

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests

Marriage Retreat Wraps up Today

Things will look a bit different at the building today, as several members are in Glen Rose participating in the Marriage Retreat. Please pray for strengthened marriages and safe travels back home for those involved. Back here in Abilene, we are in for a treat as Curt Niccum will be preaching today from the gospel of Luke on "The Year of the Lord's Favor." We will have a combined adult Bible class in the auditorium, and the kids in the Children's Ministry ages 4 to 5th grade will have a combined Bible class in the Tool Shed classroom. Babies to 3-year-olds will be in their regular classrooms. The youth group will have normal class in the youth house.

Senior Valentine Luncheon in Two Weeks

Senior members of the congregation are invited to the Senior Valentine Luncheon on **Sunday, Feb. 9**, hosted by the youth group. Fantastic food and fun activities will be provided in the fellowship hall immediately following our Sunday morning worship service. The youth group looks forward to this event every year; please plan to attend in a couple of weeks if you can and get to know our awesome, servant-hearted students.

New eGive Option

As we begin a new year, we want to remind you about the opportunity to give electronically to support Westgate through eGive. As Eric announced last Sunday, there is now an option to "cover the cost of this transaction." This new checkbox option will allow you to add an additional 3% to your designated credit or debit card donation (1% for ACH) to cover the processing cost and to make sure that Westgate receives the full amount you intended to donate. This is optional so no one will see this impact their giving automatically, but we want to provide a choice to do so based on requests from our members. Thank you for your generosity and your support of Westgate.



Sermon Title: The Year of the Lord's Favor

Scripture: Luke 4:17-21

...and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Prayer Concerns

~**Vickie Cardot** has been moved to long term care at Hendrick North. She is supposed to have a tracheotomy surgery, but it is not scheduled yet. Please pray for Vickie and the Cardot family.

~Continued prayers for **Eric Robinson**.

~Our sincere sympathy to **Larry Loveland** and family. Larry's mother passed away in Louisiana Wednesday.

~Please add **Bob Edwards** to your prayer list. He went to the hospital last Saturday with a brain bleed, but has since been released. The doctor wants to run some follow-up tests on his heart.

~**Cara Hill** is managing chronic back pain and has asked for prayers.

~**Melody Loveland** was finally able to go to the specialist in Dallas on Wednesday. Her team of doctors will meet in early February to discuss a plan of action. Keep praying!

~**Deana Frazier** was scheduled for a second eye surgery to fix a detached retina Friday (1/24). Remember to pray for a quick and successful recovery for Deana.

~Pray for **Arieal Lynd**, that her new living situation works out well.

Those unable to join us:

~Barbara Buchanan

~Bobby Davis

~Ethel Gumm

~Ron and Geraldine Hill

~Bob Hoyle

~Dwight Painter

~George Woodfin

If you have a prayer request to put in the bulletin, please email it to westgatecofc@gmail.com, call 325-692-2300, or write it on an attendance card.

Ongoing prayer concerns:

~Deana Frazier

~Steve Henderson

~Aubrey Hilligoss

~Nell Hopper

~Melody Loveland

~Jim Prather

~Eric Robinson

~Savanna Smith

~Steve Smith

~Jim and Joyce Waddell

~Mickey Walker

Missionaries:

~Doug & Marge Reeves—Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX

~Megeste & Josette Pierre—Christian Family Center, Port-au-Prince, Haiti (in Mexico currently)

~Keith & Grace Gafner—Eldoret, Kenya

~Larry & Hollye Conway—Nairobi, Kenya

~Scott, Shirley, Stephen, and Sean Raab—Belgium



Youth Group HS Hangout Tonight

All the high schoolers are invited to come back up to the building **tonight from 6:30 to 8** for a High School Hangout. Meet in the fellowship hall. Make plans to come if you can!

Love Your Neighbor Program

Is your neighbor having car trouble? Has a coworker mentioned how expensive her child's medicine is? Is someone in your life going through a lot and would appreciate a meal? Good news – the Westgate elders are implementing a new Love Your Neighbor benevolence program based on a program from 11th & Willis. If you encounter someone in need, feel free to help them out and fill out the form in the office to get reimbursed for up to \$100 per member per month – no receipt needed. If given the opportunity, pray with the person you are helping or if not, pray for their spiritual and physical needs. Let's start looking for opportunities to bless others in 2025!

New Sunday Evening Series Starting Soon

Special announcement from Ed Mathews: What is our greatest temptation? Join us on **Sunday at 5 p.m.** to learn about "Cultural Christians." A series of lessons on that subject will begin on **February 2**. It will change your life.





Happy Birthday:

- Jan. 26: Anthony Tate
- Jan. 28: Steve Templeton
- Jan. 30: Layla Horner
- Jan. 31: Paxton Horner, Clair Arche
- Feb. 1: Al Cogburn

Happy Anniversary:

- Jan. 27: Jeff & Hayley Webb
- Feb. 1: Larry & Melody Loveland



Our Calendar:

- Jan. 24 – 26: Marriage Retreat
- Jan. 26: High School Hangout 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Feb. 2: Youth Group parent meeting following a.m. services
- Feb. 5: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
- Feb. 9: Youth Group hosts Senior Valentine Luncheon following Sunday a.m. services, Youth Group Super Bowl party
- Feb. 11: Ladies' Supper & Bingo Night 6 – 8 p.m.
- Feb. 17: Presidents Day
- Feb. 19: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
- Feb. 23: Youth Devo
- March 5: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
- March 9: Daylight Saving Time begins (spring forward)
- March 12: no Bible classes or services at building
- March 19: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
- March 30: 5th Sunday Potluck
- April 2: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
- April 12 – 13: All-Church Retreat
- April 16: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
- April 19: Easter Egg Hunt & Family Cookout
- April 20: Easter Sunday

Getting to Know You...

Keith and Grace Gafner

Keith was born and raised in rural Michigan, while Grace was born in Nairobi, Kenya's capital city.

Keith went to the same Lutheran Church as his great-great-grandfather, great-grandfather, grandfather, and father. His great-great-grandfather immigrated from Switzerland. Grace was raised by God-fearing parents who attended the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA).

Keith was a State Farmer in FFA, and in 1978, graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness and Natural Resources Education. He taught agriculture and biology at Chelsea High School for three years.

Grace attended the University of Nairobi from 1987 to 1990, graduating with a BA in Sociology and Linguistics. In 1990-91, she attended the University of Sheffield in Sheffield, UK, for a Master of Science in Information Management. While attending college, Grace was baptized in 1988.

In 1978, Keith was baptized at the Ann Arbor Church of Christ. There he heard about the MARC Program at ACU, a two-year missionary apprentice program. He received his Master of Education from Michigan State University and a Master of Missiology from ACU. In 1989, Keith joined the mission team in Eldoret, Kenya.

In 1996, Keith Gafner and Grace Wairimu Muriithi got married. At that time, Grace was an assistant lecturer at Moi University, Eldoret, Department of Information/Media Technology, Faculty of Information Sciences.

In 1998, they had their daughter Kirsten, and in 2000, their daughter Ruth was added to the family.

A favorite Bible verse for Grace is John 1: 12-13 — *"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."*

Keith tries to live his life by Acts 11:24 — *"He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord."*

Grace likes to encourage the saints and do some teaching on prayer. Keith and Grace are still serving the Lord in Eldoret, Kenya, and surrounding areas.



At Iten, about 9500 ft. above sea level, looking over the Kerio Valley



Children's Ministry News

- Combined class in Tool Shed today due to marriage retreat
- January Memory Verse: John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world that he gave his one & only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
- Busy bags are in the back of the auditorium! Feel free to grab one per child, and make sure to return the bag (and everything inside) to the basket after service.



Tool Shed fun!

Youth Ministry News

Join us for a High School Hangout tonight from 6:30 – 8 at the church building. Meet in the fellowship hall!

Join us for a Youth Parent meeting following service on Sunday, February 2, to go over events this Spring, camp registration, youth auction info, and more!

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 9, which will be a busy day for the youth group:

- We will host our annual Senior Valentine Lunch following worship;
- Then make plans to join that evening for the youth group Super Bowl party!

Make sure to send schedules for your extracurricular activities this semester so Clay can come watch and support!

Please pray for all our students this semester!



Hiking at McKittrick Canyon during our Mystery Trip last weekend! We had a great trip exploring New Mexico and West Texas!

Ways to Give: check: 402 S. Pioneer, 79605 eGive: westgatecofc.com text-to-give: 325-379-8222

Services at Westgate: Sundays—Bible Class 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m., 5 p.m. Church office: (325)692-2300
Tuesdays—Ladies Bible Class 10 a.m. Wednesdays—Bible Class 6:45 p.m. westgatecofc@gmail.com

Offering:
January 19:
Contribution: \$3,458.00
eGive: \$2,745.00
Total: \$6,203.00
Budget: \$8,393.30
Be A Blessing: \$18.75

Lead Minister: Brady Horner (325-260-1903) pbhorner@gmail.com
Youth Minister: Clay Howell (615-879-0983) sch16a@acu.edu
Children's Education Coordinator: Emily Clute (325-269-9806) eclute123@gmail.com
Elders: Eric Gumm, Jim MacDonald, John Powell, Steve Stovall, Troy Tom, Aaron Winter
Deacons: Manny Carneiro, Jon Cogburn, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, Matt Waldrip

Nursery Duty:
Today: Bradi Williams
2/2: Skyla Krause
Building Lock-up:
Jan.: Jon Cogburn
Feb.: Adam Lott