

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 25, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:25

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Gary Woodring

Presentation study—2:00 Daniel Hammons

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Mark Weiss

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture John 10:1–18

Sermon Gary Woodring

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havar is giving a sermon in Salt Lick, Ky.. (As a point of interest, his brother John was asked to give a sermonette.)
2. Dominoes—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—July 29 at 7:00
4. Edifying the Body—"Who Was the Greatest Roman Emperor?" by Matthew S. Guglielmello
5. Among Friends—"I Wish You Bad Luck" by Dave Havar
6. Eye on the World—Compiled by Stephanie Hammons

Thought for the week

"Grace is getting something you don't deserve while mercy is not getting what you do deserve."—*Deb Acosta*

Prayer updates

Linda Gallia, who had knee-replacement surgery on June 30, is working hard to get on her feet so that she can support and drive her husband, **Dwayne**, to his prostatectomy surgery on Aug. 10. She's tired, but doing very well and started outpatient physical therapy. She thanks everyone for prayers and cards. Please keep the Gallias in your prayers.

New prayer requests

Barbara Lingle's sister **Elaine Townsend** died on Wednesday, peacefully passing in her sleep. Elaine's son **Matt** and Barbara are arranging a visitation service the evening of Friday, July 31, 6:00–8:00 pm at Lakeview Chapel, 5000 W. Harrison Rd. in Longview. There is also a graveside service Aug. 1 at 10:00 a.m.

Martha McIver's second cousin **Tanner** (in his mid-30's) has chronic lymphodema, which has no cure. It causes his legs to swell, among other things. He is in the hospital for the second time in three months with sepsis. The family is thankful for all prayers.

Vern Hildreth, Veronica Beasley's father, had surgery for advanced prostate cancer on Tuesday morning. By Wednesday morning he was talkative, cleared to go home and awaiting lab work for his JP (Jackson-Pratt) drain. The family thanks you for the prayers.

On Monday, **Jake Dunnam** asked for prayers for his family's friend **Cheryl Norman** of Big Sandy as she underwent knee-replacement surgery Tuesday. Please continue to pray for her to have a speedy recovery with no complications so she can continue to act as the primary caregiver to her husband, **Jim**. Also, they are thankful for the support of their son **Aaron** staying with them to help.

On Saturday, **Ericka Deering** requested prayers for **Elizabeth Allen**, sister to her son-in-law **Joey**. She's known this young lady from Paducah, Ky., since she was 3. Elizabeth has worked for two years to be free of drug addiction, but is becoming distraught, overwhelmed and seriously depressed over the things she hears in the news. Her mother found her on the brink of suicide last Friday, without any insurance or means to get the counseling she needs. Joey requests prayers for her as well.

Scriptures to consider

John 10:1-5—"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

John 10:7-10—"Then Jesus said to them again, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.' "

John 10:11-16—"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd."

John 10:17-18—"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

John 10:26-29—"But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."

John 10:31-38—"Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?' The Jews answered Him, saying, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.' Jesus answered them, 'Is it not written in your law, "I said, 'You are gods'"? If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, "You are blaspheming," because I said, "I am the Son of God"? If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him.' "

Psalms 145:13-21—"Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever."

“I Wish You Bad Luck”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of July 25, 2026. It was previously posted for the weekend of Jan. 6, 2018.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—In my circle of life, I am associated with people who are interested in helping people (including family, friends, neighbors and coworkers) to deal with the challenges of life. While we enjoy the many blessings that God bestows upon us, we understand that our Heavenly Father allows people to face challenges and trials. We believe that God has promised to help people through those challenges and trials.

Two popular theories

Before we go any further, I want to briefly state my objection to two popular theories among many religious people. I don’t believe in the “health-and-wealth” gospel. The premise of that theory is twofold.

First, if you obey God, you will be healthy and wealthy.

Second, if you are unhealthy and poor, the reason is because you did not obey God.

Notice Philippians 3:8-10 and 1 Peter 4:15-16. I don’t believe in the “name-it, claim-it” view of faith. The premise of that theory is that a person should dogmatically claim something from God and He is required to give it.

While I believe in the importance of communicating with God and in the power of faith, I don’t think that religious people should boss God around. (Can you imagine physical parents being required to acquiesce to the demands of 2-year-olds, 16-year-olds or 20-year-olds?)

It is true that the Son of God taught people to be persistent in prayer (Luke 11:1-8 and Luke 18:1-8).

Think about it. Persistence in prayer is important because the Father (who is in charge of the family) allows His children to express their desires with Him—in an effort to convince Him, not demand from Him.

Notice 2 Corinthians 12:8-10.

Helpful words

As I mentioned earlier, I am associated with people who are interested in helping people face their challenges.

I wish you bad luck

Recently at an interactive Bible study, one of my friends recommended that the audience become familiar with a speech given by Chief Justice John Roberts of the U.S. Supreme Court on June 3, 2017, during his son’s ninth-grade commencement at Cardigan Mountain School (a New Hampshire boarding school for boys in grades six through nine).

The speech has been advertised with a phrase from the speech—“I Wish You Bad Luck.” I want to quote from a portion of the speech.

“Now, the commencement speakers will typically also wish you good luck and extend good wishes to you. I will not do that, and I’ll tell you why.

“From time to time in the years to come, I hope you will be treated unfairly, so that you will come to know the value of justice. I hope that you will suffer betrayal because that will teach you the importance of loyalty.

“Sorry to say, but I hope you will be lonely from time to time so that you don’t take friends for granted.

“I wish you bad luck, again, from time to time so that you will be conscious of the role of chance in life and understand that your success is not completely deserved and that the failure of others is not completely deserved either.

“And when you lose, as you will from time to time, I hope every now and then, your opponent will gloat over your failure. It is a way for you to understand the importance of sportsmanship.

“I hope you’ll be ignored so you know the importance of listening to others, and I hope you will have just enough pain to learn compassion.

“Whether I wish these things or not, they’re going to happen. And whether you benefit from them or not will depend upon your ability to see the message in your misfortunes.”