

 Church of Christ
1323 SEYDLER STREET
GONZALES, TEXAS 78629
(830) 672-2200
WWW.GONZALESCHURCHOFCHRIST.ORG

December 18, 2016

WELCOME, GUESTS! WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE.
SO THAT WE MAY GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER, PLEASE FILL OUT A
GUEST INFORMATION CARD FROM THE PEW RACK IN FRONT OF YOU
AND PLACE IT IN THE COLLECTION PLATE WHEN IT PASSES.

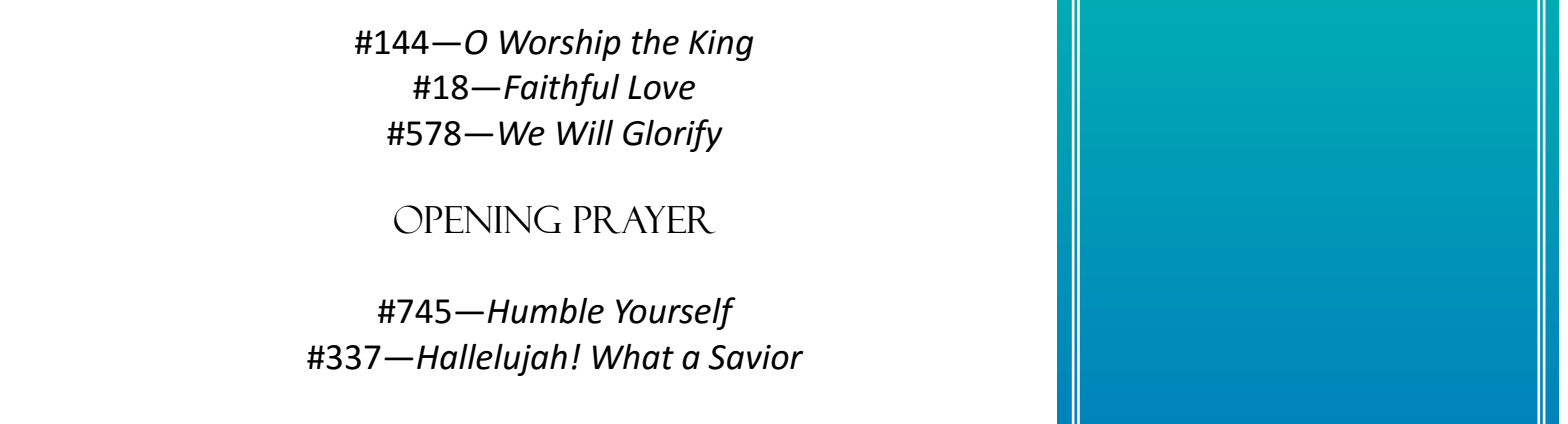
MEETING TIMES
Sunday
Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday
Meal—5:15 p.m.
Midweek – 6 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Order of Worship

SONG LEADER: CODY CHRISMON

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS



| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LORD'S SUPPER | |
| OFFERING | |
| #997— <i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i> | |
| SERMON: CLAY MASON | |
| #885— <i>How Beautiful Heaven Must Be</i> | |
| CLOSING PRAYER | |
| | <p>LOCAL MINISTER: CLAY MASON</p> <p>COMMITTEES</p> <p><i>Worship & Education</i> Cody Chrismon, Kevin Johnson, Clay Mason</p> <p><i>Facilities</i> Zach Babb, Perry Winegeart</p> <p><i>Finance & Benevolence</i> Zach Babb, Ross Hendershot, Henry Lind, Clay Mason, Edwin Weaver</p> |

A black-bordered box containing two social media icons on the left: a blue Facebook 'f' icon and a rainbow-colored Instagram camera icon. To the right of the Facebook icon is the text 'Like us on Facebook: @churchofchristgonzalestx'. To the right of the Instagram icon is the text 'Follow us on Instagram: @GtXchurchofchrist'.

Clay's Corner

There is a photograph on the wall of the museum of Dachau of a mother and her children. They are in line for the gas chambers. One does not pass this picture by hurriedly, but most must stop, as though compelled by some force greater than they, and gaze upon the heart wrenching plight of those unable to control their own destiny. If you look closely, her arm is around her youngest, a daughter. Her hands covering the eyes of the innocent. A mother’s last act of kindness, shielding her child from the ugliness of mankind that awaits them at the end of their walk.

What thoughts must she have had? “Is this it? Is this all that there is? Is this why I came into existence? To walk my own children to their deaths?” And every person who walks by this picture, you can almost feel their pain... their thoughts, “Oh God! Don’t let this be all there is.” I can only imagine. I have three daughters. I can only imagine. And what I can imagine literally leaves me cold, dark, empty, sick, but God...

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law...” - Galatians 4:4

Mary and I were traveling home from the rugged beautiful plains and canyons of West Texas. We’d been hunting in order to fill our stores for the coming year with fresh stocks of venison. And God blessed us richly. I drive slower than most. Guess I am getting old or maybe careful or frugal, but mostly, I want to see. I love the creation. And if you’re driving through it like your hair is on fire, you most likely miss it completely. I don’t want to miss anything.

A vehicle passed me. I looked as it went by and all I caught was a glimpse of a profile of someone, a woman I think, a created being. The windows in the back were tinted but I think I caught a glimpse of children in the back seat. And I wondered, who are they? Where are they going? Do they even know?

Seriously, those questions actually popped into my head, those and one more. And it, the final question, that just appeared out of thin air, hit me with as profound suddenness as the sick empty feeling that hit me when I viewed the photograph of the mother at Dachau. “Do they know Jesus?”

Are these people speeding through life at 75 mile per hour, headed for a destiny unknown to them? Or do they know the Christ child? And what of the others? Every vehicle that passed me by, with its passengers brought that same question to mind. And the whole trip home took on a new perspective.

Most folks cannot walk by the photograph of the mother and her children in the museum of Dachau, unscathed. It reaches out, draws you in, and cuts your heart as it has cut my own. But the damage to my own is not so severe as it could be were it not for the healing salve of the same assurance Simeon had when he spoke these words in Temple at the presentation of the Christ child:

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” – Luke 2:29-32

I said all that to say this, Merry Christmas. From my house to yours. I hope you’ll find the time this holiday season to find the Christ child and share Him as the gift from God that He is with those who are walking to the end of their journey, without Him.

PRAYER LIST

- Pauline Alvarez (health)
- Lauren Babb (health)
- Aaron Banks
- John Beiler (health)
- Dawn Clarke (Shirley Kuchynka’s daughter)
- Betty Cox (Brent Barnick’s sister—homebound)
- Samantha Davilas (James Rhodes’s co-worker, car accident)
- Dixie (Debbie Faires’s mother—Alzheimer’s)
- Jake Faires (Air Force, deployed to Jordan)
- Paul Faires (health)
- Steven Faires, and Lexi
- Leon Giesecke (Jan Moerbe’s father—throat cancer)
- Herbert and Nelle Hahn (health)
- Debbie Jalufka
- Sandra Jetton (health)
- Kevin and Victoria Johnson (healthy pregnancy/baby)
- Edward Jungbauer (Moerbes’ friend—health)
- Junior and Ada Powell (Sharron Mason’s brother-in-law and sister—health)
- James and Maria Rhodes
- Penny Rhodes (concussion)
- Fabian Riojas (Maria Rhode’s uncle—health)
- Jocelyn Seals (Hallettsville—cancer)
- Randall Sweeney (recovering from surgery)
- David Taylor (Cody Chrismon’s uncle—cancer)
- Adrienne Zingrich (Susan Barnick’s cousin—cancer)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

PRAYER UPDATES

Lauren Babb began experiencing seizures on Tuesday while at the ER. She had three seizures within a 36-hour period and began losing function on the left side of her body. Lauren had surgery Thursday night to remove her shunt. The surgery went well, and there was no abscess, but she is now able to move her left arm and leg. She was diagnosed with meningitis, but they are not sure if it is viral or bacterial, so are treating both. Removing the shunt was necessary to treat the infection as it can hold the infection because it is not flesh. It was not necessarily the cause of the infection. Lauren is at Memorial Hermann in Houston. Please continue to pray for Lauren and Zach, and the kids, during this healing process.

Kevin and Victoria Johnson are expecting their first child in June and ask your prayers for a healthy pregnancy and healthy baby.

Randall Sweeney’s pacemaker surgery went well. He is home now and recovering nicely.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pancake Supper with Santa

This year's Pancake Supper with Santa is **TODAY at 4 p.m.** in the annex. There will be crafts for the kids, pictures with Santa, hot chocolate, and of course pancakes! Following the pancake supper, we will move to the auditorium for a Christmas program and devotional. ***Please sign up in the foyer if you are available to help or are able to provide pancake or hot chocolate toppings.***

Wednesday Evening at The Heights

In lieu of regular Bible classes, following our evening meal we will meet at The Heights of Gonzales nursing home on **Wednesday at 6 p.m.** for a time of devotion and fellowship with the residents. We hope everyone can join us!

Holiday Schedule

Next Sunday, Dec. 25, and **Sunday, Jan. 1,** Bible classes will NOT meet. We will have only morning worship service at its regularly scheduled time, 10:30 a.m.

Hosts Needed: January 5th-Sunday Fellowship

A host family is needed for January’s 5th-Sunday Fellowship on January 29. Please contact Victoria Johnson if you are interested in hosting this event at your home.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us **at 5:15 p.m. this Wednesday** for dinner in the annex. This week’s entrée is hamburger meat and potatoes. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share, but please do not let that prevent you from joining us. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. To help, please sign up in the foyer. **If you signed up to prepare a meal, please send your menu to Victoria by Wednesday the week before your turn.**

Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to prepare communion in the coming months. This task takes very little time and is a great service to the congregation. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets in the annex each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. The Lord’s Supper is available.

Tuesday Morning Men’s Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

Ladies Bible Class

Due to the winter holidays, ladies class is not meeting for the remainder of December. Class will resume in January.

YOUTH ZONE



TUESDAY, DEC. 20
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
GONZALES VARSITY @ GOLIAD, 2:30 P.M.

Morgan Mason—Gonzales HS Girls Varsity Basketball