



August 2023 Newsletter

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School Uniform Drive

Northlake has “adopted” our local elementary school, Weaver. You are invited to help provide uniforms and/or backpacks to help families who are in need. A QR code to the Amazon wish list will be available this month at the Missions Table in the Gathering Hall. You may also donate Amazon gift cards or money toward the effort.

Pickleball Outreach Event

*Sat, Sept 16, 10 am—noon
Multi-Purpose Center*

To focus on building relationships with our neighbors around the church, we are hosting a pickleball tournament in September. More details are coming soon about how you can be involved in reaching our community. Mark your calendars now and join with us to reach our neighbors.

Sunday School Worker Appreciation Dinner

Sun, Aug 6 at 6 pm, Fellowship Hall
All Sunday School teachers & directors (2022-'23 and 2023-'24) are invited to a catered dinner in your honor. Please register on Realm, on your Connection Card, or by contacting the Church Office.

Church-Wide Cookout & Game Night

*Sun, Aug 20, 5:30—8:30 pm
Fellowship Hall/Multi-Purpose Center*
Join us for a hamburger/hot dog dinner followed by a game night. Bring your own table games or play games in the gym (volleyball, basketball, etc.) Adult SS classes have been assigned the following items:

YA-1—Hot Dog Buns
YA-2—Hamburger Buns
MA-1—Fruit
MA-2—Hamburger Veggies/Cheese
MA-3/Cove/ESL—Drinks
MA-4 & MA-6—Chips
MA-5 & Senior Adults—Desserts



As I write these words, my body is still recovering from our 2023 Texarkana Mission Trip; almost 30 people traveled eastward to work at a mission agency there as well as several churches in that part of Arkansas. Thank you to those who participated—and those who prayed; God did great things through your team. We got so much done that we had to scramble each night to create a new plan for the next day as our groups finished many projects earlier than anticipated. *I'm so grateful to serve in such a missions-minded, servant-focused church!*

Speaking of mission (and ministry), plans are in motion for an EXCITING community outreach effort next month, when we'll reach out to some of our neighbors. We will gather on Monday, September 11 at 7 pm to prayer-walk in small teams through part of our neighborhood—passing out gift bags along with an invitation to a **Community Pickleball Tournament** on Saturday, September 16 from 10:00 am to noon.

What do I ask of you? First, pray for God to bless this project, for nothing of eternal value happens without His presence. Second, join us to prayer-walk our community, engaging people on their turf because we must **go** instead of waiting for them to **come**. And, most importantly, use those conversations as a beginning—**looking for someone with whom God would lead you to build relationship with genuine intentionality**. Don't just deliver BAGS; make CONNECTIONS, show INTEREST, build BRIDGES. A lot has changed in modern culture; lost people often don't seek out churches on their own. So, we must step BEYOND OUR COMFORT ZONE INTO our community. Let God open doors, touch hearts and foster connection **through your intentional efforts!** Begin praying even now for that one person/family with whom you can connect. It starts September 11, but the investment must continue far beyond that date. No matter how long it takes, make the sacrifice to share His love. *May God bless our efforts to touch this community and Tell His Story.*

Lastly, as I shared last month, I've asked our FINANCE and PROPERTY & SPACE Committees to address the question regarding the vacant lot we own. I was asked earlier this year if we should consider selling this property, acquired decades ago in anticipation of a larger worship center. It's a BIG question that needs careful consideration. Rather than a special study team, I opted to invite these committees to meet, discuss, evaluate and (possibly) bring some kind of motion to the church (which alone can make such a far-reaching decision). Please join me in praying for wisdom and clarity. There are differences of opinion on this issue, *which the church—properly informed—alone can determine*. At some point, this group will report to the congregation, then ask the church to decide. No matter which direction that vote may take us, let us strive to stay UNIFIED. ***We don't have to share the same mind to stay on the same page!***

As always, know that it's a privilege to be your pastor...

Bro. John

Recent Giving

July 2—\$12,478.80

July 9—\$18,536.00

July 16—\$10,438.24

July 23—\$11,767.00

Weekly Need: \$14,151.00

Recent Bible Study Attendance

July 2—149

July 9—151

July 16—124

July 23—143





August 2023 Calendar

Wed, Aug 2—no Wednesday night activities (except youth)

Thurs, Aug 3—Food Pantry/Clothes Closet (1:00 pm)

Sun, Aug 6—Cindy Jones' 14th Anniversary

Promotion Sunday

Sunday School Worker Appreciation Dinner (6:00 pm)

Wed, Aug 9—Deacons Meeting (6:00 pm)

Sat, Aug 12—Senior Adult Monthly Outing

Sun, Aug 13—Adult Directors' Meeting (9:00 am)

Home Grown Small Group Meetings

Tues, Aug 15—Ladies' Cookie Decorating Class (6:30 pm)

Wed, Aug 16—Lunch & a Movie Fellowship (12:00 pm)

Finance Committee Meeting (6:00 pm)

ESL Evaluations begin (7:00 pm)

Thurs, Aug 17—Food Pantry/Clothes Closet (1:00 pm)

Fri, Aug 18—Kids' End-of-Summer Party (6:30 pm)

Sun, Aug 20—Kelly Chronister's 3rd Anniversary

Church-Wide Cookout & Game Night (5:00 pm)

Wed, Aug 23—Missions Committee Meeting (6:00 pm)

Happy Anniversary!

This month, we celebrate Cindy Jones' 14th anniversary as Ministry Assistant and Kelly Chronister's 3rd anniversary as Sonshine Kids Academy Director. Thank you, Cindy and Kelly, for all you do for Northlake!

New Member

We are pleased to welcome new member Susanne Dovers who joined our church by statement on July 16. Welcome to Northlake, Susanne!

Ladies' Cookie Decorating Class

Tues, Aug 15, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Cost is \$10/person, which includes all supplies. Please register and pay on Realm. You may also call the church office to register.

Wednesday Night Schedule

There will be no Wednesday night activities on August 2 other than youth. Our regular Wednesday night schedule will resume on August 9.

Kids' End-of-Summer Party

Fri, Aug 18, 6-8:30 pm, Multi-Purpose Center

Kids who have completed K—5th grades are invited to join us! Girls, bring a snack to share; boys, bring a drink to share.

Sonshine Kids Academy Registration

SKA is our Parent's Day Out program for 6 months—Pre-K kids. They meet on Tuesday & Thursday from 9 am—2 pm during the school year, with an optional add-on Wednesday program. Visit their website (ska4113.wixsite.com/sonshine) or email Kelly (ska@nbcgarland.org) for more info on how to register for the upcoming year.

Promotion Sunday

Sun, August 6

Preschoolers, children & youth move up to their new classes. We hope you will be able to join us that day!

Pickleball

Pickleball is now meeting every Tuesday evening. Anyone who is interested invited to join us in the Multi-Purpose Center from 6—8 pm to play.

Northlake Connects

*Week of August 6—Reach Your One—
With whom will you share Jesus?*

Sun, August 13—Home Grown Groups

*Sun, August 20—Church-Wide Cook-Out
& Game Night (5:00 pm)*

Sat, August 27—Sabbath Rest

Movie Fellowship

Wed, August 16, 12:00 pm, Room E-115

Everyone is invited to bring a brown bag lunch and join us to watch *On a Wing and a Prayer*, an extraordinary true story of faith and survival of passenger Doug White's (Dennis Quaid) harrowing journey to safely land a plane and save his entire family from insurmountable danger, after their pilot dies unexpectedly mid-flight.

ESL Ministry

Do you know of someone who could use English as a Second Language classes? Evaluations will be held on Wed 8/16, 8/23 & 8/30 at 7 pm. Students only need to come to one evaluation to be placed in the correct class. Classes will begin on Wed, 9/6. Contact Mary Rodriguez if you are interested in serving in our ESL ministry.

