

# Gateway NEWSLETTER

September 2023

## MID-WEEK MINISTRIES

This summer we experimented with a small group bible study through the book of Galatians that was a great success. Now that summer as ended, our fall lineup is in full swing. This fall our adult series is centered around a training called The Peace-Making Church. We are learning that conflict is an opportunity to worship God by our response reflecting the peace He's made to us. AWANA is off to a great start with over 40 pre-k to 5th grade students. Volunteers are working through their opening books and kids are starting to earn AWANA bucks to use at the store in December. We also launched a new middle school environment called TUNE UP. The upstairs is looking cool. Middle school students are starting to let their friends know about this fun time. It's not too late to join up with any of these ministries. If you would like to volunteer with AWANA, we can easily find you a place. AWANA and TUNE UP begin at 6pm and the Adult Groups study begins at 6:30PM.

## GARAGE SALE

No, we still aren't selling garages, but we want to give you an opportunity to clear out some of your extras while not having to worry about people parking in your neighbor's yard. You bring your own items to sell, and you keep the money you make. We only ask for two things. 1) That you bring whatever doesn't sell home and do not leave at the church. 2) That you make a \$10 donation to the youth group who will load and set up your table. The garage sale will be on September 30th from 7am to 11am in the east parking lot.

## THANKSGIVING MEAL

Thanksgiving rolls in a little earlier this year, so our celebration meal is scheduled for Sunday, November 12th at 5:30pm. This will take the place of our Gateway Family Lunch, which will resume on January 7th. Our Thanksgiving meal is an opportunity to pray over all the shoeboxes we collected throughout the year. We'll also take time to share about what God has done in 2023. Shoeboxes are available in the sanctuary lobby and on the stage. Please return all of your filled boxes by Sunday, November 12th so we can deliver them before they are due.

## AWANA THEME NIGHT

On Wednesday, October 25th, our AWANA theme night will be 'Let's Go Racin'! If your child would like to participate in the Pinewood Derby at the car show, please bring \$10 for their car and everything they'll need to race. We'll take some time painting and decorating cars during game time. To help with some of our games, each group will need to wear a certain color on this night. Cubbies: Red. Sparks: Yellow. T and T: Green or your AWANA shirt.



### 2023 Calendar of Events

#### September

30.....Church-wide Garage Sale

#### October

25.....Awana Theme Night: Let's Go Racin!

28.....Car Show

#### November

12.....Thanksgiving Meal

17-19....Youth Convention

22.....No Mid-Week Programming

29.....Christmas Decorating

#### December

2.....Community Santa Picture

17.....Youth Christmas Party

20.....AWANA Christmas Party

21.....Cookies and Christmas Caroling

24.....Christmas Eve Service

## Cruisin' the Bluff Car show

The Annual Gateway Car Show, Cruisin' the Bluff, has now become an event that is causing excitement all over the city and is scheduled for Saturday, October 28th. We are looking forward to our 6th annual show with even more cars and vendors than ever! This year we will be incorporating a pinewood derby at the beginning of the show with our AWANA kids to help bring more people to the show and give them an opportunity to race their car! We'll still have the Hot Wheels race, food trucks, vendors and of course, all the cars. There are several ways you can help this year. You can take a shift at the registration table, fund raiser booth, concession stand or just walk around and talk to people who brought their car. All the money we receive for the car show will be used to buy supplies for next year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!





This is an exciting time for the youth at Gateway. Last month we were able to relaunch our youth ministry with a new name called REV. REV is short for reverend, which has a root word of veer that originally mean ‘to watch’. Someone who is revered is watched as an example because of a special position. Our mission is to accelerate stu-

dents towards Jesus and one another. As we are being watched as believers, we want to move people toward Jesus, the One who we revere most! There are two opportunities to participate in REV. First, JOURNEY takes place every Sunday night at 6pm. JOURNEY is for all middle school and high school students. TUNE UP is our middle school only group that is on Wednesdays that begins at 6pm. At JOURNEY and TUNE UP, students will play a few opening games, talk about the night’s topic, read or listen to teaching and then discuss their thoughts in small groups.

Our next big event with REV is the **2023 LCGYF Youth Convention**. This year Convention will be in Lake Charles at Christ Community Church. Convention is our state youth event that takes place over the weekend before Thanksgiving, this year being November 17-19. We will have five sessions with the other youth students from Louisiana Church of God churches and several activities throughout the weekend. Even though we’ll be in Lake Charles, we’ll still stay in a hotel to help bring that ‘convention feel’ to the event. Convention is \$125 + food, which will cover the Convention registration, a T-shirt, and the hotel cost.