

Westgate Witness

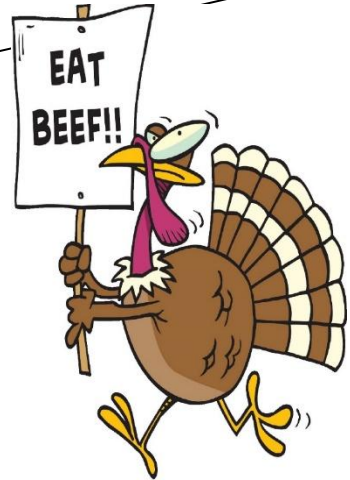
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Facebook: Westgate American Baptist Church

www.WestgateABC.com



November 2025



Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

November is a month dedicated to Thanksgiving, but it's not just about gathering with family and friends, nor about turkey and pumpkin pie, or even the start of Christmas shopping. It's a month that should also be about remembering everything we have to be thankful for.

Throughout the year, we're busy with work schedules, school commitments, family events, and even those dreadful situations that cause stress and unnecessary drama in our lives. We often don't take the time to appreciate the little things we take for granted each and every day, because our attention is consumed by all the big things going on. But I often begin my prayers by thanking God for those small blessings I overlook—the birds, the trees, the sun, the stars, the rain, every breath I take, every step I make, and especially for this year, I am thankful to add a daughter-in-law to my family.

So I tried to find some inspirational poems for you that will remind you that no matter your situation (good or bad), you can always find a reason to be grateful and thankful. In sickness and in health, through hard times and joyful ones, God is always present—and His love never fails.

Lora Shirey

Thank You, Lord, for Everything

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the breath to say

Thank you for another day

Thank you for the eyes to see the world of beauty surrounding me

Thank you for the ears to hear your message of hope loud and clear

Thank you for the hands to serve and far more blessings than I deserve

Thank you for the legs to run the race of life until it's won

Thank you for the voice to sing

Thank you, Lord, for everything

Amen

—Submitted by Keith

Today and Every Day

Lord, too often our prayers

Are filled with impatience over what we want

Instead of gratitude for what we already have.

Remind us today and in the coming year

What is truly important.

Remind us to give thanks for family and friends.

Remind us to be grateful for the work you have given us.

Remind us to appreciate our many material blessings.

Most of all, remind us today and every day

To give thanks for your precious Son Jesus,

And the sacrifice he made for us

To give us eternal life with You in heaven.

Amen.

—Jack Zavada

Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You've done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends and family,
For daily provision, Your mercy, and care
These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

—Mary Fairchild



11/6/2025

Westgate Baptist Church,

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens.*



After a careful and difficult period of prayer and deliberation I determined that it was a season for change in my life—a letting go of pastoral ministry—for this season of my journey. I began my journey as minister on November 13, 2013. It has been my distinct honor to serve for the past 12 years as Sr. Minister of this wonderful and welcoming church. It has been my broader honor to have served in many pastoral and other ministry contexts for a collective 40 years.

On Monday October 20th at Church Board Meeting, I submitted my resignation from my pastoral role effective Sunday November 16th. My resignation is driven by my current medical/visual condition—which began in August. Most every aspect of my work and life has been profoundly impacted by my current visual defects. I described to the Board in detail how those challenges have impacted my competence, ability and enjoyment of my pastoral work. My vision is central to all aspects of my life and work. I am deeply saddened by this turn of events, and I covet your ongoing friendship and contact during this uncertain time. I love you all and am thankful for the substantive journey we have enjoyed together. Words will fail to reflect the growth and personal reward that I have experienced since moving to Lancaster 12 years ago to serve Westgate. Thanks, and deep appreciation to you all for being part of my life and encouraging me through your presence, words, and acts of kindness while I have served through many chapters of ministry. Sometime after my last Sunday (likely in December) there will be a social gathering at an area restaurant for us to enjoy fellowship together. Peace and Blessings.

Sincerely,

Robert Zimmerman



The First Thanksgiving

(the true story)

In the year 1620, the Pilgrims in England wanted the freedom to worship as they pleased. They decided to leave England on a small ship called the *Mayflower*. They sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. The difficult journey lasted over 2 long months. Life was very hard on the *Mayflower*. Many people got sick and one man died. The Pilgrims finally reached America and named their new community Plymouth. The Pilgrims' first winter was very cold and half of the Pilgrims died. In the spring, a Native American named Samoset greeted the Pilgrims in English. The Pilgrims fed Samoset and let him stay overnight in one of their houses. Samoset then introduced the Pilgrims to another helpful Native American named Squanto. Squanto became the Pilgrims' best friend. He taught them how to plant corn, hunt and lived with them for the rest of his life. Many Pilgrims said they would not have been able to survive without his help. Later Squanto helped the Pilgrims make a peace treaty with the Wampanoag Tribe. In the fall, the Pilgrims had a feast to thank God for their great harvest. They invited their Indian friends to join them for the feast. The feast and fun lasted for 3 days! Today, Americans celebrate Thanksgiving every year on the last Thursday in November.

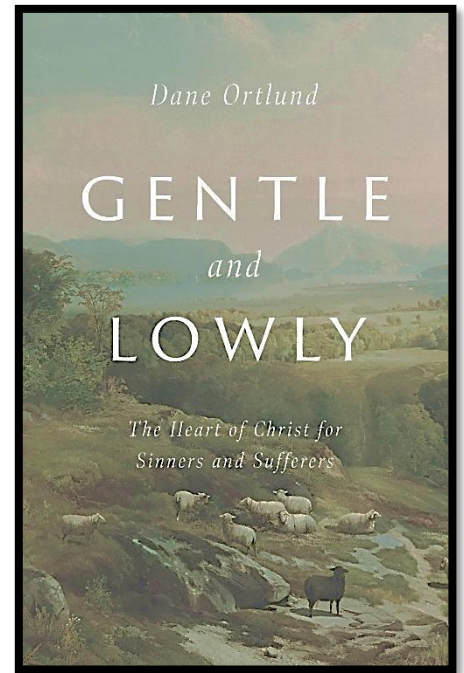
Sunday School

Please join us at 9:15 am for coffee, fellowship and learning as we spend time with the book Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortland. Quoting from the book's inside cover "Christians know what Jesus Christ has done - but who is he? What is his deepest heart for his people, weary and faltering on their journey toward heaven? Jesus said he is 'gentle and lowly in heart'. This book reflects on these words, opening a neglected yet central truth about who he is for sinners and sufferers today."

Stephen Appleby will lead the study utilizing both video and discussion. Hope you can join in.

Book Summary: Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortland

The book Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortland is a profound exploration of the character of Christ, focusing on His gentleness and lowliness in heart. It draws from biblical texts to reveal Christ's affections for sinners and encourages believers on their journey. The book is written with pastoral gentleness and quiet beauty, offering comfort, strength, and rest to readers. It is a timely work that directs attention back to the person of Jesus, centering on the Scriptures and drawing upon the best of the Puritan tradition. Ortland reminds readers of Jesus's promises of rest and comfort, as well as the Bible's vision of Jesus as a kind and gracious King.



Ladies Bible Study.

Lead each Tuesday by Lynda Williams at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Join us as we gather for coffee, fellowship, prayer and study. We would love to study God's word with you!

Our current study "Women of the Bible"



A strong women knows

SHE HAS STRENGTH
ENOUGH FOR THE JOURNEY

But a woman of strength

KNOWS IT IS IN
THE JOURNEY WHERE

She will become strong



It's that time of year!

Shoeboxes are available

Shoeboxes are available in the Narthex and on top of the mailboxes downstairs.

Handcrafted items by Westgate ABW are also located in the Narthex—feel free to take a couple to include in your box. If you'd like to support this effort, please consider making a donation payable to Westgate Baptist Church ABW.

Must be returned by Nov 16th

Westgate's boxes should be placed at the front of the Sanctuary. The wagon in the Foyer is for Reformation boxes.



Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference



**WATER STREET
MISSION**

WATER STREET RESCUE MISSION

Did you know the Mission began in 1916 with helping the homeless and hungry with temporary housing and meals? Over the decades, it has added many services. These services include women's shelter, medical and dental clinics and youth ministry programs, in addition to an already established men's shelter. This is the time of year when Water Street has their annual food drive. Westgate has been donating financial help to support the mission in feeding the hungry for the past several years.

THE MISSION NEEDS YOUR HELP MORE THAN EVER THIS YEAR!

Donation envelopes will be in the church bulletins on Nov. 23rd and Nov. 30th.

Please give cash or a check written out to Westgate Baptist Church.

Thank you

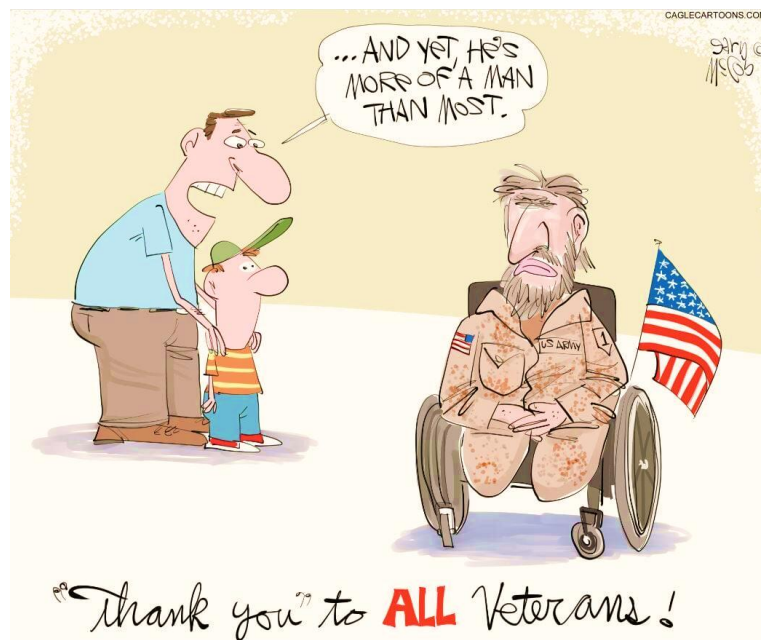
Bible Quiz: 40 Years in the Wilderness

1. How did Moses heal the bitter waters of Marah? (Exodus 15:25)
 - He touched them with his rod
 - He washed himself in them 7 times
 - He poured olive oil in them
 - He cast a tree into them
2. What did God send to feed the murmuring children of Israel? (Exodus 16:13-15)
 - Corn and barley
 - Wheat and seeds
 - Deer and fish
 - Bread and quail
3. When rods were placed in the tabernacle of witness, what grew on Aaron's rod? (Numbers 17:8)
 - Olives
 - Almonds
 - Moss
 - Thorns
4. What brought forth water when Moses struck it? (Exodus 17:6)
 - A pot
 - A tree
 - A pit
 - A rock
5. The army of Joshua (the children of Israel) prevailed against the army of Amalek as long as: (Exodus 17:11)
 - The Israelite flag was standing
 - The children of Israel had bread in their pockets
 - The elders sang hymns
 - Moses' hands were upheld
6. Whose idea was it that Moses should delegate his responsibilities as leader of Israel? (Exodus 18:15-22)
 - Joshua
 - Zipporah
 - Aaron
 - Jethro

ANSWERS ON LAST PAGE – NO PEEKING



Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11th, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces (who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable). It coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day which are celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the of the end of World War 1. Major hostilities of World War 1 were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.





11/6 Kaiden Vital
11/15 Hannah Tebie
11/21 Drew Sklenar
11/22 Richard Adams

11/7/1981 Stephen & Connie Appleby
11/27/2010 Rich & Laura Schramm



Bible Quiz: 40 Years in the Wilderness - Answers

1. How did Moses heal the bitter waters of Marah?
He cast a tree into them
2. What did God send to feed the murmuring children of Israel
Bread and quail
3. When rods were placed in the tabernacle of witness, what grew on Aaron's rod?
Almonds
4. What brought forth water when Moses struck it?
A rock
5. The army of Joshua (the children of Israel) prevailed against the army of Amalek as long as:
Moses' hands were upheld
6. Whose idea was it that Moses should delegate his responsibilities as leader of Israel?
Jethro