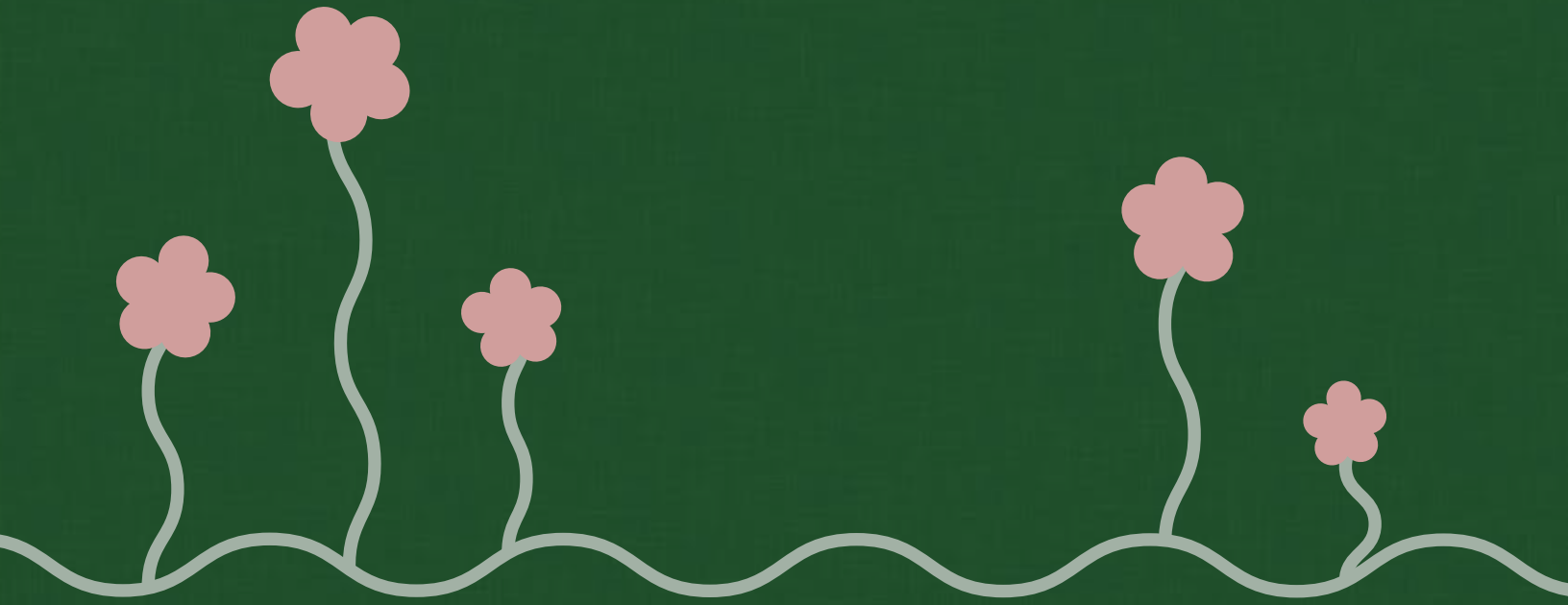




THE
VISION
MAY 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- UPCOMING SERMONS
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- SUMMER FUN



April in the Big Country is marked by wind! As winter, spring, and summer compete for weather dominance, the commonality in the April weather pattern seems to always be 10-20 mile per hour wind!

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says those born of the Spirit are like the wind, *“the wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.”* As I reflect on the month of April, I’m grateful for the Spirit’s work willing us and moving us according to God’s good purpose!

- We are preparing for 5 baptisms the last Sunday of April!
- We are celebrating over 2,100 people participating in Easter services in person.
- We extended a call to Kendra Graves as our new full-time Associate Minister to Children for Preschool—set to begin in mid-May.

- We have voted to approve our *“Embrace Ministry”* Action Plan—which includes searching for a Full-Time Director to connect with the more than 1,000 children with special needs in our community.

These are just some of the highlights of the Spirit’s work at Pioneer Drive in recent days.

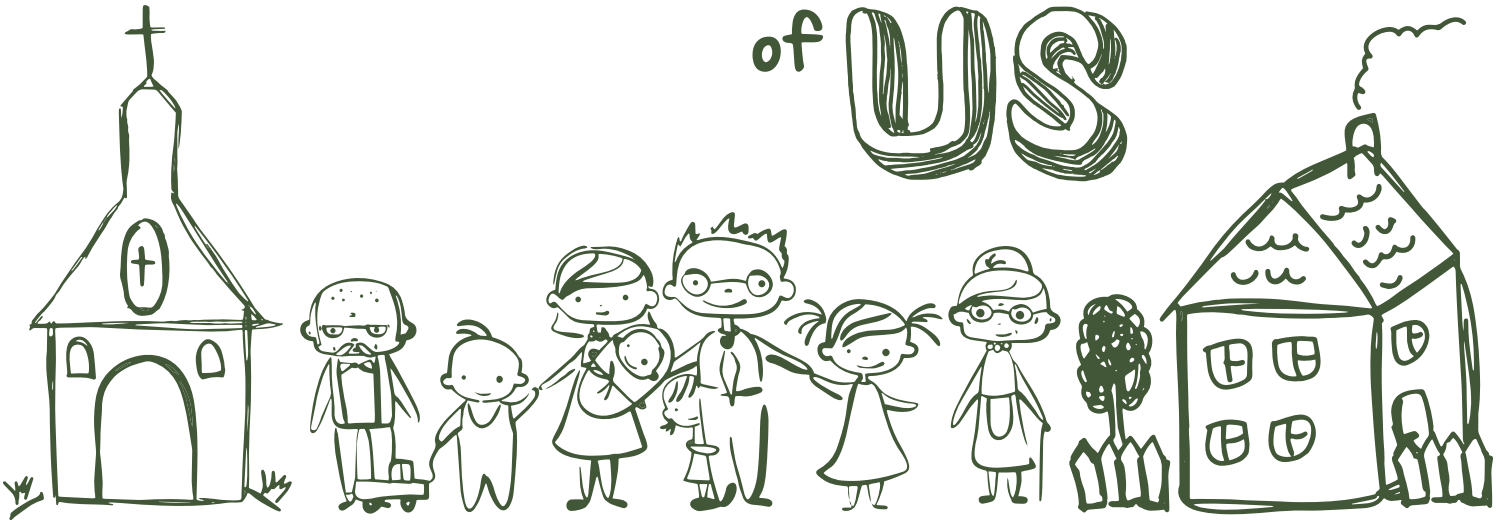
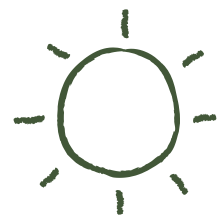
As we enter the Month of May, there is much to be excited about at Pioneer Drive. May has always been one of my favorite months of the year. The warmer weather combined with the anticipation of summer break and street baseball games, drinking Dr. Pepper, and later bed times always made May a month I looked forward to. Even more than the warmer weather and anticipation of summer plans, I’m looking forward to where the Spirit will move among us!

Dr. John Whitten

Dr. John Whitten
Senior Pastor



the BEST of US

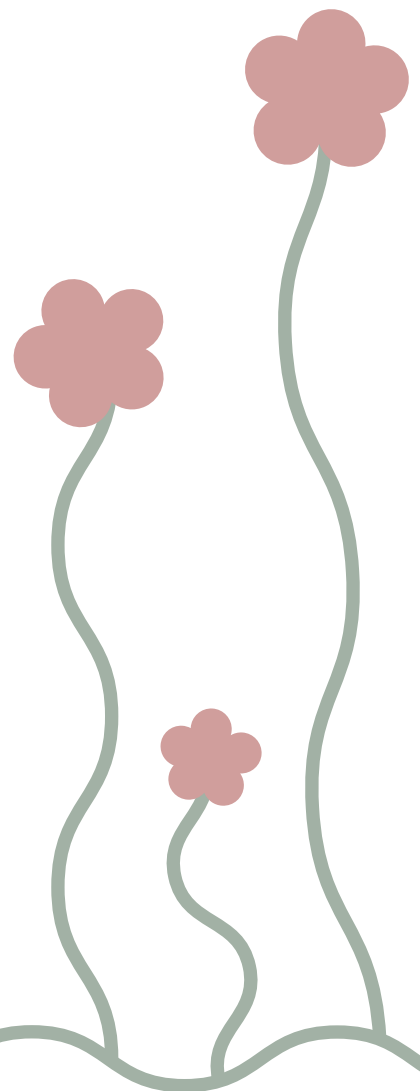


REMAINING SERMONS

MAY 1	Foster/Adoption
MAY 8	Young Families
MAY 15	Students
MAY 22	Young Adults/Singles
MAY 29	Primetimers

SUNDAY NIGHTS IN MAY

MAY 1	Children's Musical, 6PM, Sanctuary
MAY 8	Mother's Day - No Evening Worship
MAY 15	Night of Worship with <i>the gathering</i> Worship Team, 6PM, Conference Center
MAY 22	John Whitten, 6PM, Conference Center
MAY 29	Memorial Day - No Evening Worship





CHURCHWIDE

MAY 1: PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Worship with our Preschool and Children's Choirs as they present "Under God's Sea in 3D" on Sunday at 6PM in the Sanctuary. You won't want to miss this special time as the youngest in our church testify through music and drama about God's faithful love for each one of us.

MAY 12: VBS LEMONADE & COOKIES

Vacation Bible School is quickly approaching (June 5-9). We would greatly appreciate your help in collecting lemonade and cookies for snack time. Place your items in the buckets located around the church. Thank you for all you do to help support the Children's Ministry.

MAY 13: PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Once again the High School Choir and Parents' Night Out are teaming up so that you can get away for an evening and your kids can have a safe and fun place to hangout from 6-9PM. The cost is \$15 per child with a \$40 family max. Children should bring dinner or eat before arriving. Sign up online by May 9.

NATHAN NEEDS: TOILET PAPER

For the month of May, we will be collecting toilet paper for the All For One Missions Church in Alameda. They will be sharing toilet paper and other items with neighbors in the Alameda neighborhood.

JUNE 1: SUMMER KICKOFF

Save the date for our church-wide summer kickoff with food, games, music, and competitions for everyone. Details coming soon!

JUNE 3: VBS WORKER MEALS

VBS Workers, you are invited to come early and feed your family Monday - Thursday of VBS. The meal starts at 4:45PM and ends at 5:45PM in the cafeteria. Suggested donation of \$2 per person per meal. Register online.

CHILDREN'S DAY OUT

FALL REGISTRATION

Pioneer Drive Children's Day Out Fall Registration is open for children ages 3 months - Pre-K. A completed registration form and deposit are required to hold your child's spot. Classes fill up fast, so don't wait! Download the form at pioneerdrive.org/cdo or email Pamela McElhane at pamela@pioneerdrive.org.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

MAY 29: CHURCH MATCH SCHOLARSHIP

For the Fall 2022 Semester, there are scholarship forms available in the College Room (RM2258) for students attending a Texas Baptist University or ACU. All applications need to be returned to Gayla via email, mail, or delivered to the upstairs office no later than Sunday, May 29 at Noon. Priority will be given to students pursuing full-time ministry. The remaining scholarships will be awarded on a need basis.

MEN'S MINISTRY

MONDAYS: BIBLE STUDIES FOR MEN

Every Monday you are invited to meet at 6:30AM for a closer look at 1 Peter and/or gather at 6:30PM for a discussion of the Gospel of Matthew. Both these groups meet at the church and are open to all men. Text or call Nathan at (281) 794-6749 for more information.

FRIDAYS: FRONT PORCH PRAYER GROUP

Drop by Front Porch Coffee on Fridays from 7-8AM to pray with other men and for our community. Free bagel bomb for any newcomers.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

MAY 3: ABILENE GIVES

Every year in the Big Country there is a 24-hour fund raiser to help local nonprofit organizations in our area. Several of our ministry partners will benefit from Abilene Gives. For more information and to find a list of the organizations that will be participating, go to abilenegives.org.

MAY 21: FOSTER CARE BABYSITTER TRAINING

Here is a great opportunity to help foster families! In order to babysit for foster families and give the parents a much needed break, you must complete some a 4-hour training course. If you would like to participate, the next training will take place on Saturday, May 21 from 9AM to 1PM in room 1251. Register online at beltway.org/ministries/babysitting-training/ by May 17. Contact Nathan at Nathan@pioneerdrive.org with any questions.

MAY 22: BLOOD DRIVE

The Hendrick bloodmobile will be in the Pioneer Drive covered parking lot on Sunday, May 22. This is a great opportunity to reach beyond our walls and offer a service to the community. Blood donations can be made between 8:30AM and 1PM, and no appointment is needed. Save a life with your blood donation!

JULY 17: GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

This summer a mission team will be heading to Guatemala to help build houses and minister to families. The trip dates are July 17 through 23. We will be working with Servant's Heart Ministries build a small house, but there will be other ministries beyond building. This trip is available for all skill levels and interests. If you are interested in serving with the team, contact Erica Currie for more information at Erica@pioneerdrive.org.

PATHWAYS LEARNING CENTER

HIRING FULL-TIME AND VOLUNTEERS

Do you have a desire to teach and love on preschoolers? Pathways Learning Center is hiring individuals who have a desire to teach preschoolers within our Development Center on campus at Pioneer Drive. If you like to rock babies, read books, or just hang out with some pretty cool preschoolers, we have a place for you to volunteer! Applicant must be able to pass a background check with Texas Department of Licensing. Contact the Pathways office for more details or to apply: 325-695-1451.

PRIMETIMER MINISTRY

MAY 3: PRIMETIMERS TO PARAMOUNT

We will turn the clock back and take a trip down memory lane with our host, Jay Moore. "Abilene in the 20's and 30's" will remind us of the rich history of Abilene. There is no charge but the popcorn ain't free! Let's fellowship at 6PM at Rosa's (North) or meet us at the Paramount at 7:15PM. There is NO RSVP for this event.

MAY 5: PRIMETIME LIVE

Primetime Live welcomes Marcus Dudley, Abilene Police Department's new Chief of Police. Join us on this National Day of Prayer as we pray for the City of Abilene and the Abilene Police Department. Games and coffee begin at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the program at 11AM, and a Chick-Fil-A lunch (\$5) at Noon. Please register in the church office or online.

JUNE 2: PRIMETIME LIVE

Primetime Live welcomes historic hymn writer Fanny J. Crosby, the author of over 9,000 of your favorite hymns like: All the Way My Savior Leads Me, Jesus Is Tenderly Calling and Rescue the Perishing. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10AM for games and coffee, 11AM for Mrs. Crosby's story and singing, and 11:30AM for a \$5 Chick-Fil-A lunch. Sign up in the church office or online starting May 15.

STUDENT MINISTRY

MAY 11: END-OF-YEAR SKATE PARTY

Let's celebrate a fantastic year at Pioneer Student Ministry! All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us at the Skatin' Place Wednesday May 11 from 6-8PM. Cost is \$5 per student at the door and includes skate rental. There will not be transportation to and from the church, so students need to be dropped off and picked up at the Skatin' Place (1930 S Clack St, Abilene, TX 79605).

JUNE 2: STUDENT GETAWAY

Students that have completed 7th-12th grade are invited to enjoy a Getaway Day on Thursday, June 2 to Topgolf in Waco, TX. Each student MUST have a current medical release form on file to attend this event. Check with Allison in the Student Ministry Office for your medical release status.

JUNE 13: GIRL'S GETAWAY DAY

Join us for a day of shopping and fun at University Park Village in Fort Worth, TX on Monday, June 13. This trip is for female students that have completed 7th-12th grades. Students MUST have a current medical release form on file to attend this event. Confirm yours is up-to-date with Allison in the Student Ministry Office.

**SCAN
FOR
EVENTS:**





Caring Well

Pioneer Drive launched the CaringWell Ministry Team last fall to strategize solutions to minister to those affected by sexual assault and to equip our church with best practices for preventing sexual assault from happening on our campus. The team continues to raise awareness and plans to bring a proposal before the church in the fall of 2022.

"I feel so overwhelmed."
"How am I going to keep going?"
"When is this going to let up?"

We are hearing these phrases more and more from friends, family, and colleagues. In recent times it's evident that many around us are grappling with situations that feel more intense or overwhelming than in years past.

As a licensed counselor, I am a part of heavy conversations regarding loss, trauma, conflict and more. What I have learned throughout my career is that our responses are less about knowing the perfect things to say. Instead, what is crucial is the lens in which you see the experience the person is going through. As caring people, we want to comfort the hurting and so we say things like, "I will be praying for you," "it's probably not as bad as you think," "look on the bright side," or "it could be worse."

Though these responses are meant to

be encouraging and helpful, in some situations it might be perceived as dismissive or robotic and unlikely to ease the burden or pain. We are all equipped in handling trauma and these tips can be helpful:

- Be present without an expectation of "fixing" the struggle. Listen and ask questions to seek understanding.
- Believe the experience just as described. Sometimes we might think it seems grandiose or unlikely, but it is crucial for experiences to be validated and heard.
- Listening without comparing trauma/experiences. We all have been in tough times, and it feels like a connection to compare stories but try to stay connected to their experience.
- Be willing to continue listening. Talking out situations is extremely helpful for others (even if it's the 5th time).

- Be willing to sit with your friends as they experience big emotions. Let your friend feel those uncomfortable emotions (anger, sadness, fear) and do not show that it bothers you.
- Know when a situation should require professional intervention. It is often common for people who have experienced trauma to have the feeling of not wanting to be alive anymore. This can be scary for friends and family and always requires professional intervention. If anyone ever says they want to harm themselves or someone else, professional intervention is required. You can always call the church to get connected with local professionals.
- Pray, Pray, Pray. Continue to bring the burdens of others to the Lord. Without any eloquent speech we know that God is faithful to draw near and hear our cries. God is the ultimate healer, listener, friend, and counselor.

Sierra Greenwood is a member of our Caring Well Team (CWT) and is a Behavior Support Coordinator with AISD. She has been active in small group ministry at Pioneer Drive since she was a college student. She is married to Grant and they have three children: Luke, Polly, & Tripp. If you have any questions for our CWT, email us at caringwell@pioneerdrive.org.



Come learn how we are created in Christ and designed for God's purpose with this year's VBS Spark Studios. Dive into the book of Ephesians June 5-9 from 6-8:30PM.

Worker meals are available starting at 4:45 each day. Sign up online.





SUMMER HERE WE COME!

FUN IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

JUNE 5-9: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The VBS theme this year is Spark Studios: created in Christ, designed for God's purpose, based on Ephesians 2:10. VBS is for Kindergarten through 5th grade and runs 6PM-8:30PM each night of the week.

JUNE 12: MYSTERY TRIPS

Join us for a day of surprises and fun! Parents, when you register, we will send you all the details of your child's "Mystery Trip". If you need to know ahead of time, call the Children's Ministry office for full details. Register today as spots are limited. Deadline to register for all Mystery Trips is June 12, 2022.

We must have a medical release form for each child. Check with the Children's Ministry office to make sure your child's is up to date.

1st and 2nd grade (grade completed)

June 21

9:30AM-3:30PM

Cost per child \$25

29 spots available

3rd and 4th Grade (grade completed)

June 27

9:30AM-4:00PM

Cost per child \$30

38 spots available

5th Grade (grade completed)

June 23

10:30AM-5:00PM

Cost per child \$25

24 spots available

6th Grade Day Away (grade completed)

June 30

9AM-7:00PM

Cost per child \$40

23 spots available

SUMMER CAMPS

JULY 11-14: CHILDREN'S CAMP

For 4th-6th graders, the camp is at Circle 6 Baptist Encampment. The cost per child is \$190 before May 31st, \$210 after. There is a \$50 nonrefundable deposit upon registration. With 39 spots available, the deadline to register is June 15.

JULY 22: DAY CAMP

This year our Day Camp will be "on the go" as we travel around Abilene for a Day Camp like no other (full details to come). Cost per child is \$50 with a \$25 nonrefundable deposit upon registration. Deadline to register is July 6, and there are 39 spots available for 1st-3rd graders.

JULY 5-9: STUDENT CAMP

We're excited to go back to camp GENERATE again this year. We are going to East Texas Baptist University. We're looking forward to the short drive time and nice facilities! This will be a great time to spend intentional time hearing from the Lord, having fun with friends, and growing our faith family. Registration is available online today. Scholarships are available for all who need them. If you have any questions, contact Allison or Terence in the student ministry office.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

JUNE 19: BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDERS

Summer is right around the corner and it's time to make plans to get out of Abilene. This year why not consider volunteering with Baptist Church Builders?

Every year a building site is chosen and, in one week, a new church is built. This year the project is in Mayfield, KY. It begins on Sunday evening June 19th with a worship service, and then early Monday morning building begins and is completed on Friday June 24th.

If you are interested in finding out more about Baptist Church Builders, visit baptistchurchbuilders.com or contact Nathan Adams or Erica Currie in our Missions Ministry to see how you can go beyond our walls.



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www.pioneerdrive.org



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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

701 S. Pioneer Drive
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