

# Westgate Church of Christ

## Welcome Members and Guests



### Holiday Schedule

The next two Sundays (**Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve**), we will have regular services at **10:00 a.m.**, but will not have Bible classes. This Wednesday evening (12/20), we will have regular Bible classes. The following Wednesday (12/27) will be an all-church devo (no Bible classes). The church office follows the Abilene ISD calendar, so during the two weeks during Christmas break, we will have limited office hours. If you have a non-emergency prayer request or announcement, please email it to westgatecofc@gmail.com. You can call a deacon or elder for emergency prayer requests or announcements to be sent out right away.

### Christmas Candlelight Service Tonight

Make plans to meet back up at the building **tonight at 6:00 p.m.** for the annual Christmas Candlelight Service. Feel free to invite your friends and family to this special night of worship.

### Westgate Marriage Retreat

Sign-ups are open for Westgate's 2024 Marriage Retreat in Brownwood, **January 26 – 28**. The cost of \$225 per couple covers a two-night hotel stay, Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, entertainment, and some great content from guest speaker Lantz Howard. You will be on your own for Saturday's date night and other free time expenses. Registration envelopes are available in the hall. Fill out the envelope, enclose your payment, and place in the lockbox on Brady's door. An option is available to just pay a \$100 deposit for now.



### Sermon Title: God's Greatest Gift

### Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### Prayer Concerns

~Please be in prayer for **Lainey Schumpert** and family this week. The procedure for the hole in her heart is scheduled for this Tuesday (12/19).

~**Kami Winter** is scheduled for shoulder surgery this Friday (12/22). Please pray for a successful surgery and smooth recovery.

~Our sincere sympathy to the family of **Bill Jackson**. Bill passed away on Friday, December 8, and was laid to rest last Tuesday.

~**Aubrey Hilligoss** is improving at home after over a month-long hospital stay in Dallas. Please remember her in your prayers daily.

~Continued prayers for **Brenda Brown**. She is continuing IV antibiotics for another week. She is able to walk some with a cane now.

~Please pray for **Bob Hoyle**. He is losing some strength in his legs.

~**Chester Lynd** is still at BrightPointe, but is hoping to be released to home before Christmas.

~Condolences to **Patricia Yarbrough** in the loss of her brother, Elwood Smith. The funeral is today in Temple.

~Please remember to pray for Steve Bibb, **Randy Bibb's** brother. Steve has been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. He is at Medical City Dallas Hospital. The initial treatment plan will last about 30 days. The Bibbs are soliciting prayers that this treatment will put the leukemia in remission.

~**Taylor Roberts's** mom Tracy took a hard fall recently and fractured her L1 vertebrae. Please continue to pray for Tracy.

~The **Krauses** are getting ready to be a family of 3 – don't forget to be in prayer for them the next few weeks!

### Those unable to join us:

- ~Ethel Gumm
- ~Patsy Williamson
- ~Chester Lynd
- ~Ron and Geraldine Hill
- ~Dwight Painter

### Ongoing prayer concerns:

- ~Peggy Allen
- ~Deana Frazier
- ~Steve Henderson
- ~Nell Hopper
- ~Melody Loveland
- ~Johnny Newman
- ~Jim Prather
- ~Eric Robinson
- ~Matt Rogers
- ~Steve Smith
- ~Jim and Joyce Waddell
- ~Mickey Walker

### Missionaries:

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

### Love Grub Help

Everyone will agree the Love Grubs just get better and better. Starting in January, let's take some of the weight off of our fantastic, fearless, flexible fellowship friends. We need two people to help with each Love Grub **from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**: one person to wash dishes and one person to help pack up food and clean up the kitchen afterward. Additionally, we are asking for one person to commit to a month of taking the dish towels home and washing them each week. A sign-up sheet is posted in the hall for these volunteer positions. You can sign up for more than one date!

No Bible classes the next two Sundays, regular worship services at 10 a.m.!

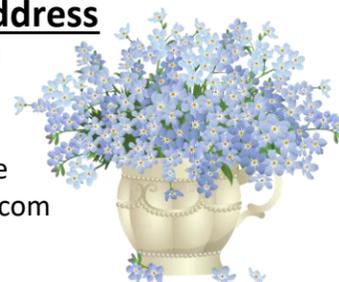
### Extra Books

There are some extra books from the Christmas program in the short hall. If you have grandkids or neighbors or relatives who you think would appreciate a book, feel free to take as many as you need.



### Sympathy Card Address

If you would like to send a card to the family of Bill Jackson, please contact the church office at westgatecofc@gmail.com or 325-692-2300 for the address.





### Happy Birthday:

**Dec. 20:** Kailyn Clements, Troy MacDonald, Lydia Lyon  
**Dec. 21:** AJ Bell  
**Dec. 23:** Steve Henderson



### Happy Anniversary:

**Dec. 17:** Randy & Julie Bibb, Mark & Lydia Lyon  
**Dec. 18:** Kevin & Christie Pruitt, Marshall & Kathryn Boerio  
**Dec. 20:** Al & Jan Cogburn



### Our Calendar:

**Dec. 17:** Christmas Candlelight Service **6 p.m.**  
**Dec. 20:** Youth Grp. Christmas Party **5:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Dec. 24:** no Bible classes, worship @ **10 a.m.**  
**Dec. 27:** no Bible classes, all-church devo @ **6:45 p.m.**  
**Dec. 31:** no Bible classes, worship @ **10 a.m.**  
**Jan 3:** Brown Bag Fellowship **5:45 p.m.**  
**Jan. 9:** Ladies Bible Class resumes **10 a.m.**  
**Jan. 13 – 15:** Youth Group Mystery Trip  
**Jan. 15:** MLK Day  
**Jan. 17:** Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**  
**Jan. 26 – 28:** Marriage Retreat  
**Jan. 31:** Brown Bag Fellowship **5:45 p.m.**  
**Feb. 4:** Re|engage begins  
**Feb. 7:** Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**  
**Feb. 11:** Youth host Senior Valentine Luncheon, Youth Group Super Bowl Party

### Best or Most Deserving – by Brady Horner

This is going to sound like the rant of a bitter Aggie fan, but the College Football Playoff selection committee is wrong! If you don't know much about college football, there is a 4-team playoff where the top four teams compete for the championship. A committee chooses which teams go. This year at least 6 teams had an argument to be in the top 4. The teams really in question were a one-loss Alabama team that won the SEC conference (the undisputed best conference in football, the winner of it should definitely be in the playoff), a one-loss Georgia team that lost the SEC championship (sorry the championship game is like the first round of the playoff, if you lose that you should be out), a one-loss overhyped school from Austin that won the weak Big 12 conference, and the undefeated Florida state, that won the ACC conference. The answer here should be obvious, Florida State and Alabama get in. Alas, the team in Austin that always gets special treatment got in over an undefeated team.

The selection committee said they were not looking to put in the most deserving teams, but the best teams (an interesting difference). Really, how do you choose the best team? Are "best" and "most deserving" the same thing? Are they admitting that Florida State is more deserving, but Texas is better? Shouldn't wins and losses be what determines who the best team is, and not a panel of judges? The committee never said it out loud, but you know the real question is "What will bring in the most money?"

It is an interesting dynamic to think about. When hiring for a job position do you want the best person for the job or the most deserving? Are they different? Perhaps the most deserving would be a person that has diligently served the company for years and worked their way up, while the "best" could be a gifted person with a complementary skill set. What would you rather be? In our world the "most deserving" doesn't always mean you get what you deserve, the College Football Playoff is exhibit A. In the Kingdom of God, we don't get what we deserve either and that's a good thing. In the Kingdom we are like that school in Austin, we all get in regardless of our resume, but by grace. This week let's do our best, but be happy that it is grace (motivated by love not money) that gets us in.

**Reconnect. Reignite. Resurrect.**

**Mark your calendars!**

SUNDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2024



*Thank you to Kami for teaching 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade "The Battle Belongs to the Lord". Students created the armor of God. Avery helped Liam with his righteousness.*

### Children's Ministry News

- ❖ Children's study of the Sermon on the Mount is interrupted for a seasonal lesson and will resume in January. In Luke 2:1-20, Mary and Joseph, engaged to be married, travel to Bethlehem for a census. While they are there, Mary gives birth to Jesus, God's Son! Angels appear to tell shepherds the good news, and they rush to see this amazing baby—God in human flesh!
- ❖ Summary Verse for this week: "The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!" (Luke 2:11).
- ❖ There will be no children's classes on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, or 31<sup>st</sup>.
- ❖ "Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, in favor with God and with man", Luke 2:52. In January, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will begin a study on Wisdom from Proverbs on Wednesday evenings. Adults, please find a favorite wisdom verse to share with our growing students. Watch for an email with more info and choose a Wednesday night to teach. Many thanks!
- ❖ Congratulations to Melissa on being chosen Bonham's Teacher of the Year. Westgate and our community children are blessed by her skills.

### Youth Ministry News

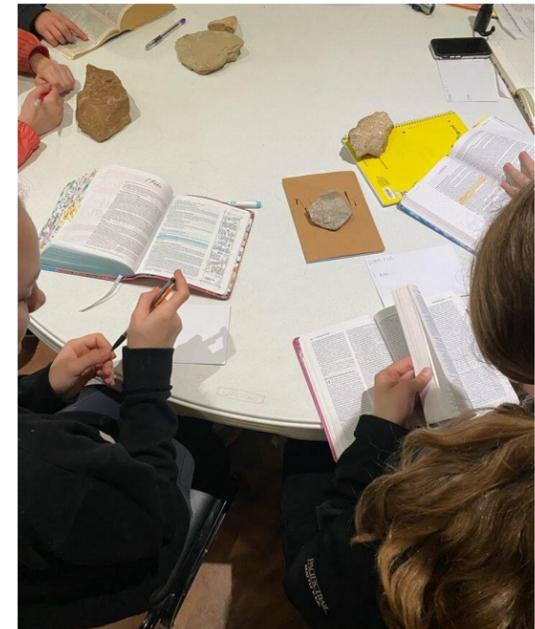
Join us on **Sundays at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.** for class.

Please also join us for the Youth Group Christmas Party on **Wednesday!** We will meet at Westgate at **5:30**, and we will be back around **8:30**. Please bring a \$10 White Elephant gift!

We will have no youth class on **Sunday the 24th, Wednesday the 27th, or Sunday the 31st.**

Please pray for our students as they finish up the semester!

*Students on the retreat studying their Bible and learning give our burdens up to God.*



**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:**  
**December 10:**  
Contribution: \$2,350.00  
eGive: \$4,764.00  
Total: \$7,114.00  
Budget: **\$6,917.00**  
Be A Blessing: \$18.69

**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:**  
Kari White

**Building Lock-up:**  
**Dec.:** Manny Carneiro  
**Jan.:** Jon Cogburn

**B. Box Counting:**  
Beckett Williams  
Lane Winter