



THE
VISION

NOVEMBER 2021

**THANKSGIVING
BANQUET
NOV. 21**

Full of Thanks

Thanksgiving Day will be celebrated this year on November 25th. You probably have already been thinking about your plans. What table will you be gathering around? Who will be there? Who will be cooking or bringing what dish? No doubt the plans of Thanksgiving bring anticipation to cherished time with our families.

As we think about the logistics of our Thanksgiving celebration, what are we doing with our spiritual practice of gratitude? Albert Borgmann, quoted in an article by writer Peter Scazzerro, breaks down a life of thanksgiving to four affirmations:

1. There is no place I'd rather be.
2. There is nothing I'd rather do.
3. There is no one I'd rather be with.
4. This I will remember well."

A life of gratitude is a life that is lived in the moment recognizing the open-handed blessings God brings moment by moment.

As I think about our church family, I'm thankful this year for what hopes to be a new Pioneer tradition. On November 7th we will gather at the Wylie Performing Arts Center at 6PM for "Generations Worship."

For the first time, we will have one service with all of our choirs—from our youngest preschoolers all the way through our Sanctuary Choir.

After a year off, we will gather as a church family for our annual Thanksgiving Banquet at the Abilene Convention Center with dinner and entertainment.

In addition to the normal ministry programming at Pioneer Drive, these two opportunities will be unique opportunities to give thanks to God in worship and fellowship with our church family this November! We certainly want to count our blessings and honor the Lord with how good God has been to us!

Francis of Assisi said, "Blessed is he who expects nothing for he shall enjoy everything." He understood that none of us can earn the beauty of a star in the sky or a sunset on the horizon and that our utter dependence on God is the very rock of reality."

Take time this month, perhaps around the table with friends, family, or your Sunday School class, and complete the following sentence: one specific way God came to me this past year for which I am thankful is....

When I complete that sentence, I would complete it with... you!

God Bless and Happy Thanksgiving!



Dr. John Whitten
Senior Pastor

Ministry Partner Spotlight:

Andrew Mann & Graffiti 2 Ministries

By Natalie Sarrett,
WMU Missions Mosaic

As a freshman studying music at NYU, Andrew Mann was not planning for a life of full-time ministry to underserved populations in New York. His plan was to become a professional Broadway musician, but God had other plans.

After meeting Send Relief partner Taylor Field and joining Graffiti Church, the entire trajectory of Mann's life shifted. Through volunteering with urban youth programs at the church, a seed was planted that soon flourished into a new vision. After being asked to consider starting a ministry program in the South Bronx, Mann took a prayer walk through the neighborhood to ponder this unexpected opportunity, and by the end of it, he was convinced of his fresh calling.

Today, Mann is a leader of leaders and a pastor to pastors in New York City.

His days are filled with overseeing children's programs, youth internship opportunities, workforce development trainings and assistance services for

families experiencing homelessness. While leaders are delegated to each of these teams, Mann doesn't like to lead from his office. Rather, his work philosophy relies on him being involved in each of the ministry's day-to-day operations as he guides his team through the week's challenges.

"We aren't isolated in silos," Mann said. "We all interact with each other and overlap in services as we holistically develop our servant leaders. I get a lot of joy interacting with our participants and helping do the back end of the work. Life crises are an ever-present reality for a lot of our people, so I consider it my privilege to be able to walk through the actual situations with them. These struggles are opportunities."

When navigating these difficult situations, Mann has relied on the words of Ephesians 3:14-20 to carry him through. He shared, "Knowing the breadth and width and depth of the love of Christ and believing God is going to do more than I could ever

imagine with these projects has kept me going. At the core, all we do must come from a living, breathing relationship with God. We can't be people's savior—as soon as we position ourselves as the savior, we become the persecutor."

As Mann continues his work at Graffiti this year, he has intentionally created a support system of mentors to help with the ongoing difficulties of ministry and aftereffects of the pandemic. By practicing self-care and engaging in these relationships, Mann is ensuring he will have the stamina to continue working in compassion projects for many years to come.

"The goal is longevity," Mann said. "We overestimate what we can do in one year and underestimate what we can do in ten. Through valuing Sabbath rest, building margins into our schedules and creating a network of support, I am given perspective for my experiences and the rejuvenation needed to continue doing the work that needs to be done."



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

CHURCHWIDE

NOVEMBER: BONHAM TOY STORE

For the month of November, we will be collecting gifts for families who need extra help this year. We are asking for new toys, electronics, and other gifts for children of all ages from babies to teenagers. Families who have been recommended by the Bonham Elementary staff will be allowed to shop in our store and pay a minimal amount for the gifts. Drop off donations at church office.

NOV 7: GENERATIONS WORSHIP

Enjoy an evening of worship led by the Celebration Choir & Orchestra, Student Choirs and Children's Choirs at 6PM at Wylie Performing Arts Center. Join us as we share testimonies, scripture readings & pray for our families and church family.

NOV 11: HEROES' BREAKFAST

The 13th annual Heroes Breakfast at Cracker Barrel starts at 8AM. This is a special morning to honor military veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The breakfast is FREE and the memories are priceless! Sign up begins Sunday, October 24.

NOV 14: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We have the opportunity to share Jesus with children around the world! Pick up a box today, fill it with items the child needs, and bring them back to us by November 14th OR you can simply ask us for a link and pack your box online! Our goal is 400 packed boxes this year!

NOV 17: CHURCH CONFERENCE MEETING

Our monthly church conference meeting is being held at our regular Wednesday service in the Fellowship Hall at 6PM. During this time, we discuss and vote on any pertinent church business.

NOV 21: THANKSGIVING BANQUET

This year's banquet is at the Abilene Convention Center from 6-8PM and will go to supporting the World Mission Offering, including some of our local and global partners. There will be food from Betty Rosa's and live entertainment for all to enjoy. Buy tickets at our Welcome Centers on the first Sunday in November or at any our church offices.

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHOIR REHEARSALS

It's not too late to join choir! Each Wednesday, the 1st-5th grade choirs rehearse from 6-6:45pm. We are preparing to lead in worship in "The Night Shift Before Christmas" on Sunday, December 5, at 6pm. For more info, email Betsy at childrenschoir@pioneerdrive.org.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

DEC 1: NYC TRIP SIGN UP DEADLINE

This upcoming 2022 Spring Break, March 12-19, the College Ministry will be going to NYC for a college mission trip with our partners Graffiti 2 Ministry. Sign ups are online and due December 1. For more info, email Taylor@pioneerdrive.org.

NOV 21: CHURCH MATCH SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship applications for the Spring Semester 2022 are available in the upstairs gathering office or in the College Bible Study room (gym foyer) for students attending a Texas Baptist university or ACU. All applications need to be returned to Gayla Mize through email, mail, or delivery to the upstairs office no later than Sunday, November 21st at noon. First priority will be given to students pursuing full-time ministry. The remaining scholarships will be awarded on a need basis.

MEN'S MINISTRY

NOV 14: MAN NIGHT VOLUNTEERS

Help host an outdoor time of fellowship for fellas from all over the Big Country. Volunteers are needed to lead small group discussions, teach, lead in song, setup, and cleanup. Email Nathan@pioneerdrive.org to sign up.

FRIDAYS: FRONT PORCH PRAYER GROUP

Need more courage in life? Join us any Friday at Front Porch Coffee Co. from 7-8AM as we practice being courageous & pray for what matters most.

ONGOING: MAN CARD

Have you filled out a man card? Now is a great time to fill one out. Every man who fills out a card will receive a free T-Shirt! It's easy to fill out online. For more information, contact Nathan@pioneerdrive.org.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

NOV 13: FOSTER HOPE CHILDCARE TRAINING

We are hosting a training for people who would like to volunteer to help with childcare in the foster system. This is a one-day training from 9AM to 2PM in our Cafe. Local professionals will lead the training which includes CPR training. Once certified, volunteers will be able to help foster families with childcare needs.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHOIR REHEARSALS

It's not too late to join choir! Each Wednesday, the Preschool choirs rehearse from 6-6:45pm. We are preparing to lead in worship in "The Night Shift Before Christmas" on Sunday, December 5, at 6pm. For more info, email Betsy at childrenschoir@pioneerdrive.org.

PRIMETIMERS MINISTRY

NOV 4: PRIMETIME LIVE

Primetime Live welcomes Abilene Historian, Jay Moore, an Abilenian whose knowledge of this part of Texas is amazing. He will remind us that "Abilene instantly sprouted into existence at 10 o'clock on the morning of March 15, 1881." Come early at 10AM for coffee and table games, Jay will present at 11AM followed by a Chick-Fil-A lunch (\$5) at Noon. Tell a friend, bring a friend. Sign-ups begin Sunday, October 24.

DEC 11: SAVE THE DATE

Make plans to join your Primetimer friends at the Ragtown Gospel Theater in Post, Texas on Saturday, December 11. "Joseph the Carpenter" (a Christmas musical) is a dramatic love story of epic proportions focused on the manhood and humility of the man God chose to be the father for Jesus!

THE GATHERING

NOV 14: TEAM NIGHT

Team Night is for the Serve Teams of *the gathering*. It is a time for our teams to grow together in community and our service to the church. Join us for a meal, an encouraging message, and practical training for your ministry, 6-8:30PM in the cafe. Childcare is provided.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

DEC 7: WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Join us at 6PM in the Conference Center for our Women's Christmas Dinner. Enjoy music, a delicious dinner, beautifully decorated tables, and a powerful testimony from Shelly Blake and Kate Drake. Tickets are \$20 and go on sale November 15th. If you would like to decorate/host a table, you can sign up November 1st. Tickets sales and hostess signups will be online this year. For more info, email Meredith@pioneerdrive.org.

NOV 10: WOMEN ON MISSION MEETING

Enjoy lunch, fellowship, and discover what God is doing at New Horizons as we hear from Pioneer Drive church member, Crystal Leake, in the Fellowship Hall. The cost for lunch is \$5. Register online by November 7th.

READ THE BIBLE

NOVEMBER

- 1 Matt 20-21
- 2 Luke 18:15-19:48
- 3 Mark 11; John 12
- 4 Matt 22; Mark 12
- 5 Matt 23; Luke 20-21
- 6 Mark 13
- 7 Matt 24
- 8 Matt 25
- 9 Matt 26; Mark 14
- 10 Luke 22; John 13
- 11 John 14-17
- 12 Matt 27; Mark 15
- 13 Luke 23; John 18-19
- 14 Matt 28; Mark 16
- 15 Luke 24; John 20-21
- 16 Acts 1-3
- 17 Acts 4-6
- 18 Acts 7-8
- 19 Acts 9-10
- 20 Acts 11-12
- 21 Acts 13-14
- 22 James 1-5
- 23 Acts 15-16
- 24 Galatians 1-3
- 25 Galatians 4-6
- 26 Acts 17-18:18
- 27 1 Thess; 2 Thess
- 28 Acts 18:19-19:41
- 29 1 Corinthians 1-4
- 30 1 Corinthians 5-8

THANKSGIVING BANQUET

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NEW BUILDING TOUR

Walkthrough the new building space and see the nearly completed construction of Pioneer Possibility! On November 7th, right after morning services, there will be an open house for all to tour the new space. We are so pleased with the progress and how it is turning out! God has used you and your faithfulness to do something that we could not do alone. Come and see for yourself all that's been accomplished through our capital campaign this past year! Praise be to God!

SUNDAY NIGHTS IN NOVEMBER

NOV⁰⁷ 6PM — GENERATIONS WORSHIP
WYLIE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

NOV¹⁴ 6PM — GRIFFIN JONES
CONFERENCE CENTER

NOV²¹ 6PM — THANKSGIVING BANQUET
ABILENE CONVENTION CENTER

NOV²⁸ 6PM — NO EVENING SERVICE

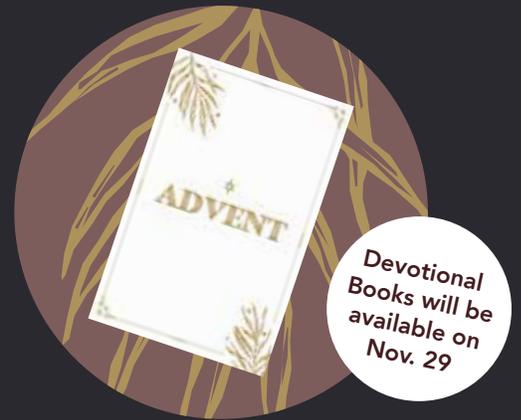


WEEKS OF CHRISTMAS

DEC05 | Children's Choir Musical:
"The Night Shift Before Christmas"
6PM, Sanctuary

DEC12 | Celebration Choir & Orchestra:
"The Miracle of Christmas"
9AM & 10:30AM, Sanctuary

DEC19 | The Joyful Sounds of Christmas
6PM, Sanctuary



PIONEER POSSIBILITY CAMPAIGN

We anticipate moving into our newly remodeled building in January after the holiday break. When we move in, we will take time to dedicate that space to the Lord.

Campaign Pledge Goal
\$5,706,000

Total Received to Date
\$3,960,077.68

ASSOCIATE CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Pioneer Drive is looking for an Associate Children's Minister to Preschool, a full-time position under the supervision of the Children's Minister. This person will be responsible for providing leadership and oversight to the spiritual needs of preschool children and their families. The ideal candidate would have a college degree, a love for preschoolers, and a calling from God to serve the families of Pioneer Drive Baptist Church. Interested candidates should reach out to Jeff Scott (jeffscott@pioneerdrive.org) no later than January 3rd with a cover letter, resume, and a reference list.



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.



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www.pioneerdrive.org



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Pioneer Drive
BAPTIST CHURCH

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