

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 28, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:18

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. David Smith
Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havir
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Mark Weiss
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Philippians 2:1–13
Sermon Reg Killingley

Quick takes

1. Dominoes tomorrow—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
2. Wednesday-night Bible study—March 4 at 7:00.
3. Community music program—The Big Sandy Museum’s musical fundraiser (“Music Memories”) is scheduled in our building on Saturday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m.
4. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Narcissism: Symptoms and Signs” by Martha Anne Tudor.
5. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 8” by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—Details were not available at bulletin deadline.

Prayer updates

At various times, we have given information about **Minette Smith's** dealing with cancer. Last Saturday morning, she gave the following update: “I recently found out that my breast cancer has metastasized to numerous places. I will be starting five treatments of radiation on two spots in my spine on Monday [last Monday]. I feel good, no pain—and I am so thankful for that.”

In the Jan. 5 bulletin, we mentioned that **Lana Hicks** (of Thomasville, Ga.) experienced a seizure on Friday (Jan. 2) night. The doctors put her on a ventilator to protect her brain, because the seizures were not stopping. They basically had her in a medically induced coma. Because Mrs. Hicks (and her husband, **Al**) often listen to our church service online, their daughter **Tara** gave **Dave Havir** nine updates following the episode. On Thursday, Mrs. Hicks herself gave Mr. Havir an update with the following four comments. First, she got home about three weeks ago. Second, she is scheduled to see a neurologist next Thursday. Third, she is doing very well—her only complaint is that she is not supposed to drive for six months. Fourth, she and her husband appreciate the prayers of their friends and the lovingkindness of our Father in heaven.

On Monday, **Jon** and **Toni Coffee** gave a report mentioning that he continues with physical therapy and dialysis each week. (Please also remember that sitting a couple of hours for dialysis is challenging because of the discomfort he experiences with scoliosis—due to the curvature of his spine). They greatly appreciate your friendship and your prayers.

On Thursday, the family of **Ronnie Shirley** gave a report following his surgery (to remove a polyp) on that day: “Ronnie did fine. He is moving to a room. Thank you so much for your prayers.”

On Thursday, **Gloria Hoppe** gave an update. Following are excerpts: “Results of my rheumatoid-arthritis doctor visit on Wednesday were excellent. Labs showed my new medication is working and I’m back within range in all aspects. The great news included that all inflammation is gone. (This means: recovery from covid, recovery from BP and diabetes setback, and recovery from an extreme allergic reaction to RA-infusion medication.) Pain continues, but life is much better.”

In the Nov. 8 bulletin, we mentioned that **Dave McLearen** went by ambulance with an assortment of problems. At that time, he was diagnosed with gout. Since then, he has dealt with episodes of gout on four occasions. In the Feb. 14 bulletin, we mentioned that he had also been dealing with significant back pain. That has been quite a combination. Last Wednesday, he went back to the doctor for the gout. Next Tuesday, he is scheduled to have an ablation for his back. Next Wednesday, he is scheduled for an MRI on his back.

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Brenda Kennebeck** was hospitalized (for two-and-a-half days with food poisoning). She reported: “I am feeling much better now. This episode has given me a little bit of food PTSD. I am very careful what I eat, so this doesn’t come back. Every day is a better day.”

On Monday, **Martha McIver** mentioned that her surgery (concerning the stimulator in her back) went well.

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Ivabelle Lauderback** (of Georgia) was experiencing pain in her lower back and hip. She thanks you for your prayers.

Louise Williams (of Chesterfield, Tenn., and mother of **Amy Ison**) died on Feb. 20. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Jimmy Sparkman (of Lexington, Tenn.) died on Feb. 21. Please remember his wife, **Brenda**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

Matthew 22:37, 39—“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind . . . You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 26:37—“He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.”

Matthew 26:38—“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.”

Matthew 26:39—“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

“Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 8”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 28, 2026.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a multiple-part series. The initial plan was a seven-part series. On Feb. 18, I announced the series expanding into eight parts, and, on Feb. 25, I announced the series expanding into nine parts. Therefore, the title of the presentation last Wednesday was “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 8.”

While Proverbs 6:16-19 mentions seven characteristics that the Lord “hates,” the plan was to mention both the negative characteristics (and the contrasting positive characteristics) in seven separate presentations.

What changed? I decided to spend extra time on the seventh characteristic that God hates—that being “sowing discord.” So I changed the plan to spend three studies on the seventh characteristic.

■ In the Feb. 18 study, I focused solely on “sowing discord.”

■ In the Feb. 25 study, I began a discussion on “sowing peace and unity”—talking about how the Father and Son sow peace and unity.

■ In the March 4 study, I plan to continue a discussion about “sowing peace and unity”—talking about how believers can sow peace and unity.

Not always peace

At the beginning of the Bible study, I gave a quick reminder of what the Son of God said

about His occasional approach to sowing peace.

■ Matthew 10:34—Christ said: “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

■ Matthew 10:35—Christ said: “For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.’”

■ Matthew 10:36—Christ said: “A man’s enemies will be those of his own household.”

While Bible students understand this lesson by the Son of God, they also understand the other scriptures that discuss how the Father and Son promote peace and unity.

Author of peace and unity

From my point of view, our Heavenly Father is the author of peace and unity. His love is the foundation of peace and unity. What verses would you use to introduce the concept about God’s love? (There is no “right” answer to that question.)

I chose 1 John 4:19.

■ 1 John 4:19—“We love Him because He first loved us.”

■ Genesis 1:26—Then God said: “Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion . . . over all of the earth.”

■ Genesis 1:27—“So God created man in His own image. In the image of God, He created him. Male and female, He created them.”

■ Genesis 1:31—“God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.”

Father sent the Son

The Father sent the Son to promote peace and unity.

■ John 3:16—“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

■ John 14:6—The Son of God said: “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Conviction and compassion

How did the Son of God show peace and unity among the brethren? He exhibited conviction and compassion.

Consider how the two great commandments can be described as conviction and compassion.

■ Mark 12:30—Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. That is conviction.

■ Mark 12:31—Love your neighbor as yourself.

That is compassion.

Son loves the Father

There are many verses that show how much the Son loves the Father.

■ John 5:19—The Son does what He sees the Father do.

■ John 5:20—The Father loves the Son and revealed what He wanted the Son to do.

■ John 5:21—The Son can raise the dead and give life.

■ John 5:22—The Father has committed all judgment to the Son.

■ John 5:27—The Father has given the Son authority to execute judgment.

■ John 5:30—The Son acknowledged that He follows what He heard from the Father.

■ John 6:38—The Son acknowledged that He seeks to do the will of the Father.

Son loves Himself

The Son of God said that people are expected to love themselves.

Some people confuse loving yourself with the unseemly trait of narcissism. Narcissism

is defined as: “excessive interest in or admiration of oneself and one’s physical appearance.”

According to webmd.com, Martha Anne Tudor wrote: “Narcissism is extreme self-involvement to the point where a person ignores the needs of those around them. While anyone may have narcissistic behavior once in a while, true narcissists often disregard others or their feelings. They don’t understand the effect their behavior has on other people. It’s important to note that narcissism can be a trait, but it can also be a part of a larger personality disorder. Not every narcissist has narcissistic personality disorder (NPD).”

The Son of God taught that the children of God should love their neighbor as they love themselves.

Scriptures shows me that He loved Himself.

■ Matthew 26:37-38—The Son of God felt sorrow and stress.

■ Matthew 26:39—“If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me.”

Son truly loves others

Scripture shows me that He loved His neighbor as He loved Himself.

■ Matthew 26:42—“If this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

■ Luke 19:41-44—Christ wept over Jerusalem.

■ Romans 5:6—Christ died for the ungodly.

■ Romans 5:8—Christ died for people, while we were yet sinners.

■ Ephesians 2:13-18—The blood of Christ brought Jews and gentiles into one—thus making peace.

Notice four categories of people that Paul described.

He said: (1) The Jewish people; (2) those who are under the law; (3) those who are without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ); (4) and those who are weak.

■ Philippians 2:3—Esteem others better than yourself.

■ Philippians 2:4—Look after the interests of others.

■ Philippians 2:5-8—Christ humbled Himself by taking on the form of a man and being obedient to the point of death.