

THE VISION

SEPTEMBER 2023



ALL OF FALL

Our children are back in school. Football is back on the television Saturdays (Go HSU Cowboys and Sic'Em Bears!), I'm starting to grill again (It's been way too hot!), and the Houston Astros and Texas Rangers are playing meaningful September baseball, engaged in a bitter battle for the American League West. We can only hope that the temperature soon cools down and matches the seasonal expectations.

As we begin the fall, I wanted to make sure you know several important things coming up.

First, Wednesdays are worth it! Beginning September 6th, we will be back with our Fellowship Meal and various studies and activities. There will be opportunities to learn something new about marriage, parenting with mental health in mind, Praying the Bible, or different studies in men's and women's related issues. I hope you'll join us for Wednesday's, they are worth it! See page 6 for more info.

Second, what does the Bible say about women? That question has been a hot topic within Baptist circles over the past few months. On Sunday night September

24th, October 1st, and October 8th, we will be studying what the scriptures say about women and their involvement in leadership within the faith community. Childcare will be provided. I hope you can join us for this important study.

Finally, each week on Wednesday our communications team sends out our weekly e-mail "This Week at Pioneer Drive." This weekly email contains pertinent calendar information as well as 'Deeper Roots' and 'Pioneer Travels' which can be a great resource when you aren't able to attend in-person.

Also, I include a "Senior Pastor Update" each week in that email. This update mixes personal updates as well as the latest "behind the scenes" happenings at Pioneer Drive and in the pastoral ministry. Many have found this to be a great way to stay in the know. If you haven't checked it out yet, please do so. If you are not receiving that e-mail, send a message to info@pioneerdrive.org and we will get you on the list.

Thank you for your participation in the good works going on at Pioneer Drive. See you around the campus this fall!



Dr. John Whitten

Dr. John Whitten
Senior Pastor

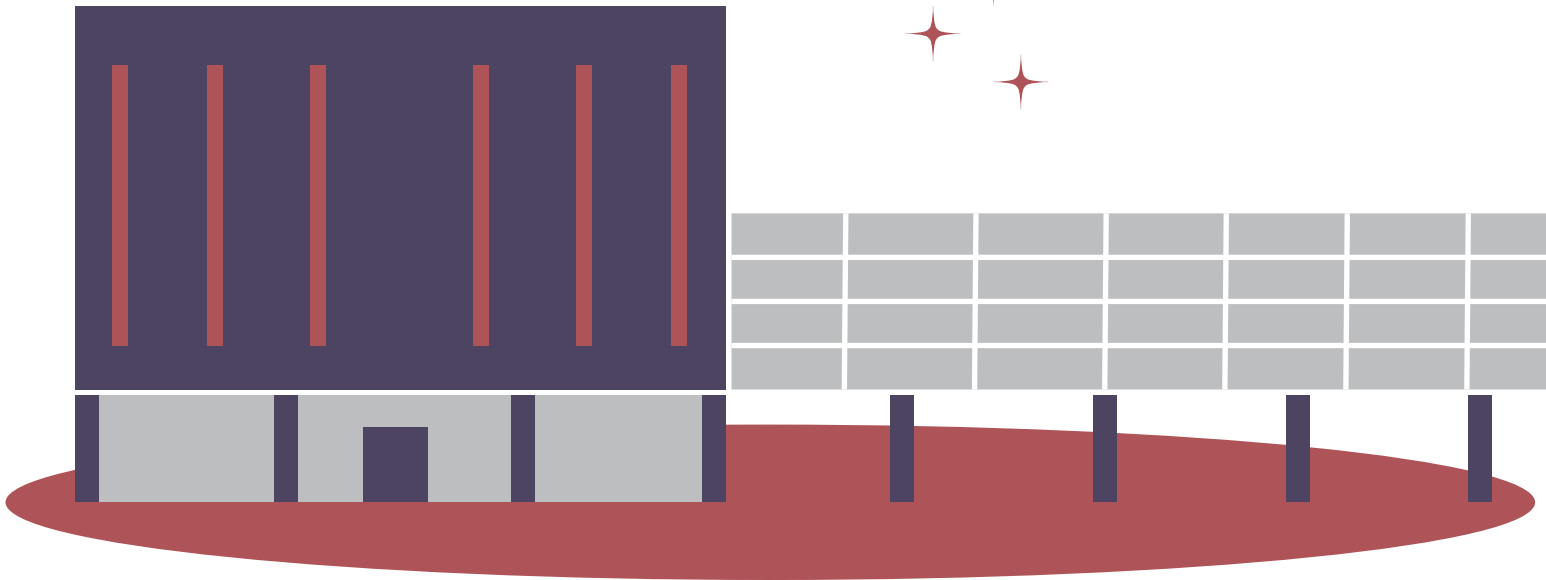
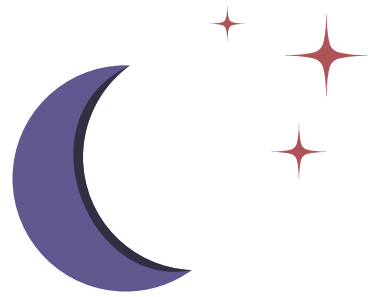
Sunday Nights

Sept. 3: Labor Day, No Evening Worship

Sept. 10: Courtney Todd, 6PM Conference Center

Sept. 17: Meeting Night, No Evening Worship

Sept. 24: John Whitten, 5PM Conference Center



Candice South, Interim Director



Rita Stotts, Consultant

INTERIM DIRECTOR & CONSULTANT NAMED PATHWAYS LEARNING CENTER UPDATE

Pioneer Drive named Candice South the Interim Director of our Pathways Learning Center. Ms. Candice has been with us for 15 years and currently serves as Assistant Director. She also happened to teach John Whitten's three oldest children.

Additionally, Rita Stotts will join our team as a consultant to Pathways Learning Center during the transition period. Rita has extensive experience in day-to-day early childhood care as a Director of several facilities. Additionally, she has consulted with different daycare centers around our state. She is a member of our church and will give good guidance to Candice and our Pathways Learning Center (PLC) Committee.

Be in prayer for these two ladies and their new roles. Our PLC Committee will be formulating a plan to begin the search for a permanent director soon.



CHURCHWIDE

SEPT. 24: TEAM DAY

Are you a volunteer or interested in being one? Join us from 12:30pm-3:30PM in the Pioneer Drive Café! We will enjoy food, fellowship, play games, and consider how to best carry out the role to which God has called us in the Pioneer Drive family. Childcare will be provided.

MARCH 8-17: HOLY LAND TRIP

Visit the Holy Land with other church members and church staff in the Spring of 2024. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Russell Berry by phone (325-698-1421) or email (russell@thetravelfactory.com). Hundreds of Pioneer Drive members have made the journey over the years and speak to the life-changing experience of seeing places in the Bible come alive. We hope you'll consider going to the Holy Land with us.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SEPT. 17: FIRST GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

Celebrate with us as your first grader transitions from Preschool to Children's Ministry. Families will enjoy brunch and a special time together learning all about their new Bible during the 10:10am Sunday School hour, and each first grader will be presented with their new Bible during both 11:15AM church services. Deadline to register is September 10.

SEPT. 24: NEW CHRISTIAN CLASS

Has your 1st-6th grader recently become a Christian? If so, sign them up for our 5-week New Christian Class where they will learn what comes next in following Jesus! Classes are at 9AM from October 8th through November 5th. Family brunch and seminar on October 8th at 10:10AM. Deadline to register is September 24.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

SEPT. 3: COLLEGE FREE MEAL

The first Sunday of the month is a big deal here in our College Ministry! Join us right after church at 12:15PM in the college room for a FREE Lunch. We'll have a home-cooked meal and giveaways. This is a great Sunday to bring a friend to our college ministry!

SEPT. 3: COLLEGE DECADES PARTY

1973-2023: Celebrate 50 years of College Ministry! All college students are invited to join us from 7-9PM. Dress up in your favorite 70s, 80s, or 90s attire. Espressoak will be here with free coffee, plus games and giveaways!

SEPT. 11: COLLEGE COMMUNITY GROUPS

Our weekly community groups are starting back up. All college students ages 18-24 are invited to be a part of one of our two groups. Groups are co-ed and meet at 6:30PM on either Monday or Tuesday night. Dinner is included! Contact Taylor for more information.

SEPT. 20: COLLEGE BRIDGE GROUP

This once-a-month small group is designed for graduating college students or recent college graduates (within the last year) under the age of 25. We'll be walking through *After College* by Erica Young Reitz as we discuss navigating practical issues related to life and faith in the transition out of college life. Food is available beforehand through our Wednesday Night meal. Fall dates are the 3rd Wednesday of the following months: September 20, October 18, and November 15.

MEN'S MINISTRY

SEPT. 11: BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

We are excited to invite you to examine Jesus's claims for your own life in John's Gospel: The Truth. These meetings are held every Monday. Discussion begins at 6:30PM upstairs in our education building. School age groups provided as well. Register online at bsfinternational.org or in-person throughout the year.

SEPT. 23: BACKYARD BRO TIME

Hangout on the scenic back patio of Rob & Angie Wiley from 6-8PM. There will be plenty of food, swimming, yard games & football to watch. Register on Realm or by emailing Melissa@pioneerdrive.org.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER: BIG COUNTRY NEEDS

This month we are continuing to collect ramen noodle packages for the ACBA food pantry. Also, if you missed Christmas in July for the Bonham Christmas Store, we are still collecting gifts for kids aged 1 to 18. Place all donations in the grocery cart or church offices.

SEPT. 3: SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

Join us in the Sanctuary at 8AM on Sundays to pray for our community, church, local partners, and global partners. We will meet every Sunday morning starting September 3rd.

SEPT. 5: NEHEMIAH MINISTRY

At Pioneer Drive, we have a group of servant-hearted men and women who help our neighbors with housing projects. The Nehemiah Ministry meets on the first Tuesday each month in the cafe to pray together, enjoy a home-cooked meal, and discuss upcoming projects. Simply show up or contact Taylor@pioneerdrive.org.

SEPT. 10: WEEK OF PRAYER

The week of prayer for Texas Baptist Missions will be September 10th through the 17th. Join with us and other churches all over Texas to pray for missionaries and mission projects that make a huge impact in many people's lives. Prayer guides will be available on Sunday September 10 in the pews and in the welcome centers.

SEPT. 20: BLOOD DRIVE

The Hendrick Blood Bank is very low right now. You can help by donating lifesaving blood for our neighbors in need. The blood mobile will be in the West parking lot Wednesday, September 20, from 4:30PM to 6:30PM.

QUARTERLY: JAIL MINISTRY

On Thursday evenings we share a night of worship at the Taylor County Jail. Volunteers are always needed to share God's love and encouragement with men and women. If you would like to help the jail ministry, contact Nathan@pioneerdrive.org or Melissa@pioneerdrive.org to begin the application process by September 15.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

SEPT. 8: FRIDAYS WITH FRIENDS

Splash into a new year of Fridays with Friends from 10-11:30AM. Moms and preschoolers, we will gather at the home of John and Elya Whitten for a morning of swimming, snacks, and fun. Contact Kendra for more.

PRIMETIMER MINISTRY

SEPT. 7: PRIMETIME LIVE

It's time for our monthly get-together and we welcome Nancy Robinson Masters! Join us on Thursday, September 7 at 10AM for coffee, games, and fellowship. Nancy speaks at 11AM followed by a Chick-fil-A lunch (\$8) at noon. Don't forget to sign up online or in the church office so we have enough food!

STUDENT MINISTRY

SEPT. 10: SUNDAY NIGHT KICKOFF EVENT

For all 7th-12th graders, join us for a fun time of Slip & Slide Kickball, swimming, and yummy food at the Hancock/Wilson House. There will be transportation from Pioneer Drive after choir, but students need to be picked up at 8PM. Contact Allison with any questions.

SEPT. 10: STUDENT WORKER PROGRAM

Our Student Worker Program allows students to serve in different areas and earn funds to participate in student ministry activities such as Disciple Now, Choir Tour, Church Camp and more! We will have a lunch/training for all interested 7th-12th graders following the 11:15AM worship services. This year we are teaming up with FCA and their 7-on-7 youth football league to referee or work in the concession stand on Monday Nights starting September 11th. Contact Allison with any questions.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

SEPT. 7: TASTE AT THE GRACE

Did you know Women's Ministry has created a cookbook? Be among the first to grab one at our Taste at The Grace event from 6-8PM at The Grace Museum. Here, you will be able to grab your copy of the cookbook, sample published recipes at various booths, enjoy live music, purchase the latest Women's Ministry merch, and more. You won't want to miss this fun evening together at one of Abilene's favorite spots. Be sure to invite a friend and make plans to join us!

SEPT. 13: WOMEN ON MISSION

Learn about local mission opportunities at our monthly Women on Mission lunches. This fall we will meet on Sept. 13, Oct. 11, and Nov. 8. Lunch is at 11:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5. Register online.

SEPT. 21: CAFE CONNECTION

Connect with other women and share life together at Café Connections. This group meets at 9AM in the Café on the third Thursday of each month, so mark your calendars for our fall dates: Sept. 21, Oct. 19, and Nov. 16. No registration is needed.

SEPT. 24: IF:TABLE FALL KICKOFF EVENT

Our IF: Table Kickoff will be at 6PM in the Conference Center. At this event, we will enjoy a meal together and meet our new groups for the first time in a fun, relaxed environment. Groups will then begin meeting in homes once a month from October-May. If you would like to be a part of one of our IF:Table groups this year, register online or by calling the church office by September 10th.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

SEPT. 10: HS & MS CHOIR RESUME

High School & Middle School Choir Rehearsals start again on Sundays. Middle School Choir is open to all 6th, 7th & 8th graders & meets in Room 2220 from 4:30-5:30PM. High School Choir meets in the Music Suite from 4:30-6PM.



LIFT UP

NEW SERMON SERIES
STARTING SEPTEMBER 10

SERIES OVERVIEW

On September 10th, we will kick off our fall sermon series, “Lift Up.” We spend much of our lives looking down with the news and technology of our day. So, where does our help come from?

The Psalmist says, “I lift up my eyes to the mountains, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

We will be looking at several different Psalms to help you grow in your prayer life. Much of scripture speaks ‘to’ us, but the Psalms so often speak ‘for’ us.

Join us this fall as we “lift up” our eyes to the Lord. We will all be challenged to memorize Psalm 121:1-2 (see back cover).

WORTH IT

WEDNESDAYS



Wednesday night activities and groups start at 6PM and typically go until 7 or 7:30PM. Here are the Fall options:

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL

From 5-6PM in our Fellowship Hall, you can enjoy a homecooked meal each week to make the night easier. The meal is \$5 per person with a family max of \$20.

PRESCHOOL

Choirs – At an early age, we believe children can learn the truths of scripture by learning them in songs.

Mission Friends – We take time each week to teach our children the value of loving and serving others.

SMALL GROUPS

Our Bible studies will have a start and end date, but joining a small group is more for someone looking for a deeper connection lasting longer than a 4-12 week study. Ask about our small groups for any stage of life!

CHILDREN

Choirs – Through song, we continue learning truths of scripture and deepen our understanding of God.

RA's and GA's – Groups of boys and girls learn about missionaries and being on mission for Christ.

YOUTH

Open Gym – We love to provide a place for our students to hang out, have fun, and reconnect.

Midweek Worship – We play a game, spend time in worship, and hear a sermon from our youth minister.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

We have a place for you to serve if God has musically gifted you. Between our choir, orchestra, and worship team, they practice each week on Wednesday nights to prepare and lead worship on Sunday mornings.

ADULT STUDIES

PASTOR'S PRAYER WORKSHOP

This fall, Pastor John leads us during the 6PM prayer and study time in the Fellowship Hall. Pray through the Bible as we also pray for our church and others.

MARRIAGE: YOUR BEST US (RM2253/55)

Join Jeff and Tarah Scott as they share four core habits from the Bible that can help every couple become their best US, for all marriages whether thriving or surviving.

LEARN THE BIBLE IN 24 HOURS (RM1255/57)

Tim De La Vega walks through a study to grasp Scripture, designed for those who have tried and failed to follow through on a plan to study the entire Bible.

MISSIONS: INVITED (RM1252)

You're invited by Erica Currie to this nine-week series learning the importance of sharing our faith with others.

PARENTING: OVERCOMING ANXIETY (RM2257/59)

Walk through a book with Terence Waldron on how we as adults can better equip our grandchildren and children to handle the challenges of this world.

WOMEN: SABBATH (RM2254/56/58)

Meredith Summers and Elya Whitten teach, plus small group discussion, about the ancient practice of Sabbath, learn how to incorporate it into your daily life.

MEN: WILDERNESS STORIES (RM1251/53)

Examine your faith journey in the light of men facing various seasons of struggle in the Old Testament, led by Dr. Bob Ellis, Dane Bryant & Nathan Adams.

FOSTER FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP (RM2237)

This is a closed group led by Foster 325's director Erin Mills. This group is for parents currently fostering. If you are interested in participating, see Terence Waldron.

***“I lift up my eyes to the hills,
from where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.”***

-Psalm 121:1-2



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www.pioneerdrive.org



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