

The *Vision*

February 2026

Unseen Footprints

There is a verse that has been on my heart since the very beginning of this year. It comes from Psalm 77, a psalm that captures the tension between memory and mystery.

Asaph looks back on the mighty works of God with longing, even desperation. He asks questions many of us have quietly carried: Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has His steadfast love ceased? It is the prayer of someone who knows God is faithful, yet feels the weight of His silence.

But then something shifts. Asaph remembers the Exodus, the story of God leading His people through an impossible sea. And in Psalm 77:19 we find a remarkable line: Your way was through the sea, Your path through the great waters; yet Your footprints were unseen.

God was moving with power, compassion, and perfect timing, but His people could not see a single footprint. They only discovered His guidance as they followed Him forward.

This has encouraged me deeply as we step into a new year together at Pioneer Drive. Sometimes God's work is quiet. Sometimes His guidance is hidden. Sometimes the way is made only as we walk. But unseen footprints do not mean an absent God. They mean a faithful God who leads even when our eyes cannot trace His steps.

My prayer for you this February is that you would see and experience the Lord in fresh ways, and that through the ministry of Pioneer Drive you would notice His hidden hand guiding, strengthening, and carrying you every step of the way.



Dr. John Whitten

Dr. John Whitten
Senior Pastor

Sunday Nights

Feb. 1: Deacon Ordination, 6PM Sanctuary

Feb. 8: Aaron McDermott, IMB Missionary
6PM Conference Center

Feb. 15: Monthly Meetings, No Evening Service

Feb. 22: Craig Stotts, 6PM Sanctuary

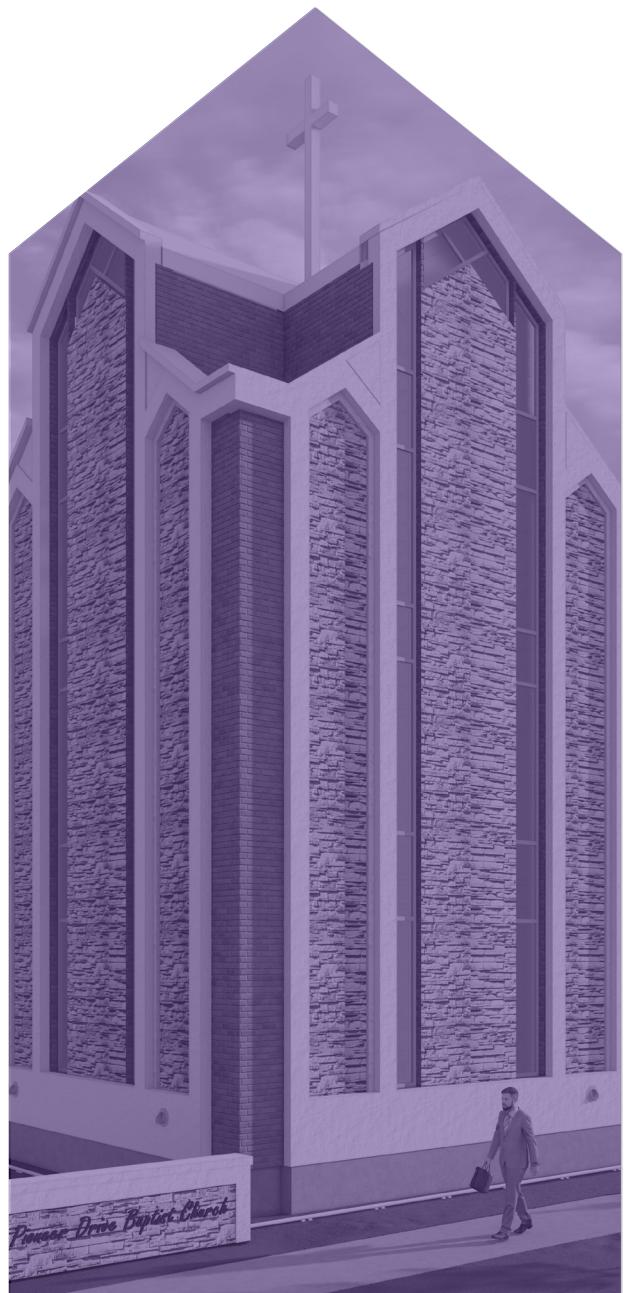


Next 70 Update

As of the end of January, we have received \$4,631,524 in contributions toward this campaign. Your generosity is making a difference!

Currently, we are finishing up 88 different holes in the ground, each thirty-three feet deep and filled with rebar and concrete. These concrete pillars extending deep into the ground act like the roots of a tree, stabilizing the foundation and protecting it from any shifting that might cause harm. Pray that our people will have deep roots, built up in Christ and the faith, just like our building's new foundation does.

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." – Colossians 2:6-7



FEBRUARY

CHURCHWIDE

FEB. 8: BAPTISM CLASS

Ready to take the next step in your faith? 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 on February 8 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!

FEB. 15: NEW MEMBER 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 for February 15th from 10:10-11:00AM in the Café, where you'll have the opportunity to meet some of our ministers, connect with others exploring membership, and learn what it means to be part of our church family.

MEN'S MINISTRY

FEB. 20: MEN'S 2026 BOOK CLUB

Read along with other Pioneer Men this year! Our first book will be The Resolution for Men with a group discussion hosted 6 AM Fridays at the South 14th & Barrow Starbucks beginning February 20th. Reading list can found online at pioneerdrive.org/men.

MAR. 20: BACK TO GAUDALUPE

Join our men's ministry March 20-23 with a hike to "The Top of Texas". The peak provides fantastic views of the surrounding mountains and desert from the highest point in the state at roughly 3,000-foot elevation. We will be taking personal vehicles, food & gear including tents for sleeping. Experienced hikers recommend a certain level of physical fitness for this rewarding although strenuous 8.4 mile trail. A climbing partner is also strongly advised. Register on Realm or text Nathan at 2817946749 while limited spots last. No cost to sign-up.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

FEB. 22: CITY LIGHT SERVICE

On the last Sunday of every month, we invite you to join us at City Light Ministries in downtown Abilene. At 8AM, there are opportunities to help serve or share breakfast with our neighbors. At 9AM we celebrate Sunday morning worship together. For more info about how you can help, contact Nathan@pioneerdrive.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: CALL A NEIGHBOR

Did you know our church has returned over 500 calls from non-church members for help with financial struggles over the past 2 years? 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: PREPARE A MEAL

We are looking for groups and individuals to help provide, prep and/or deliver a hot meal for people in our community experiencing housing insecurity. Volunteers are needed Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30PM. This is a great opportunity for a family or Sunday School class to build relationships beyond the walls of our church.

FEB 11: GUATEMALA MEETING

Guatemala dates have changed! Join us this summer from July 26-August 1 in the beautiful country of Guatemala as we serve alongside our longstanding mission partners, Servants Hearts Ministries. An interest meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11 at 5:15PM (grab your fellowship meal beforehand) in Rooms 2257. Whether you are interested in helping with building projects, serving kids, or blessing families, this is a great opportunity for you to participate in a short-term impact trip in a cross-cultural setting. Finalized details will be available soon. Contact Taylor@pioneerdrive.org for more info.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

FEB. 6: FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS

Parents and preschoolers, join us for Fridays with Friends on Friday, February 6 at 9:30AM. The children will enjoy fun activities in the Allen Room Tile Side while parents fellowship with each other.

PRIMETIME MINISTRY

FEB. 5: PRIMETIME LIVE

Welcome guest speaker and Big Country Athletic Hall of Fame recipient Al Pickett. For the past 50 years, Al has criss-crossed the state covering sports for Abilene High, Cooper High, and Hardin-Simmons University. His newest book is called, "It Must Be A Big Game: 50 Years of Covering Sports." Join us at 10AM for fellowship, 11AM for Al Pickett, and noon for a Chick-fil-A lunch (\$8). See you in the Fellowship Hall!

STUDENT MINISTRY

FEB. 23: HSU NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Students, join us for Night of Worship on February 23rd at Logsdon Chapel led by the HSU Chapel Band. We will enjoy dinner beforehand at Braums on Ambler at 6PM, and worship will begin at 7PM. Students needing a ride can meet us at the church at 5:40PM, and we will take a church van. All students riding in the church van will need an up-to-date medical release form on file.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

FEB. 19: 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.

FEB. 27: WOMEN'S RETREAT

You don't want to miss this year's Women's Retreat, February 27-March 1 at Homewood Suites in Waco. Come enjoy a weekend of fun, relaxation, encouragement, and connection. Our speaker for the weekend is Jacki C. King. Jacki is a respected and beloved Bible teacher, author, ministry leader, and podcast host. Her passion involves guiding women toward a deep love for Jesus and His Word, and encouraging them to embrace their mission in their homes, workplaces, and communities. Register in Realm by February 5th. Space is limited so register soon.

MAR. 29: PLAYIN' WITH PARTNERS

Save the date for a fun-filled evening, 5:30-7PM—games and friendly competition all for a good cause. Participants will be assigned a team and will be playing on behalf of a different Pioneer Drive mission partner. The winning team's mission partner will receive the money collected from registrations. You won't want to miss this fun, purposeful evening together. Invite a friend and make plans to join us.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

FEB. 8: CHILDREN-LED WORSHIP

Our 1st-5th grade choir members will lead the music portion of worship in both Celebration Worship services, through songs, scripture, and prayer.

FEB. 27: POET VOICES CONCERT

You are invited to an unforgettable evening as Phil Cross and Poet Voices fill our sanctuary with heartfelt southern gospel music. Doors open at 5PM and the concert starts at 6PM. The cost is free; a love offering will be received.

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



Noteworthy News

DEACON FELLOWSHIP 2026

Our Deacons officially welcomed in a new slate of officers and a new class of deacons for 2026-2029:

Tom Ambrose**, Kirk Canada*, Micah Clay, Blake Forrester*, Ben James, Steve Hodges, Matt Higgins, Stephen Lowry, Jay Miers, Andy Penney, Jeff Rhoads*, Michael Rice, Ken Shira, Jim Sutton, Clay Vaughn*, Tommy Vaughn*, Rob Walker*, and Paul Westervelt** (*to be ordained at Pioneer Drive and **ordained elsewhere).

Mike Miller will serve as Chair with Dan Cranor as Vice-Chair and John Voller as Secretary.

We are grateful for Sparky Dean (Chair), Gary Heslep (Vice-Chair), and Dane Bryant (Secretary) for their leadership this past year.

Deacon Ordination will be Sunday, February 1, at 6PM in the Sanctuary.

NEIGHBOR-2-NEIGHBOR

With the recent movement of our offices, I thought it might be a good time for a refresher on how to approach requests for help from our neighbors.

If someone comes in person to campus, please fill out one of our yellow HELLO cards on their behalf located around the church and submit it to the front desk or a staff member. Thank you!

- Over the two years, N2N has responded to over 540 calls!
- More than 120 of these families have received some sort of financial assistance.
- Our N2N Ministry Team consists of 9 church members, but we are always in need of more helpers, especially for female volunteers currently.
- We have roughly \$1000 each month to meet the needs of our neighbors.

Email Nathan@pioneerdrive.org for more information and ways to help.

LOCAL MISSION PARTNERS

Learn more and find out how you can get involved.

Contact Nathan Adams:
Nathan@pioneerdrive.org



All For One Mission is a church in the Alameda neighborhood. They are reaching the families with Worship services and Bible study. They have a food pantry and a clothes closet. Their vision also includes taking their members on mission trips to the Caribbean to share God's love outside the US.



Shining Star Fellowship is a beacon of light in a low-income community. They are on the corner of S. 3rd and Palm. They have weekly worship services and Bible studies. Also, they are reaching the community with other ministries.



The local chapter of Habitat for Humanity helps families in need by building new houses. Through the work of many volunteers, they are able to provide safe housing for families who need help.



Sparrow's Nest is a crisis pregnancy center located in Snyder, Texas. They are a residential pregnancy support for women in need. They help women who choose adoption with the resources they will need and support them through their pregnancy. They also help women who choose to keep their baby and help them prepare for motherhood. They offer GED support and coaching for future success.



Christian Women's Job Corp is a faith-based training program for women started by the Women's Missionary Union. They offer training to help women find meaningful employment to improve their lives.



ABILENE-CALLAHAN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Baptist Social Ministries offers a food pantry for people in need. They are located on Pioneer Drive near our church. They accept food donations and volunteers to provide food for people in need.

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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