

February
2025



Serving



A Special Message From Pastor Mike Hoppe

One question I always ask new people in our Discover Stillwater class is "If you had all the money in the world and never had to work again, what type of serving role would excite you? How would you love spending your free time to make a difference in the world?"

Everyone has an answer to this question. For example, we currently have a billionaire president who chose to serve in political office without pay. For me personally, running *for* office would never be my first choice - I might run *away* from office instead! That's why I'm thankful for people who feel called to serve in elected positions.

In the church, God's calling often intersects with our passions. Do you know where your passion aligns with God's calling for you? Identifying this intersection can help you find joy and purpose in serving.

One way to discover this is by considering what kind of serving role energizes you instead of draining you. What excites you enough to get out of bed in the morning? Some people love making BBQ, teaching children, doing maintenance on God's house, cooking for large groups, or showing hospitality. Some are passionate about being on stage, while others prefer behind the scenes. Some love organizing teams, preparing lessons, or using their hands to build or repair. What kind of service makes your heart sing?

If you're unsure, here are some practical steps to help you sense how God might be calling you to serve at Stillwater:

- 1. Listen Prayerfully to Announcements:** Our weekly e-newsletter and Sunday announcements highlight opportunities to connect with what God is doing throughout the week. Instead of zoning out, listen with a prayerful heart. God might be prompting you to try something new.
- 2. Explore the Serving Opportunities Sheet:** In the lobby, you'll find a serving opportunities sheet that lists many ways to get involved. Take a copy home, review it prayerfully, and consider how you might contribute.
- 3. Attend Discover Stillwater:** This four-week class is designed to help new people at Stillwater connect in meaningful ways beyond Sunday morning worship. It's a great place to discover where your gifts can best be used.

Serving not only makes a difference in the lives of others but also brings joy and fulfillment to the one who serves. Would you take a moment to pray about one new way God might be calling you to serve? Together, we can make an incredible impact for God's kingdom!


God Bless,
Pastor Mike
mike@stillwaterchurch.com

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE LOVE AND SERVE JESUS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER AND PROGRAM

Join us for Wednesday Night Dinner and studies! We have programs for all ages from nursery through adults. We have 3 adult group studies:

 1) **Alpha:** Are you seeking deeper faith, have questions, or wonder about God's plan for your life? This amazing course will help you seek faith in a judgement-free, safe environment. Invite friends and family to join us in the Fellowship Hall. Study facilitators: Pastor Tony, Laurie Anne Nix

2) **The Heart of Jesus:** A study of the book by author Max Lucado. This book explores the compassionate love of Jesus and challenges readers to reflect His heart in their daily lives. Study facilitator: Linda Burr

3) **Living Fearless:** A study of the book by the author Jamie Winship. This book explores how to overcome fear by embracing your true identity in Christ and walk in your divine purpose. Study facilitators: Cindy Messer and Lenzie Overton


Dinners begin at 5:30pm with the studies following at 6:00. Meal cost is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children, \$25 family maximum, and first-time guests and college students eat free.

TOWN HALL MEETING, FEB. 9

Our whole Stillwater family is invited to a church-wide town hall discussion on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 2pm, to share, pray, and get feedback on our vision to begin a new major mission project in our community. All are welcome.



ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

 Join us on March 5, for Wednesday night dinner at 5:30pm, followed by our Ash Wednesday Service with the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary at 6pm.

WELCOME! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU TODAY!

Greeters are a vital part of our Hospitality Ministry at Stillwater Church. We are looking for more friendly faces to expand this ministry. If you would like to know more about becoming involved as a Sunday morning or special event greeter, contact Betty Moyer at 251-604-0949 or betty@stillwaterchurch.com.



OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mondays - Food Pantry, 9-11am
- Tuesdays - Tues. Adult Small Group, 10am, Choir Rm
- Tuesdays - Prayer Team Meeting, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Thursdays - VIBE Ministry, 6pm, Sanctuary
- Feb. 2 - Men's Breakfast, 7am, Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 9 - Town Hall Meeting, 2pm, Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 9 - Student Gathering, 3-5pm
- Feb. 16 - Missions Team Mtg, 12pm, Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 20 - Nurture Team Meeting, 9am, Choir Room
- Feb. 21 - Club 345, 6-8pm, Fellowship Hall
- Mar. 5 - Ash Wednesday Service, 6pm
- Mar. 13-15 - Churchwide Yard Sale

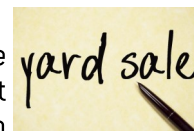
FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERVICES

During Lent, James Currie and the Prayer Team will be leading sermons on select Fridays at 6pm. Everyone is invited to hear the following messages:

- Mar. 7 "Why Did I Just Give Up __ for Lent?"
- Mar. 21 "Fasting Means More Than Food"
- Mar. 28 "Star Wars: Spiritual Warfare Isn't Just in the Movies"
- Apr. 4 "Is This How I'm Supposed to Spend My Fridays?"
- Apr. 11 "Faith, Friendship, and Forgiveness"

CHURCH-WIDE YARD SALE

It's time to do some spring cleaning! We are accepting donations of items to sell at our Church Yard Sale to be held on March 13, 14, and 15. Small items can be brought to the church Fellowship Hall. Pick-up of large loads or heavy items can be arranged. Contact the church office or Betty Moyer (251-604-0949) for more information. Sign-up sheets for workers will be posted on the ledge in the church lobby soon!



VISIONARY TEAM LEADERSHIP 2025

The leadership of your church for 2025 includes the following: Andy Smith (Chair), Joyce Boshell (Delegate), Jim Walsh, Pam Sasser, Scott Brookerd, Traci Smith, Dylan Armour, Eldon Burr, Lenzie Overton, Lorna Marchiolo, and Mike Robbins. Thanks to all who serve to expand God's work through Stillwater Church!

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE LOVE AND SERVE JESUS

FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES, "TOUGH QUESTIONS, REAL ANSWERS"

Join us in February as we continue the sermon series, "Tough Questions, Real Answers," a sermon series that tackles some of the deepest and most challenging questions of the Christian faith. Designed for seekers, new believers, and those looking to share their faith, this series offers clear, biblically grounded answers to some of faith's toughest questions.

SERMON SCHEDULE


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|---------|---|-----------------|
| Feb. 2 | "Is the Bible Reliable and Believable?" | 2 Peter 1:16-21 |
| Feb. 9 | "How Can We Know if Jesus Really Existed?" | Mt 16:13-17 |
| Feb. 16 | "Do Christians Respect the Beliefs of Other Religions?" | 1 John 3:13-16 |
| Feb. 23 | "What Do Christians Say About Evil Done in the Name of Religion?" | Romans 12:14-21 |



KIDS KORNER

CLUB 345 will meet on Friday, Feb. 21, 6-8pm. All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited to come enjoy **GAME NIGHT!** We will have dinner, a devotion, and play a variety of games together. Please let Ms. Betty know if your child plans to attend. Friends are always welcome!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for June 23-27.

 **MINISTRY SAFE TRAINING** is required for all adults who want to work with youth and/or children and all youth who want to work with children. If you have not completed this training, a couple of options are available. First, in-person training will be held on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 3pm. If you cannot attend the in-person training, an online option is available. Contact Ms. Betty or Pastor Tony for more information. A sign-up sheet is available on the ledge in the church lobby.

MISSIONS TEAM UPDATE



Thank you to all who donated blankets in January for our annual blanket drive, Blanket Mobile! The February Missions Spotlight is the 2025 Kentucky Mission Trip. Thirty-two people of all ages are going to serve with the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. Projects will be selected in March, and we will be serving June 8-14.

Your support in any way - whether financial or spiritual - is appreciated as we prepare for this trip. *"But be sure to fear the Lord and faithfully serve him. Think of all the wonderful things he has done for you."* 1 Samuel 12:24

STUDENT MINISTRY UPDATE

Alpha Youth

On Sundays, 4-6pm, our students will be growing in faith using Alpha Youth. As usual, Sunday afternoon youth group will still have great games and snacks, and our discussion time will give students the opportunity to ask questions about God. This is a great foundational course to invite friends who are seeking or growing in faith, and to help all students take the next steps in their walk with Christ.

Next Gen Sunday, Feb. 9

All of our students will help in both services on Feb 9! If your student can participate in the services that day, contact Pastor Mike so we can assign them to a role. Students will greet, usher, read scripture, create a video, and assist in other ways.

****On Feb. 9, students will meet 3-5pm due to Super Bowl Sunday.***

SERVE IN THE BACKPACK MINISTRY

Do you want to serve needy students in the Saraland School system? Ways to serve the Stillwater Backpack Ministry are packing food bags, delivering bags to the schools, and donating food items. Sign-ups are located in the church lobby Welcome Desk. This is an easy way for families or small groups to serve together. If you are serving this ministry for the first time, please contact the office (or Judy Callen) so we can show you how to pack bags and prepare them to be delivered to the schools.

***** Food items currently needed: Ravioli, Vienna Sausages, pudding cups, Capri Suns, fruit cups, cheese crackers.***



Happy Birthday!



- 02/02 John Andrews
Max Harrison
Justin Whisonant
- 02/03 Adam Bolen
Pat Brown
- 02/08 Christopher Hasiak
- 02/09 Linden Davis
James Spencer
- 02/10 Dylan Armour
Pat Hopper
Sarah Robbins
- 02/14 Mitch Caylor
Mary Ramer
- 02/16 Claire Robbins
Lizzy Whetsel
- 02/17 Byron Lance Overton
- 02/18 Donna Chestang
Katie Harrison
Ella Killingsworth
Cassie Moore
Bailey Smith
Chad Whetsel
- 02/21 Rachel Andrews
- 02/22 Lindsey Barbetta
- 02/24 Darrell Grimes
Trip Jennings
- 02/25 Josh Burch
Don Finklea
- 02/26 Hallie Stubbs
- 02/27 Charles Harrison
Tammy Wallace

Monthly Financial Update

	Attendance		General	Capital
	In-Person	Online	Fund	Fund
Jan. 5	176	74	\$ 14,269	\$ 385
Jan. 12	179	62	\$ 6,501	\$ 60
Jan. 19	158	80	\$ 8,714	\$ 60
Jan. 26	177	49	\$ 6,195	\$ 60

SYMPATHY TO...

~ The family of Maxine Dearman, who passed away.



**STUDENTS
AT WINTER
REVIVE**

WAYS TO GIVE

1. Scan the QR code with your phone.
 2. Mail your gifts to the church at P.O. Box 415, Saraland, AL 36571.
 3. Recurring giving online by creating an online giving account at <https://www.stillwaterchurch.com/online-giving>.
- Thank you for your faithful giving to God's work!



**Find us online at
stillwaterchurch.com and
Facebook. Email us at
info@stillwaterchurch.com.**

SERVE IN THE FOOD PANTRY

Join us in serving our community! Volunteers are welcome every Monday, 8-11am. You may also give directly to this ministry by entering "Food Pantry" on the memo line of your check or when you give online. Your gift helps touch the lives of people needing nutritious food, prayer, and a listening ear.

