

April 2026

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Grateful, Growing, & Going Together

Church family, I want to begin with gratitude. Over the past several weeks, we have seen many guests walk through our doors. Some came because a friend invited them. Others came because God was stirring something new in their hearts. However they arrived, we give thanks. Scripture reminds us, "The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Growth is not something we manufacture. It is something God gives.

With that growth comes a gentle invitation for all of us. Be willing to welcome people you may not yet know. Did you know that almost one quarter of our church family has joined us in the last five years? That is a remarkable gift. It also means there are still names to learn, stories to hear, and friendships waiting to be formed. A smile, a handshake, an introduced name can be a crucial moment.

I also want to share a brief update on our Next 70 project. The concrete work is nearing completion, and we are hopeful that steel will begin going up this month.

Every time you drive by the site, pause and give thanks. What we are building is not merely space, but opportunity for mission and ministry for generations to come. Soon we will be having a temporary "prayer altar" where you can stop by and pray during the week.

As we move into April, we will begin our Acts 2 Movement sermon series. This is not just a sermon series. It is our strategy for discipleship and mission for the years ahead. Acts 2 shows us a church that was devoted to Christ, formed in community, generous with its resources, and bold in its witness. This is how we live out the Great Commission, not the Great Suggestion.

Each of us can participate. Invite someone. Welcome someone. Pray with someone. Serve alongside someone. The early church devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42). We are still called to do the same. Thank you for being a church that is grateful, growing, and going together. God is at work among us. Let's continue to join Him.



Dr. John Whitten

Dr. John Whitten
Senior Pastor

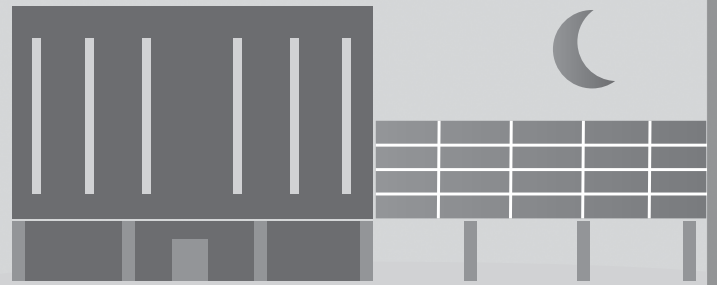
Sunday Nights

Apr. 5: Easter, No Evening Service

Apr. 12: John Whitten, 6PM Conference Center

Apr. 19: Mark Hewitt, 6PM Conference Center

Apr. 26: Taylor Cruse, 6pm Conference Center



1,100



seats in new sanctuary



unified church

continuing the legacy for the

NEXT 70

our campaign by the numbers



\$4,936,196

received as of the end of March

April Prayer Focus: Steel

In Exodus 26:15-30, God gives Moses fifteen verses describing exactly how the frame of the Temple should be built. The next major step in construction is the arrival of our steel beams, and the erection of the frame of the sanctuary and the building. Pray for our steel to arrive quickly without delay. Pray for the safety of all the workers involved. Pray that this frame will support a building that will house worship for generations.

April 12: Sign the Slab

See next page for more information on the event.

APRIL

CHURCHWIDE

APR. 12: SIGN THE SLAB EVENT

As part of our Next 70 building campaign, we've reached an important milestone—the concrete foundation for our new sanctuary has now been poured! To celebrate this moment in the life of our church, we invite you to a special Next 70 event, "Sign the Slab," on Sunday morning, April 12, from 8:40AM to 12:30PM. All morning you'll have the opportunity to step onto the new foundation and write your name, a favorite Scripture, or a prayer directly on the slab. Our children and youth will do the same during their Sunday School hour. Come celebrate what God is building among us as we step into the "Next 70" years of ministry at Pioneer Drive!

MAY 6: PIONEER PICNIC

Celebrate our last Wednesday Night of the spring semester with our church family! From 5:30 to 7:30PM at the Festival Gardens across from the Zoo, we will eat, play, and fellowship. Bring your own picnic dinner and bring your friends and family for snowcones, inflatables, games, and more. We can't wait to see you there!

FALL: WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL CREW

If you've been considering volunteering and enjoy meal prepping, serving, or cleaning a kitchen, the Wednesday Night Meal Crew is looking for volunteers, every Wednesday from 2-6PM, starting in September through April. You are invited to come and observe before making a decision for the fall semester. For more info, contact the receptionists in the church office.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

APR. 22: VBS T-SHIRTS

Order your t-shirt by April 22 and get ready for the best part of our summer! Cost is \$22 for adult sizes and \$18 for youth/toddler sizes.

CHILDREN'S DAY OUT

FALL 2026 REGISTRATION

Registration for the Fall 2026-Spring 2027 year of Children's Day Out will open on April 1. Download the registration form at pioneerdrive.org/cdo. Children's Day Out offers two-day and three-day programs for children ages 3 months to 5 years of age from 9AM-2:30PM. Email Pamela@pioneerdrive.org for more.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

MAY 31: CHURCH MATCH SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship applications for the Fall Semester 2026 are available in the upstairs offices or in the College Bible Study Room (2254) for students attending Texas Baptist Universities or Abilene Christian University. All applications must be sent to Gayla@pioneerdrive.org, mailed, or delivered to the upstairs office by May 31st. Priority is given to students pursuing full-time ministry with remaining scholarships awarded based on need.

MAY 31: GAUNTT SCHOLARSHIP

The JoAnn Gauntt Endowed Scholarship, established by the JoAnn Gauntt Estate and administered by the Pioneer Drive Foundation, provides scholarships to students pursuing



careers in education or ministry. This scholarship is designed to assist students who are currently or have recently been involved at Pioneer Drive Baptist Church. For more information, you may email pdbcfoundation@pioneerdrive.org or scan the QR.

FOSTER 325

APR. 26: NEW HORIZONS ON CAMPUS

New Horizons Foster and Adopt Agency will be on campus Sunday morning. They will have a booth in Curry's Corner and the Skybridge. If you have any questions or would like to get more information about next steps, stop by and visit with them.

MEN'S MINISTRY

APRIL: BOOK CLUB

Read along with other Pioneer Men this year! Our April book will be *Simply Jesus* by N.T. Wright and for our last few meetings in May Dr. Brad Barham will help us sift through and apply concepts from *The Anxious Generation*. A group discussion will be hosted Wednesdays from 6-7PM in room 1251 following our fellowship meal. Contact Nathan@pioneerdrive.org for reading assignments or with questions.

APR. 17: STUDY THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Join us Fridays from 6-7AM at the South 14th Starbucks as we follow the story of God's people entering the Promised Land, reflect on the tension of their story, and examine what we can learn for our lives today.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

APR. 26: CITY LIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

The last Sunday of every month we partner with City Light Ministries for their 9AM service. You can participate by reading scripture, praying, singing, sharing testimony, or simply hanging out. Come early for breakfast. Connect with Nathan@pioneerdrive.org or 281-794-6749 to learn more.

APRIL: CELEBRATE BONHAM TEACHERS

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8 and we are looking for help encouraging our educators right across the street. You can drop off \$5 gift cards in the offering containers on Sundays or in the church office M-F. We also need volunteers willing to coordinate a special lunch and other treats during that week. This is a great service opportunity for a Sunday School class, families or individuals. Email Melissa@pioneerdrive.org for more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: CALL A NEIGHBOR

Did you know? Our church has surpassed 600 total calls returned and helped 22 families in 2026 with housing insecurity. We are seeking volunteers to commit less than one hour a month to help follow up with these neighbors offering prayer and an invitation to church. Contact Nathan@pioneerdrive.org to learn more.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

APR. 10: FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS

Parents and Preschoolers, join us for Fridays with Friends in April. Parents will enjoy fellowship while the children enjoy outdoor activities at the Graves house at 9:30AM.

PRIMETIMER MINISTRY

MAY 7: PRIMETIME LIVE

Our friend, Art Linkletter, grabbed our attention in 1989 when his top selling book "*Old Age Is Not For Sissies*" hit the bookstores. Whew! Primetime Live welcomes physical therapists Matt Lytle & Chris Gerhart. Physical Therapy Today recently opened their doors to south Abilene. You will be amazed at what they are able to do for Seniors. Jeff Reid grew an extra two inches! Join us at 10AM for coffee and conversation. Matt & Chris will amaze us at 11AM, followed by a tasty Chick-fil-A box lunch (\$8) at noon. RSVP by noon on Wednesday, May 6.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

APR. 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.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

MAY 3: CHILDREN'S CHOIR MUSICAL

You'll hit a homerun with our Children Choirs as they present "In the Big Inning". Join us at 6PM in the Sanctuary as children, ages 3 through 5th grade, step up to the plate and hit a grand slam leading us in worship through the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11.

**SCAN TO SIGN UP
FOR AN EVENT:**



Upcoming Sermon Series

ACTS 2 MOVEMENT

As we near 2033—the 2,000 year anniversary of Jesus' resurrection and the birth of the church—Acts 2 is still the road map for reaching the world. In this series, we're linking arms with millions of believers in our Baptist family to freshly embrace the Great Commission in our generation. Together, we'll explore how God's global mission moves forward through ordinary faithfulness.

WITNESS

Share my testimony

ACTS 2:41

BIBLE

Commit to reading

ACTS 2:42

FREEDOM

Pray for the persecuted

ACTS 2:44

CARE

Serve others

ACTS 2:45

NEIGHBOR

Love my neighbors

ACTS 2:46-47

2033
ACTS2MOVEMENT

Pioneer Drive
BAPTIST CHURCH

MEN'S HIKE, MARCH 2026
TOP OF GUADALUPE PEAK

SUMMER

CALENDAR



Vacation Bible School

May 31-June 4, 6-8:30PM
Ages 3 to 5th Grade (completed)

Children

June 15-17: Day Camp
1st to 3rd (completed), 9AM-3PM

July 6-10: Kid's Camp

4th to 6th (completed), Glen Rose, TX

July 23: Day Away

6th Grade (completed), 9AM-7PM

Family

June 16: Family Night at Adventure Cove

Preschool

July 7 & 9: Preschool Camp
Ages 3 to Kinder (completed)

Students

June 20-26: High School Choir Tour
San Diego, CA

July 6-10: Student Camp

7th-12th Grade (completed)

July 26-29: Super Week

6th-12th Grade (completed)

WORSHIP GUIDES

Easter Service

9AM, SANCTUARY

"Victory in Jesus"

WELCOME Terence Waldron

BAPTISM CaraBeth Hill & Emmerson Choate

SCRIPTURE READING Olivia & Bear Gilbert

"The Passion"

"How Deep The Father's Love For Us"

OFFERTORY PRAYER Terence Waldron

SERMON "Joy Has A Name" Dr. John Whitten

"Behold The Lamb"

Easter Service

10:30AM, ABILENE CONVENTION

"Were You There? Overture" Celebration Orchestra

WELCOME Dr. Jeff Reid

"The Risen King Medley"

SCRIPTURE READING Evangeline Ellis & Madelyn Saunders

OFFERTORY PRAYER Mike Miller, Deacon Chairman

"No Body" Celebration Choir & Orchestra

"All Hail King Jesus (An Easter Moment)" Celebration Choir & Orchestra
Kelsey Davis, narrator, & Griffin Jones, soloist

SERMON "Joy Has A Name" Dr. John Whitten

"Living Hope with O Praise the Name (Anastasis)"

Other:

I am asking Jesus to be my Savior and Lord for the very first time.

I am rededicating my life to the Lord.

I would like more information about Pioneer Drive Baptist Church.

Today, I made the following decision:

Scan the QR for a digital version.



Phone:

Name:

Email:

Let us know you are here. Fill out this connection card and drop it in the offering basket or find a minister or volunteer in the foyer.

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.



Visit our website
pioneerdrive.org



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BAPTIST CHURCH

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