoing prayer concerns:

- ~Peggy Allen
- ~Deana Frazier
- ~Bill Jackson
- ~Nell Hopper
- ~Dwight Painter
- ~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



Heroes of the Old Testament

Ladies Bible Class Resumes

Ladies Bible Class starts back this **Tuesday morning (1/17) at 10:00 a.m.** in the fellowship hall. We will continue working through *The Faithful*, a study book about heroes of the Old Testament. We will watch the video on Malachi on Tuesday. All ladies are invited, and babysitting is provided.

January Sunday AM Adult Bible Classes

Fellowship Hall: "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" led by Jonathan Cogburn. As followers of Jesus, how do we avoid a "spirit of timidity or fear", while also laying down our pride in the way of Jesus? Come and help us learn about how to practice healthy self-compassion rooted in who God is and who we are.

Auditorium Class: "Christian Insults" led by Brady Horner. Christians have hurled insults at each other and our "opponents" since the beginning. We will unpack where the insults came from, what they mean, and if we are actually being *hypocrites* when we use them.

Ladies Committee Sign-Ups

Sign-up sheets for the Ladies Committees are up in the hallway across from the kitchen. Please look over these and prayerfully consider signing up for some committees. There's something for everyone: Visitors/New Members, Nursery, Breakfast with Santa, Encouragement, Ladies Day, and more. Thanks for making a difference by using your talents to benefit the church.





Happy Birthday:

Jan. 18th: Leah Schumpert



Our Calendar:

Jan. 14th – 16th: Youth Group
Mystery Trip

Jan. 16th: MLK Day

Jan. 17th: Ladies Bible Class
resumes **10:00 a.m.**, Ladies
Supper **6:00 p.m.**

Jan. 18th: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**

Jan. 27th – 29th: Marriage
Retreat

Feb. 1st: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**

Feb. 12th: Youth Group hosts
Senior Valentine Lunch, Super
Bowl Sunday

Feb. 15th: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**

Feb. 20th: Presidents Day

Mar. 1st: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**

Mar. 12th: Daylight Saving
Time begins

Mar. 15th: Game and Movie
Night

Mar. 29th: Brown Bag
Fellowship **5:45 p.m.**

Apr. 1st-2nd: Family Retreat in
Leuders

Apr. 5th: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**

Apr. 8th: Easter Egg Hunt at
Festival Gardens

Apr. 9th: Easter Sunday

Apr. 19th: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**

Apr. 30th: Brisket Burn/Youth
Auction after services

Be Yourself? — by Brady Horner

Several of my friends have similar goals for 2023. They want to be more themselves. One wants to assert himself more, another wants to be more outgoing, and another to show who they really are. The most common deathbed regret is “I wish I had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me” (this is according to a hospice nurse). Clearly this is an issue we all wrestle with. There is a wise saying I’ve heard: “Always be yourself! Unless you can be Batman, then always be Batman.” It’s silly, but it communicates a nice balance between accepting yourself but also leaving room for growth to be better.

Unfortunately, early in life we become people pleasers. We are “ourselves”, then get picked on and socialized to conform to “normalcy” (lame). For many of us we survived school like boot camp and prison: do your best to blend in, go unnoticed, and do your time. Others felt pressure to be who their parents wanted them to be. They felt “locked up in a world that’s been planned out” for them (*Green Day* “She”). We have all felt pressure to be someone we are not and thus diminished the parts of us that made us special. The world changers and people who leave the greatest impact were by no means “normal”. Now the pendulum has swung the other way and we are told to express ourselves at all costs, even the costs of others. We can be whatever we want, and others must respect that, even if we want to be a cat.

Ideally, Christ and the Church give us a nice balance of acceptance and accountability. In Christ we find love and acceptance, no matter who we are. In all our weirdness, flaws, dark history, and hurt, we are fully welcomed and loved by Christ and his Church. It feels so good to be fully known, to be fully yourself, and know that you are still accepted and loved. Being loved and accepted are similar but two different things. To be accepted into a group means to adhere to some agreed upon norms and expectations of the group...accountability. As if to say, “I accept you so much that I have high standards for you.” “I believe in you so much that I see potential and power in you that you do not.” “Acceptance” without accountability creates entitled sociopaths, looting and riots, teachers and ministers quitting, and surprisingly...isolation. May the Church be a place with wide margins of acceptance that creates rich diversity, while maintaining an accountability that forms us more into the image of Christ.

Love Grub Survey

The Wednesday Night Love Grub is a great time to decompress and build community. We are so grateful to the Carneiros and Powells for serving us in this way. Please show your appreciation by using this QR Code to let them know how best to plan Love Grubs for 2023.



Children’s Ministry News

- Today’s classes studied Philippians 2:1-11. In a letter to the church in Philippi, Paul advises the people to have a selfless attitude like Jesus. That means thinking of others as better than ourselves and looking out for the interests of others. Jesus was selfless when He came from heaven to earth and died for us. It is natural for us to be selfish, but Jesus shows us a better way to live.
- The youth will help teach children’s classes on the marriage retreat weekend, **January 29th**. Birth to three will meet in their regular classrooms with youth assistance, and the west hallway children will have combined classes with support from our teens.
- Summary Verse: **“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” (Ephesians 6:10)**
- Remember to pray for Westgate educators, our children’s teachers, and their schools.



A special thank you to Bethany and her mom Bonnie Hart for Bonham encouragement treats this month. The cups contain cocoa mix, marshmallows and a candy stir stick. The faces on each cup were distinctive and adorable. Please continue to pray for Bonham staff as they work to make a difference in our community.



Youth Ministry News

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

Please pray for us while we are on the Mystery Trip this weekend!

On **Wednesday, January 25th**, we will have dinner in the youth house before class!

The Youth Group will be helping with the children’s classes on **Sunday, January 29th**.

Please pray for our students to have a great start to the semester!



The Youth Group admiring Barbara Carneiro's wonderful dessert board!

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

Nursery Duty:
Linda Jones

Offering:
January 8th:
Contribution: \$18,371.00
eGive: \$4,644.40
Total: \$23,015.40
Budget: **\$6,917.00**
Be A Blessing: \$29.00

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, Jon Cogburn, Eric Gumm,
Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, Matt Waldrip

Building Lock-up:
Jan.: Jon Cogburn
Feb.: Eric Gumm
Blessing Box Counting:
Lane Winter,
Issacc Carneiro