The Vision

FALL SERMON SERIES

ISAIAH

GOD'S HOLINESS | OUR HOPE

September 2026

LOOKING AHEAD TOGETHER

As we move into the fall, there are several important opportunities in the life of our church that reflect both where God has brought us and where He is leading us.

Isaiah: Holiness and Hope

Beginning September 6, we will launch a new sermon series through the book of Isaiah. Over twelve weeks, we will explore one of Scripture's most powerful portraits of God's holiness, grace, justice, and redemption. From Isaiah's vision of the throne room to the promise of the coming Servant, from seasons of judgment to the hope of restoration, this series will continually point us to Jesus. Isaiah reminds us that God's holiness exposes our need, God's grace meets us in our brokenness, and God's promises give us hope for the future. We invite you to join us each week as we discover how this ancient book speaks directly to our lives.

Help Shape Our Future

Our Church Vision and Strategic Planning Committee continues its work of seeking God's direction for Pioneer Drive's future. This fall, the committee will host church-wide Listening and Dialogue Sessions designed to help every member participate in the conversation. These sessions are not decision-making meetings but opportunities for prayerful feedback, discussion, and discernment as we seek to understand the opportunities God is placing before us. Planned sessions are scheduled for September 13, September 23, and September 28. We hope you will join us as together we pray, listen, and seek God's leadership for the next chapter of our church's story.

What Does It Mean to Be a Pastor?

Recently, we completed a pastoral staff realignment as part of our commitment to stewarding our resources wisely and align our team around our Next 70 Vision. At Pioneer Drive, we believe every Christian is called to ministry. At the same time, God calls certain individuals to vocational ministry and entrusts pastors with the unique responsibility of shepherding, equipping, leading, teaching, and caring for God's people. Because of that conviction, we have sought greater consistency in our staff titles so they more accurately reflect pastoral responsibilities and ministry leadership across our church. If you would like to learn more about our staff roles and areas of responsibility, please visit our website, pioneerdrive.org.

As we enter this new season, may God continue to give us wisdom, unity, and a deep love for His mission.

Dr. John Whitten
Senior Pastor

Father, thank You for Your faithfulness to Pioneer Drive through the years. Guide us as we study Your Word, seek Your vision for the future, and serve one another as the body of Christ. Give us humble hearts, discerning minds, and a renewed passion to help people find and follow Jesus. May everything we do bring glory to You and advance Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Special Announcements

Church Vision and Strategic Planning: Prayer, Dialogue, & Discernment

- Sunday, September 13th, 6PM, Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, September 23rd, 6PM, Fellowship Hall
- Monday, September 28th, Noon, Fellowship Hall

Help Us Honor and Pray for Our Active Duty Military Families

We are creating a bulletin board in **Curry's Corner** dedicated to praying for church members , family of church members, and friends of church members who are currently serving on active duty in the United States military.

If you have a family member serving on active duty, please send the following information:

- **Name, Branch of Service, Relative of:** (church member/family name), **Optional 2.5" x 3.5" wallet-size photo (preferred), no bigger than 3x5**

Please email this information to **pastor@pioneerdrive.org**.

Thank you for helping us recognize and pray for those who faithfully serve our country and for the families who support them.

Sunday Evening Activities

September 6	No Evening Worship (Labor Day)
September 13	Church Vision and Strategic Planning Meeting, Dialogue and Discernment, 6PM (Fellowship Hall)
September 20	No Evening Worship (Meeting Night)
September 27	Evening Worship/ Hymn Sing with Eric McElhaney (Sanctuary)

NEXT 70

What an exciting month it has been for the Next 70 project! Construction continues moving, and it's becoming easier every week to picture our new sanctuary. This month, crews continued installing the exterior walls, installed the children's foyer stairs, and began waterproofing the roof. Soon, interior walls will go up, meaning interior trades can begin their work. Anticipation is growing with each passing day!

None of this progress would be possible without you. Thanks to the incredible generosity and faithfulness of our church family, we have now given over $5.6 million toward Next 70 — a testament to what God can do when His people trust Him together. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for every family who has sacrificed, prayed, and given so generously toward this vision. Thank you for continuing to give, pray, and participate in God's story at Pioneer Drive!

To see the latest updates, watch the progress, or find new ways to be a part of what God is doing through this project, visit us at **pioneerdrive.org/Next70**.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Church-Wide

Next Steps Class
Curious about what it means to truly belong at Pioneer Drive? Join us September 20th at 10:10AM in Room 2231 for our Next Steps Class, where you'll discover the heart of our church family and how you can find your place to belong. Whether you're brand new or have been around for a while, this is the perfect next step toward real connection. Reserve your spot online today — your church family can't wait to meet you!
Register at pioneerdrive.org/events

Trunk or Treat
Get ready for the sweetest night of the fall — Trunk or Treat is coming Wednesday, October 28th, from 5:30 to 7:30PM, here at Pioneer Drive! Bring the whole crew for candy galore, wildly creative trunks, bouncing inflatables, and a mouthwatering Frito pie and nacho bar. It's completely free and open to the entire community, so grab your neighbors, friends, and classmates and make a night of it! Want to be part of the fun? Donate candy or sign up to decorate a trunk — and just maybe take home the legendary title of Pum'king or Pinecone Princess!

Children's Ministry

First Grade Bible Presentation
First graders and parents, join us for this special event to welcome you to Children's Ministry! On Sunday morning, September 13th, come to the gym at 10AM for brunch and a time of learning about your new Bible. We will then present first graders with their new Bible in the 11:15AM Celebration and gathering services. Sign up online by September 6th.
Register at pioneerdrive.org/events

College Ministry

Welcome Home Sunday
College students, welcome back! Whether you're a brand-new freshman or a returning familiar face, Welcome Home Sunday is your invitation to jump into a community that's ready to cheer you on. Enjoy a delicious brunch made with love by our amazing adult volunteers, then stick around for lively Bible study and fellowship as we kick off the fall semester together. This is more than a meal — it's the start of a semester full of connection and growth. Come hungry, leave with new friends!

College Free Lunch & Bingo
Free food, big laughs, and even bigger prizes — what more could a college student ask for? Join us for a free lunch right after the last service on August 30th, featuring the beloved Poppy Seed Chicken, green beans, salad, and Honey Bun Cake for dessert. Then stick around for a few rounds of BINGO because who doesn't love the thrill of winning something fun? There will be giveaways, laughter, and plenty of chances to make new friends. Come hungry, come ready to play — this one's a can't-miss!

College Community Groups
Real friendships. Real faith. Real fun. Starting September 1st and 3rd, our brand-new College Community Groups are launching, and there's a seat saved just for you! Each week you'll share a meal, dig into Scripture, and build friendships that go far beyond a semester. Meeting from 6:30 to 8:30PM, this is the community every college student is looking for. Reach out to Griffin Jones today and find your group!

Mission's Ministry

Jail Ministry Volunteers Needed
Pioneer Drive's Jail Ministry team brings worship, Scripture, song, and encouragement into the Taylor County Jail — and we need YOU to join the mission. Whether you read, sing, share a devotional, or simply show up to encourage, your presence matters more than you know. We especially need women to step forward this year, and the window to apply closes September 15th. Contact Taylor or Melissa in the Missions office and take the leap into this life-changing ministry!

Disaster Relief Training
When disaster strikes, someone has to be ready to bring help, hope, and the love of Christ — why not you? Pioneer Drive is thrilled to host a Texans on Mission Disaster Relief Orientation & Specialty Training Weekend, equipping everyday people to respond in extraordinary ways. Whether you're brand new to disaster relief or renewing your credentials, this training will prepare you to make a real difference when it matters most. Registration is open now, so scan the QR code and sign up today! Questions? Reach out to Taylor — this is your chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a crisis.

Blood Drive
One donation. One incredible act of love. On Wednesday, September 23rd, the Hendrick Mobile Blood Unit rolls onto campus from 4:30 to 6:30PM, and your generosity could be exactly what someone needs to survive. All blood types are welcome, with an especially urgent need for O- and O+ donors. It takes just a few minutes to give, but the impact lasts a lifetime. Roll up your sleeve and change someone's story!

Big Country Needs
Small act, big impact! This September, we're collecting cereal to stock the shelves of the All For One Missions food pantry and bless our neighbors in need. It's simple, it's meaningful, and it takes just seconds to make a difference — drop your donations in the grocery carts or any church office. Every box helps a family start their day with hope. Join the movement and give generously this month!

Primetimers Ministry

Primetime LIVE -
RESCHEDULED FROM AUGUST Are you ready to sing and laugh at some "Texas Limericks"? Primetime Live welcomes Greg Young the Pharmacist and the entertainer on Thursday, September 3rd. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10AM for games and conversation, Greg will speak at 11AM, and we'll enjoy Chick-fil-A box lunches ($8) at noon. Sign-up online or in the church office by September 1st. Register at pioneerdrive.org/events

Women's Ministry

Women's Bible Study: Esther
Faith. Courage. Purpose. Join the women of Pioneer Drive this fall for a powerful 7-session journey through the book of Esther, exploring the daring, God-honoring faith of Esther and Mordecai. Meeting Tuesday mornings at 10AM starting September 15th, this study will remind you that God is still active, still faithful, and has called you for such a time as this. For just $20, you'll get the participant book and a community of women ready to grow alongside you. Register online or call the church office by September 11th — this is your moment to step into the story!

Cafe Connections
Coffee, conversation, and community — Cafe Connections is back and better than ever! Join us September 17th at 10AM in the cafe for a relaxed morning of connecting with other women in your church family. There's no pressure, no agenda — just genuine fellowship and a warm cup in hand. Come as you are and leave with new friends. We'll see you at the table!

Acts 2 Tables
Ladies, meaningful friendship is waiting for you at the table! Acts 2 Tables gather six to eight women once a month in a cozy home setting to share a meal, ask life-giving questions, and grow together in faith. Sign up solo or bring a friend — we'll intentionally connect you with women across generations and ministries you may not know yet. Register by September 16th to claim your seat and kick off the year with a fun dinner at the church on September 27th at 6PM. Community is calling — will you answer?

Rooftop Worship
Picture this: the Abilene skyline, the evening breeze, and voices lifted together in worship. On October 15th at 6:30PM, join us on The Grace Museum's rooftop for an unforgettable night of worship, prayer, and fellowship high above the city. Enjoy delicious fall treats, sweet fellowship, and a fresh perspective as we pray over our lives, our homes, and our world. Space is limited, so register online or call the church office by October 12th before spots fill up. Come ready to be moved!

Worship Ministry

High/Middle School Choirs
High School and Middle School Choir rehearsals kick off Sunday, September 13th, and we cannot wait to make music together. Middle School Choir (6th–8th grade) meets from 4:30–5:30PM in Room 2220, while High School Choir rocks from 4:30–6PM in the Music Suite. It's a semester packed with worship, fun, and friendship you won't want to miss. Come join the harmony — we need YOUR voice in the mix!

Children-led Worship
Get ready to be inspired by our youngest worship leaders! On September 20th, our 1st–5th grade Children's Choir will lead worship during both the 9AM and 11:15AM services in the gathering by greeting, praying, reading Scripture, singing, and helping with the offering. Watching these children boldly lead in worship is a beautiful reminder of what faith looks like at every age. Bring the whole family and be encouraged by their courage and joy. This is one Sunday you won't want to miss!

Gospel Hymn Sing
Nothing stirs the soul quite like a room full of voices singing the old hymns! Join us Sunday, September 27th, at 6PM in the Sanctuary for a night overflowing with beloved gospel favorites and inspiring music. Come ready to sing, worship, and be refreshed alongside your church family. It'll be a joyful evening and you'll walk away humming for days. Bring a friend and come raise your voice with us!

WEDNESDAYS ARE WORTH IT!

At Pioneer Drive, we believe that Wednesdays are **WORTH IT!** With a new season and a new school year comes a great chance to develop life-giving habits that strengthen your walk with Christ.

Join us at 5PM for a Fellowship Meal in the Fellowship Hall, and if it's your first time, dinner is on us. At 6PM, ministries and classes for all ages provide a place to connect, grow, and build lasting friendships.

Come be part of a community that's committed to becoming more like Jesus each week. We kick off on Wednesday, September 2, and continue every Wednesday through the Fall Semester.

Wednesday Night Schedule

5PM - Wedensday Meal

Fellowship Hall

6PM - All Ages Activities

Adults

6-7PM

- Wednesday's w/ Pastor John (Fellowship Hall)
- Women's Bible Study - None Like Him (Rm 2254/56/58)
- Women's Small Group - Philippians (Rm 2236/2238)
- Family- Raising Kids - (Rm 2257/59)
- Family- Intentional Grandparenting (Rm 2226)
- Family - Hot Topics - (Rm 2228/30)
- Learn the Bible in 24 hours (Rm 1255/57)
- Re-Engage (Rm 2253/55)
- Men-Sharpening Stones (Rm 1251)
- Sunday School Leadership (Rm 2231A)
- Spiritual Formation - (Rm 2251)
- Production Team Training (Rm 2231B)

Children (3 years-6th grade)

6-6:45PM

- Children's Choir (3 years-5th Grade)

6:45-7:30PM

- Mission Friends (3 years-Kinder)
- Royal Ambassadors (Boys 1st-5th)
- Girls In Action (Girls 1st-5th)

6-7:30PM

- MERGE Bible Study and Fellowship. (6th grade, RM 271)

Students (7th-12th)

6-7:30PM

- Student Worship (Gym/Conf. Center)

Worship

6-7PM

- Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

7-8:30PM

- Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)

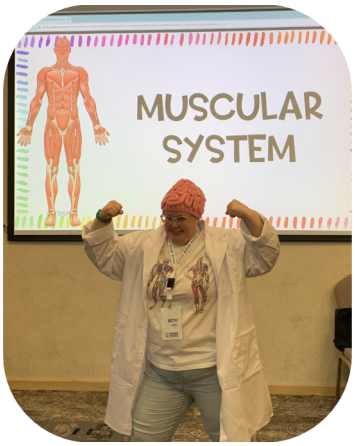
6:15-7:30PM

- Gathering Worship Team Rehearsal (RM 2233)

Ministry Partner Spotlight: *Beth James*

Szia and hello! My name is Beth James, and I serve in Budapest, Hungary, where I teach first grade at Great Grace International School, a Christian international school that serves families from many different countries and backgrounds.

My connection to Pioneer Drive Baptist Church goes back to my youth group years, when I had the opportunity to go on choir tours and share the love of Jesus with others. God used those experiences to shape my heart for missions, and I have now been serving in Estonia and Hungary since 2009. In addition to teaching, I also serve with SHARE Education Services, a ministry that provides educational resources and support to missionaries throughout Europe and Eurasia. I love that my classroom has become a place where education and ministry naturally come together, and my prayer is that my students would know they are deeply loved by God and that He has a purpose for their lives.



This past year has been one of the clearest reminders that God is at work in ways I could never orchestrate on my own. During the last week of school, our Bible lessons focused on heaven, hell, and eternity. I invited the students to talk with me later that day if they wanted to know more about what it means to follow Jesus. I had offered that invitation several times throughout the year, but this was the first time any of them responded.

What happened next is something I will never forget. Throughout the day, I had conversations with nearly the entire class, and by the end of the day, 11 of my 12 first graders had placed their faith in Jesus. These are children from multiple countries and different family backgrounds, and I had the privilege of watching God draw their hearts to Himself. I have always known that my role is to plant and water seeds of faith, but this was the first time I had the opportunity to see such a powerful harvest. Praise the Lord for His perfect timing!

Thank you for partnering with missionaries like me around the world! Your prayers, encouragement, and support make it possible for me to serve faithfully in Hungary! I would be honored if you would pray for my students, their families, and our school community in the year ahead.

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www.pioneerdrive.org

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The Vision is Pioneer Drive's monthly newsletter to learn about our church's latest news and upcoming events.

For more information, call us at (325) 692-6776 or email us at info@pioneerdrive.org.

Pioneer Drive
BAPTIST CHURCH

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