

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests



Marriage Retreat Registration Due Today

Envelopes are available in the short hall to register for the Marriage Retreat coming **January 27th – 29th** in Granbury. The cost of \$200 covers a two-night hotel stay, Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, entertainment, and some great content by our own Marriage and Family Therapist Jonathan Cogburn. Register by **today** to reserve your spot.



New Adult Bible Classes Starting Today

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.



Contribution Letters

It's 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.

Ladies Supper Coming Soon

Ladies, mark your calendars for **Tuesday, January 17th, at 6:00 p.m.** for the next Ladies Supper. We will be having McAlister's soups with salad and French bread. Yum! Clair and Heather are hosting, and babysitting will be provided. Come on out for the great food and even better fellowship with your sisters in Christ.



Sermon Title: A Little More Connection

Scripture: John 17: 20-24

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

Prayer Concerns

~**Ann Perez** is doing better. She was in the hospital a few days over the Christmas break with the flu. Please add Ann to your prayer list.

~**Chad Longley** is at home. Many prayers for Chad and family as he focuses on recovery.

~Continued prayers for **Eric Robinson** as he deals with arm and nerve problems.

~**Melody Loveland** will have to do chemo for follicular cell lymphoma. The good news is that this is a slow-growing cancer and is Stage I. Please remember Melody in your prayers.

~**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 doing better. Please remember to pray that his shoulder heals properly.

~**Paxton Horner** received great news at his last appointment. The doctor said his X-ray was amazing, and said he could switch from the boot to two shoes. Prayers of thanks for Paxton's foot healing properly.

~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.

~Lift up Julie Conly (**Jerry Varnado's** daughter) in your prayers. She is going through metastatic colon cancer.

~Please pray for the students and teachers headed back to school after Christmas break.

Those unable to join us:

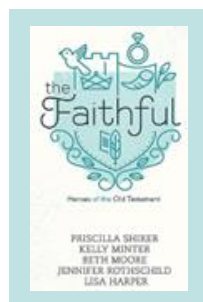
- ~Laverne Horn
- ~Ethel Gumm

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



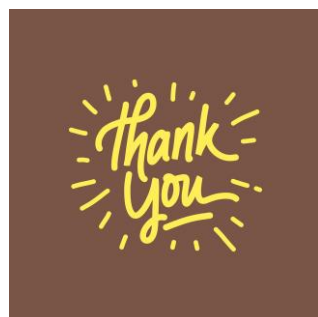
Ladies Bible Class Break

Ladies Bible Class meets during the school year on **Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** in the fellowship hall. We have been working through *The Faithful*, a study book about heroes of the Old Testament. We are taking a short break for the holidays, and then starting back up on **Tuesday, January 17th**. Babysitting is provided.

Thank You

Westgate Family,
Thanks to ALL of YOU for your generosity and all that y'all did to make our holidays so much brighter. Wishing and praying that we all may have a very wonderful New Year 2023!

Love,
Ron & Geraldine Hill





Happy Birthday:

- Jan. 8th: Autumn Hilligoss
- Jan. 9th: Aaron Winter
- Jan. 10th: Philip Carneiro, Thomas Carneiro
- Jan. 14th: Steve Smith



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
- Feb. 12th: 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

Jesus Was a Legalist? — by Brady Horner

Sometimes I'll hear someone say, "Jesus was a legalist." It's usually said defensively or preemptively when discussing some beloved closely held doctrine...so, it's usually said to justify oneself (see Luke 10: 29). Every time I hear someone say this, the prejudice in me thinks "Who told you that?!" because I just can't see how someone would ever deduce that from objectively reading a gospel. They must have read it on a blog or heard it from a popular podcast or preacher. You must dance around scripture, pick and choose a few, and ignore a whole lot more to deduce that "Jesus was a legalist." Perhaps it is from picking out a few verses where Jesus insists on obedience (maybe his discussion with the Pharisee/expert in the law in Luke 10, but then this would completely miss the point of the ensuing parable of the Good Samaritan), or maybe on all sides there is confusion on the definition of a legalist.

To say "Jesus was a legalist" and thus affirm your own legalism is to miss one of the great points of the Gospel; turns out you can be real sinful and still follow most of these Old Testament laws. My favorite example Jesus gives is how Pharisees could dodge taking care of their parents in their old age by saying the money that should go to them was Corban (devoted to God), but could use that money almost however they wanted (see Mark 7: 9-13). They are essentially following the law but are clearly being scummy. Rule lists and obedience to them are good, tradition and Biblical law are good, but what we really need, and what God really wants, are changed hearts. If our hearts are transformed, we won't have to constantly check rule lists. This take still demands obedience, but it comes from love, not blind adherence to a rule list.

What all this really appears to be is doing some gymnastics with the scriptures to make them affirm what we are already doing. Let's face it, this is something of which we are all guilty. We are human and it is impossible to read the Bible with pure objectivity. Let's read the Bible holistically, for all its worth. In this way it safeguards us from watering it down and self-justification and allows it to make claims on our lives and who we are as God's people.

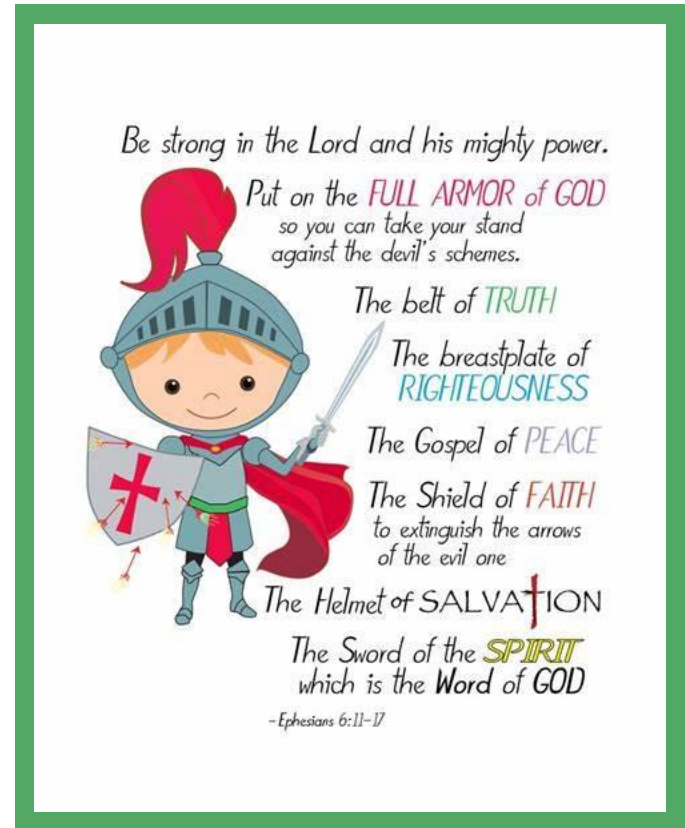


Family Retreat

Some new dates are on the church calendar, including **April 1st – 2nd** for the Family Retreat. Save the date! We will be in a different location this year (Leuders), which will give us a new environment and fresh activities to try. Watch for details coming in the next few weeks.

Children's Ministry News

- Bible classes resumed this morning. Many thanks to teachers who greeted excited children and taught them more about walking with God. This week, as you pray for Westgate educators, our children, and their teachers, please add a prayer for our Bible class teachers. Thank God for their willingness to guide our young learners.
- In a letter to Christians who live in Ephesus, Paul instructs them on how to be strong. In Ephesians 6, he tells them to put on God's armor, which includes a helmet of salvation, body armor of righteousness, a shield of faith, and a sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. God gives us everything we need to stand strong! Children were reminded this morning that God is strong and we're strong in Him, a great foundational lesson for the new year.
- Summary Verse: **"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power." (Ephesians 6:10)**



Youth Ministry News

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

The Mystery Trip is next weekend (**Jan. 14th – 16th**)! Please meet at Westgate at **10:30 a.m.** We will return on **Monday around 6 p.m.**

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

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



Kailyn and Hannah practicing the words of Matthew 4:18-20.

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:
Clair Arche

Offering:
January 1st:
Contribution: \$5,125.10
eGive: \$2,815.00
Total: \$7,940.10
Budget: **\$6,917.00**
Be A Blessing: \$21.73

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.: Eric Gumm
Feb.: Adam Lott
Blessing Box Counting:
Liam Meeks,
Beckett Williams