

## Montwood Small Groups

Small groups help members connect with each other and grow in their faith in God. All groups welcome new members. Small groups this week:

### Tuesday

**Single Women** 6:30 p.m. in Room 7, Google Meet  
*Group will not meet in July; resumes August 4<sup>th</sup>*

### Wednesday

**Discipleship Dynamics** 6 p.m. in the Dining Hall  
**Contend for the Faith (Jude)** 7 p.m. in Room 10  
(led by Jim Kotter)

**Youth Group** 7 p.m. Room 34 (led by Adrian Luna)

### Thursday

**Overflow (Young Adults)** 6:30 p.m. at Tapscott's

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## This Week

**Retirees Luncheon** 11 a.m., June 15<sup>th</sup> at Rudy's, 3550 Joe Battle Blvd. RSVP with Cherry Potter.

**Ladies Game Night** 6 p.m., June 19<sup>th</sup> in the Dining Hall. Bring a snack to share. See Stephanie Duncan or Romy for details.

**Food Pantry Distribution** 7:30 a.m., June 20<sup>th</sup>

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## Please Be Advised

The church alarm code will soon change. If you have any church keys, please see Gina Hernandez or Adam Lewis for details and an updated code.

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## Family Bible Camp

**Snacks and cookies needed** by July 5th. Sign up sheets are at the welcome desk.

2026 Family Bible Camp | July 13-17 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Register today! See you there.

## How do I become a Christian?

We believe God's Word teaches we are saved by grace, through faith, at our baptism and remain so as we pursue the obedience of faith.

If you would like to become a disciple of Jesus, we invite you to come forward during our Response Time or meet with our leaders to further discuss what Scripture reveals.

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## How do I become a member of Montwood?

All disciples of Jesus are welcome to place membership with our flock. If you are interested in doing so, the shepherds would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss this.

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## Who we are:

MCOC is an undenominational, autonomous, independent Christian church. We believe in...

- a Triune God.
- the Deity of Jesus.
- the inerrancy of Scripture.
- the resurrection of the dead.
- the priesthood of all believers.

We invite all who want to know God in a personal way to join us as we work together at following Jesus every day.

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## Prayer Requests

Please continue in prayer for Christina Lewis, Ethan Williams, Samuel Alderete, Josefina Rodriguez, Jake LeMense

**Riki Pinales** is in a treatment facility. Prayers and letters of encouragement are welcome and can be given to one of the shepherds for delivery.

**Hope Morales** has been diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. The family welcomes calls or visits.

**Maria Macias** requests prayers for her son **Nick**, whose job with EPISD has been eliminated, and his wife **Jessica**, who is out of the hospital but still awaiting cancer-related biopsy results.

Send prayer requests to [prayer@montwood.org](mailto:prayer@montwood.org)



*A Church for You to Call Home*

**Sunday, June 14, 2026**

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**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."**  
**(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

**Scripture Reading** – John Kotter  
Proverbs 3:1-8

**Singing** – Carlos Gonzales

*Here I am to Worship*

*You Are Worthy of My Praise*

*Let Us Worship*

*We Will Worship the Lamb of Glory*

*We Will Glorify*

**Welcome & Prayer** – Carlos Gonzales

*Highly Exalted*

**Communion & Offering** - Adrian Luna

**Joy in Jesus** – Lonnie Tapscott

**KFC (ages 4-7)** – Shelby Oliver

**BAC (ages 8-10)** – Melissa Williams

**Sermon** – Jim Kotter

*"God's Positioning System"* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

**Response Time** – *Trust and Obey*

**Family News** – Lonnie Tapscott

**Graduate Recognition**

**Closing Prayer**

## The Lord's Servants

Preaching Elder: Jim Kotter

Preaching Elder: Lonnie Tapscott

Worship Minister: Carlos Gonzales

Family & Youth Minister: Adrian Luna

Missionaries:

- Paul & Claire Ahrens - Querétaro, Mexico
- Miguel Garcia - Zaragoza, Mexico
- Dionicio Santillan - Juárez, Mexico
- Kevin Montgomery - Texas International Bible Institute, Houston
- Dan & Sonia Koen – Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Greg Clodfelter – Nyeri, Kenya

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## Montwood Leadership

**Shepherds** (Shepherds@montwood.org)

**Jim.Kotter**@montwood.org, 915-328-2122

**Lonnie.Tapscott**@montwood.org, 915- 491-0374

**Demetrius.Williams**@montwood.org,  
915-433-5196

**Deacons** (Deacons@montwood.org)

Caleb Bloom, Keith Boutwell, Troy Cranston,  
AJ Leday, Adam Lewis

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## Visit us online to learn more

Montwood.org

Worship and class on YouTube  
@MontwoodChurchOfChrist



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## For the Week of June 7, 2026

Worship: 150      Budget: \$6,154  
Bible Class: 58      Contributions: \$5,579  
Midweek: 55

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries

17 - Bill & Cindy Covey ❤️

19 - Estefany Bloom

# THE PRICE OF SUCCESS

In three weeks, America will celebrate its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. The founding document of our country, *The Declaration of Independence*, concludes with a paragraph containing these words: “Resolved that these United colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved.”

This statement changed the course of history and still directly influences our lives today. While living in a free and independent nation affords us many blessings, it also presents us with a dangerous temptation, namely the notion that humans are truly independent of any higher authority. Believing that creates the idolatry of self-worship, which means living practically as if we don’t need God in our lives.

It is all too easy for our identity to be wrapped up in ourselves and this is furthered by many phrases we commonly hear:

**Following my heart will help me fulfill my dreams.**

**Hard work and perseverance makes me the best.**

**Success requires having a proper self-care regime.**

**Adhering to “my truth” will bring me happiness.**

These messages bombard us with the temptation to ignore God and make things happen ourselves because, after all, we are free and independent. This is a recipe for disaster in life, because one of the Bible’s main points is summarized by King Solomon:

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.**

**In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.**

**(Proverbs 3:5–6)**

Of course, knowing what to do and living that way are two different things, so here are some tips I find beneficial. You can help yourself remember these by reinforcing them as the **PRICE** of success:

**Prayer:** Frequently asking God to free me from my pride and the lie that I know what is best, so that I can trust him to guide me.

**Recognition:** Instead of patting myself on the back and admiring the successes of my life, I strive to acknowledge God’s goodness, grace, wisdom, and intervention as being the source of any success.

**Input:** Did I learn more today from God’s Word or from the time I spent on social media? Do I seek advice from a trusted Christian friend first, or is Google my default go to for help with my situation?

**Contemplation:** Taking a few minutes at the end of the day or prior to worship on Sunday (and saving the fellowship for afterwards) to reflect on the recent past. Were my decisions made with my own understanding, or did I rely on God’s insight? Did I forge ahead with my own ideas driving me or did I listen to what God says about godly living?

**Evaluation:** Do I act like I depend on God’s grace and forgiveness to find salvation? Does my life reveal that I am free from the idols of self-autonomy and self-reliance? Is my path truly following God or is it really the path of seeking my own glory?

Living in this radically countercultural way is the opposite of getting wrapped up in the ways of the world and constantly comparing myself (and my home, my wardrobe, the contents of our fridge, or my muscle definition or lack thereof) to others. These serve as distractions which cause the path of my life to be anything but straight. The comparisons I make, along with the entertainment I tune into and the people I spend time with, can fill my life with anxiety, envy, unhappiness, and rocky relationships. It may seem a paradox to those without spiritual vision, but renouncing temporary things as having no lasting value helps me to trust God (who controls eternity) with all my heart.

July 4th is Independence Day in our nation, but following the advice of Solomon is a Christian’s daily declaration of dependence upon God. Living out Proverbs 3:5–6 doesn’t mean everything is smooth sailing, but I hope that at the end of my life, I’ll look back and see how God made my path straight even when I tried to veer off in my own direction.

--- *Jim*