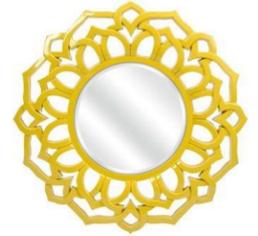


Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests



All-Church Retreat

The theme of this year's All-Church Retreat is "The Mirror." One of the hardest things to do is self-examine, to look in the mirror and objectively see who we really are. But this is where real transformation happens. The two Sunday messages leading up to the retreat will explore this, then we will unpack it with intergenerational activities on the retreat. One of the best ways to truly see yourself is through relationships with others. Please plan to come out and learn about yourself, others, and God on **April 1st and 2nd**.

Retreat Registration Details

Cost:

Overnight: \$20 per person (5 years old and up) with no family paying more than \$80 total

Day guests only: \$5 per meal per person

Paintball: \$10 extra per person

As soon as you know that you are going (even if only for the day Saturday or Sunday), please fill out an envelope from the hall, enclose your payment, and put it in the lockbox on Brady's door. See Brady or Jill if you have any questions.



New Sunday AM Adult Bible Class

Join us in the auditorium on Sunday mornings in March and April for a study of *Nehemiah: Standing up for What is Right*. Eric Gumm will lead this class exploring Nehemiah's calling to lead and serve and what it says to us today.

Sermon Title: Admit It!

Scripture: Psalm 51: 1-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Prayer Concerns

~Our condolences to **Brady Horner** and his family. His grandmother passed away on Thursday. The funeral will be Monday.

~Please remember **Eric Robinson** in your prayers as he struggles with nerve issues in his arm.

~Continue to pray for strength and healing for **Chad Longley**.

~Several have lost loved ones recently. Please keep in your prayers **Steve Henderson, Randy Bibb, Jenni Langston, Troy Tom**, and their families.

~Please add **Hannah Loveland** to your prayer list.

~**Erin Cogburn's** mom, Brenda Bricker, was scheduled to have knee replacement surgery Monday, but has tested positive for Covid. They will have to reschedule.

~**Jackie Lee** would appreciate prayers for her grandson Logan Cornutt. Doctors are planning to put a shunt in on Tuesday in Houston.

~**Jerry Varnado's** daughter, Julie Conly, is dealing with metastatic colon cancer. She has had severe stomach pain. Please remember to pray fervently for Julie.

~Continued prayers for **Megeste Pierre** and the school in Haiti. Please pray for the gang violence and political unrest to end peacefully.

~Please pray for the homeless people that **Manny Carneiro** and others are trying to reach through Abilene Hope Haven.

~The All-Church Retreat is coming up soon. Please begin praying for a successful retreat.

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

Hope Haven Needs

From Manny: As Abilene Hope Haven increases its capacity and we do outreach to our homeless encampments, we are figuring out what we need. With the weather becoming warmer in the next couple of weeks, that results in mosquitoes near the waterways and drainage areas, which is also where our homeless encampments tend to be. We will need **OFF spray**. Also, when we do outreach, our neighbors are more apt to talk with us when we have snacks and things. If you could provide **individual snacks** like chips, fruit snacks, protein bars etc., that would be great. If you could bring them before spring break to the Westgate office and Manny Carneiro will pick them up, or you can drop them off at Abilene Hope Haven if that is easier.



Welcome New Members

Brandon and Nicole Davis
Nicolas and Flint

Please contact the church office if you would like their contact info.

Thank You Note

Thanks to the Youth Group for hosting the wonderful Senior Sweetheart Valentines Lunch after church on the 12th. I must admit it felt a little odd to be part of a Senior Citizen event with Mom (Ruth Walker) 😊 (But time rolls on.)

The tables were so pretty, the food was delicious and the youth kids were warm & friendly & great servers, too. We were glad we stayed for the fun rounds of Bingo! (Even with the "cheating" Elder. HaHa) We love worshipping with you all when we're in Abilene.

Thanks again,
Don & Donna Deming



Happy Birthday:

Mar. 5: Kinley Morton

Mar. 7: Kaleigh Tom,
Doug McFarlen



Our Calendar:

Mar. 5: Youth Movie Night
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Mar. 12: Daylight Saving Time begins

Mar. 13 – 17: Spring Break

Mar. 15: Game and Movie Night

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

Apr. 1 – 2: All-Church Retreat

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

Apr. 8: Easter Egg Hunt at Festival Gardens

Apr. 9: Easter Sunday

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

Apr. 30: Brisket Burn/Youth Auction after services

May 14: Mother's Day

May 21: Graduation Celebration

May 25: Clyde ISD Graduation

May 26: Wylie ISD Graduation

May 26 – 27: Abilene ISD Graduation

May 29: Memorial Day

May 31: Brown Bag Fellowship 5:45 p.m.

June 4 – 7: VBS

June 18 – 24: Youth Group at Camp Pine Springs

Ministerial Abuse — by Brady Horner

The Churches of Christ have been experiencing a minister shortage for several years now. A lot of churches just can't hire anyone, and few are applying. I think this is part of a bigger issue. All churches regardless of denomination are struggling with this (however, apparently Churches of Christ have it worse). Any jobs where you have to deal with people are experiencing shortages (see teachers)! There are plenty of great ideas as to why this is happening: ministerial pursuits outside of traditional church ministry, young people leaving the church, poor church discipleship, a lack of good minister role models, and more secular or "worldly" pursuits. However, the most common reason for the shortage can be summed up in the phrase "ministerial abuse".

By "ministerial abuse" I mean busy weeks with low pay, big goals with little empowerment, lofty expectations with no support. Ministers are often expected to be superstars, do it all, and always be available. In some congregations everyone thinks they are the minister's boss! I believe the Churches of Christ are more susceptible to ministerial abuse than most other Christian streams or denominations. This is because we take the priesthood of all believers' doctrine to the extreme. We want little to no differentiation between "clergy" and "laity". The preacher is just some dude like the rest of us (which can be great!). In the standard format he is given little power, little say, and little recognition, because we can't be like "those guys" who overly honor and worship their pastors. We can't have one guy who is in control and bosses the rest of us around!

I used to unfairly think "ministerial abuse" was just directed at guys who brought it on themselves. This is because I have been blessed to rarely ever be on the receiving end of it. I have always been in loving and supporting congregations that don't put me or my family under the microscope. I am very fortunate to be in churches where people have let me truly be myself. However, we need to always be careful that we do not become overly critical toward any of our ministers or church leadership. I believe that the Church of Christ system also encourages picking apart of elders, partially because no one completely agrees on what their job/role is. It feels obnoxious of me to quote this scripture...but here it is: "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" 1 Timothy 5: 17. While Christ modeled downward mobility and the beauty of humility, it is also important to honor, support, and encourage all forms of church leadership.

Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins **next Sunday, March 12**. Don't forget to set your clocks **forward** one hour at **2:00 a.m.** ... or the night before.



Bonham Support

Teachers and staff at Bonham were given bags of popcorn Friday as Jackie "popped" in to tell them thanks for all they do.

Children's Ministry News



Save the date, VBS **June 4-7**. Watch for details and begin praying for friends and neighbors to invite.

- In Genesis 18:1-15, three strangers visit Abraham, and he shows them kindness. He prepares the best food for them, gives them shade to rest in, and washes their feet. And it turns out they're not just any visitors; they're angels, and one is God Himself! Wow! Children focused on the fruit of kindness this morning.
- Bible Verse: "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" (Galatians 5:22-23)

- On Wednesday, Chandra taught a class looking at Saul as a bully of the Bible. Becki will be leading the discussion with 4th and 5th graders next week. Thanks to each of them.



How many children does it take to make one Goliath? Thanks to Kami for teaching this group about David, Goliath, characteristics of bullies and Godly responses.



The Youth Group circled up to play a game at our devo last Sunday!

Youth Ministry News

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

Please register for Camp Beloved and Beyond as soon as you can if you want to go! Ask Clay if you have any questions.

It's time to start thinking about the items and services you want to provide for the Youth Auction!

Join us for a movie night in the youth house **tonight from 6:30-9!** We'll have popcorn and drinks.

We will have dinner in the youth house **this Wednesday, March 8th**, before class!

Please pray for our students to have a great semester.

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:
February 26th:
Contribution: \$2,682.54
eGive: \$2,465.00
Total: \$5,147.54
Budget: **\$6,917.00**
Be A Blessing: \$26.18

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: Manny Carneiro, Jon Cogburn, Eric Gumm, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, Matt Waldrip

Nursery Duty: Bradi & Avery Williams
Building Lock-up:
March: Adam Lott
April: Chris Meeks
Blessing Box
Counting: Wyatt Cogburn, Luke McFarlen