



FIRSTWORDS

SUMMER AT FIRST

It is hard to believe that school is out, VBS has already taken place, and June is on the calendar! With that said, then summer must be here and the church has some exciting events planned. Fun Night at the FLC continues to be a favorite among many in our church. Fun Night includes a simple meal (rotation of hamburgers, Frito pie, pulled pork, and hot dogs/brats), open play in the gym (basketball, pickleball, preschool scooters, and balls of all kinds), skating, bowling, ping pong, and pool. We will have a couple of “event” nights, with our inaugural Trivia night set for June 10, then on July 8 we will have our annual Racers and Bake sale for missions, and the summer will close out with the annual Ice Cream Extravaganza on July 29.

June will also see our children and youth go to camp where they will see God in a new and different way and come back ready to serve Him. Our High School and Middle School students head to Brownwood June 16-20, and our children will also go to Brownwood June 22-25. Please begin now praying for these students, sponsors, and parents as they prepare for the various camps. In addition to camps, both the children’s ministry and youth ministry have lots of fun events scheduled throughout the summer. The annual FBC Night @ Adventure Cove will be on Saturday, July 25, where we can all cool off together.

The Summer will also focus on missions as the Backyard Bible Club (June 22-25) meets at the Friendship House, Youth mission trip (July 13-18) and the Habitat House will continue to be built.

The Final Fiesta Brings Big Blessings!

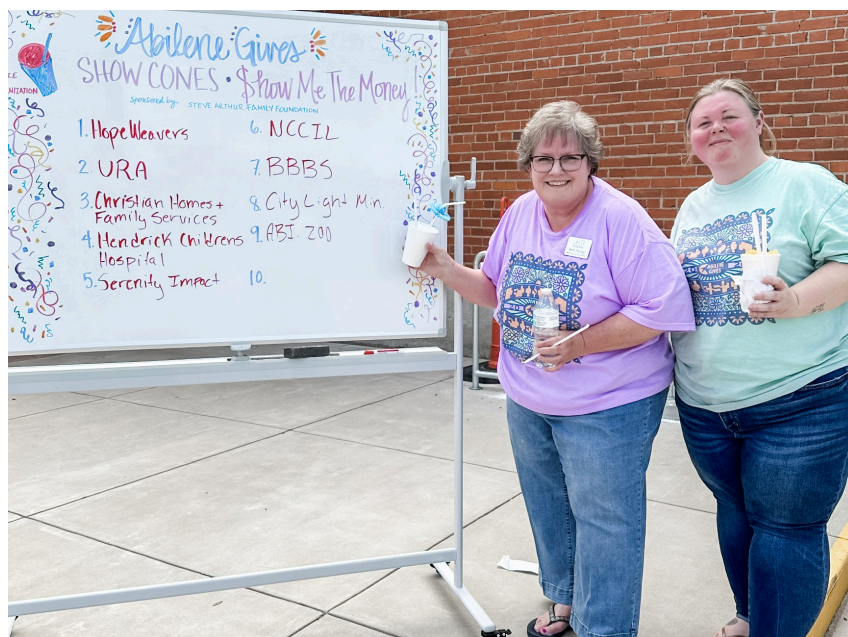


The Final Fiesta for Abilene Gives was truly a day to remember for City Light Community Ministries. The celebration began bright and early at 7:30 a.m. at First Financial Bank with mariachi dancers, fresh fruit, cheering, and excitement in the air. There were door prizes, Macarena dance-offs, and plenty of fun shared by all who attended.

We were incredibly blessed by a generous \$2,500 matching gift. Thanks to the kindness and support of our community, we not only met the match, we exceeded it!

Later in the day, nonprofits gathered at Community Foundation of Abilene for a midday snow cone break. Ten nonprofits had the opportunity to win an additional \$500 “snow cone prize,” and City Light was excited to be one of the winners. Standing in the Texas heat for 40 minutes turned out to be well worth it!

Donations continued to pour in throughout the day, and by the end of Abilene Gives, City Light had received **\$15,305** in donations. But the blessings did not stop there. A few days later, a sweet lady who had followed our Facebook posts throughout the day contacted the Community Foundation to learn more about City Light and the work we do for our neighbors. After visiting City Light in person and seeing the ministry firsthand, she graciously donated her tithe money to support our mission.



Because of this incredible generosity,
City Light finished Abilene Gives with a total of **\$15,841** raised.

The Sisters' Table

LAUGHTER AND LESSONS AT THE SISTER'S TABLE

Eighteen ladies gathered at the Sister's Table for a morning filled with laughter, fellowship, and learning.

Ann Mayhall shared a wonderful lesson on the 10 Commandments, teaching fun and creative ways to remember them in order through a catchy finger play that everyone truly enjoyed. She reminded the ladies that the first four Commandments teach us to honor God above all else, while the final six guide us in how to love and treat others with kindness and respect.

After the devotional, the fun continued with a lively left-right circle game featuring a slippery snake that had everyone laughing and smiling. It was a joyful morning centered on God's Word, friendship, and sweet fellowship together.





Backyard Bible Club AT THE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

With summer quickly approaching, it is time once again for Vacation Bible School at many churches. The Friendship House will be hosting a VBS program called "Backyard Bible Club" for children entering 1st grade through those completing 5th grade.

Each day, children will enjoy recreation time, snacks, crafts, and Bible stories in a fun and welcoming environment. Backyard Bible Club will take place Monday, June 22 - Thursday, June 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Backyard Bible Club would not be possible without volunteers. If you are available to help any day during the week, please contact David at friendshiphouse@fbcabilene.org or Ashley at ashley.adams@fbcabilene.org.

We are also accepting donations of snacks and drinks. All items should be individually wrapped or individually packaged.

Additionally, volunteers are needed on June 8 and 9 to help canvas the neighborhood and distribute flyers.

Thank you for supporting this ministry and helping us make Backyard Bible Club a wonderful experience for these children.

DAVID ADAMS
Friendship House

YOUR KINGDOM COME

PRAYERS FOR THE NEXT 150 YEARS

FIRST BAPTIST  CHURCH ABILENE

The heart of the Lord's prayer is "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." This summer, we are discerning God's will together in the next stage of our church's life. We are not asking what we should do for God, but what God is already doing and where we can join Him. FBC Abilene has a track record of listening to God and taking risks with God to do the work of God in Abilene and around the world. Our Family Life Center, Counseling Center, GLO, City Light, television ministry, and countless other ministries flowed out of our seeking God's will and discovering that God was at work all around us. How amazing it is that God invites us to join Him in creatively and compassionately reaching Abilene and beyond with the Gospel!

One conviction I have is that we pray before we plan. I'm sure strategic teams will be put together to answer the difficult questions our church faces. We will also have transitions in what our staff looks like going forward, starting this summer with the retirement of C.V. Blake.

All of this is a matter of prayer.

Here is our ask: take 10 minutes a day to pray for our church. In those 10 minutes each day, we are practicing discerning God's will together, surrendering to God before decision-making, and listening to God before acting

for God. Any ideas, revelations, prayers, or thoughts you have, write them down in your prayer journal. (The journal is yours! You will not be graded or have to turn it in to us!) On August 16, we will gather and talk about those nudges received by the Spirit. We trust that the Spirit will be speaking to the people of God, and that a common pattern emerges from the collected data of prayers this summer.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE OF PRAYER:

Listening Silence before God –

Take 2-3 minutes of silence to quiet your heart, mind, and soul.

Thanking God for our church and our community –

Spend 2-3 minutes in thanksgiving and gratitude for FBC Abilene and for our context in which we have to minister and live.

Confession –

Spending time purifying our hearts before the Lord is an important step in purposing God's will together.

Asking God the question of the week –

Each week, a question will be prompted along with the devotional which will be sent by email on Mondays.

Closing Prayer –

Lord, we believe our church is touched by You, that You want something for FBC and of FBC. Give us ears to hear You, eyes to see the tracing of Your finger, and a heart quickened by the motions of Your Spirit. Amen (Based on Prayer by Ruth Haley Barton in Pursuing God's Will Together.)

If you have not picked up your personal prayer journal, copies are available in the welcome center or the church office. If you need us to mail you one, please contact Susie Vandever (325-675-8013)

ILLUMINATION STATION JOHN 8:12

By Keathley Roan & Becky Tucker

What a fantastic and busy week we had at Vacation Bible School! Our week was filled with us asking questions about who Jesus is. We learned that: He is God's Promised Son, He is God's Perfect Son, He is the Powerful Son of God, He is the Proven Son of God, and He is God's Plan for Forgiveness. We started off each morning in the sanctuary for our Worship Rally where we spent time singing and focusing on Jesus being the Light of the World. From there, we had Bible study, music, missions, crafts, snacks, and recreation. Our more than 50 wonderful volunteers did a fabulous job teaching our 140+ children that Jesus came as the light to shine in a world that is darkened by sin and He is the Messiah and Savior.

We cannot thank each volunteer enough for all their help, whether it was: leading one of our rotations, leading a group of children, getting snacks for the children, bringing snacks for the volunteers, or helping us decorate. This wonderful VBS would not happen without these special people!

A special thanks to Katie Palmer for her vision and creative skills which helped us turn our church into such a fun and bright place filled with lots and lots of balloons, as well as other bright creations she came up with!





A big thank you also goes to Dylanne Abraham as she survived her first year of helping organize this wonderful event. We are very blessed to work with such a wonderful pastoral staff, they all stepped in where and whenever needed. We also want to thank all of you who prayed for this wonderful event. We are so blessed to have such a loving and giving church who allows us to provide such a wonderful week.



Prayer

FOR OUR SUMMER MISSIONARIES

Please join us in praying for Ethan Doyle, Haley Hampton, and Emma Griffin as they serve on mission trips this summer. Ethan will be traveling to Wales, Haley to Philadelphia, and Emma to Nicaragua. Pray that God would guide and protect them throughout their travels, give them strength and wisdom as they serve, and use them to share His love with those they meet. Pray for open hearts, meaningful connections, and lasting impact in each community. May these trips deepen their faith and allow them to be a light for Christ wherever they go.



Counselor Spotlight:

LAURA TAFF



Romans 8:18 reminds us that present sufferings cannot compare to future glory, and Romans 8:28 promises that God works all things for good. In difficult times, it can feel like things won't improve, but I know they can and often do. From a young age, I had a desire to help others. My own mental health journey with anxiety and depression led me to this field. After earning my Bachelor of Social Work from University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and marrying my husband; I began my career with Child Protective Services, a challenging role which taught me invaluable lessons. Following the birth of our second daughter, we moved to Central Utah, where my husband pastored a small Baptist church. We later returned to Texas, both earning Master's degrees from Hardin-Simmons University. During those busy years, I often studied in the hallways of FBC while our three daughters attended choir and G.A.s. While working towards my licensure, I worked with families of young children with developmental needs and parents involved with CPS. After obtaining my license as a professional counselor (LPC), I began practicing at MOCE (2011-2016). Our family later called us to Killeen to care for my father-in-law. In 2019, I received a call from MOCE offering a full-time position that led to my return to Abilene. Today, I serve full-time as the Multisystemic Therapy Supervisor at Betty Hardwick Center. I am blessed with a great team and we are able to help families work through some severe behavioral issues in the home environment. I am also blessed to return to MOCE part-time. The supportive, kind environment and dedicated board make it a truly exceptional place to work. I enjoy helping children and adults visualize and overcome what is keeping them from experiencing the joy and goodness that God desires for us. I am passionate about making mental health care accessible. I really enjoy play therapy with children and supporting parents with parenting issues, but also work with those with anxiety and depression. Part of my self-care is spending time with our adult daughters and crocheting.

STAY HYDRATED WITH STYLE THIS SUMMER

Need an easy way to stay hydrated this summer and at the same time let people know where you go to church? Well, here is a great way to accomplish both! We have 20 oz. water bottles with the church logo available for purchase, and you can get your very own in the church office. The bottles are \$30 and fit in the cup holder of your vehicle.



God's Little Ones DAY★CARE

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: Maria "Bonnie" Veracruz

Bonnie works with the 12–18-month-old children, where she provides a safe, loving, and nurturing environment allowing them to learn, grow, and explore. She demonstrates patience, kindness, and dedication each day, helping children develop important social, emotional, and developmental skills during these important early years.

She consistently creates engaging learning experiences, maintains positive relationships with families, and serves as a wonderful role model for both the children and staff. Her commitment to the well-being and success of every child in her care reflects the values and mission of GLO Day Care.



Ministry Spotlight:

CITY LIGHT

Community Ministries

SUNDAY BREAKFAST: 675

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST: 401

COMMUNITY LUNCH: 2,187

PRODUCE: 908

VOLUNTEER HOURS: 804

SHOWERS: 231

CLOTHING ITEMS: 403

CALLS AND VOICEMAILS: 361

MAIL CHECKS: 326

FRONT DESK WALK-INS: 2,627

DINING ROOM WALK-INS: 2,283



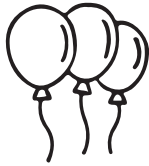
SMALL CLOSET, BIG NEED

City Light needs gently used summer clothing items. Because we have limited space in our clothing closet, we are currently accepting only specific seasonal items. If you are cleaning out your closets and have any of these needed items, please consider donating them to City Light. Your generosity helps us continue serving our neighbors with dignity and care.

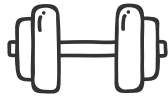
1. Men's shorts
2. Men's T-shirts or short sleeve polos
3. Women's shorts or capris
4. Women's T-shirts or casual tops (No Spaghetti Straps)
5. Jeans - all sizes

**PLEASE LIMIT DONATIONS TO
THESE SPECIFIC ITEMS**

Ministry Spotlight: FLC



68
PARTY
PACKAGES



683
FITNESS
CENTER USE



28
FITNESS
CLASSES



462
SERENITY
HOUSE
INDIVIDUALS



20
FULL BUILDING
RENTALS



699
WALK-INS



11
SPECIAL NEEDS
GROUPS



34
SCHOOL
GROUPS

EVENTS:

- Dyess Exceptional Families night
- Region 14, 3-day event for Early Head Start (380 kids and families)
- Texas 4000 Bicycle Riders (raising money for cancer) 18 riders spent the night. They are riding from Austin to Anchorage.

The Family Life Center opened in 1981. Our mission is to provide family-oriented activities for the church membership & surrounding communities in a Christian atmosphere at an affordable price. Our facility accommodates a variety of groups such as businesses, churches, day care/day camps, private home schools, public schools, individuals with special needs, universities, military, family reunions, residential treatment centers, exercise groups and Fellowship of Christian Athletes to list a few. We host birthday parties, bridal showers, wedding receptions and Family Fun Nights. In addition, we have a full fitness center with lockers, showers and sauna amenities. For those who simply want a place to walk, out of the weather, our track or gym is free to the public.

April & May 2026

Doing Good Things for Our Community

City Light Community Ministries is honored and grateful to have received two awards from the Food Bank of West Central Texas.

The first award, the **Feeding Hope Award**, was presented in recognition of City Light's outstanding commitment to serving individuals with nutritious meals while providing hope and dignity to neighbors in need.

The second honor, the **Model Agency Award**, recognizes City Light for achieving an exemplary level of excellence in the operation of its program as set forth by the Food Bank of West Central Texas, Feeding America, and the United States Department of Agriculture.



These awards reflect the hard work and dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners who help make our ministry possible each day. We are thankful for the opportunity to continue serving our neighbors with compassion, dignity, and the love of God.

City Light was blessed to have ATEMS High School Student Council and Condley and Company employees volunteer their time to serve our neighbors. We are so grateful for the help they provided and their servant hearts. If you, or a group, would like to volunteer, we would be happy to get you involved.

Please contact Beth Young (beth.young@fbcabilene.org).



To who it may concern,

We as a family thank you so very much for all you have done for us. From prayer for our family to a way to get back and forth. We will be forever grateful to you all for the grace shown. There is no words to convey how truly appreciative we are, Beyond Blessed...

We Love and Thank you for the Blessings everyone has provided. In Jesus name?

The Stewart family,
Elton, Shaina, and Madison.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

June 1, 25 years

JUDY SANTIBANEZ

GLO Teacher

June 5, 3 years

BETH YOUNG

Director of Community Ministries

June 24, 34 years

JEANNE JOWERS

Church Accountant

June 30, 1 year

ROB WESTMAN

*Director of Broadcasting/AV/Media
Production*

JUNE

5/30-6/6

Mexico City Mission Trip

3

Summer Fun Nights begin
@ FLC

5

Youth Fry-day Friday

7

Personnel Committee
Meeting
Summer SNASH (Youth)

8

AMTA Showcase Concert

10

Buildings & Grounds
Committee Meeting

14

Summer SNASH (Youth)

16-20

Youth Camp (Brownwood)

16

Finance Committee
Meeting
Deacons' Meeting

18

Men's Ministry Brown Bag
Lunch

21

Lord's Supper

22-25

Children's Camp
(Brownwood)

22

Youth Lunch Bunch
(Whataburger)

23

GLO Board Meeting

26

Youth @ Flying Bison Game

28

Next Steps Lunch
Sanctuary Choir/Orchestra
Program (In God We Trust)

29

MOCE Board Meeting
Youth Lunch Bunch (Bogie's)
Youth @ Free Play

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

May 2026

Budget	May	Year-to-Date
Required	\$310,100	\$1,406,500
Given	\$262,019	\$1,335,092

*God continues to bless our faithfulness
through the tithes and offerings given
to His Kingdom work.*



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH • ABILENE