

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

April 13, 2019 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:46

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Dave Havir

Bible study (2:00) Dave Havir

Teen class Martha McIver

Order of service

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Acts 21:1-14

Sermon Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Upcoming guest speakers—We are pleased to announce the following men as guest speakers in the coming weeks.
 - April 20—Jim Johns
 - April 26—Larry Watkins
2. Commemorating the suffering and death of our Lord—There will be a service in our building to commemorate the suffering and death of our Lord with New Testament symbols (picturing the night He was betrayed).
 - Thursday, April 18
 - 7:45 p.m.
 - We expect to have live streaming, weather permitting.
3. Remembering the time of Christ's death—The pastor recommends that you individually remember the time picturing Christ's death—He died at 3:00 p.m. the next day.
 - Friday, April 19
 - 3:00 p.m.

4. Traditional meal—For years, the Church of God has had a traditional meal on the eve of the first day of Unleavened Bread (encouraging brethren to consider the events of the resurrection of the Son of God).
 - Friday, April 19
 - 6:30 p.m.
 - If attending in the building, please sign up
5. First day of Unleavened Bread—The congregation will be observing the first day of Unleavened Bread with the following schedule.
 - Saturday, April 20
 - 2:00—Bible study—Dave Havir
 - 3:00—Church service—Jim Johns
 - 4:00—Potluck meal
6. Remembering the time of Christ's resurrection—The pastor recommends that you individually remember the time picturing Christ's resurrection—three days and three nights after His death.
 - Monday, April 22
 - Beginning in the evening
7. Seventh day of Unleavened Bread—The congregation will be observing the seventh day of Unleavened Bread (combined with the Church of God International) with the following schedule.
 - Friday, April 26
 - 1:00—Bible study—Dave Havir
 - 2:00—Church service—Larry Watkins
 - 3:00—Potluck meal
8. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Millennials for Socialism" by Walter Williams.
9. Among Friends—This week's article is "Are You Worthy?" by Dave Havir.
10. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 24 pages.

Prayer updates

In the March 30 bulletin, we mentioned that **Eli Benedict** wanted to visit the Hope Cancer Center of East Texas (in Tyler) before deciding about a procedure on April 10 (to "scrape" cancer in his bladder). Mr. Benedict was able to go to the Hope Cancer Center on Friday, April 5. However, the personnel there said that he wasn't "bad enough" for them to treat him there. Although Mr. Benedict is not excited about the scraping procedure, he has rescheduled—a biopsy on April 17 and the procedure on April 29.

Sonny Rosenberger reports that the doctor has not yet rescheduled the procedure called the UroLift (a treatment to help men with prostate challenges).

At the March 30 church service, we mentioned that **Laura Moran** was diagnosed with a twisted colon. She reports that she is not experiencing pain at this time.

Colleen Atteberry wants to thank the congregation for the help provided to her during her recovery from the automobile accident.

Betty Foster reports that she continues to have physical therapy in her home twice a week. She wanted to thank the congregation for the help provided to her during her recovery.

Ron Feaker continues to rehab at the home of caregiving daughter **Karen**.

Elaine Holloway continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Glade-water. She is in Room 109.

Marilyn Boston continues to rehab at Park Place Rehabilitation Center in Tyler (2450 E. Fifth St.). She is in Room 218.

New prayer requests

Emma Lou Bacher, who has experienced a few falls in recent weeks, fell while on a trip to Florida.

Sam Chilopora of Blantyre, Malawi (age 88), was recently hospitalized and diagnosed with pneumonia. On Thursday, he was able to go home.

Tom Taylor of Yucaipa, Calif., died on March 5. Please remember his wife, **Carol**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Don Lawson of Indio, Calif., died on March 22. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Camilo Reyes of Bakersfield, Calif., died on March 31. Please remember his wife, **Aggie**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

John Hopkinson of Pasadena, Calif., died on April 4. Please remember his wife, **Pat**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Aaron Levi Baker (infant son of **Brent** and **Rebecca Baker** of the local United congregation) was born and died on April 8. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Bill Swanson of Knoxville, Tenn., died on April 9. Please remember his wife, **Judy**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Mary Riley of Convoy, Ohio (age 91), died on April 9. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Jim Snook of Colorado died on April 10. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Thought for the week

“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”—*Jesus*

“Are You Worthy?”

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 April 13, 2019.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—As many Church of God congregations approach the spring feast days, I began a series of six articles discussing principles that can be rehearsed at this time of year.

Here is the list of articles in this series that have been written so far.

■ March 23—“Overview of Passover in Book of Exodus.”

■ March 30—“The Night in Which He Was Betrayed.”

■ April 6—“Do This in Remembrance of Me.”

■ April 13—“Are You Worthy?”

No leaven after deliverance

Do you remember when the children of Israel in the Old Testament put leaven out of the homes? It was during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

And why was that? The Old Testament lesson was a reminder of the children of Israel leaving Egypt in haste. There just wasn’t enough time for their bread to rise.

Would it surprise you to realize that the same lesson applies to the New Testament—even though the metaphor is different?

Just as the children of Israel in the Old Testament removed leaven during the Days of Unleavened Bread, it is my perspective that a disciple can use the metaphor of leaven to show the proper reaction toward receiving God’s grace. Here are two important pillars of my paradigm.

■ Disciples are saved by grace.

■ Since disciples are saved by grace, our Heavenly Father has expectations of His children.

1 Corinthians 5:7—“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”

■ Christ (our Passover) was sacrificed for us.

■ That sacrifice means we are truly unleavened (from sin).

■ Therefore, purge out old leaven (sinful behavior) and become a new lump (new creation).

Does deleavening make you worthy?

The apostle Paul instructed the disciples to examine themselves (1 Corinthians 11:28) before taking the New Testament symbols of deliverance.

When a person reads 1 Corinthians 11 in the New King James Version of the Bible, he reads the English words “in an unworthy manner” two times, in verses 27 and 29.

Some people connect the concept of worthiness with how much leaven they remove from their homes—before partaking of the symbols of the broken bread and wine.

■ Worthiness is not about the amount of leaven removed from your home—before partaking of the New Testament symbols.

■ Worthiness is not about the amount of sin removed from your life—before partaking of the New Testament symbols.

Examining is not about worthiness

The Moffatt translation uses two different wordings in place of “in an unworthy manner.” See if you can spot them.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29—“Hence anyone who eats the loaf or drinks the cup of the Lord carelessly will have to answer for a sin against the body and the blood of the Lord. Let a man test himself; then he can eat from the loaf and drink from the cup. For he who eats and drinks without a proper sense of the Body eats and drinks to his own condemnation.”

■ Carelessly

■ Without a proper sense of the Body

Say it isn’t so

Please do not use the metaphor of physical leaven as a means to examine your worthiness before God.