

A Publication Of Marvin Church • June 2025



MarvinLife

Inside:
Graduating Seniors
and Fall Class info

As we enter the summer season here at Marvin Church, there are several special opportunities that await our participation: Mission Week, Vacation Bible School, and Love Thy City. Mission Week is scheduled to launch June 7 providing church members and friends many different opportunities to serve Christ in practical ways. Whether your interest is dress making, light construction repairs and painting, landscaping, organizing and sorting donations for one of our mission partners, or working at food pantries, there are a variety of service opportunities of which to avail ourselves, some indoors and some outdoors. Marvin Church, along with five other Methodist churches, will meet more than thirty needs in our community during this week of service. Our theme this year is "Who are you inviting?" with our theme verse being "Come, follow me," from Matthew 4:19. As a church, we are going to follow Jesus into Chrisitan service and trust God to do a good work.

As a part of our theme this year, I want to personally invite you to join me in serving our community. Serving the Lord is fun, and the best thing about Methodist Mission Week is that you can serve, make new Christian friendships, and go home and sleep in your own bed at night. Will you join me in being a blessing to others? Are you willing to take even one day and dedicate it to Christian service? All our cumulative service adds up to make a Kingdom impact. Are you willing to invite a friend to work alongside you? I guarantee you that your friendship will deepen and Jesus will meet you as you serve with others. You may never know the impact of what God will do through you when you show up for Christian service with God's people. God is always at work, and volunteering to serve others might give you a front row seat to see God's salvation work firsthand.

July 14-17, our church will once again host Vacation Bible School with large numbers of kids from the church and the community. Many volunteers are always needed to make this ministry endeavor successful, and last year I participated as a crew leader. Watching our children enthusiastically sing songs, listen to and engage in the gospel message, and enjoy Christian friendship and other activities, is a blessing. I hope that you will consider how you can help make this year's VBS a meaningful experience for our children. Together, we are raising up the next generation of Christ followers.

Lastly, our church will once again serve as one of the sponsoring churches for the Love Thy City event at the W.T. Brookshire Center and Rose Stadium on Saturday, July 19. As a church, we will begin praying for our city during the months of June and July asking God to bring unity to our city, revive us spiritually, and bring a

harvest of new believers. This year's one-day event will provide opportunities for service and will conclude with a large gathering in the evening for worship and preaching at Rose Stadium. I hope that you will join us in praying for the city in your daily prayer life. Prayer guides will be available at Midweek Meditation services and at the Welcome Center.

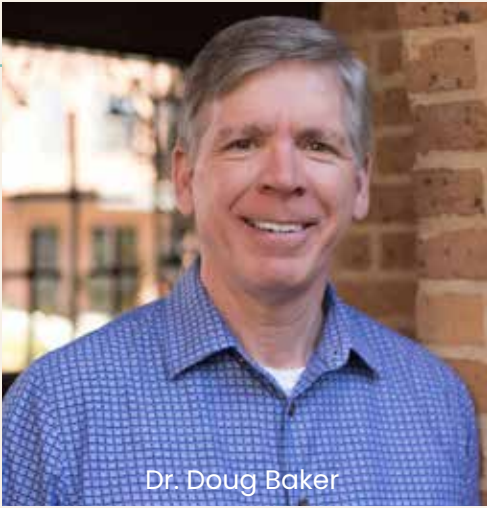
I want to conclude this article with a story that I read in Mark Batterson's book, Wild Goose Chase. If the title seems strange, I want to remind you that to Celtic Christians, the Wild Goose is the Holy Spirit. An Geadh-Glas means "the Wild Goose." The Holy Spirit cannot be tracked or tamed and to those who pursue life under His guidance, it is always an adventure. The following story illustrates what can happen when you show up to serve in Jesus' name.

While on a mission trip with his church in Central America, a young man named Adam was riding on a bus across the countryside to catch a ferry to the airport for the mission team's return trip home. To everyone's surprise, the bus driver pulled over to pick up a middle-aged hitchhiker who looked like he had been up all night and been walking for hours.

Raul boarded the bus and took a seat next to Adam. Batterson describes Adam as one of the most caring and friendliest people that he knows. Adam was also fluent in Spanish. During conversation, Raul shared with Adam that he had tried to commit suicide the night before by drowning himself in the ocean. His wife of thirty years had left him. Adam could relate to the man's plight because he too experienced an unwanted divorce when his wife left him years before. Similarly, he, too, responded to the relationship trauma with thoughts of suicide.

How is it that these two men from different countries, but similar life experiences, could end up sitting next to each other on a bus, both sharing a common language. In the words of Pastor Mark Batterson, "Setting up divine appointments in a different hemisphere is as simple for God as setting up an appointment with your next-door neighbor."

Adam greatly encouraged Raul that day and as the two new friends parted ways, Raul said, "I felt like God



Dr. Doug Baker

Reflections cont. on page 4



Join Us
in June!

Join the Ventures on June 26, as we take a day trip in Tyler to explore the rich history, architectural styles and interesting artifacts from the McClendon House and the Goodman-LeGrand House with a nice lunch in between at Prime 102.

The McClendon House was built on a 2-acre parcel of land in 1878 by Mattie and Harrison Whitaker. Throughout the years, the house became a hub for Tyler's social life.

The Goodman Le-Grand house was originally built in 1859 with a one-story four-bedroom building. Through the years as the Goodman family's dwelling, it has been remodeled into the house it is today.

Trip cost is to be determined, and more information will be on the Marvin website. Please call Kenley at 903-592-7396 X121 to secure a spot. Registration is required and will be open until June 12.



To Learn More, Save the Dates Now!

Marvin Methodist's Discipleship Committee is already planning for Fall 2025 Semester Wednesday Night Classes. To grow closer to God and your church family, please save your **Wednesday nights from Sept. 3 – Nov. 19**. Growing together is the best way to celebrate "Hump Day!" Here is what's scheduled so far, with updates to come:

The Walk —This class will help you move from "Growing in Christ" to "Close to Christ." If your faith walk feels more like a treadmill or a mountain you can't climb, come learn how to take steps to get you over the hump and back on track.

What Did John Wesley Say About... — If you're new to the Methodist denomination or if you want to know more about the teachings of our founding father, come learn what John Wesley had to say about a variety of spiritual topics from grace to angels to heaven and more.

Life to Life — Jesus understood the power of pairs. He sent his disciples out in teams to share, grow and witness together. This study will pair two people together to learn from each other about how to live as Christ.

Catechism of the Global Methodist Church — It's never been more important to know what you believe and why you believe it. This class shares our denomination's foundational beliefs, each supported by scripture and historic church doctrine. This class will not only help you but will help you share your faith with others.



Serve Night at East Texas Food Bank



We are Fans!

Thank you for funding 65 fans during our fan drive! Fans will go to PATH and Love Thy City!



Reflections cont.

was never there for me, but on this day, I found the God who has been chasing after me."

Is there someone that God has for you to connect with this summer? Why not extend a few invitations to work with someone at Mission Week, help with VBS or serve together at Love Thy City? You may be a part of a life-changing divine appointment for yourself or another.

Sharing the Adventure,


Doug



Mark your calendars for July 19

Event starts at 11 a.m.
at the W.T. Brookshire
Conference Center.

VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORT NEEDED

Visit lovethycity.org
for more information
about the event

Easter Offering

Thank you, Marvin family, for supporting our annual Easter offering for Missions. We collected right at \$22,000. Funds will be distributed locally to the Mentoring Alliance and the East Texas Food Bank and also to the GMC Disaster Fund account through our Trinity Conference.



Habits of the Heart: We are collecting travel size sunscreen and bug repellent spray to support Hwy 80 rescue mission



Next Serve Night Monday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m.
Remember – no Serve Nights in June, July or August.



Ways to Serve

Sweets for the Soul:
June 9 as a part of Mission Week!

On the Ground in Ukraine: A Journey of Presence, Pain, and Hope



Just recently, Chris and Christy Hill returned from Ukraine. They reunited with seven of their Ukrainian Ministry Partners, along with seven of their children—and two small but spirited dogs. It was deeply meaningful to be together again, not just as colleagues, but as one family.

In the days leading up to our travel, we found ourselves offering reassurance:

"It's fairly safe where we'll be."

"We'll be in a calmer part of the country."

And, in many ways, that was true.

We experienced only a few air raid sirens. There were no missile strikes in our immediate vicinity. By most standards, we were safe.

But the reality in Ukraine is that war touches everything—and everyone. Even where the bombs do not fall, the burden of conflict is carried daily.

Before we even crossed the border, our Polish taxi driver shared somber news: a missile had struck Sumy that morning. Grief and vigilance are ever-present, even outside the borders of Ukraine.

One of our Ministry Partners has a husband currently serving on the front lines. He fights not only for Ukraine, but for the safety of his wife and children back home.

The lady who served as our translator and driver this trip lost her husband about a year and a half ago. He was a soldier who died defending Ukraine.

Each morning during our stay, our team members shared news from home:

- An attack in Kamianske, with missiles landing just 300 yards from their homes.
- A strike in Dnipro, where one partner's daughter learned that her classmate had been killed when a missile hit her dormitory.

We are a small organization. But this war touches all of us—both American and Ukrainian members of our team. It is not an abstract event on the news. It is personal. It is real. It is unfolding in the lives of people we love.

And yet, in the midst of such uncertainty and pain, our Ukrainian staff continues to serve. They continue to bring hope, to care for others, to be a light in what can often feel like a very dark time. Most importantly, God's Kingdom continues to grow in Ukraine.

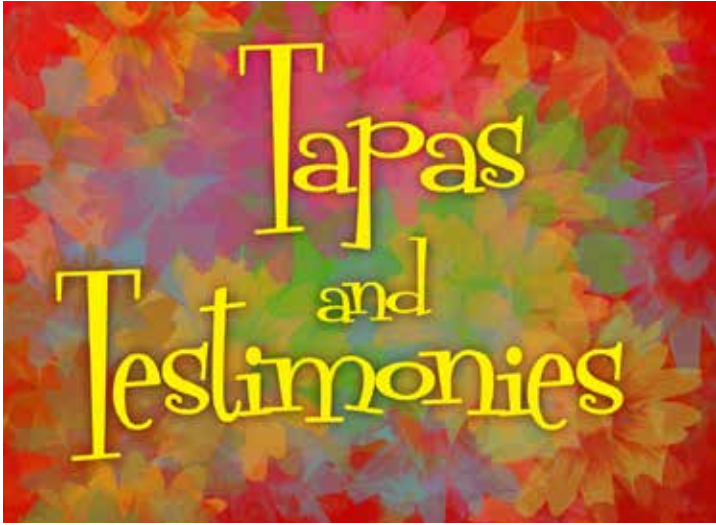
A3 Retreat

At the beginning of May, a team from Marvin went to Japan to serve with Robert and Roberta Adair by taking care of the worship and kid's ministry for their mission agency's A3 (Asian Access) retreat. We read bible stories, sang karaoke, ate American snacks, sang worship, played in the river, played basketball, tried new foods, learn a few Japanese words, went on walks in nature and also down the street to the local 7-Eleven. The ministry of just being present with God's children is so sacred and holy. Marvin was truly blessed to get to help serve and be a part of being the hands and feet of Jesus alongside the Adair family in Japan. Thank you, Marvin Church, for your continued generosity towards missions which allows us to support heroes of the faith like the Adair's. In Japan as it is in Heaven.



Upcoming Mission trip:
Northern Japan Spring 2026


Contact Adam – akovach@marvin.church



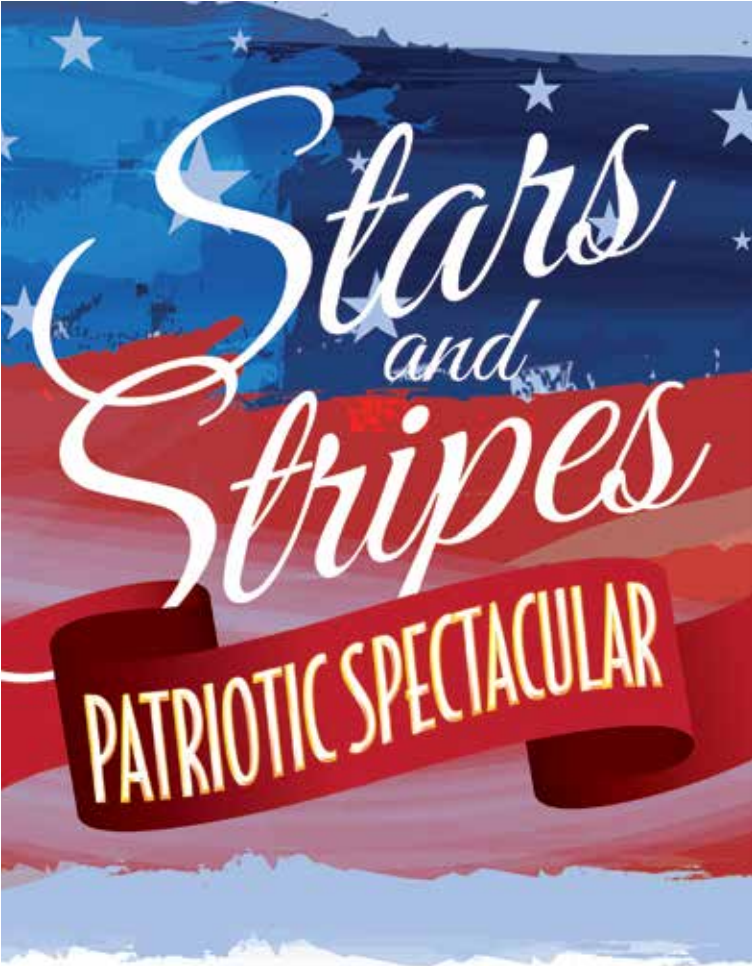
Tuesday, July 22. 6 p.m.
Willow Brook Country Club
Registration Fee: \$40 Registration is open!
Visit the marvin.church event page. \$40




Moms of Marvin at Night is a group for mothers of preschoolers who need to meet in the evening. They will meet at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month for fellowship, encouragement, and to experience the transforming power of God's presence. We hope to see you on June 12 & 26, and we encourage you to bring a friend!




To stay up to date on Marvin Women's Ministry gathering and opportunities be sure to text **"womens"** to **90382**.





Friday, July 4, 2025
4 p.m.
Sanctuary



Come early to get a seat!

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Britney Macedo

Fifteen years ago, Britney Macedo found herself needing somewhere to work while also being able to take care of her then 6-month-old. She heard that the nursery at Marvin was needing help in childcare area and applied for the position. Time has flown by and fifteen years later, you will find Britney planning activities for events like J.C.&Me, VBS, Brick Street Block Party; choosing lessons for Sunday, Midweek, Edge study; teaching elementary Sunday School in any of the classes.

When Britney was offered the position in the childcare area fifteen years ago, she never imagined that she would be met with so much grace and love or that she would continue to find that same grace and love from the church on a daily basis. Throughout the years, the love she has received from families of Marvin, the friends she has made at Marvin, and the current and former staff members, has allowed her to grow in love.

There is never a dull moment in the life of a Kids Ministry leader. Each moment is full of surprises, but Britney said they are all worth it when you see children in your ministry asking Christ into their hearts or watching a student graduate and become an adult.

Britney was born and raised in Tyler but now lives in Whitehouse. This year she will be celebrating 13 years of marriage to Guillermo Macedo. They have a combined family and together have 6 children, 3 who are adults who are out on their own now and raising their own families, and 3 lovely boys at home. Jr is 15 and is finishing his ninth-grade year. He attends Whitehouse High School where he plays in the band and football. Bryan is 12 and is finishing sixth-grade at Hollaway School in Whitehouse where he plays in the band and plans to play football and maybe other sports next year. Aiden is finishing first grade at Higgins Elementary. He loves animals and all things Jesus.

Outside of work, you will find Britney spending time with her family and friends, fishing at Lake Tyler, crafting, and shopping.



MEMORIALS as of May 7

ETERNAL FLAME

In memory of Barbara Love
Evalyn Free
Marilyn & John Hardy
Charlotte Wilson

In memory of Carol Gernand
JoAnn Sneed

In memory of Nancy Thornton
Marilyn & John Hardy
Seekers Class
Emily Smith
Margaret & Tom Stewart
Charlotte Wilson

In memory of Vergil Rodgers
Betty & David Couch
Marvin Methodist Church

In honor of Leanne & Marc Donaldson
Carrie & Rocky Gill

MARVIN CONCERT SERIES

In memory of Tandy Brandt
Bill Brandt

In honor of Kara & Jonathan Story
Anita Nourse

MARVIN METHODIST FOUNDATION

In memory of Barbara Love
Louise & Jeff Arnold
Peggy & John Berry
Ann & Brad Brookshire
Generations Class
Misty & Justin Jones

MISSIONS

In memory of Kip Camp
Joyce Camp
Trudy Fisher

In memory of Barbara Love
Cathy & William Hardy

MUSIC

In honor of Aria Story
Anita Nourse

Financial update through April					Attendance
	April budget	April actual	YTD budget	YTD actual	
Gifts received/other income	\$ 341,000	\$ 307,482	\$ 1,364,000	\$ 1,444,149	April 6..... 921
Expenditures	\$ 420,135	\$ 390,888	\$ 1,677,138	\$ 1,504,916	April 13..... 998
Excess/(shortage)	\$ (79,135)	\$ (83,405)	\$ (313,138)	\$ (60,768)	April 20.....2,558
					April 27..... 739

Focus On: The Eternal Flame Fund

The Eternal Flame Fund is supported by gifts from the congregation for projects at Marvin Church not covered by the annual operating budget. This fund is supported in part by the annual Eternal Flame Fund Dinner. Gifts to the Eternal Flame Fund may be made at any point during the year and may be made in honor or memory of loved ones or friends.

One hundred percent of your Eternal Flame Fund gift is restricted for the care and maintenance of the church and campus, and these projects are determined by the Church Properties Committee.



Save the Date for the 2025 Eternal Flame Fund Dinner – Tenth Anniversary!

Please mark your calendar for the Tenth Anniversary Eternal Flame Fund Dinner to be held on Thursday, August 21 in Pirtle Hall. The special guest speaker for the evening will be our very own Dr. John Wayne McMann who now serves as Lead Pastor at First Methodist Conroe (FMC). John Wayne is also planting a new worshipping community in The Woodlands Hills development in Willis, Texas. Before becoming the lead pastor at FMC, John Wayne was the lead pastor of Vine Worship at Kingwood UMC for six years and Lead Pastor of Core Worship here at Marvin Methodist Church for two years.

We are delighted to extend a huge Tyler welcome to John Wayne as he serves as our special guest speaker on what promises to be a wonderful evening!

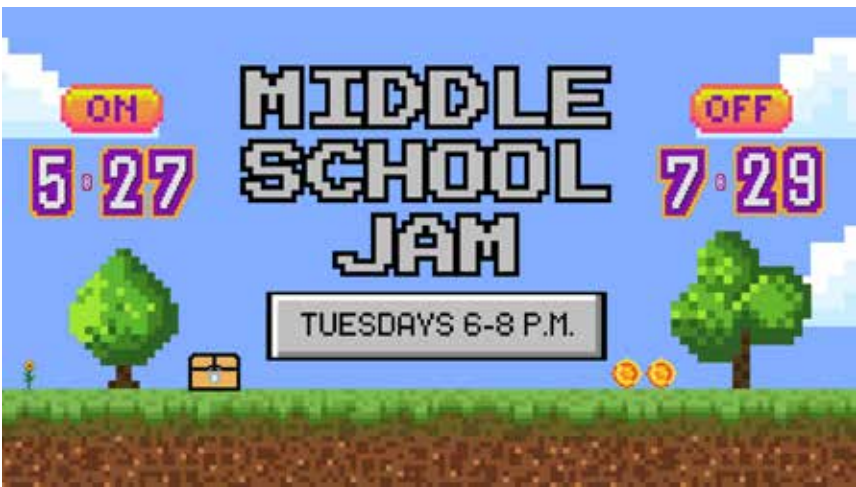
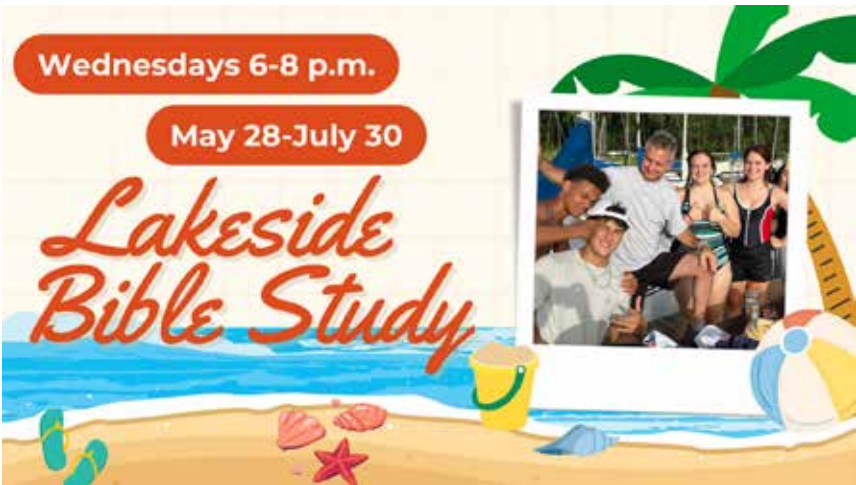


A Crazy Month for Marvin Students!

The students went on a Mystery Trip to Frisco where they saw the Roughriders' baseball game, stayed overnight at FMC Irving, went indoor rock-climbing, and of course, made a Buc-ees stop on the way home. It was a ton of fun and the students are still talking about it! I guess this is going to become a yearly occurrence due to popular demand.

The student ministry also said their goodbyes to Associate Student Director, Stephen Hughes. While his last official day was May 18 (Senior Sunday), the students had a huge send-off party with Texas Taco and Pokey-O's food trucks during the final Sunday night of the semester. Stephen was presented with some special gifts from the students, including a canvas picture collage and a special picture frame, signed by each of the students. We will miss him dearly, but we know God has great things planned for him in Houston!

Upcoming events: Middle School Jam begins on May 27. This is for all middle school students, including those who are going into sixth grade. High school Lakeside Bible Study begins May 28 at the Tyler Yacht Club. Both events run for the entire summer and will have tons of fun, food, and devotional times, with the focus being on building close relationships through smaller groups. June 10-11 the students will be doing their mission project by painting the entire exterior of a man's house! You don't want to miss that. June 27-29, the ministry will be hosting a Discipleship Now on campus! If you don't know what a DNow is, it is essentially church camp crammed into two days. It consists of a famous band (Remedy Drive), a speaker, fun, games, food, and staying at Marvin member homes with their group leaders and host families. This is a highlight spiritual formation event and often is one of the most forming yearly events in a student's life! For more information or to sign-up, please contact Jonathan Becker.



Congratulations

CLASS OF 2025!



Olivia Lindsey
Tyler Legacy High School



Kassidy Meyer
Whitehouse High School



Will Barker
Tyler Legacy High School



Brooke Cooley
Whitehouse High School



Emefa Nartey
Tyler Legacy High School



Katherine Neal
Grace Community



Kim Cravioto
Tyler Legacy High School



Marcus Donaldson
Tyler Legacy High School



Kalea Phillips
Tyler Legacy High School



Jay Shaffer
Tyler Legacy High School



Ja'Tean Hampton
Tyler Legacy High School



Reagan Jones
Tyler Legacy High School



Matthew Wright
All Saints



Micah Young
All Saints



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KIDS

LIVE IT OUT VBS is coming!

Check out these important dates:

VBS Work Night

June 25 & July 9, 6-8 p.m., Pirtle Hall

Join us as we prep for VBS with projects for all ages! Snacks and childcare provided.

VBS Work Day

July 8 & 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Help us bring the church to life as we prep for a great week of VBS. Bring your lunch and a friend and join us! Nursery provided.

VBS

July 14-17, 8:30 a.m.-noon

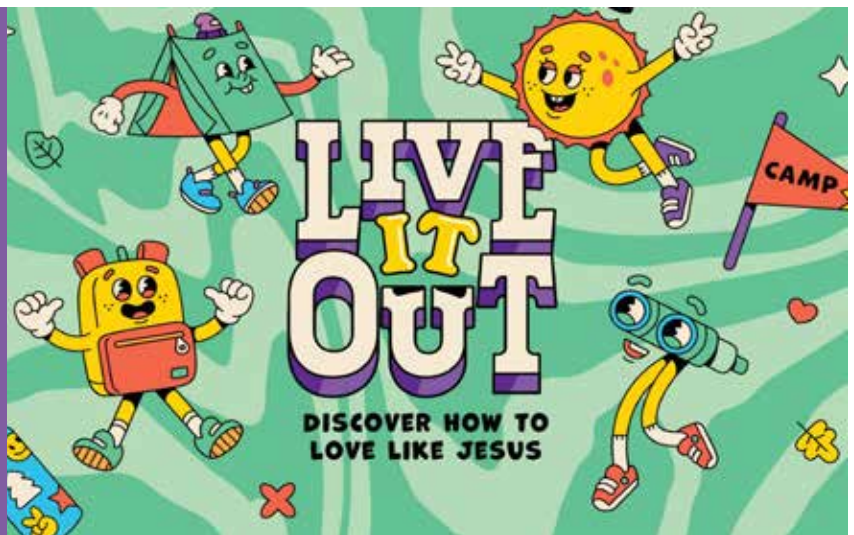
For completed K to 5th grade
(Pre-K VBS available for volunteers)

The adventure awaits! Gather your gear, pack your bag, and get ready as we make this year's VBS an unforgettable experience as we discover how to love like Jesus!

Celebration Sunday!

July 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Let's celebrate all God has done during the week of VBS with a morning of kids leading in worship, inflatables, face painting, and more!



VBS 2025!

**Register and more info:
scan the code!**