

A close-up, monochromatic photograph of an elephant's head, focusing on its trunk and the texture of its skin. The elephant's trunk is the central focus, showing its characteristic rings and texture. The skin around the trunk and on the elephant's face is highly detailed, with deep wrinkles and folds. The elephant's ears are visible on either side, partially framing the central trunk. The overall tone is dark and moody, with a focus on natural textures and patterns.

FIRST WOODWAY SPRING 2026

ZAKAR

FELLOWSHIP MEALS | ADULT DISCIPLESHIP | CARE GROUPS | COLLEGE, YOUTH, & KIDS

ZAKAR

WE ARE NOT FORGOTTEN. WILL WE REMEMBER?

זכר

Zakar is the Hebrew term for remember, but its meaning goes beyond simply recalling something. To *zakar* is to focus our attention, to fix our gaze on something to act.

First Woodway is in a season of expectancy. We are praying in daily moments, gathering in quarterly nights of prayer, and engaging in monthly fasts. We are waiting for the Lord to do something new. But to look forward with expectant hope, we must first look back with blessed assurance. We must *zakar*. We must remember to return to our identity in the Father's love, to restore our brokenness in the Son's life, and to respond with obedience to the Spirit's direction. We no longer work *toward* significance, acceptance, or rest. We work *from* them.

This is the posture of discipleship—remembering and responding. The work is finished. We are not forgotten. Will we remember?



**SCHEDULE
& MEALS**

03

Wednesday evening timeline & menu

**NEXT
GENERATIONS**

15

Wednesdays for College, Youth, & Kids

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**ADULT
DISCIPLESHIP** 05

Wednesday, weekday, & weekend classes

**CARE
GROUPS** 11

Sanctuary of hope and healing

**CHURCH
STAFF** 19

Discipleship & Care ministry staff

**SIGN
UP** 21

Ways to register for classes & groups

5:00

5:30

6:00

6:30

7:00

7:30

8:00

8:30

5:00 - 6:15 pm

Wednesday Night Meals

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Adult Discipleship Classes

Adult Choir

Kids Discipleship Classes

Kids Choir (KREW)

6:30 - 7:00 pm

High School

Snack Shack

7:00 - 8:30 pm

High School WNL

(Wednesday Night Live)

6:30 - 7:45 pm

Middle School

PrimeTime

7:30 - 8:30 pm

College Fellowship

WED NIGHT SCHEDULE & MEALS

Wednesday Night Meals are served from 5:00 - 6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall before our studies. Adults cost \$10, kids (5 - 12 years old) cost \$5, and kids 4 and under eat free. All meals include tea, water, coffee, salad, and a homemade dessert. Scope out the menu ahead of time here and make your reservations on the website (firstwoodway.org/discipleship), on the church app (look under News + Events), or call the church office (254.772.9696). You may also scan the QR code on page 22 to launch the registration form and sign up.



**JAN
21** **BARIS
RESTAURANT**

Dee's Special, salad, & rolls

**JAN
28** **TONY DEMARIA'S
BBQ**

Pulled pork sandwich,
BBQ beans, & chips

**FEB
04** **ROSA'S
CAFE**

Beef & chicken enchiladas, Mexican
rice, refried beans, chips, & salsa

**FEB
11** **BJ'S
RESTAURANT**

Sal's Brewhouse Chicken (lemon
butter sauce & mushrooms), white
cheddar mashed potatoes, &
roasted asparagus

**FEB
18** **TEJUN
CAJUN**

Shrimp boil: shrimp, sausage,
red potatoes, corn on the cob,
& hush puppies

**FEB
25** **BLANEK'S
CATERING**

Chicken with three-cheese
tortellini, broccoli in alfredo sauce,
green beans, & salad

**MAR
04** **CRACKER
BARREL**

Breakfast for dinner: biscuits &
gravy, ham, egg & cheese
hashbrown casserole, bacon, &
fried cinnamon apples

**MAR
18** **OLIVE
BRANCH**

St. Patrick's Day meal
(More details to come!)

**MAR
25** **HELBERG
BBQ**

Chicken thighs, mac 'n' cheese,
& street-style corn

**APR
01** **GEORGE'S
RESTAURANT**

Ham, mashed potatoes,
& carrots

**APR
08** **CHEFITO'S
LATIN CUISINE**

Picadillo, rice, & black beans

**APR
15** **SALTGRASS
STEAKHOUSE**

Choice of: cheeseburger or
grilled chicken & bacon
sandwich, broccoli, & chips



זכר


ISAIAH 46:9

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES FOR
ADULTS

*Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God,
and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.*

ADULTS


WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES | SPRING 2026

     
Wed 6:30 pm Jan 21 10 weeks \$21 RSVP

HE'S WHERE THE JOY IS

For Women Only | Led by GinnyLee Ellis







If you've ever been part of a Bible study or Sunday school class that discussed the Trinity, you've likely heard analogies of shamrocks, eggs, and H₂O. Every analogy of the Trinity breaks down at some point because there's nothing in existence quite like God. Even so, we crave analogies because they help our finite minds simplify God, and we prefer to simplify Him because it's easier than studying His complexity. However, simplified explanations fall short in our relationship with God. By the end of this study, you'll be shocked at the dimension, texture, and beauty you discover in the triune God. After all, He's where the joy is! (Class cost includes the book.)

     
Wed 6:30 pm Jan 21 12 weeks None RSVP

PRAYER GATHERING: 1 PETER

For Men & Women | Led by Case Smith & Connor Griffin


Join the First Woodway ministerial staff in a time of prayer for our church and walking through the book of 1 Peter.

     
Wed 6:30 pm Jan 21 12 weeks \$30 RSVP

LOVE TALK: IMPROVING COMMUNICATION IN MARRIAGE

For Married Couples | Led by Elizabeth Oates

If you and your spouse want to crack the code on your personal talk styles and improve communication in your marriage, then join us this semester for *Love Talk*, a 12-week class for married couples. Through videos, homework, and small group discussion, we will discover the importance of *how* we communicate, when *not* to communicate, the importance of listening, and the secret to emotional connection through healthy communication. (Class cost is per couple and includes two books per couple plus two workbooks per couple.)

     
Wed 6:30 pm Jan 21 12 weeks None RSVP

ROMANS

For Men & Women | Led by Jeremy Webb

Join us this spring for an exegetical and expositional study of Romans 9-16, the climactic conclusion of Paul's greatest letter. With the gospel and salvation still primary themes, chapters 9-11 reveal the wide scope of God's redemptive purposes, displaying His



Meeting Day



Meeting Time



Start Date



Duration



Cost



Childcare

(Class members who prefer to purchase the class book on their own do not need to pay the class fee.)

sovereign grace and unfailing faithfulness. Chapters 12-16 then reveal the transformed life that flows from salvation: presenting ourselves as living sacrifices, being renewed in mind and character, and exercising gifts of grace within the body of Christ. As we walk through these chapters together, we'll deepen our grasp of God's plan, grow in Christlikeness, and be equipped to live and serve with clarity, conviction, and obedience.



Wed



6:30 pm



Jan 21



10 weeks



\$14



RSVP

ANCHORED: NAVIGATING YOUR 20s WITH CHRIST-CENTERED STABILITY






For Men & Women Under 30 | Led by Tim Harrison

Your 20s are full of big decisions, new challenges, and exciting opportunities. Together, we'll explore practical truths for faith, relationships, and purpose so we can walk confidently with Jesus. Join us as we consider what it looks like to navigate life with a Christ-centered stability. *(Class cost includes the book.)*



ADULTS

WEEKDAY & WEEKEND CLASSES | SPRING 2026

 Sun  5:30 pm  Jan 18  6 weeks  None  None

CHRISTIAN WRITER'S WORKSHOP

For Men & Women | Led by Michelle Ruddell

Do you have a story that needs to be told? Maybe it's a story of God's faithfulness or a family history you want to preserve. CWW offers education, inspiration, and encouragement to all writers from beginners to published authors. Get to know other writers as we share information and sharpen our skills. Sessions include short writing assignments and instruction for writing improvement.

 Mon  9:00 am  Jan 26  11 weeks  None  RSVP

THE DWELLING: "TURNING WEAKNESS INTO STRENGTH"

For Moms w/ Kids Who Still Live at Home | Led by Vicki Lassiter

Do you struggle with a "weakness"? Something weighing you down and limiting your ability to fully invest in life? Maybe it's a physical limitation like chronic pain or an emotional impediment like anxiety

or depression. Whatever the case, ongoing weaknesses frustrate us and scream for our attention. What if God wants to use our weakness for His glory and our good? In Hebrews 11, the Hall of Faith Fame speaks of ordinary men and women whose faith in the one and only God propelled them to be used in mighty ways. A phrase in the middle of that chapter reads, "whose weakness was turned to strength." That's our theme for the spring semester at the Dwelling—"Turning Weakness into Strength: A Look at the Weak Whom God Used for the Mighty." (*There is a separate registration form for this class. Please see page 22 to sign up.*)

 Tue  9:30 am  Jan 20  11 weeks  \$12  None







JUST MOVED

For Women New to Waco | Led by Nancy Jackson

Moving to a new city presents many challenges and lots of hard work. That's why we are pleased to offer a Christ-centered study titled, *After the Boxes Are Unpacked: Moving On After Moving In*. This powerful, hands-on class uses Biblical principles and practical how-to's to help you make new friends and get acquainted with other women also new to the Waco area. (*Class cost includes both the book and binder.*)

 Meeting Day
  Meeting Time
  Start Date
 Duration
  Cost
  Childcare







(Class members who prefer to purchase the class book on their own do not need to pay the class fee.)

 Wed
  9:00 am
  Jan 21
  7 weeks
  \$25
  None

THE KING'S DAUGHTERS: "LUKE IN THE LAND"

For Women Only | Led by Jan Gilbert

Follow Kristi McLelland as we study snapshots from the Gospel of Luke to see where the stories of the Bible took place. Seven sessions in this Bible study will challenge the way we read the accounts of Jesus. Together, we will study the workbook and watch teaching videos taking us to various locations in Israel like Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Jerusalem, and the road to Emmaus. Along the way, we will see how Jesus, the Messiah, brought His kingdom to earth for everybody. *(Class cost includes the book.)*







 Thu
  6:30 am
  Ongoing
  Ongoing
  None
  None

WAYWARD MEN

For Men Only | Led by René Maciel

This early-rising group of men meets on Thursday mornings in The Venue to grow in the faith and in community together. Their Bible

study time is always accompanied with donuts and coffee, and they would love for you to join them! Please contact René Maciel at rmaciel@firstwoodway.org with any questions.

 Fri
  7:30 am
  Ongoing
  Ongoing
  None
  None

GSS (GOD'S SEEKERS & SEARCHERS)

For Men Only | Led by Dr. Weldon (Sony) Kunkel

This group's primary focus is to choose a book in the Bible for in-depth study. This group is not limited to First Woodway members but welcomes all men from the community who have an interest in understanding the Scriptures. If you are interested in joining or have questions, please contact Don Addison at daddison@hotmail.com.



זכר

PSALM 77:11

CONGREGATIONAL
CARE

I will *remember* the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will *remember* your miracles of long ago.

CARE

CONGREGATIONAL CARE GROUPS | SPRING 2026

Mon 

DIVORCECARE

**For Those Affected by Divorce
Led by Leon & Jo Williams**

6:30 pm 

Jan 12 

13 weeks 

None 


Rm 204 

Healing from divorce is not easy. At DivorceCare, people in separation and divorce find tools, teaching, and support to help them deal with their pain and give them hope for the future. If you are facing this, you know it's a confusing time in which you feel isolated and have questions about issues you've never encountered before. DivorceCare meets weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. This 13-week, Christ-centered program includes three main parts: video, group discussion, and personal Bible study. Our last meeting for the spring semester will be on Apr 13. *(There is a separate registration form for this group. Please see page 22 to sign up.)*

Mon 

PORCHLIGHT


**For Loved Ones of Those
Struggling with Addiction
Led by Brad & Lisa Hyde**

6:30 pm 

Jan 12 

13 weeks 

None 

Rm 217/18 

Many families in our church share the same private struggle: a child or loved one who has wandered from God, or fallen into addiction or a pattern of poor choices. PorchLight, a care group that helps families navigate this chaos, was birthed by Brad and Lisa Hyde out of their own experience as parents of a child who struggles with addiction. Whether a child, spouse, sibling, or parent—PorchLight is for those suffering along with their addicted loved one. No sign-up needed.

SAVE THE DATE: CARE DAY 2026 | SUNDAY, FEB 1



Meeting Day



Meeting Time



Start Date



Duration



Cost



Location

(Childcare is unavailable for all Care Groups.)

Wed



GRIEFSHARE

**For Those Who Have Suffered
the Loss of A Loved One
Led by Dianna Palich & Jan Thrower**

6:00 pm



Jan 21



13 weeks



None



Rm 224/25



GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences: losing a loved one. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. Our last meeting for the spring semester will be on Apr 22. *(There is a separate registration form for this group. Please see page 22 to sign up.)*

By Appt



None



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

**For Those Working Toward
Recovery from Addiction
Led by Melody Carson,
Eric Upton, & Jonathan Sibley**

Celebrate Recovery is an addiction recovery group for anyone looking to overcome their hurts, hang-ups, and habits. This group will provide an intentional, non-judgmental community committed to honesty, accountability, and hope—all centered around eight principles from the teachings of Jesus. Freedom is possible. All are welcome. The group is currently meeting individually, with scheduled one-on-one appointments by gender, to guide you step-by-step through the 12-step curriculum (52 weeks). As the group grows, we may begin meeting together in weekly groups (separated by gender). Please contact Alexis Gurley at agurley@firstwoodway.org to learn more or schedule a session.

First Woodway's Care Day is an annual, community-wide event to help normalize and destigmatize conversations about mental health in the church. This free event offers practical, hope-filled learning opportunities led by experts on topics like anxiety, depression, grief, caregiving, trauma, and more. If you or someone you love is struggling, know that hope is real and help is possible. Care Day could be a meaningful first step toward healing! Save the date, and look out for registration details coming soon.



זָכַר GENESIS 9:16

COLLEGE, YOUTH, & KIDS:

NEXT GEN

Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and *remember* the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FOR COLLEGE, YOUTH, & KIDS

NEXT GEN

SPRING 2026

FW COLLEGE

College Fellowship: Food, Worship, & Prayer
7:30 pm | MAC 2nd Floor

All college and college-age students are invited to gather on Wednesday nights for a meal together, followed by worship and prayer. The meal is free, and there's no need to sign-up—just show up! It will be an encouraging, enriching mid-week boost.

Last Wednesday: College Worship Gathering
8:00 pm | Anthem Stories

Last Wednesday is our monthly college worship service located closer to the Baylor campus. This monthly service gathers college students for worship, teaching, and prayer to build up their faith in Jesus and send them in the power of the Holy Spirit. College and college-age students—invite your friends, share a meal beforehand, and come ready to worship Jesus at the Anthem Stories venue downtown (800 Austin Ave) this spring on Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25, and Apr 29.



@firstwoodwaycm + @firstwoodwayyouth



First Woodway Youth Ministry



First Woodway Youth Ministry Page

(There is a separate registration form for kids' classes. Please see page 22 to sign up.)

FW YOUTH

Wednesday Night Live (WNL) for High School

6:30 pm (Pizza + Snacks) + 7:00 pm | The Venue

WNL is live and in person! This is your time to gather with other students for authentic worship through great music, hilarious skits, student testimonies, and a talk that will give solid direction for living out your faith commitment. Join fellow high schoolers (9th-12th grade) in The Venue every Wednesday. Snack Shack opens at 6:30 pm. Wednesday Night Live begins at 7:00 pm. This is the place for you to learn, grow, and reach out to your friends throughout the school year.

PrimeTime for Middle School

6:30 pm | MAC

Just what you need in the middle of the week—an opportunity to gather with your friends for some great fun and spiritual encouragement. All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are welcome to come to the MAC every Wednesday at 6:30 pm for game competitions, fun mixers, student testimonies, great worship, and a relevant talk. PrimeTime ends at 7:45 pm.

WOODWAY KIDS

Babies through Threes

Childcare is provided for this age group for parents who attend a Discipleship Class on campus that night or are serving on Wednesday nights.

Pre-K through Fifth Grade

We are excited to offer Kids' Choir (KREW) for this age group. These kids will prepare songs for Sunday morning worship as well as for special performances throughout the year. Don't miss this time of learning music and learning how to worship God.

First through Fifth Grade

Our 1st through 5th graders have a choice on Wednesday evenings. These grades can join our Kids' Choir (see above), or they can join Discipleship Classes just for kids! In these classes, they will memorize scripture, learn Bible skills, hear Bible stories, and apply Biblical truths to their lives.



RONNY HIGGINS

Executive Pastor
rhiggins@firstwoodway.org



MICHAEL CARLSON

Congregational Care Pastor + Director of Artios
michael@firstwoodway.org



CONNOR GRIFFIN

Minister of Discipleship: Life Groups
cgriffin@firstwoodway.org

CHURCH STAFF

DISCIPLESHIP & CARE MINISTRY



ALEXIS GURLEY

Congregational Care Coordinator
agurley@firstwoodway.org



ASHLYN GORANOV

Assistant to Executive Pastor + Discipleship
agoranov@firstwoodway.org

Our Adult Discipleship Classes and Care Groups are supported by a dedicated team of servant-hearted staff members who are here to help you feel welcomed and connected. Whether you're new to the church or simply looking to get more involved, these leaders are passionate about walking alongside you as you explore all that our church community has to offer. They're happy to answer any questions you may have, help you navigate a class or group, and make sure you feel supported every step of the way.



BRANDY LANGFORD

Connection Coordinator
blangford@firstwoodway.org



ELIZABETH OATES, Ed.D.

Minister of Discipleship: Women + Marriage
eoates@firstwoodway.org



CASE SMITH

Minister of College Students
csmith@firstwoodway.org



REGISTRATION FOR CLASSES & GROUPS

SIGN UP



REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE

Visit firstwoodway.org/discipleship.



REGISTER OVER THE PHONE

Call the church office at 254.772.9696. Office hours are Mon - Thu, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm and Fri, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm.



REGISTER ON THE APP

Visit the First Woodway app, under the News + Events tab. Download the church app by texting APP to 254.328.1181.



REGISTER VIA QR CODE

Scan the **Discipleship** code below to launch the registration form.



SEPARATE REGISTRATION

Some classes have separate registration forms. Launch them from the website or via the QR codes below.



Discipleship



Wed Night Meals



The Dwelling



DivorceCare



GriefShare



Woodway Kids



זכר

WE ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.
WILL WE REMEMBER?





FIRST WOODWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

101 Ritchie Road, Woodway, TX 76712 | 254.772.9696
info@firstwoodway.org | www.firstwoodway.org