

ON THE HORIZON



A Letter From The Pastor

BY JOHN STRADER

As we step into March, we find ourselves in a season of transition. Winter is giving way to spring, and with it comes the renewal and growth that God so often uses as a picture of His work in our lives. I love this time of year because it reminds us that God is always moving, always transforming, and always calling us deeper into His purpose.

This month, many of our families will take time to rest and recharge during Spring Break. Whether you're traveling or simply taking a breather from the routine, I encourage you to use this time to reflect on God's goodness and refocus on His plans for you. Even in the busyness of life, He is always near.

For part of March, I will be away serving at MTM (Missionary Training Ministry), where I'll have the privilege of teaching and equipping missionaries who are preparing to take the

Gospel to the nations. This is always an incredible time of investing in those who are answering God's call to go to the ends of the earth. While I will miss being with you all, I covet your prayers—for safe travels, for clarity in teaching, and for God's work to be done through these training sessions.

Here at home, we will continue our journey through the harmony of the Gospels, walking through the life and ministry of Jesus. I pray that as we study, our hearts will be stirred to see Him more clearly, love Him more deeply, and follow Him more boldly.

March is a month of movement—whether it's families taking time away, missionaries being trained to go, or our church continuing to grow in Christ. But no matter where we are, one thing remains constant: God is at work in our lives. Let's continue to seek Him, trust Him, and be open to all He has in store for us in this season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2** **SUN** AWANA Go Western Night
Students Ministry
- 9** **SUN** Daylight Savings Time Begins
Spring Break
- 10** **MON** Ladies Luncheon
- 14** **FRI** Men's Prayer Luncheon
- 16** **SUN** Taco Sunday in the Cafe
AWANA Fruit of the Spirit
Night
Students Ministry
- 21** **FRI** Adult Small Group
- 23** **SUN** AWANA Triple Points Night
Students Ministry
- 29** **SAT** Men's Prayer Breakfast
Ladies' Trip to The Post
- 30** **SUN** Family Fusion Sunday

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A CHURCH CALENDAR?

For the most updated information on events, use this QR code to view our church calendar! If you would like to add something on the calendar to share with everyone, contact Rose Bess.



SUNDAY MORNING

Sunday School 9:30 | Worship Service 10:45

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We have childcare for all kids, infant to 5th grade, through Sunday School and Children's Church. Sunday School is at 9:30AM and Children's Church at 10:45AM.

Fifth Sunday Family Fusion



It is Family Fusion with the Children's Ministry on March 30th, so come and join us for a Sugar Rush! Children are welcome to come and learn about the sweet gifts God has given.

VBS Extreme Coming this Summer!



Mark your calendars for July 21st to 25th for VBSextreme 2025! We need some help to make this an amazing week. Whether you can work all five days for one hour or two, we can use you! Contact Hope Rutledge if you can be a part of the party!

STUDENTS MINISTRY

Middle School (Grades 6-8) in Meeting Room 112

High School (Grades 9-12) in Meeting Room 111

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for Sunday School as we study books of the Bible and discuss together.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Strong Families

Meeting Room 103

This class is led by Chad Bishop. The goal is for each individual to be the best follower of Christ they can be. The group is working through books of the Bible, and their application to each person's role within the family, workplace, and community.

Ladies Sunday School

Meeting Room 114

This class is led by Veronica George and is for women, single, widowed, never married, or married now divorced. Ms. Lela shares "There is a lot that single women can and will do for the cause of Christ and a lot of it comes from being 'single' women. Our experiences are necessarily unique but we have a lot to offer to God and to others."

Living Long & Loving It Spiritual Growth

Meets in the Sanctuary

This is a fun-loving Sunday School Class that believes in spiritual growth with a hint of laughter along the way. It is led by Mr. Charles Graham. Everyone is welcome and will definitely be made to feel like part of the family!

SUNDAY EVENING

AWANA 5-6:30PM | Students Ministry 5-6:30PM

AWANA

AWANA is a great way to continue the fun, learning, and spiritual growth of our children. There are classes on Sunday evenings for children, ranging from age 1 to 5th grade. Classes for this year began in September. If you are interested in registering your children for AWANA, contact Rose Bess.

March is here, and we have a great month ahead in AWANA! With a mix of fun theme nights and a well-earned Spring Break, there's plenty to look forward to. Keep encouraging your kids to stay engaged, memorize Scripture, and enjoy the journey of growing in faith. Here's what's coming up:



Go Western Night

March 2nd

Show off your best western gear for a night of fun!



Fruit of the Spirit Night

March 16th

A great night to learn about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control!



Triple Points Night

March 23rd

Earn extra AWANA bucks for verses, attendance, and participation!

Spring Break is Here!

AWANA and Students Ministry will not have evening events on March 9th due to the Spring Break holiday.



STUDENTS MINISTRY

Students in grades 6–12 meet on Sunday nights from 5-6:30PM during the school year for a time of worship, lessons, small group discussion, and games!



Youth Car Wash and Yard Sale

April TBD

Bring your vehicle by our parking lot for a car wash! There will also be an opportunity to donate your home goods for resale. All donations will benefit our Students Ministry. More information to come!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

4/18 Glow in the Dark Party

MINISTRIES

NEWS AND EVENTS

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Ladies Luncheon

Monday, March 10th

All the ladies of the church are invited to the ladies' luncheon on Monday, March 10th at 11AM.

Save the Dates

March 29th Outing to The Post 10AM-2PM
April 26th Quarterly WOW Meeting 10-11AM
May 24th Women's High Tea Event 2-4PM

Letter from Our President

Ellen Bishop

Ladies, I just wanted to take this opportunity to say how excited I am to be able to serve as President for the women's committee. I am looking forward to growing with you in Christ and studying His word and having fellowship with one another.

Be on the lookout for exciting events, outings and ministry opportunities we will be scheduling throughout the year. Be on the lookout for announcements on the Women of the Word Facebook page as well as our Church Facebook page. Please let me or the following committee members know if you have questions.

Ellen Bishop, President

Sabrina McKinney, Vice President

Teresita Prendez and Terese Woodward, Event Coordinators

Stacey Malone, Secretary

Rose Bess, Treasurer

DISCIPLES OF GOD

MEN'S MINISTRY

March is a great month to continue building our faith and strengthening our bonds as brothers in Christ. We want to encourage each of you to join us for one (or both) of our Men's Prayer Gatherings this month. These times together help us stay focused, connected, and accountable as we seek to be the men God has called us to be. There's something powerful about men coming together to pray and seek the Lord. Let's continue growing as leaders in our families, church, and community.

Men's Prayer Lunch

Friday, March 14th

Men's Prayer Lunch at Red Oak Grill (5011 Hwy 6, Missouri City) at noon. Take a break from your day and join us for food, fellowship, and prayer. It's a great way to refocus and encourage one another.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, March 29th

Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8AM at Denny's (6131 Hwy 6, Missouri City). Start your day with time in prayer and connection with other men in the church.

Sprightly Stroll and Supplication

Walk and Pray

The next stroll will be Wednesday, March 5th from 8:30-10AM at Lost Creek Park. It is held weekly through the Spring, unless otherwise decided due to weather or other conflicts. There is a group message on Facebook for anyone interested in joining. Please contact Pastor Jodie to get connected with updates!

Sprightly Stroll and Supplication is a group that gathers to pray out loud and walk together on the park trails. The prayer is focused on needs in the community and church, as well as any personal prayer requests from the group.



Our Grief Share group meets at the church every second and fourth Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30PM. It is a 13-week support group, which started on January 14th. This is an open group to the community, for anyone who is experiencing a loss. There is an option to attend virtually or in-person. Each week, there is a video seminar, group discussion, and personal reflection. Contact Rose Bess, or register at [griefshare.org/find a group](http://griefshare.org/find-a-group).

Young Adult Small Group

All Adults

The Adult Small Group is back! This group will meet once a month at the home of Keith and Aileen Loftin. This is a home group open to all adults and meets one Friday a month at 7:15PM. The next group will be Friday, March 21st. If you are interested in joining, reach out to the Loftins or call the church office for the address and to RSVP. Childcare will be provided starting at 7PM, but it is important to notify Aileen or Rose if it will be needed so we can ensure there will be adequate supervision.

If you would like to volunteer a couple of hours a month to help watch the children, please contact Rose.

Single Women Bible Study

All Single Ladies

The Single Ladies home group began Wednesday, January 29th, and will meet on Wednesdays weekly at 6:30PM. They will be reading the book, *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table* by Louie Giglio. This is a group for all single women, including widows and divorcees, for spiritual growth and fellowship together. If you are interested in joining, contact Rose Bess.

The Egg Hunt is Almost Here!



Our Annual Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 12th from 2-6PM. It will be a great opportunity to have fun and serve the community. There will be more information on opportunities to serve, as well as ways share the event online in the coming weeks!

Missions Revival

Our Missions Revival will be June 26th to 29th. We will be collecting special offerings to purchase wish list items for our missionaries. The goal is to raise \$7500, to be evenly distributed to the three attending families at the Missions Revival.

Missions Lunch Fundraiser



The Mission Committee is raising funds to offset the cost of lunches and excursions for our missionaries while they are here for the Missions Revival. We will be selling box lunches to go. The meals will be delivered on March 9th. You can pick them up right after service. The meal will include a pulled pork sandwich, potato salad, jalapenos, pickles, onions, and a dessert. If interested, please use the sign up sheet in the foyer, the cost is \$12.00.

MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT

Freddy and Lisa Crook

The next several months, we will be spotlighting the families our church helps to sponsor around the world. This month, we will be highlighting the Crook family! We are the sending church for Freddy and Lisa Crook, who are missionaries in Belize. They will be one of the families attending the Missions Revival Conference, and we are excited to see them soon!

They reported December and January brought many opportunities to witness to their community, as they held outreach events for the Christmas and New Years holidays. These past two months they have had ten professions of faith,

seven of which also have come forward for baptism and joining their church! They have been encouraged by their new connections and growing congregation. They were visited by a group called IMPACT, who worked alongside them in a neighboring village and led three people to Christ. The group was, "an inspiring group of brothers and sisters, diverse in age, location and backgrounds, but the love OF God and FOR God unites any and all who are willing to answer His call."

At the end of February, they hosted 30-40 police cadets from surrounding villages. They ask the Church to continue to keep these cadets in our prayers. They ask for prayers for their community, that they would continue to see God's plan unfolding in the lives of those around them.

We are thankful to the Crook family, and their dedication to being beacons of light in Belize!

For more updates on their ministry, follow them on Facebook at @BelizeinJesus and sign up for their newsletters by contacting them via email, freddylcrook@gmail.com



Crook Family