



We Strive to Be: A church devoted to making disciples of Jesus Christ, growing together in knowledge and relationship with God and each other.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 10 – Norman Youth Rally
Jan. 16 – Mercy House 4-8 p.m.
Jan. 23 – Youth Group Trip to the Jenk’s Aquarium

Birthdays:

January:

1st Patty Long
 2nd Jim Osburn
 Kelly Ward
 9th Bob Willett

Order of Worship

Children’s Worship **Derek Tinius**
Welcome/Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1 **Gordon Jantz**
Opening Prayer **Dudley Darrow**
Song Leader **Robb Mills**
 #474 Thank You Lord
 #376 He Paid A Debt
 Cornerstone
 #337 Hallelujah What a Savior
Communion Talk **TBD**
 **Dismiss Children**
 #429 O to be Like Thee
 Lord I Give You My Heart
 Sanctuary
Sermon: Thrive by Imitating the Lord **Erik Granberg**
 Step by Step
Closing/Announcements **Gordon Jantz**
Shepherd’s Prayer **Dan Kent**

Children’s Worship **Brenda Wright**
Nursery **Jamie Barr**
Sound Booth **Dee Plummer**
Slides **Mandy Coker**

Sermon Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4-6

Sermon Thought: Thessalonians is an uplifting book written by Paul. In chapter 1 we are introduced to the Thessalonian church and how they are known for imitating Paul and the Lord. We tend to imitate two things, that which want to be and that which is around us. Choosing to imitate the Lord is one way that will help us thrive in this lifetime.

Sermon Questions:

1. What do you see people imitating the most?
2. Is it easier to imitate the things around us or the things we want to be? Why?
3. Why is it so easy to get caught in trying to survive rather than thrive?

New Prayer Concerns:

All those affected with COVID-19

Willie Russell – having a lot of pain in his knees and back

Brad Goodwin – Carol & JR Baxter's son-in-law; in ICU with Covid

Larry Cochran – recovering from kneecap surgery

Carter Buller Family – Gordon's school mate, passed away from Covid

Geri Ball – former member; passed away

Verda Haltom – Jeanita Meek's mom; put on hospice care

Jacqueline Anderson – pray that her thyroid ultrasound will come back negative

Linda Swart – recovering from shoulder surgery

Annie Sheets – Jovita's grandson's mother; been in the hospital for 2 months with a perforated colon. Pray that she will regain enough strength to endure surgery.

Next Week's (1/10/21) Servants:

Song Leader: Jim Coker

Opening Prayer: Chris Taylor

Communion Talk: Danny Powers

Shepherd's Prayer: Pat Meek

Sound Booth: Dudley Darrow

Slides: Dee Plummer

Nursery: Mandy Coker

Children's Worship: Lisa Granberg

A Work of Ministry A Spiritual Frontier

My 22 years as a minister for the Lord has been a divine fulfillment for my life, and it has instilled in me a spiritual nature that will continue to care for God's people. I entered a **spiritual frontier** not knowing what lie ahead, but fully trusting in the Lord to give me the wisdom and insight I needed to carry out his work. My **work of ministry** has been a wonderful blessing watching how God works through us to touch the precious souls he loves. His Spirit has guided my steps as I navigated through a **spiritual frontier** exploring the amazing attributes of life God has given us. I have reached out and taken the hand of Jesus many times, and he has lifted me up and carried me in his loving arms. My journey through a **spiritual frontier** has given me insight into God's eternal nature, and helped me understand what Jesus came to accomplish for us.

Jesus left the spiritual world and came to an **earthly frontier** so we can have the spiritual life he has given us. He paved the way for the eternal fulfillment of our spiritual life. So *"let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God"* (Heb. 12:1-2). He has given us, as his disciples, the work of reconciling precious souls to God (2 Cor. 5:18-20). As we enter a **spiritual frontier** that Jesus has opened up before us, we too face worlds unknown. There will be times we don't know which way to go, and when we feel lost and all alone. That is why Jesus tells us to *"come unto him all who labor and are heavy laden"* (Matt. 11:28), to fully trust him to give us the wisdom and insight we need to complete our spiritual journey. Enjoy the amazing life in a **spiritual frontier** God has given us!

Gordon

Thank You

What a pleasant surprise when Chris and kids Isaac and Eleanor brought us a Christmas bag full of all kinds of goodies, handmade items and entertainment books from the youth group and our family at North Garland. Thanks to all of you and hope soon we can all be together again.

In Christian Love, Dennis and Renny

Sunday Night Praise & Prayer Service

Starting in the new year, we will be having a Sunday night praise & prayer service. We will spend 30-45 minutes singing old and new songs, praying, and having an occasional devotional. We will begin this **tonight at 6:00 p.m.** and repeat each 1st and 3rd Sunday nights. Let Jim Coker or Robb Mills know if you have any questions.