

# “Why We Gather Matters”

Every Sunday, God invites us into something bigger than a routine, bigger than a tradition, and bigger than a weekly habit. He invites us into a gathering—a moment where His people come together to be strengthened, encouraged, and reminded of what is true.

The writer of the book of Hebrews urges us “*not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the habit of some, but to encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching*” (Hebrews 10.25). This verse isn’t a scolding; it’s a lifeline. It reminds us that faith was never meant to be lived in isolation. God designed His people to walk together, worship together, and lift one another up.

When we gather, something sacred happens.

- *The weary find rest.*
- *The discouraged find hope.*
- *The lonely find family.*
- *The wandering find direction.*
- *The strong find purpose in strengthening others.*



Church isn’t just a place to attend—it’s a people of whom to belong. And every time we show up, we contribute something meaningful. Your presence encourages someone else. Your worship strengthens those around you. Your prayers may lift burdens of others without you even being aware of it. Your smile, your handshake, your “*I’m glad you’re here*”—God uses it all.

In a world that constantly pulls us toward isolation, distraction, and self-reliance, gathering with God’s people is an act of resistance. It’s a declaration that we still believe God is working, that His promises are true, and that His people matter.

As we worship today, let this be more than a weekly stop. Let it be a moment where your heart is renewed, your faith is strengthened, and your love for God’s people grows deeper. And as Hebrews reminds us, let’s keep encouraging one another—not less, but more—as the days grow challenging and the world grows weary.

May today remind you that you are not alone, you are not forgotten, and you are part of something God Himself is building.

Gary

## How Poor Am I?

### Luke 14.7-11

- 1) Have you ever thought that you were poor?
- 2) How did you determine your poverty?

#### I) \_\_\_\_\_ **And** \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 5.1, 2).

##### A) What are the Beatitudes?

- 1) The Beatitudes are 8 declarations of \_\_\_\_\_ spoken by Jesus at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5.3-12).
- 2) It is debated exactly how many beatitudes there are?
- 3) The Beatitudes seem paradoxical.
- 4) The Beatitudes are \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.

##### B) What does the Greek word *Makarios* (“**blessed**”) mean?

- 1) The fullest meaning of the term had to do with an \_\_\_\_\_ that is \_\_\_\_\_ by circumstances (Philippians 4.11-13).
- 2) Many today teach the false doctrine that faithfulness to Jesus guarantees health, wealth, success, prestige, and prosperity (Titus 1.11).

#### II) **Who Are The \_\_\_\_\_ In \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 5.3)?**

##### A) Does the word “**poor**” refer to material poverty?

- 1) The term does not mean simply poor, but \_\_\_\_\_ poor.
- 2) It means to be completely dependent on others for sustenance.
- 3) Is that to what Jesus is referring when He says, “**Blessed are the poor**”?

##### B) To be “**poor in spirit**” is to recognize one’s \_\_\_\_\_ poverty apart from God.

- 1) In the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, which one was “**poor in spirit**”?
- 2) There are biblical examples of people who recognized that they were poor in spirit.

##### C) How do we become “**poor in spirit**”?

- 1) First, we must take our eyes off \_\_\_\_\_ and look to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Second, we must \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ by removing the things on which it feeds.
- 3) Third, we should ask \_\_\_\_\_.

#### III) \_\_\_\_\_ **Poor In Spirit?**

##### A) How do I recognize whether or not I am poor in spirit?

- 1) Some principles given by David Watson, say:
  - (a) One who is poor in spirit loses his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) One who is poor in spirit will be lost in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (c) One who is poor in spirit will spend much time in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (d) One who is poor in spirit will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God for His \_\_\_\_\_.

##### B) Those who are poor in spirit will inherit the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1) Those who come to the Lord with broken hearts do not leave with broken hearts.
- 2) God spoke through the prophet Isaiah, saying, ... (Isaiah 57.15).

**Conclusion:** *Do you need to humble yourself before God today?*

# CONNECTION

O

Good morning church family-

R

You wake up, peek through the blinds, and the world is covered in white. Roads are slick. The parking lot at the church building is untouched. The usual Sunday routine—getting dressed, grabbing your Bible, greeting friends in the foyer—suddenly pauses.

N

A “snow day” on a Sunday can feel like something is missing. But maybe... it’s an opportunity for something different. While we may not be able to gather in the same room, nothing about this day prevents us from connecting in spirit, heart, and intention.

E

The early Christians didn’t have church buildings, livestreams, or group texts. Yet they were deeply connected because they understood something we sometimes forget: the church is people, not a place. A snow-covered Sunday can become a reminder of that truth.

Instead of rushing out the door, what if we slowed down and leaned in?

R

- Call a church member you haven’t spoken to in a while.
- FaceTime your children or grandchildren and read a Bible story together.
- Send a text of encouragement to someone who may feel isolated.
- Pray with your spouse or family in the living room.
- Open your Bible and read the same passages you would have heard today.
- Join the livestream or share a devotional video with a friend. Share a communion service time together.



Hebrews 10:24–25 reminds us not to neglect meeting together. That doesn’t only mean sitting in the same pew. It means intentionally stirring one another up to love and good works. Technology now allows us to “meet” in ways that weren’t possible before.

A snow day doesn’t cancel church. It simply moves it into living rooms, kitchens, and phone screens. It turns couches into pews. Coffee tables into communion tables. Phones into fellowship halls. Most importantly, it reminds us that connection with the Lord doesn’t depend on weather conditions. Our worship, prayer, and devotion are not confined to a building or a schedule.

So today, if the snow keeps us home, let’s not treat it as a lost Sunday.

Let’s treat it as a Snow Day Sunday—a day to intentionally reach out, connect, encourage, and worship from wherever we are.

Because even when the roads are closed... the body of Christ is still very much open! Try it, you’ll be blessed!

-- Les Keele

## SHEPHERDS

*Greg Ball	214-801-7375
Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton	817-441-0000

\*Shepherd of the month

## MINISTERS

Gary Williams	662-321-3208
Pulpit Minister	
Les Keele	817-808-0566
Associate Minister	
James Bowie	817-944-4492

## THAI-LAOTIAN MINISTERS

Jeffery Lertboonpadong	206-819-9109
John Boudtaroth	817-891-2132

## DEACONS

Jonathan Bartee	817-889-2686
David Birdow	970-310-1143
James Bowie	817-944-4492
Zach Brookshire	817-296-9918
Brandon Duncan	903-603-1059
Jay Garner	817-205-2070
Ben Meyer	817-673-8557
Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

## MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

**Welcome** - Steven Johnston

**Song Leader** - Matthew Sloan

**Song** - There is a Habitation

**Song** - Everybody Will Be Happy Over There

**Song** - Revelation Song

**Opening Prayer** - Jay Garner

**Scripture** - **Luke 14:7-11**

**Song** - Thomas' Song

**Lord's Supper** - Ben Meyer

**Prayer For Contribution** - Ben Meyer

**Song** - Days of Elijah

**"How Poor Am I?"** - Gary Williams

**Song** - Are You Washed in the Blood

**Announcements** - Les Keele

**Shepherd's Prayer and Dismissal** - Greg Ball

**Attended Nursery:** After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

**Our Code For  
Tithley Giving**



**Our Code For  
Attendance**



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday, February 2**

Exodus 6; Matthew 27

**Tuesday, February 3**

Psalm 67; Exodus 7-8; Matthew 28

**Wednesday, February 4**

Psalm 105; Exodus 9-10

**Thursday, February 5**

Psalm 91; Exodus 11-12

**Friday, February 6**

Psalm 114; Exodus 13-15

**Saturday, February 7**

Exodus 16-18; I Peter

### LAST WEEK

<b>Bible Class</b>	NC	<b>On-Line</b>	NC
<b>Worship</b>	NC	<b>Wednesday</b>	NC
<b>Thai-Lao</b>	NC	<b>Wednesday</b>	\$0
<b>On-Line Sunday</b>	NC	<b>Contribution</b>	\$15,372.28
		<b>Budget</b>	

### TIMES OF ASSEMBLIES

<b>Bible Class</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday Morning Worship</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday Evening Worship</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday Evening</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS

NAME	REQUESTED BY	CIRCUMSTANCE	PRAY FOR
Nicole Donahue-Isom, sister of	Rob Donahue	Has been diagnosed with breast cancer.	The doctors' skill and knowledge for her treatment and recovery
Teres Robinson, friend of	Susan Dufrene	Killed in car accident.	Comfort for her 2 children
Rob, son-in-law of	Sharon Pippin	Had a doctor's appointment to see if the growths in his esophagus have grown and what can be done. They are also doing a biopsy. On the 19 <sup>th</sup> , he went to a specialist for the blood clots in his leg and stomach.	He is not a Christian and needs prayers for his soul and his health
David Thomas, uncle of	Buck Thomas	Passed away on January 18, 2026.	Comfort for the family
Jennifer Randles, niece of	Gail Willmington	Her ex-husband had his rights taken away awhile back. Lately he has been posting very threatening and disturbing posts. The posts have been seen by judges and taken to the DA. Also for her 2 boys.	For safety and that his heart will be calmed
Leeneh McLellean, friend of	Mindy Markham	Her lung collapsed and she is in the hospital.	Comfort for my friend
Hazel Bird, mother of	David Birdow	Has been informed that her tests returned positive for cancer.	Her respiratory issues to be resolved and for the treatments to eradicate the cancer
Dave Slaughter, friend of	Jonny and Amy Bartee	Has been diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer and is undergoing chemo treatments.	Success from treatments to live healthy life
Paula Hamrick, sister of	Patti Musselman	Is on chemo for her recurrent cancer. Her port became infected and she has a blood clot.	Doctors' skill and knowledge; new drug works and will eradicate the cancer
Tracie Jones, wife of	Russ Jones	Health issues.	Healing
Brook, neice of	Misty Martinez	Will have rods placed in her hip this summer to correct dysplasia from birth.	For her to handle the pain while awaiting surgery
Nic Smith, son of	Linda DiRocco	More symptomatic with his MS and he is already on the best medicine.	Doctors to find ways of negating his symptoms
Shane Grantham	Michael and Kitti Davis	Suffers from cancer.	Healing
Jeff Holland, nephew of	Judy Birmingham	Bladder cancer has returned.	Doctors to determine best course of treatment
Becky Stark, cousin's wife of	Adam Powers	Emergency surgery to remove brain aneurysm.	Healing

## MEMBERS PRAYER LIST

NAME	CIRCUMSTANCE	PRAY FOR
Dwight Blair	Had an ablation and trans esophageal echo on Wednesday, January 28 at Harris, Downtown, Heart and Vascular. All went well. 121 Lilac Lane, Azle, Texas 76020	Findings to direct the doctors
Shirley Bennett	Has COVID. 4018 Ridglea Country Club, #508, Fort Worth, Texas 76126	Recovery
Sam Anderson	Had tests in Dallas this past week. 11137 Castle Oak Lane, Fort Worth, Texas 76108	Good Results
Bob Willyerd	Has returned home on palliative care. 3704 Guadalupe Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76133	Comfort
Jazelle Manry	Is undergoing treatment for her eyes. 1112 Meadow Park Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76108	Successful treatment
Wayne Gary	Had surgery on his right eye Thursday, January 29. 9912 Edmund Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76126	Healing
Charles Stephan	Has moved to Willow Park Rehab, Room 411. 633 South Kate Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76108	Healing
Patricia Emerson	Cancer has returned. 6536 Wooddale, Fort Worth, Texas 76148	Remission and healing
Kitti Davis	Is suffering from Parkinson's. 812 Ala Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76108	Healing
Lorenza Fernandez	Is taking care of Emilio and herself. 232 Lochness Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126	Strength to assist Emilio
Emilio Fernandez	Has had another fall. He has good and bad days but sleeps through most of them. 232 Lochness Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126	Healing and strength to walk
Rob Donahue	Needs a job. 4529 Starlight Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126	God to provide the perfect situation for him
Mary East	On hospice at Mark and Karen's home. 101 Rambling Trail, Weatherford, Texas 76087	Strength for Mary and guidance for Mark and Karen

## YOUTH EVENTS

LTC

### Study Joshua, Judges, and Ruth

www.ntlc.org

**TODAY**

2 pm Bible Bowl (Joshua 10, 11, 14, 20)

3:15 pm Drama

4:15 pm Chorus

Study For **February 8**

Joshua 21-24

Please check your **BAND APP** for the latest information.

## LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

New Study begins on February 3

Subject: The Holy Spirit

Teacher: Ellen Bartee

The ladies class is starting a new study on the Holy Spirit that will be taught by 5 members of our group, using the book, *What Jesus Said About The Holy Spirit: And How it Applies To Your Life*, by Tim Woodroof, as a resource.

## WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

If you need more names for the WBS mailing program, please see David Birdow.

## PRAISE AND HARMONY

Matt Sloan is ordering a subscription in the name of Western Hills Church of Christ. If you would like a discounted subscription, please see Matt.

## CORPORATE MEETING

Sunday, February 8

Evening Services

We ask that all who are able, please attend.

## BABY SHOWER

Honoring

Maggie Meyer Catteau &

Baby Redmond

**TODAY**

2 PM – 4 PM

Maggie is the daughter of Chuck and Julie Meyer.

They are registered at Amazon.

## LADIES FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

All ladies middle school age and older are invited to join us for a night of crafts, fellowship and fun! Bring a "Comfort Food" dish to share with the group. Please let Jennifer Scott or Deborah Rollins know if you are coming so that we can make sure we have enough art supplies.

***Kindly leave little ones at home***

## NEW ADDRESS

Bea Coleman-House  
Wesley House Memory Care  
1044 Church Street  
Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482