

Prayer Concerns

~The procedure to fix the hole in **Lainey Schumpert's** heart was successful. She was released Wednesday morning. Many thanks for your prayers.
 ~Please pray for **Kami Winter's** recovery after shoulder surgery on Friday.
 ~**Randy Bibb's** brother, Steve Bibb, finished his treatments last Friday. On Monday his doctors told him he is officially in remission. Praise God for answered prayers. He will get to go home as soon as his blood counts return to normal, which hopefully will be in the next 7 – 10 days. He will have monthly treatments and in the next few months he will need a bone marrow transplant. Please continue to pray for healing and cure. Your prayers have been very much appreciated.
 ~**Chester Lynd** would like to thank everyone for the visits and prayers while he recuperates at BrightPointe. He appreciates it and misses everyone.
 ~Continued prayers for **Brenda Brown**, receiving daily IV antibiotics at home after an infection following hip surgery.
 ~**Bob Hoyle** is losing some strength in his legs and has asked for prayers.

Happy Birthday:



Dec. 27: Madeline Webb, Brady Horner
Dec. 28: Isaiah Carneiro, Issacc Carneiro
Dec. 29: David White



Happy Anniversary:

Dec. 27: Stephan and Marla Touchstone, Kevin and Connie McSherry

Our Calendar:

Dec. 24: no Bible classes, worship @ **10 a.m.**
Dec. 27: no Bible classes, all-church devo @ **6:45 p.m.**

Children's Ministry News

No children's classes this Sunday or next week. We welcome everyone back on **Jan. 7** continuing our study of the Sermon on the Mount. In January, 4th and 5th 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. If you are unable to teach, please share a verse that you see as foundational for the future church and it can be added to our ideas for volunteers. Parents, watch for an email with more info and choose a Wednesday night to teach. Many thanks!



Hayley's group used white crayons on white paper. People did not expect to see the Son of God in the form of a baby. Water color paint revealed the crayon image, as God revealed His Gift of love sent from above.

Larry's 4th grade and Caleb and Sydney's 5th grade classes combined for activities emphasizing God's gift of Jesus.



CJ testing out the youth group's guessing skills by playing some Price is Right! Thank you to everyone who helped out with our Christmas Party on Wednesday night!

Youth Ministry News

Join us on **Sundays at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.** for class. We will not have youth class **Wednesday the 27th or Sunday the 31st.** The Mystery Trip this year will be **Saturday, January 13th through Monday, January 15th (MLK Weekend).** Please let Clay know if you want to go!

Please pray for our students over Christmas Break!

Offering

December 17:
 Contribution: \$1,956.13
 eGive: \$2,945.00
 Total: \$4,901.13
 Budget: **\$6,917.00**
 Be A Blessing: \$22.88

Lead Minister: Brady Horner (325-260-1903)
Youth Minister: Clay Howell (615-879-0983)
Children's Education Coordinator: Jackie Lee (325-518-4767)
Elders: **Randy Bibb**, Jim MacDonald, Steve Stovall, Troy Tom
Deacons: **Manny Carneiro**, Jon Cogburn, Eric Gumm, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, Matt Waldrip

Nursery Duty:

self-serve

Building Lockup:

Dec.: Manny Carneiro
Jan.: Jon Cogburn

Westgate Church of Christ

Sermon Title: Freedom from Christmas Traditions

Scripture: Mark 7: 1-9

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?"

He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.' You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions." And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!

Marriage Retreat Sign-ups

Registration envelopes are available in the hall for the 2024 Westgate Marriage Retreat. The cost is \$225, with an option to put down a \$100 deposit for now. The retreat is scheduled for **Jan. 26 – 28** in Brownwood. 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. Should be a fun time with the added bonus of marriage enrichment!



Re|engage

Re|engage is a discipleship program designed to strengthen marriages through a series of lessons that call for intentional discussion



amongst spouses and small groups. It is using the closest relationship we have on earth to help us better understand Christ and His church. It is an intensive program aimed to help us reconnect/reignite/resurrect our relationships with our spouses and with God. It will be 14 sessions on **Sunday evenings starting February 4**. Think of it as Financial Peace for marriages. Babysitting will be provided. Scan the QR code on the left for more information.

Love Grub Help

Please consider signing up to help with Love Grub one or more Wednesday nights in the new year. We need one person to wash dishes and one person to help pack up food and clean the kitchen afterward. Additionally, monthly slots are open for someone to take the dish towels home and wash them each week. Thanks for making things a little easier for the Love Grub crew!

Holiday Schedule

- Sunday, December 24:** no Bible classes, worship service at **10 a.m.**
- Wednesday, December 27:** no Bible classes, all-church devo at **6:45 p.m.**
- Sunday, December 31:** no Bible classes, worship service at **10 a.m.**
- Wednesday, January 3:** Brown Bag Fellowship **5:45 p.m.**,
back to normal Bible classes at **6:45 p.m.**



Jan./Feb. calendars are available in the short hall!