

ON THE HORIZON

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

A Letter From The Pastor

Summer is here, and I'm thankful for the way God uses this season to strengthen our church in steady, lasting ways. Schedules shift, school is out, and routines change, but the mission of Christ doesn't pause. My prayer is that you'll see the months ahead not as time to drift, but as time to lean in. Summer gives us room for deeper relationships, more hospitality, and more opportunities to put the love of Jesus in front of people who need Him.

We've got a full season ahead of us. We'll have church camp, and I'm praying it becomes a time where our students and families hear from God clearly and respond with real faith. We'll also be

servicing on a mission trip to the Lake Jackson area alongside Greg Devine, and I'm grateful for the chance to serve people in practical ways while pointing them to Christ. Vacation Bible School is coming too, and VBS is always one of the clearest opportunities we have all year to bless families, share the Gospel with children, and strengthen the next generation.

One unique outreach I want you to know about is our July 4th effort with the Outreach Bible Project. Houston will host a World Cup match that day, and people from many nations and languages will be in our area. We'll be out around the city handing out copies of the Gospel of John and Romans in multiple languages to visitors and locals. It's a simple act of

obedience with eternal potential. God can use a small booklet in someone's hands to start a new story in their heart.

My encouragement for you this summer is simple. Don't just attend what's happening. Step into it. Volunteer where you can. Invite someone. Pray with expectation. Stay anchored in Sunday worship and the Word. God often does His deepest work in seasons that feel ordinary, and summer can be exactly that kind of season if we'll give Him room.

PASTOR JOHN STRADER



PERSONAL PASTOR'S NOTE ON PAGE 9

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

Family Fusion is a special opportunity for children and families to worship together during our regular church service. We believe it is important for kids to see and participate in the life of the church alongside their parents and church family. These Sundays help children grow in worship, learn from the example of others, and remind us that families are a vital part of the body of Christ.

SUNDAY, MAY 31ST MOVING UP SUNDAY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH WATER THEMED FUN IN THE SUN

YOUTH MINISTRY

Junior High and High School students are invited to join us for Sunday School at 9:30AM as we study books of the Bible and discuss together. During the school year, be sure to come back Sunday evenings to learn more about living for Christ and loving our neighbor.

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 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!

GET CONNECTED

Sprightly Stroll and Supplication

Walk and Pray

Our strolls will continue to be each Wednesday from 8:30-10AM at Lost Creek Park. It is held weekly through the Summer, unless otherwise decided due to weather, holidays, or other conflicts. There is a group message on Facebook for anyone interested in joining--invite your friends to come too! 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.

Single Ladies Bible Study

All Single Ladies

The Single Ladies home group will begin a new study together on Wednesday, May 20th, and will meet on Wednesdays weekly from 6:30-8:30PM. They will be studying "Anyone Can Evangelize", a 6-week study. 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.



Family Home Group

All Adults Welcome

The Family Home Group meets on the last Friday each month at 7PM and we welcome kids to join in the evening! Our Summer gatherings will be:

May 29th
June 26th
July 31st
August 28th

Our Family Home Group has been a real blessing. We've got a solid group showing up each month, building friendships, praying for one another, and going deeper than surface-level conversation.

If you've been looking for a place to belong, this is a great way to get connected. Come ready for a relaxed evening with meaningful discussion, encouragement, and time in God's Word. Kids are welcome, and you don't need to feel like you have everything together to come. Just show up. If you're new to Horizon, or you've been here a while but haven't found your people yet, we'd love to have you join us. Reach out to Pastor John for more details.

Senior Ladies Book Study

Senior Ladies (50+)

The Senior Ladies Bible study is every Tuesday at 10AM, and started a new study on Tuesday, May 12th to discuss "John- I Believe I Am" by Megan Fate Marshman. There will be a video lesson by the author and questions to answer during the week. They meet at the church for fellowship, which typically lasts until 11:30AM. Those who are available to gather for lunch then go to a restaurant of choice together--an optional time for additional visiting! If you have any questions or are interested in joining, contact Lela Burgess. All women are welcome to join!

DRINK THE CUP

Lela Burgess



Many of you know that I love to learn historical facts that support and prove the Bible. I recently found out that this is something Orthodox Jews still do in Israel to this day. When I confirmed it with a Jewish friend, she looked at me and said "You didn't know that?" Well, it changed my whole perspective on the Last Supper and maybe it will also give you some insight on why Jesus said what He did on that Night. Most of you know that they, the disciples and Jesus, were celebrating the Feast of the Passover. Celebrating the Jews finally getting to escape Egypt after being in captivity for 400 years. So please, bear with me and let me tell you what I learned.

...

When Jesus says, "This is my covenant with you, take and drink it", what the disciples would have heard was: "Will you marry me?" (Head shake here.) Because in those days when it was time for a Jewish boy to marry a young Jewish girl, his dad would talk to her dad and they would decide a price. Could be fifty camels. This was the price for the opportunity (not a guarantee) to propose. The way he would do it, propose, would be to gather the family, filling the cup with wine, sliding it across the table and saying to her, "This is my covenant with you. Will you drink it?"

If she drank it, that was her way of saying "I do." When she said "I do", she'd go back to her town. He'd go back to his town and they wouldn't talk for the rest of the engagement period. They would only communicate through the best man. She would have her name changed. She would be called, "one who was bought with a price". What was she doing while she waited? Good question, I asked it. She was keeping watch because she didn't know the day, the time, or the hour when he would come to get her.

What was the groom doing? Another good question that I asked. He was building a mansion. Before you get too excited, the Aramaic word for mansion means addition. He was building onto his parent's house. A family dwelling over generations

and here's the trippy part: he didn't get to decide when the addition was finished, only his father did. But once the father gave him the green light, the groom would gather his groomsmen and they would blow shofars (horns) as they were coming into her town and she would hear the horns and she'd come down the stairs and they'd lead a procession back to the town and they would get married and live happily ever after.



Scholars say Jesus took the third cup in the Passover Feast which traditionally was set aside for the coming Messiah. And by drinking it, He was saying yeah, it's Me. But when He says this is my blood of the new covenant, He just launched into a whole new metaphor.

"THERE ARE MANY ROOMS IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE. IF IT WERE NOT SO, I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU. I AM GOING AWAY TO MAKE A PLACE FOR YOU." JOHN 14:2

Then what did He say in John 14:2? He says I'm going home to my Father's house where there are many mansions and I'm going to prepare a place for you. I need you in the meantime to keep watch. You are one who is bought with a price and you don't know the day, the time, or the hour, but take heart, I'm not going to leave you alone. I'm going to send my best man, the Holy Spirit, and He's going to communicate between Me and you. One day, not Me, but the Father will decide when the mansions are finished and when the Father gives Me the green light, I'm going gather my groomsmen, the Angels and the Saints, and they will blow their shofars, the four trumpets from the four corners of the earth and I'm gonna bring you home for the marriage supper of the Lamb.

This Lenten and Easter season, I hope you realize that Jesus is offering us Himself. He is saying, "This is My covenant with you. Will you drink it?"

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

In-Town Women's Retreat

Friday, July 31st to Saturday, August 1st

There will be a women's retreat hosted locally from July 31st to August 1st. Ladies are welcome to stay overnight, or go home between the evening (6-10PM) and Saturday (8AM-4PM) sessions. There will be a sign up sheet for those who would like to attend. More details to come!



Women's Quarterly Meeting

July TBD

The next quarterly meeting will be in July. All women are welcome to attend, and bring their ideas for upcoming events and service projects. Details will be available on the Sunday bulletin once a date is determined.



DISCIPLES OF GOD

MEN'S MINISTRY

Summer can be a lighter season for men's ministry, and that's not always a bad thing. When routines change and schedules get busy, the real question becomes simple: will we stay spiritually steady when life isn't structured? This is a great time for men to keep the basics strong, keep showing up to worship, and keep taking responsibility for their walk with Christ.

Even if our calendar is smaller in the weeks ahead, our goal hasn't changed. We want men who pray. Men who open the Bible. Men who lead with humility at home. Men who serve without needing attention. Men who are present in the life of the church. If you've been on the edge, summer is a good time to step in and build a new habit while things are a little less crowded.

Men's Prayer Lunch

Saturday, June 13th

Saturday, July 11th

Saturday, August 8th

Men's Prayer Lunch will be held at 12PM. We will meet at Micheaux's Southern Cuisine (6850 Hwy 6, Missouri City, TX 77459). Join us for a great meal, meaningful conversation, and a time of prayer and encouragement.

Men's Prayer Breakfasts

Saturday, May 30th

Saturday, June 27th

Saturday, July 25th

Saturday, August 29th

Men's Prayer Breakfast is a gathering that will continue to meet monthly at 8AM. We will gather at Denny's (6131 Hwy 6, Missouri City, TX 77459). Start your day with prayer, good food, and connection with other men seeking to grow in faith.

If you'd like to help shape what men's ministry becomes this fall, we need you. We're looking for men who are willing to lead, host, invite, and help create spaces where men can grow together. Reach out to Pastor John or Jodie and let's talk.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Volunteers Needed

We have a growing need for lead and assistant volunteers in children's ministry. It is a blessing to have so many kids joining us each Sunday morning, and we need help to disciple them well!

If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Gabby Vesely. We are currently in greatest need for:

Age 5-2nd Grade Class Helpers
Elementary Lead Teachers



YOUTH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events

AWANA Volunteers

Sunday, May 17th

Youth will be assisting with the end-of-year celebration for AWANA. Teens will have the opportunity to lead games and activities for the children following the awards ceremony.

Back to School Lock-In

August TBD

We are also planning a Back-to-School Youth Lock-In in August! We are still finalizing the date and details, but we are excited for a time of fellowship, encouragement, fun, and spiritual challenge as students prepare for a new school year. More information will be shared soon.



I.M.P.A.C.T. 2026

Lake Jackson, TX | June 15th - 19th

Horizon Baptist is going BIG for I.M.P.A.C.T. 2026 – June 15–19 in Lake Jackson, Texas! This will be an incredible week of serving alongside Coastal Way Baptist Church and Missionary Greg Devine, growing in Christ, and worshipping together every evening.

Summer Update

Praise God! All needed funds have now been pledged for the IMPACT Summer Mission Trip! Thank you to everyone who has prayed, given, and helped make this opportunity a reality for our students. Please continue praying that God would move powerfully in the hearts of our youth this summer and in the hearts of those they will be serving and sharing Christ with through love in deed and truth.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 20th to Friday, July 24th

Vacation Bible School is around the corner, with a theme of "Kingdom Quest" as our children will go on an epic journey to discover God's kingdom! VBS will provide programming for children from 9AM to 4PM, on July 20th through 24th. There will be a special showcase of performances from the children on Friday, July 24th from 4-6PM. Families of the children are welcome to attend--pizza will be provided!

Registration is now open to attend VBS. The children of volunteers will be able to attend for free. This is a great event to share on social media, and invite your neighbors!

Please be in prayer for the children who are attending, as well as the volunteers and teachers. VBS is an opportunity to share the good news of the gospel with our community and show them the love of Christ. Pray that hearts would be reached and lives would be changed in pursuit of God's Kingdom.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



DONATIONS

There will be updates each week in the bulletin for what items continue to be needed. There is a large bin labeled "VBS" in the main hallway for any items you are able to bring. There will be a wishlist of items to contribute soon, more details to come!



VOLUNTEER

There is still time to volunteer to be a lead or support teacher. Those who are 6th grade and older are welcome to take part. Students in grades 6-8 will need to volunteer alongside a parent. We are currently in need of:

- Gardening Lead Teacher**
- Special Needs Lead Teacher***
- LEGO and Crafts Helpers**
- Board Games Teachers**
- First Aid Volunteers**

*Special needs teachers do not need to be church members, as long as they can be safely vetted with a background check.



SET UP AND TEAR DOWN WORKDAYS

There will be workdays to prepare for VBS, sorting donations, creating decorations and decorating the space. Many hands can help make set-up and tear-down easier for our teachers. Mark your calendars for the following workdays:

- June 27th 9AM-12PM VBS Workday**
- July 11th 8AM-4PM Decorating Day**
- July 18th 9AM-12PM Backup Prep Day**

Clean up and tear down will take place the weekend of July 25th. More details for this will be coming soon!



GAME NIGHT

Saturday, June 6th

The Hospitality Team will be hosting a Family Game Night on June 6th at 6PM. It will be a family friendly night of fun. There will be an opportunity to bring a snack to share, as well as your favorite game. Who will take home the bragging rights? Come and find out!

TABLE TALKS

This summer, Horizon will also be hosting “Table Talks,” a relaxed and interactive evening built around meaningful conversations on topics that impact everyday life and discipleship. This is something that has really been on Jodie and Gabby’s heart for quite awhile, and they will be helping lead out in these evenings together.

Rather than a lecture-style event, people will gather around tables for discussion, encouragement, biblical wisdom, practical application, and learning from one another’s experiences. Upcoming topics include marriage, intergenerational discipleship, and parenting.

One of the important goals of Table Talks is to bring together people from many different life stages. For the marriage discussions, we need people who are married, who have been married, or even those who may one day be married. For parenting discussions, we need parents of children from babies all the way to older adults, grandparents, and even those who simply hope to one day have children and want to grow in wisdom now. For intergenerational discipleship, we need everyone of every age and season of life. The church grows stronger when generations learn from one another, encourage one another, and walk together in discipleship.

REAL CONVERSATIONS. STRONGER TOGETHER.

TABLE Talks

CONVERSATIONS FOR EVERY GENERATION

REAL CONVERSATIONS. STRONGER TOGETHER. EVERY GENERATION.

6 SUNDAYS. 3 IMPORTANT TOPICS. ALL AGES WELCOME.

<p>MARRIAGE</p> <p>SUNDAYS MAY 31 & JUNE 7</p>	<p>INTERGENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP</p> <p>SUNDAYS JULY 5 & JULY 12</p>	<p>PARENTING</p> <p>SUNDAYS AUGUST 2 & AUGUST 9</p>
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5:00–6:30 PM | SHORT TEACHING. TABLE DISCUSSIONS. SHARED TAKEAWAYS. TIME TO CONNECT. | FAMILIES WELCOME! CHILDREN CAN SIT WITH THEIR FAMILIES OR AT THEIR OWN TABLE.

Come to the table. GROW IN FAITH. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

These evenings are not only for people who feel like they “need help.” Every person has value to bring to the table through encouragement, testimony, wisdom, questions, listening, compassion, and life experience. We need others helping encourage and strengthen us as we also encourage and strengthen others.

Children will also be included in intentional ways, with family-friendly table discussions and opportunities for connection across generations. We hope these evenings will strengthen relationships within our church family while helping us grow together in grace and truth.



FAMILY CAMP ENCOUNTER WEEK 2026

Monday, June 29th to Friday, July 3rd

We will have Family Camp at Pines Springs Baptist Camp from June 29th to July 3rd. Please be in prayer for the children and families attending, and for God to continue to work in their hearts as they return home!

FAMILY MEETING

Sunday, July 26th

All members of the church are encouraged to gather for observance of the Lord's Supper right after morning services. It will be a time to remember the sacrifice and look forward to the hope found in our Savior. Our Family Meeting will follow directly afterward to discuss updates from our church ministries.



A Personal Note from Pastor John

Amber and I want to share more of our heart with you about what the Lord has been doing in our lives and where we believe He is leading our family next. Over the past year, God has been working in a steady, unmistakable way. It wasn't a sudden idea or an emotional moment. It was a long process of prayer, Scripture, counsel, and careful conversations. We talked with mentors. We listened to our church staff. We wrestled with questions we didn't want to rush. And through all of it, the Lord kept pressing one clear direction on us: Greater Manchester in the United Kingdom.

Manchester is a place filled with people, neighborhoods, universities, and cultures from around the world. It's also a place where Gospel presence and healthy churches are far fewer than most people assume. We're not going because it's trendy or because we're chasing something new. We're going because we believe Jesus is calling us to help make disciples and form simple, faithful Gospel communities in a region with great spiritual need. Our burden is to live life-on-life, build relationships in everyday spaces, open our home, share meals, share the Word, and patiently watch the Lord bring people to faith and maturity. We want to plant and strengthen neighborhood churches that can multiply over time.

We're also going with a clear sense of how God has shaped us for this work. The Lord used years of ministry experience, missions, and church life to prepare us, and He used Horizon Baptist Church in a defining way. This church is where our family has been loved, challenged, and grown. It's where we have seen God work in our lives and in the lives of others. Horizon has been a place of real discipleship and real community for us. That's why it means so much to say this clearly: we are not "leaving a church." We are being sent by our church.

Thank you for voting to send us. Thank you for praying with us instead of just praying for us. Thank you for treating this as a church decision and a church calling, not just a family decision. We believe God uses local churches to set apart and send workers, and Horizon has done that with humility, unity, and faith.

In the months ahead, we'll be taking practical steps toward that mission. We'll be raising support, building partnerships, and traveling as needed to share the vision. We'll be preparing our family for the transition, and we'll be continuing to serve faithfully here while the Lord opens the door for us to go. We'll keep you updated, not just with plans, but with prayer needs, progress, and stories as the Lord provides.

We're asking you to keep standing with us. Pray for fruit that remains. Pray for open doors in the UK. Pray for boldness and patience. Pray that we would love people well, preach Christ clearly, and live with integrity. And pray for Horizon too, that God will keep strengthening this church, raising up leaders, and expanding the Gospel work right here in Missouri City.

We love you, and we're deeply grateful. Thank you for being home. Thank you for being family. Thank you for being our sending church.

