

THE



OCT25



DISTURB THE PRESENT

Catherine Booth once said, “If we are to better the future, we must disturb the present.” That’s a bold statement—and a timely one as we step into the “Next 70.”

Disturbing the present doesn’t mean chaos. It means courage. It means stepping out of comfort and into calling. It means trusting that God is doing something new—even if it stretches us.

Timothy knew something about apprehension. Paul reminded him to “fan into flame the gift of God” and assured him that “God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:6–7)

As we look ahead, we may feel a bit like Timothy—uncertain, hesitant, maybe even timid. But the Spirit of God is not timid. The Spirit is bold. The Spirit is transformative.

God transforms us, and God is transforming the space where we

meet to better align our future ministry and mission.

Temporary walls are going up around campus. New traffic patterns are emerging.

Here is what we’re doing to help:

- 1. PrimeTimer Parking** – The covered parking lot will be reserved for PrimeTimers on Sundays. The Bonham lot will also serve PrimeTimers and families with small children.
- 2. Valet & Mobility** – We’re expanding valet parking and working to secure a golf cart that meets city standards for safe transport.
- 3. Fellowship Hall Overflow** – For two years, members have worshiped in Fellowship Hall during the 9AM Celebration service. If it saves you a few steps, check it out!

Let’s disturb the present together—for the sake of a Spirit-led future.



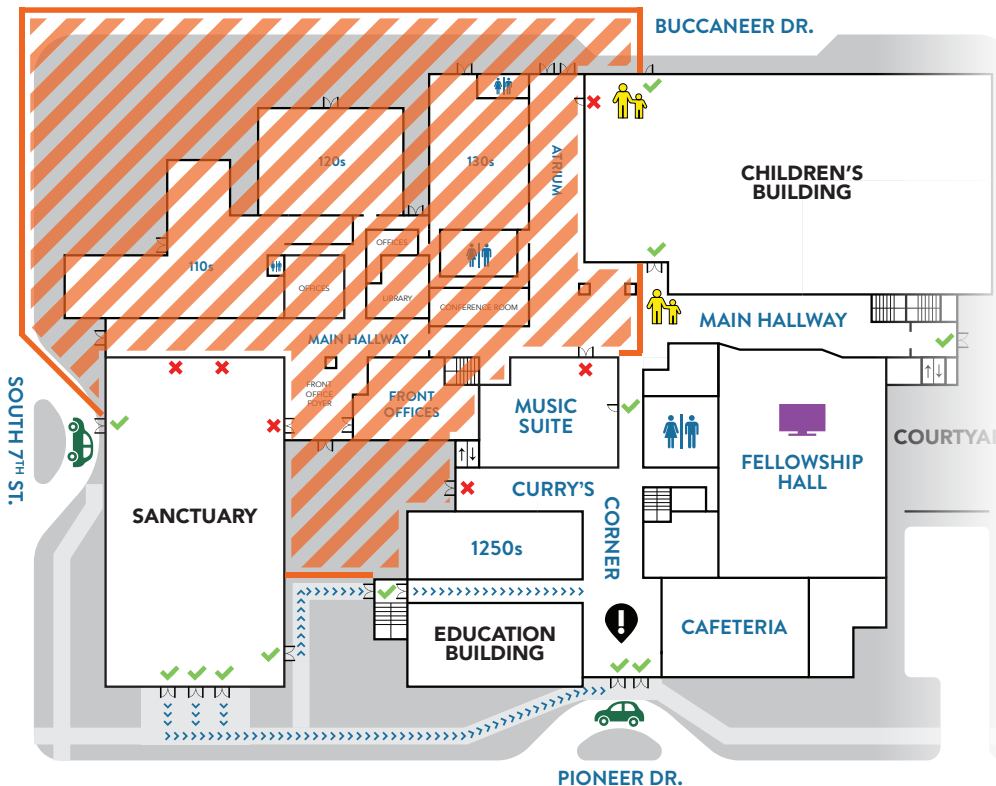
Dr. John Whitten

Dr. John Whitten
Senior Pastor



Construction Map

Beginning October 12TH



Construction Zone

Exterior fences and interior walls will create a barrier for construction.

✓/✗ Entrances & Exits

Due to construction, some doors will be unavailable (✗), but many other doors will still be in use (✓).

👤 Children's Check-In

In addition to the current two, a new check-in area will be in the main hallway. *Note: The Children's Building is not a cut through; a nametag/parent badge is required.*

📺 Livestream Available

The Fellowship Hall will stream the service if you need to travel less.

➡ New Traffic Patterns

Blue arrows show new routes for our campus during the construction time.

📍 New Receptionist Desk

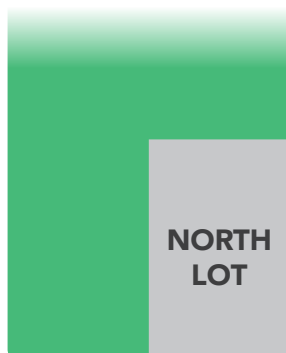
For weekdays and Sundays, you will find the receptionist desk in the foyer of Curry's Corner for sign-ups, tithes (new drop box), questions and more.

🚗 Valet Parking

Valet will be available at both circle drives, on South 7TH and Pioneer.

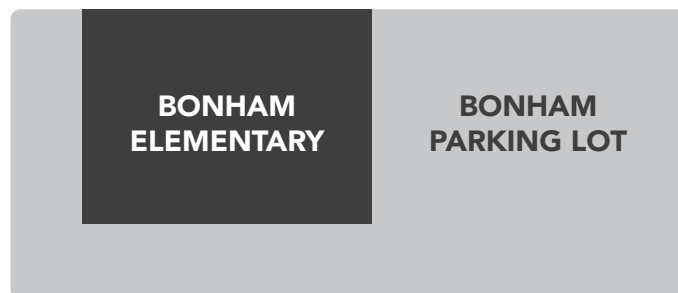


Parking Lot Map



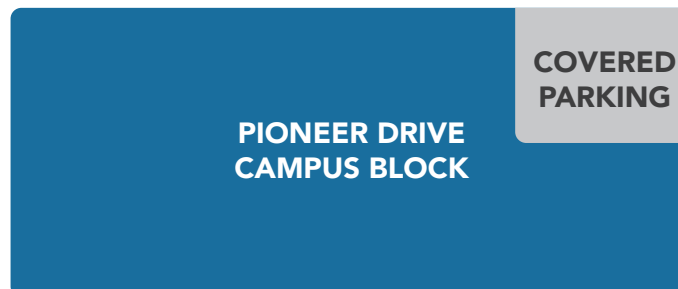
North Parking Lot

The North Lot is for those attending or volunteering in Celebration Worship.



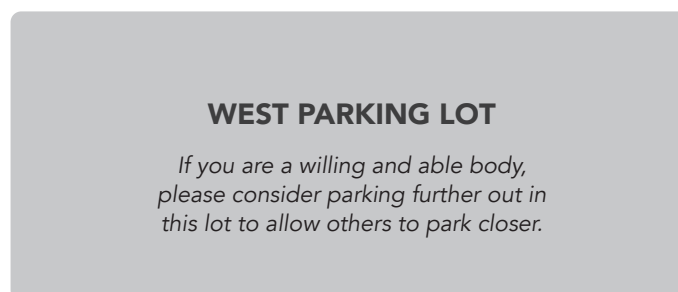
Bonham Parking Lot

Designated mostly for our families with younger children who need direct access to the Children's Building. Also, it's there for those attending the gathering or volunteering on the south end of our campus.



Covered Parking Lot

On Wednesday Nights and Sundays, this lot is reserved for Primetimer parking only. Starting in November, it will be the main parking lot for the church's new front office foyer during weekday hours.



WEST PARKING LOT

If you are a willing and able body, please consider parking further out in this lot to allow others to park closer.

West Parking Lot

The West Lot is for everyone; park on the end closest to the service you attend. Also, it's ideal for Primetimers who have Sunday School in Curry's Corner.

OCTOBER

CHURCHWIDE

OCT. 29: TRUNK OR TREAT

Pioneer Drive's Trunk or Treat is Wednesday, October 29th, and we need your help to make it happen! Win the title of Pum'King or Pinecone Princess by having the best decorated trunk. Register now to reserve your spot to decorate a trunk. Register one person per vehicle. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, October 26th. (We will provide candy for you to pass out as treats. You are only responsible for decorating.)

NOV. 2: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Christmas is just around the corner! Pick up your Operation Christmas Child box between November 2-16. You may also fill a box online. Drop off your filled box between November 17-24 in Curry's Corner or the church office. What a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus with children around the world!

NOV. 9: DEACON ELECTION

Deacon Election is Sunday, November 9. If you do not want to be nominated, email Jill@pioneerdrive.org.

SAVE THE DATE: MARRIAGE RETREAT

Make plans to join us for Marriage Retreat 2026 here in Abilene on January 16-17. We'll meet on campus Friday and Saturday for interactive teaching and marriage enrichment with Bobby Cooley of Empowered Homes. Make your plans now to ensure that it is just you and your spouse this weekend. Book a hotel room, call the grandparents, and sign up online today. Don't miss out on this opportunity for renewed intimacy and growth! Contact Terence Waldron with questions.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

OCT. 5: WORLD HUNGER BAGS

RAs and GAs will be stationed around the church to hand out bags before the 9AM services. Take a bag, fill it with non-perishable items, and return it on October 12. RAs and GAs will take them to the food pantry.

OCT. 5: 6th GRADE BETTER TOGETHER

This fall, we will help each other become BETTER followers of Christ TOGETHER! We'll meet on Sundays right after Middle School Choir in Room 2226 from 5:30-6:45PM on October 5, (no meeting on the 12th), 19, 26, Nov 2 and 9. Pizza and dessert are provided.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

FALL CHURCH MATCH SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship applications for the Spring 2026 semester are available in the upstairs offices or the College Room (2254) for students attending a Texas Baptist University or Abilene Christian University. All applications must be emailed to gayla@pioneerdrive.org, mailed, or delivered to the upstairs office by December 7th. Priority will be given to students pursuing full-time ministry. Remaining scholarships will be awarded based on need.

CONNECTIONS

NOV. 2 - BAPTISM CLASS

Baptism is a beautiful declaration of your commitment to Christ, and we'd love to walk with you on that journey! Join us for our Baptism Class at 10:10AM in the Café. This class is designed to help you explore what baptism means and how to take this important step. Know someone who might be interested? Feel free to share this invitation—we'd love to see them there!

NOV. 9 - MEMBERSHIP CLASS

If you've been considering becoming a member of Pioneer Drive, we'd love to help you take that step! Our Membership Class is scheduled from 10:10–11:00 AM in the Café, where you'll have the opportunity to meet some of our ministers and learn about our church family.

FAMILY MINISTRY

OCT. 8: CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Develop skills to help you navigate challenges in your work and relationships. Gain practical tools, share insights, and learn from others and their experiences. This group will be led by Dr. Randall Maurer, licensed family therapist, HSU professor, and church consultant with decades of experience. We will meet in room 1251 at 6PM. Drop in anytime!

MISSIONS MINISTRY

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Did you know there are currently over 190 children waiting for a mentor in our community? Most of these are boys. There are opportunities to meet with local children and youth every other week. Email Nathan for more information: Nathan@pioneerdrive.org.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

OCT. 3: FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS

Parents and Preschoolers, join us for roaring good time at the Abilene Zoo. We'll meet at 9:30AM right inside the entrance of the zoo by the train. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. No registration is needed.

PRIMETIMER MINISTRY

OCT. 2: PRIMETIME LIVE

The music you hear is not 1, not 2, not 3 singers but 10 singers participating in the Primetimer Music Fest. Enjoy hearing your talented friends sing some of their favorite songs. Join us at 10AM for Coffee and Conversation. The singing begins at 11AM and a Chick-Fil-A lunch (\$8) at Noon. Sign up online or in the church office.

OCT. 10: PRIMETIME TRIP

On the road again! We are headed to Fredericksburg. Enjoy the scenic drive, explore the German heritage, learn at a local museum, stop at the colorful wildseed farm, taste kolaches, make new friends, and nap on the way home. All this and more for only \$50. Sign-up today!

NOV. 11: HEROES BREAKFAST

Since November 11, 2011, we have gathered to say "Thank You" to our Veterans. All five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces are invited. Join us at 8AM at Cracker Barrel for a tasty free breakfast and priceless tales. Sign up online or in the church office beginning October 26.

STUDENT MINISTRY

OCT. 8: FIELDS OF FAITH

Students, join us for Fields of Faith at ACU stadium. Bring your own dinner, and tailgate with us in the parking lot beginning at 5:30PM. We will enter the stadium together at 6:30PM, and the event starts at 7PM. For non-drivers, parents should drop off and pick up at ACU stadium. The event will end around 8:30PM. We hope to see you there for this incredible night of worship..

OCT. 9: SPECIAL TOPIC SUNDAY

Each semester, we host a Special Topic Sunday for students and parents to address culturally relevant topics. Join us in the gym at 10:10AM for brunch and hear Dr. Brad Barham address the topic of the Anxious Generation and the impact technology has on young people today. Brunch is for both students and parents. No registration is required. This will take the place of our regular Sunday School programming.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

OCT. 16: CAFE CONNECTIONS

Ladies of all ages and stages are invited to come for a time of fellowship and encouragement on the third Thursday of each month at 10AM in the Cafe. Coffee & light breakfast snacks are provided. Come as you are and bring a friend. There is no cost or registration.

OCT. 16: ROOFTOP WORSHIP

Join us at 6:30PM on The Grace Museum's rooftop for an evening of worship and prayer. Spend a unique and special time overlooking Abilene as we pray for God's Spirit to move in our lives, our homes, and our world. Register online or by calling the church office by Sunday, October 12th. Space is limited so register soon!

WORSHIP MINISTRY

OCT. 19: HS CHOIR DESSERT SILENT AUCTION

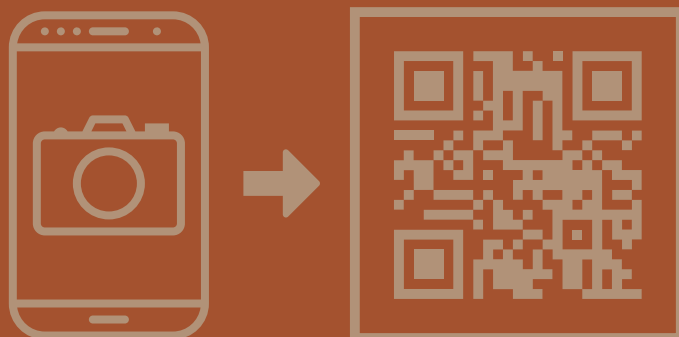
Make plans to visit the High School Choir students in Curry's Corner from 8:45-11:15AM and place your bid on delicious homemade desserts. Winning bidders will be notified by text & desserts can be taken home after the 11:15AM services. Don't miss this yummy opportunity to support our students as they raise funds for the 2026

OCT. 24: THE HOPPERS GOSPEL CONCERT

You are invited to an unforgettable evening of gospel music as The Hoppers bring their powerful harmonies and heartfelt worship to our sanctuary. Doors open at 5PM and the concert will begin at 6PM. Admission is free, and a love offering will be received.

NOV. 2: STUDENT-LED WORSHIP

The Middle School and High School Choirs will lead in the 9AM and 11:15AM Celebration Worship Services. Share this wonderful worship experience with us!





Let's Celebrate 30 years of Love & Care, a ministry born out of Pioneer Drive Deacon Mark Hewitt.

Love & Care Ministries along with other community churches will host a city-wide revival at the Abilene Convention Center on October 12-15 at 6:30PM. Each night will be filled with worship, speakers, food, and clothing.

Pioneer Drive's Celebration Choir and Orchestra will lead in worship, along with messages from John Whitten and Jeff Reid on the October 15th night! Come and be a part of the celebration!

SUNDAY NIGHTS

Oct. 5: Nathan Adams, 6PM Conference Center

Oct. 12: Dr. Jeff Reid, 6PM Conference Center

Oct. 19: Meeting Night, No Evening Service

Oct. 26: AJ Pardue, 6PM Conference Center



THE LIBRARY & DORIS MELSON



With hearts full of gratitude and admiration, we celebrate the remarkable legacy of Doris Melson, our beloved church librarian at Pioneer Drive Baptist Church.

For nearly five decades, Doris has faithfully served our congregation, nurturing minds and spirits through the ministry of books and quiet encouragement.

The church library opened its doors in 1958 and became a haven for readers of all ages.

Since 1976, Doris has lovingly curated and cared for a collection that grew to over 8,000 volumes—from delightful children's stories and inspiring fiction to profound theological works and practical Christian living resources. Her dedication transformed the library into more than just a room of books; it became a place of discovery, reflection, and growth.

As part of our Next 70 capital campaign, the library has now closed to make way for exciting new developments in our church's future. While this chapter comes to a close, the impact of Doris's ministry continues. Many of the books found new homes with our church members, and the remaining collection was generously donated to Global Samaritan, extending the reach of this ministry far beyond our walls.

Doris's gentle spirit and faithful presence have touched countless lives. Her work has been a quiet but powerful testimony to the love of Christ and the value of lifelong learning. We offer our heartfelt appreciation and deepest thanks to Doris Melson for her extraordinary service.

Thank you, Doris, for being a faithful steward of knowledge and a radiant light in our church family.



The Vision is Pioneer Drive's monthly newsletter. Learn about our 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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pioneerdrive.org



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