



14, 2025

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 850 MINTER AVE., SHAFTER, CA 93263

## WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

Galatians 3:11ff

Classes in English & Spanish



9:00 Prayer Worship

Please give us your requests

9:30 Worship Service

Worship in English & Spanish

### Elders

Borjas Gonzales 599-9311

Eddie Fisher 342-8337

Garry Nelson 331-3858

Mike Westbrook 910-2197

Ron Nunlist 746-6531

### Deacon

### Minister

Jim Young 527-7026

[jimyoung2work@aol.com](mailto:jimyoung2work@aol.com)

Church Office 746-2205

### Office Hours:

Monday ~ Tuesday ~ Wednesday

8 am to 1 pm

Thursday

11 am to 4:30 pm

Friday Out of the Office

### Bulletin

Jan Nelson 332-6146

[grammyjan51@yahoo.com](mailto:grammyjan51@yahoo.com)

[Sandy Westbrook 910-8143](tel:910-8143)

[mikewestbrook@att.net](mailto:mikewestbrook@att.net)

Don't forget to check out our website

**No te olvides de visitar nuestro sitio web**

[www.shafterchurchofchrist.com](http://www.shafterchurchofchrist.com)

Bible on your phone

MySpectrumWiFif8-2G

MySpectrumWiFif8-5G

password: purplelemon096

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Reminder...**The sign-up list for the building cleaning for December is on the back left table. Please sign up.

**December 18 - Men's Bible Study** time changed to 8:00 a.m. in church kitchen

**Dec 27-30 -Winter Camp** at Yosemite Bible Camp; 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up; [www.wvcoc.org/ybc](http://www.wvcoc.org/ybc)

**THERE WILL BE NO MEN'S OR LADIES BREAKFAST FOR JANUARY - will resume in February**

**January 6 - Elders Meeting** at 8:00 a.m.

**January 8 - Thursday night dinners resume**

## Christmas for Kids

Debra is asking for donations to buy gift cards for the kids for Christmas. You can buy the gift card yourself and give it to Debra or you can give her your donation and she will get the cards.

If you want it on your paper you receive aconfirming your giving for the year, you can make the check out to the church, place in an envelope labeled for Debra and the kids and give it to her, or you can give her your cash



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

On the back table, Jim as placed articles he has found while researching his sermons that you may be interested in reading. Please pick one or more up to read this week.

If only I could help them, God. Sometimes I just wish I could reach into their lives and change them – to save them the struggle, and pain of learning the hard way. But, Lord, that's not your plan, and I need to be willing to wait as you work gently from the inside out in the lives of those I love. Help me to not say too much. Help me to not say too little. Grant me wisdom and sensitivity in my words, and most of all, help me not to be afraid to say, "I love you!"  
(Taken from My Daily Personal Prayer)

## PASTOR'S CORNER - Why are We Late to Church?

First and foremost, I must declare that Shafter does not have this problem. But it is something which we should be conscious of in order to ensure that it does not become one. And, truly, I appreciate the love and faithfulness you exhibit week after week. Blessings!!!

To sum up last week's message we should realize that our timeliness sends a message about our attitude regarding the importance of worship service. One's **unwillingness** to be on time says that the first part of the service is not important and skipping the early welcoming/greeting time is also not important. When one consistently shows up late, they're treating Sunday morning as an individualistic spectator event rather than as a corporate, participatory gathering of God's people.

Embodied presence (being here physically and mentally/spiritually) is necessary for us to worship corporately. The church's singing, praying, and preaching depend on the congregation being present to participate. These are the primary reasons we need to gather rather than just worshiping God on our own **in private**. Embodied presence requires that we gather intentionally rather than just eventually show up.

A time to gather has been established and we are not just meeting together but we are meeting together *with God*. Jesus tells us in **Mtt 18:20** that when 2 or 3 gather, so does He. We have a specific time to meet with each other and with the God of all creation. Unfortunately, it's often the case that some members keep God and our congregation waiting.

If we believe the service is primarily about what we can get out of it—uplifting music, an encouraging sermon, fellowship with friends—then arriving late makes sense. After all, we can still catch most of the “good stuff.” But if you understand corporate worship as something we do together as the body of Christ—if you see it as our collective offering of praise to our Creator — then showing up late, or even barely on time, takes on a different meaning entirely. We're not just showing up late; we're missing the opportunity to fully participate in something the Lord has designed in order to form us as His people. When we treat the opening songs as optional warm-up acts, we're misunderstanding their purpose. These aren't entertainment to help us transition into a “spiritual mood.” They're our corporate declaration of God's worth; our unified voice lifted in praise. Every voice and presence matters.

And none of this speaks to the effect that arriving late may have on our visitors and newcomers. What are we teaching them about our priorities; about the importance we place on corporate worship; about our respect for one another and for God???

The God of the universe has scheduled time for His family to meet together each and every Sunday. The least we can do is show up on time. And blessedly, you all are so conscientious about this. If the Spirit was to send a letter to us (as found in Revelations), this would be one of our **commendations**. Thank you for being such good examples for other Christians to emulate!!! 😊

**NEW THIS WEEK**

**Lord, give me concern and compassion for the lost that I meet today. Open doors so I might share YOUR message!**

**Praises!**

**James's grandson** was baptized this past Sunday at his local congregation

**Brenda** has received her apartment; prayers that her family members will one day come to accept the Lord as their Savior.

**New Prayer Requests this week:**

**Ann Cowsert**, our sister in Arizona, is struggling with a serious knee issues

**Jan** is wearing a heart monitor for two weeks; follow up on CT scan in January

**Sharon** has been sick for a couple of weeks

**Continued Prayer:**

Numerous **members of Sally's family** has health problems: Father recovering from work accident; cousin Kelly recovering from surgery; Reuban, brother, knee injury.

**Barbara Pflugh** continues to be under the weather

**Tank** continues to struggle with various health issues

**Ron** was diagnosed with Bell's Palsy

**Trina's dad**, who had a heart procedure

**Hannah**, Trina's daughter, continue to pray for her

**Mike G.**, Borjas' friend, has prostate cancer and will begin radiation treatment in the next couple of weeks

**Anthony**, Borjas' grandson needs strength to help him with his co-workers

**Tristan** has pneumonia and possibly Valley Fever

**Our family members who are traveling this week**

**Anne**, Nina's daughter, it appears nodules on her lung have enlarged; sees doctor in February to begin treatment; is going for a second opinion

**Tate**, Anne's son, has various medical issues and has just been diagnosed with lupus

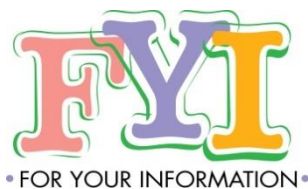
**Buddy** healing of his shoulder

**Mark Keeley** recovering from knee replacement

**Robert** is struggling with some digestive problems

**John Maltby**, prostate cancer

**Vivian** dealing with blood pressure problems



On the back table, Jim has placed articles he has found while researching his sermons that you may be interested in reading. Please pick one or more up to read this week.

***You were hardwired to depend on God, so your dreams of self-reliance  
And self-sufficiency will prove to be more nightmares than dreams.***

Why is it so hard for so many of us to ask for help? Why is it so difficult for us to admit that we don't know things? Why do we attempt to do things that we've never done before without seeking instruction? Why is it so hard for us to admit that we can't make it on our own? Why do we struggle to own our weakness and our ignorance? Why do children resist the instruction of their parents? Why do workers hate to be told what to do by their bosses? Why do we not like to ask for directions? Why do we work so hard to present ourselves as more ready, knowledgeable, and capable than we really are? Why do we often push people away when they are offering assistance? Why do we tell people that we're okay when we're not? Why do we act as if we can solve things that we don't really understand? Why do we hesitate to get the advice of the doctor, the counselor, or the wise friend? Why do we allow independence to trouble our trouble? Why?

The answer seems too straightforward and simplistic, but it is the answer nonetheless. The answer to every one of the questions above is *sin*. Self-reliance and self-sufficiency are what sin does to the heart. Hosea 10:13 captures this very powerfully "You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors." Don't miss the cause-and-effect structure of this passage. The prophet essentially asks: "Why have you experienced moral impurity? Why have you endured injustice? Why have you accepted what is not true?" There is only one possible answer to these questions, and it's not the one we want to hear. All of these things happened, the prophet says, because you wanted and trusted your own way and relied upon your own strength.

It is hard to accept, but vital to humbly admit. Bad things happen when we attempt to live as we were not created to live. Sin causes us to deny our need for God and others. Sin causes us to assign to ourselves the wisdom, strength, and righteousness we do not have. Sin causes us to dethrone God and enthrone ourselves. Sin is shockingly proud and self-assured. Sin really does cause us all to fall into the delusion that we can be like God. And because sin does this to all of us, it is dark, deceitful, and dangerous. Self-reliance and self-sufficiency as your fundamental approach to life will never lead to anything good. Sin always leads to death of some kind in some way. So we need to be rescued from our quest for independence and brought into relationship with the One who really does have everything we need. And that's exactly what the grace of Jesus does for us!

***For further study and encouragement: James 3:13-16***

(Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp)



## **Extended Long Term Prayer List**

**Please email or text updates to Jan or Sandy**

### **Health issues: Physical, mental, and spiritual health:**

**Bonnie** (April's daughter)

**Barbara P ~ Earl's aunt Christine, ~ Casey,**

**Charles Jones ~ Chris** (Buggy's friend) ~

**David & Millie** (Ron's brother & wife) ~ **Gary,**

Buggy's husband, is struggling with some

mental issues ~ **Hannah** (Trina's daughter) ~

**Lupi** (Gonzales's granddaughter) ~ **Mel,**

Barbara P.'s brother health issues ~ **Nancy**

(David's friend) ~ **Francis and Suzanne,**

sisters in Christ, are both recovering from

operations ~ **Jason,** Sharon's son, will be

having more tests for his liver ~ **Joan,**

Vivian's sister, is not doing well with COPD ~

**Jason** (Borjas's son) ~ **Joyce & Tom ~**

**Richard** (Sammy's friend) ~ **Kelly,** Sally's

cousin, is struggling with multiple serious

health issues ~ **Paula** (Nancy's friend) sepsis

~ **Ronnie** (Nancy's son) ~ **Sally's daughter,**

upcoming surgery ~ **Syble ~ Tate,** Anne's

son and Nina's grandson, health issues ~

**Tammy** (a relative of the Fisher's son-n-law)

paralyzed from waist ~ **Wes Agee,** Kern

County firefighter, was moved to a medical

center in Colorado ~

### **Serving in the Military: Chris & Jonah**

(friends of Trina) who are soldiers in the Middle East

### **Cancer and treatments:**

**Bill** (Debra's brother) ~

**Cathy Turner** ~ former member

**Everett** (relative of Nancy's) is nearing his final days due to his cancer ~

**Gary** (Mike's brother) ~

**James** (Darlene's brother) ~

**Jessie** (friend of Earl) ~ **Kristina** (Debra's co-worker) ~

**Johnnie Rudat** and family; she is 12 years old and is fighting her second occurrence of cancer; doctors said it was terminal (Sharon's friend) ~

**Kelly,** one of Doris Friesen's sons, has been diagnosed with stomach cancer ~

**Oliver** (Earl's friend)

**Pat** (Debra's co-worker) ~

**Paulette,** friend of Nancy's, breast cancer has metastasized into her bones and is Stage 4 ~

**Tom** has been given 6-8 months; pray for his comfort and Joyce's peace of mind as she deals with this situation

**Wendy** (member of Debra's family) ~

**Our Youth:** to pray to make good choices

**For all those that have upcoming tests:** this week or test results

**Unspoken Prayers:** We know their names, and, above all, God knows them.