



The **VISITOR**

A monthly publication of St. Luke's Methodist Church - Kilgore, Texas

October 2023

Issue 10



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<https://www.facebook.com/stlukeskilgorekids>

St. Luke's MDO

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesmdo>

Subscribe to our YouTube page

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Sign-up to receive our emails

<https://stlukeskilgore.org/newsletters/>

Watch Worship Live

<https://stlukeskilgore.org/watch-live/>

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Who Are We..... these days?

Long gone are the days when society as a whole comes to church because folks are convinced that doing so will add value to the meaning of their life. Instead, there is a cultural mistrust that walking into a church facility, especially an historic one, will be an exercise in antiquated activities and thinking. There seems to be little expectation that what is offered on Sundays and Wednesdays (and everything in between) will deliver enough value to equal the effort or the choice to come on a church campus. We are faced with two problems these days:

1. Low expectations by our culture for the importance of faith and worship
2. No desire or sense of need to be an authentic Christ follower

These two factors drive my personal focus as pastor for St. Luke's in Kilgore, Texas. Day and night, I search my soul wondering what I can do better to be a bridge builder between Jesus as offered at St. Luke's, and the disinterested world beyond. I know that many who read this are also consumed with this central concern which defines our mission to offer Christ.

If we care about our faith and our purpose, I pose this unavoidable set of questions:

In not now, then when?

If not St. Luke's, then why are we here?

I'd like to assume we care deeply about these concerns. If not, we don't stand a chance of helping establish God's kingdom, but should admit openly that we are comfortable with the idea we are going to allow ourselves to become an institution with the "form" of Christianity, but lacking the authentic "substance" of a vibrant calling to reach our world.

It has been said, "The demands of following Christ will cost you everything. But you gain far more than you give up. **You give up dirt for diamonds.**"

If you truly want to answer the question for yourself, "who are we, who am I?" Compare your motivations and actions to the first disciples. They serve as a plumbline, measuring where we stand individually and collectively as Christ followers.

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. (Matthew 4: 18-22)



Rev. Dr. Alison Andrews
Sr. Pastor



PUMPKIN PATCH SUNDAY

October 1

10:30am Children's Choir sings in worship

11:30am Chili Cook-off Lunch

Help us celebrate 25 years of Pumpkin Patch as we kick-off the season with our annual Pumpkin Patch Sunday & Luncheon. Everyone is encouraged to wear a Pumpkin Patch t-shirt during worship and stick around for the Chili Cook-off. For more information and a list of all events, check out page 8 of this newsletter.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, October 6

6:00pm-9:00pm | Gym

\$15 per child

Calling all Kids, invite a friend and join us for a night of pizza, crafts, games, and fun! Parents this is a great time to spend a little time for yourselves, we'll watch the kids. Contact the church office or use the QR code to register and pre-pay.



MEMORY VERSES

Parents, ask your children about their memory verse. Each Wednesday the kids will receive a memory verse to memorize. They can say the verse the following week in order to receive a reward. This is for all ages. Be on the lookout.

MARK YOUR Calendar

OCTOBER

- 1 Pumpkin Patch Sunday**
Regular Worship Schedule
11:30am Lunch/Chili Cook-off
- 6 Parents Night Out**
6:00pm-9:00pm
\$15 per child
[Register NOW!](#)
- 11 NO Wednesday Activities**
Kilgore ISD holiday
- 18 Pumpkin Carving Contest***
6:00pm-7:15pm
NO 6pm Kids Bible Study
- 21 Family Fun Night**
6:00pm-9:00pm
- 25 Trunk-or-Treat***
6:00pm-7:00pm
NO 6pm Kids Bible Study

*families are encouraged to participate in these events with their children

Please see the calendar on page 14 for a complete list of this month's events and meetings.

Welcome

Welcome to our new Children's Ministry Director, Debbie Nicholson.

Many of you know Debbie from her many years of membership and service to St. Luke's. She raised her children in the St. Luke's family and has supported our ministries through her service. Debbie has served with the mission team, the MDO Board, the Pumpkin Patch Team, and the Worship Team, just to name a few.

We are excited see to all the great things to come with her leading St. Luke's Kids!





Welcome

Welcome to our new Mother's Day Out Director, Amanda Patton. Amanda has been married to her husband, Matt for 11 years. They have three children, Sara-Catherine, Gunner, & Brooklynn, and two dogs, Bear & Rooster. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, dance parties to 90's music, traveling and FaceTime with her nieces.

We are blessed to have Amanda join our team and we can't wait for a great year in MDO.



MARK YOUR Calendar

OCTOBER

- 9 3's & 4's visit Storytime at the Patch
- 11 Early Release
Kilgore ISD holiday
- 30 Trick-or-Treat

Please see the calendar on page 14 for a complete list of this month's events and meetings.

FIRST *day* FOCUS

Monday Mornings
9:05am-9:20am
Family Center

Join us for coffee, donuts, and a short devotion to kick-start your week



ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

I would like to take this month's Youth and family ministries corner to personally thank the St. Luke's Church community for such a warm welcome, but I also want to briefly cast a vision for the youth and family ministries and talk with you about my hopes for future growth. When I consider the high calling of Gospel ministry, I almost always think of Jesus multiplying a little boy's lunch to feed dinner to five thousand men and thousands more women and children (John 6:1-15). Christian ministry of any sort requires taking what we have and trusting God to give the increase. It requires believing that God will meet the immediate needs of his people and give far more than we require. These things are true of St. Luke's just as they are true in every other Christian ministry. My vision for our church is to see the Gospel flourish and God's kingdom come to every single family and person. You can expect that my ministry focus will be answering one question: how do we live our lives in line with the Gospel? All of the activities we plan and participate in will be centered around that question. Join me as we establish a vibrant community of Gospel-centered, Jesus-loving, truth seekers who turn the Kilgore community upside down for the cause of Christ.

-Pastor Wade

MARK YOUR Calendar

OCTOBER

- 11** **NO Wednesday Activities**
Kilgore ISD holiday
- 18** **Pumpkin Carving Contest****
6:00pm-7:15pm
- 21** **Family Fun Night**
6:00pm-9:00pm
- 25** **Trunk-or-Treat***
6:00pm-7:00pm

** note that Youth will end a little later on this night

* youth will be volunteering at this event

Please see the calendar on page 14 for a complete list of this month's events and meetings.

Welcome

Welcome to Rev. Wade Skinner, Associate Pastor of Youth & Family Ministries.

Wade will be responsible for leading our youth Ministry program, guiding our Children's Ministry & Family Ministry programs, and supporting Pastor Allison in leading our congregation.

He is a USMC veteran and former college English instructor. Wade holds degrees in Philosophy, Religion, and English. He brings with him, a 6 year old daughter, Vivienne.



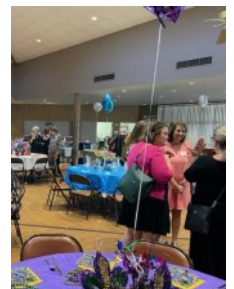
Check it out

Here's a little bit of what we did last month at St. Luke's



The youth enjoyed ice cream from the Mercantile after their Wednesday Night Bible Study

Some excited little girls and theirs, and grandmothers, had a blast at the tea party hosted by the JAM group



The ladies of St. Luke's celebrated in style at the Birthday Bash



Wednesday Activities Resumed including Children's Choir. The kids get to enjoy free play in the gym, crafts, and of course Music with Mr. James. We can't wait to hear the kids sing at Pumpkin Patch Sunday on October 1.



OPEN DAILY

September 28-October 31
Monday-Saturday, 10:00am-6:30pm
Sundays, 12:00pm-6:30pm

SEPTEMBER 23 | 9:00AM

Decorate the Patch

It's all hands on deck to get the patch ready for pumpkins. Join us on the Activity Lot at 9:00am. Many Hands make light work! **Let's get it done quickly.**

SEPTEMBER 27 | 5:00PM

Pumpkin Unload

The pumpkins come in huge boxes, come help us get them situated in the Patch. The Children's Choir kids will end a little early so that they can join us. **Come ready to work.**

SEPTEMBER 28 | 10:00AM

The Patch Opens

We are super excited to open the 25th Annual Pumpkin Patch. Make sure that you sign up for a volunteer slot. Contact the church office or visit our website, stlukeksilgore.org.

OCTOBER 1 | 11:30AM LUNCH

Pumpkin Patch Sunday

Wear a Pumpkin Patch shirt and join us as we kick-off the 25th Annual Pumpkin Patch with a worship celebration. The Children's Choir kids will sing, the mayor will be here with a proclamation, and we will be honoring some of our most loyal volunteers. We will have regularly scheduled worship followed by a Chili cook-off for lunch. If you have a world-famous Chili Recipe, this is your time to shine. This year we will have a traditional chili category and a special chili category. **If you want a chance to win the Golden Chili contact Richelle Rathbun.**

OCTOBER 3 | 6:00PM-7:30PM

Party in the Patch

It's National Night Out and we want to celebrate with our neighbors. Join us for hotdogs, nachos, backyard games, music, & fellowship. Don't forget to invite a friend.

If you have backyard games you would be willing to let us borrow, please contact the church office.

OCTOBER 8

The Silent Auction Opens

Make sure you stop by the Silent Auction Tables between worship & Sunday school. Auctions items are added throughout the month so you want to check back frequently.

If you have items that you would like to donate to the Silent Auction please contact the church office.

OCTOBER 9-12 & 16-19

Storytime in the Patch

We can't wait to see all those school groups enjoying the patch. Each student gets to hear a couple of stories, receives a snack and a coloring book, and gets to spend time in the Patch. **If you would like to be a Storytime reader please contact Debbie Nicholson.**

OCTOBER 18 | 6:00PM-7:15PM

Pumpkin Carving Contest & Pumpkin Glow (7:30pm)

Show-off your carving skills. Pumpkins in the patch will be discounted and the prizes are always great. Stick around for the pumpkin glow after the sun goes down.

PUMPKIN PATCH T-SHIRTS

\$10 each

Pumpkin Patch t-shirts will be on sale beginning October 1. You can purchase yours in the church office or at the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings.



OCTOBER 21 | 6:00PM-9:00PM

Family Fun Night (6:00pm-7:15pm)

Movie in the Patch (7:30pm)

Join us for food, festival games, prizes, and fun. Stick around for a family friendly holiday movie after the sun goes down.

We will need volunteers to help us set up the festival games and volunteers to help man the booths. If you are able to help, please contact Celia Mooney.

OCTOBER 25 | 6:00PM-7:00PM

Trunk-or-Treat

Kids and adults are invited to dress up and join us for a safe alternative to trick-or-treating. Cars are decked out in the best decorations and volunteers hand out candy. You may even see a game or two.

If you are interested in decorating your car or handing out candy please contact Rev. Wade Skinner.

OCTOBER 29 | 11:30AM

Closing Lunch

After all the pumpkins are gone and the events are complete, join us to celebrate the closing of another Pumpkin Patch. This will also mark the ending of the Silent Auction. Stick around after the 10:30am worship service for a soup lunch. All silent auction bidding will close at 12:00pm and items can be paid for and taken.

WHY SHOULD I SUPPORT PUMPKIN PATCH?

The St. Luke's Pumpkin Patch is an annual community program to raise funds for community and church special projects. Each year the Pumpkin Patch Team donates money raised from pumpkin sales and community sponsorships to one local program, one church program, and special projects throughout the year. Last year we were able to donate \$1000 to the Kilgore Boys & Girls Club, \$500 to Backpack Ministry, and \$800 to the church camp fund. Supporting Pumpkin Patch is living God's word in our community.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT PUMPKIN PATCH?

The pumpkin patch is a huge undertaking and it takes lots of support to make it a success each year.

Here are a couple of ways that you can support the Pumpkin Patch:

JOIN THE PUMPKIN PATCH TEAM

The team meets throughout the year to plan and organize the patch. We have several volunteer roles open to anyone interested in joining us. Contact the church office for more information.

VOLUNTEER IN THE PUMPKIN PATCH

I'm sure you noticed the places we requested volunteers. Pumpkin Patch is a fundraiser, an evangelism tool, an outreach ministry, and fellowship all rolled into one. We hope you will consider spending some time in The Patch.

For more information contact the church office, visit our website or speak with one of our team members.

BE A SPONSOR

Sponsorships help us cover the initial cost of the pumpkins and the cost of hosting the various events. This includes the over 1000 mini pumpkins that we give away to the schools, snacks for Storytime, food for the Party in the Patch, and Prizes at Family Fun Night. Sponsorship forms can be found at the Welcome Desk and the church office. A digital form and online payment can be found on our website, stlukeskilgore.org.

METHODIST *Women*

Next Meeting: October 3

The Methodist Women's group have a short meeting at 5:30pm, on October 3. Following the meeting the ladies will help serve at the Party in the Patch.

HOLY HUDDLERS

We would like to invite and welcome everyone to eat and fellowship with the Holy Huddlers. We meet twice a month (not always the same week of the month due to holidays). Supper will be on you, but the fellowship will be shared by all.

October 6

6:00pm

Cracker Barrel, Longview

October 20

6:00pm

Juicy's, Longview

If you have any questions, please call
Barbara Francisco, 903-918-6797

SATURDAY BREAD

October 21 | 8:30am

Each quarter, St. Luke's provides volunteers to support Saturday Bread at Kilgore First Presbyterian Church. This program helps feed elderly members of our community that suffer from food insecurity.

Volunteers help package and deliver food in the community. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Brenda Culpepper or the church office.

MINISTERING TO THE MODERN AMERICAN FAMILY

I would like to take a moment to answer two questions: What makes a family in our modern world? How can families spur one another along in faith growth?

God's design for the family is the same today as it has always been. Despite what our American culture may say and do, God's plan for the nuclear family has never changed: a father and a mother who love one another and who mutually submit themselves to one another and to the Lord and who, for the Glory of Christ raise their own children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. When one or more of these components is lacking or missing (as they often are in our world), it is the duty of the church to come alongside families by helping foster an environment where God is glorified and people are helped in their walk with Christ, and to do so without judgment.

If you are wondering where to begin as an individual, start with your own "family." How do you relate to the people in your own household? This is your "family"! Start by practicing kindness and forgiveness to each of them (Ep. 4:25-32). Practically for the Church, this means reaching families where they are. Such outreach does not have to be complicated or fancy. Taking note of practical needs, or what is called mercy, ministry is one of the easiest ways to inspire Christian growth in others.

I would like to challenge you to be Christ's hands to a single mother or father, or a child with no parents, or a family in financial distress, or an elder in a health crisis; invite them to dinner at your home or take them dinner! You don't have to make filet mignon. Beans and cornbread will work just fine. Pray with them over the meal and listen to them. Serve them. Love them. Talk to them about how the Gospel has changed your life. Our church can turn the world upside down with such "small" acts of hospitality, and we can redeem our culture in the name of Christ and for the sake of his kingdom. Amen.

-Pastor Wade

WEDNESDAY

NIGHT MEALS

October 4

Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo, Salad,
Garlic Bread, Dessert, & a Drink

October 11

No Wednesday Activities
KISD Holiday

October 18

Baked Potatoes, Dessert & a Drink

October 25

Chicken Enchilada Casserole, Mini Corndogs,
Chips, Salad, & a Drink

Use the QR code on the opposite page to pre-pay
for the entire semester. Cash, Check, and Credit
Cards will be accepted at dinner.

LUNCHTIME

BIBLE STUDY

The lunchtime Bible Study has a new name. Pastor Wade will be leading the Tuesday Lunch Bunch Bible Study every Tuesday at 11:45am. This group will continue to work their way through the books of the Bible.

If you have a little time at Lunch and would like to feed yourself spiritually, this is the group for you. Feel free to bring a lunch or just join us for the study.

We hope to see you there!

Tuesdays
11:45am
Family Center



WEDNESDAY

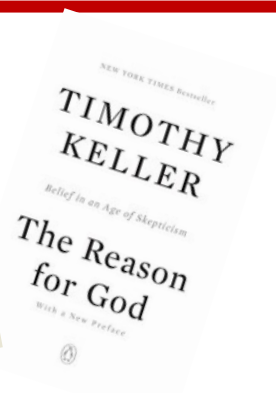
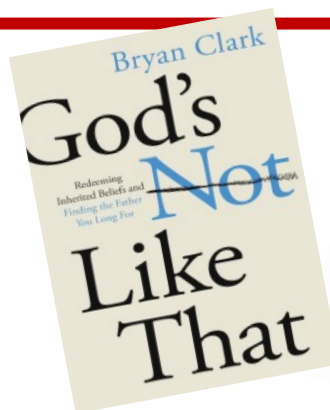
101

Are your children involved in Wednesday groups between 6:00pm and 7:00pm?

Are you wishing you were making connections with other adults at St Luke's?

Have you wondered how to grow in your faith beyond Sunday morning church?

If these questions apply to you, come Wednesday night for 5:15pm dinner, and stay for a 6:00pm small group led by pastor Allison. Small groups are the antidote to feeling disconnected, alone, or stagnant in your faith walk.



During this time, you will share your thoughts as you feel led, support one another, discover how you can grow in the presence of other seekers, and feel the peace of clearing your mind to focus on the things that give you strength and peace.

The books above are resources used for the group. Never fear, however, homework is not required!

Other Wednesday Night Adult Groups include:
Prayer Shawl Ministry, Just Among Moms,
& Adult Bible Study with Anna Rohde.



We are collecting candy for Trunk-or-Treat on October 25. Donations of unopened bags of individually wrapped candy can be dropped off in the church office or in the bins in the welcome space & in the Family Center.



PRAYER BEAD ROSARY

Sally holder and the Methodist Women have been making Prayer Bead Rosary's to be given out to those in need of prayer. Each rosary comes with a prayer card to help the recipient understand how to use the rosary in their prayer time. Prayer Bead Rosary's are available to everyone and can be picked from the Welcome desks in the sanctuary building. These are free to all, but donations are welcome. Grab yours this Sunday at worship.

Backpack MINISTRY

Backpack Ministry has started fast and furious this year. We are currently feeding 68 students each week.

On the fourth Monday of each month, the East Texas Food Bank delivers backpack kits to St. Luke's. We are responsible for unloading the pallet and moving the food into a food safe storage place. For us, that is the Library in the Family Center. We then organize the boxes for easy delivery. Each week Donnie Nicholson loads up 9 boxes of food and delivers them to local schools.

We are blessed to be able to support the children of our community through the Backpack program, but we couldn't do it without your support. In August we began a campaign to help us cover the cost of purchasing the food each month. Thanks to your generosity, we currently have receive donations and commitments totaling \$5,896.

With the increase of students receiving food, we have had to raise our goal from \$10,000 to \$13,000. If you would like to make a donation, or make a recurring monthly commitment to Backpack Ministry, please contact the church office or use the QR code.



- \$13,000
- \$12,000
- \$11,000
- \$10,000
- \$9,000
- \$8,000
- \$7,000
- \$6,000
- \$5,000
- \$4,000
- \$3,000
- \$2,000

2023 BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair

Milton Hattaway

Staff Parish Relations

Carol Grimes

Endowments

Celia Mooney

Lay Leader

Anna Rohde

Trustees

Michael Barnard

Class of 2023

Michael Barnard

Sheryl Caraway

Tommy Farnham

Denise Reinert

Class of 2024

Paula Hooks

Jim McCann

Susan Moore

Cody Sprayberry

Class of 2025

Kathy Brown

Alan Clark

Amanda Gillen-Hall

Carol Grimes

Dean Miller

These volunteers have agreed to help lead the church. If you have any questions about what is happening around St. Luke's please contact one of them.

WAYS TO GIVE AT *St. Luke's*



IN PERSON

In the offering plate or in the offering boxes at the entrance to the sanctuary



BY MAIL

St. Luke's MC
401 E. Main St
Kilgore, TX 75662



ONLINE

at stlukeskilgore.org
or use the QR Code



BY TEXT

Text "give" to
903-833-3576

NOT ABLE TO MAKE IT TO WORSHIP?

Use the QR code to visit our website and watch worship live .

You can even view past services.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Please use the "Prayer" cards in the pews to keep us updated on your loved ones. People will remain on this list for one month. Please let us know if they need to be on longer, 903-984-3576.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Michael Barnard	Sam Holley
Jack & Sharry Christopher	Angela Thompson
Cindy Frederick	Cindy Venable
Jessica Hatt	April Watson
Pat Haynes	Joe White
Carolyn Holcombe	

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Renate Albus.....friend of Pat & Art Morchat
Cindy Allen.....sister of Sharon McCann
Sandra Behr.....mother of Tammy Akers
Cecilia & Byron Castleberry.....friends of Rhett & Anna Rohde
Joy Carr.....friend of Hope Cantu
George Clark.....Louise Fielding
Brenda Frazier.....sister of Belynda Holley
Jayce Hankins.....grandson of Bob & Hope Cantu
Madison Holman...granddaughter of Tommy & Laura Farnham
Holly Morchat.....daughter of Art & Pat Morchat
Nelda Morgan.....St. Luke's Custodian
Charles Osborne.....brother of Mikki Ellis
J.T. Roberts.....friend of Jack & Susan Moore
French Sturrock.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Terri Smith.....friend of Jan Hattaway
Bob Sullivan & Family.....friends of Pat & Art Morchat
Gene Thrash.....friend of Milton Hattaway
Daryl & Julie Warren.....friends of Rhett & Anna Rohde

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES & SHUT-INS

Judy Burns
Louise Cammack
Alma Casey
Lynne Cross
Dot Denham
Jean Gray
Edith Williams
Wilbur Yates

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Please say a prayer for our church family on their special day.

If we missed your date, please call the church office (903-984-3576).

October 6

Nancy Bullock
Tara Hoberecht
Steffen Jones
Debra Wheeley

October 21

Ludie Courtney

October 22

Cooper Clark
Toby Monday

October 8

Mackenzie Chowdhury

October 25

Jeanette Lawrence

October 9

Robert Ellis
Sally Thompson

October 26

Cindy Silvey

October 10

Bo Bruyere

October 30

Annette Morgan
Wilbur Yates

October 11

Angela Middlebrooks

October 31

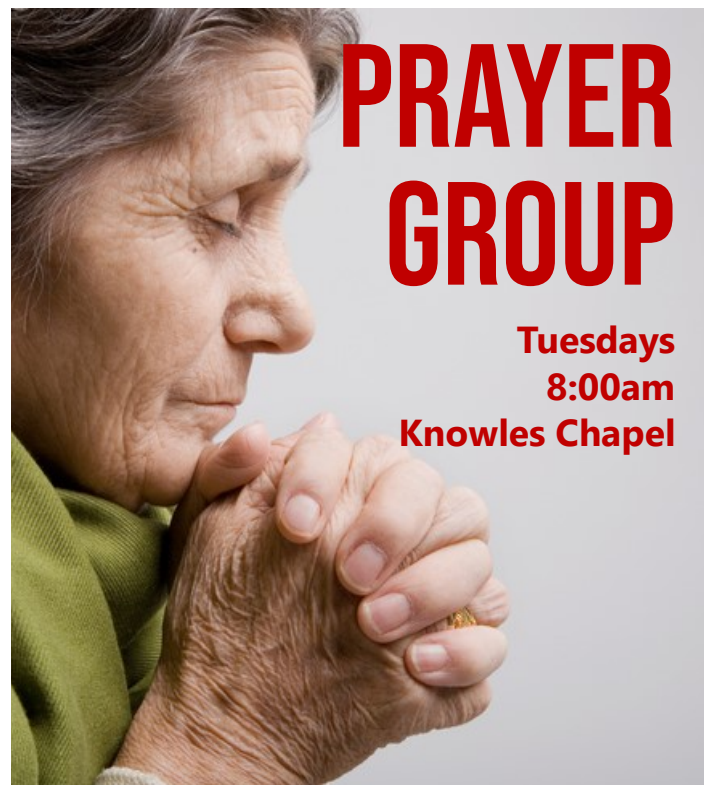
Clifton Lynch

October 14

Meggan Clark

October 16

Emilee Hanshaw
Jake Thompson



1 Pumpkin Patch Sunday Chili Cook-off Lunch 11:30am	2	3 Party in the Patch 6:00pm	4	5	6 Parents Night Out 6:00pm Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	7
8	9	10	11 No Wednesday Activities (KISD holiday)	12	13	14
15	16 Board of Stewards Meeting 6:00pm	17 Mission Team Meeting 6:00pm	18 Pumpkin Carving Contest 6:00pm NO Wed Night Studies	19	20 Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	21 Saturday Bread 8:30am Family Fun Night 6:00pm
22	23	24 Worship Team Meeting 6:00pm	25 Trunk-or-Treat 6:00pm NO Wed Night Studies	26	27	28
29 Pumpkin Patch closing Lunch 11:30am	30	31	 <p>* Nursery provided for this event. ** Nursery can be arranged for this event. Call the church office, 903-984-3576</p>			

RECURRING WEEKLY:

Sunday

8:30am	Arise Worship* (Sanctuary)
9:30am	Sunday School*
10:30am	Traditional Worship * (Sanctuary)
11:30am	Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)

Monday

9:00am-2:00pm	Mother's Day Out
9:05am-9:20am	First Day Focus

Tuesday

8:00am	Prayer Group** (Knowles Chapel)
11:45am	Tuesday Lunch Bunch (Family Center)

Wednesday

9:00am-2:00pm	Mother's Day Out
3:15pm-5:30pm	Children's Choir
5:15pm-6:00pm	Dinner (Family Center)
6:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal* (Sanctuary)
	Bible Studies & Groups*

Thursday

6:30pm	Arise Band Rehearsal* (Sanctuary)
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The
VISITOR

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



CHILI COOK-OFF LUNCH

**Sunday, October 1
11:30am**

Contact Richelle Rathbun or
the church office to enter
your chili in the contest.
This year we will have a traditional
chili and a special chili category.