

# Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

**Sept. 10, 2022 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:32**

## Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m.  
Presentation study—2:00

Dave Havir  
Dave Havir  
(Also transmitted live)

## Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader  
Pianist  
Scripture reading  
Sermon

Ron Avey  
Dixon Cartwright  
Ecclesiastes 12:1-14  
John Harris

## Quick takes

1. "Honor Our Heroes" meeting on Sept. 11—There is an "Honor Our Heroes" meeting on Sunday, Sept. 11 at the Big Sandy Civic Center (612 N. Tyler St.) at 4:00 p.m. Portions of the scheduled program include the recognition of first responders and veterans and a patriotic medley by singers in the community.
2. Wednesday-night Bible study on Sept. 14—Dave Havir is scheduled to give the Bible study on Wednesday night.
3. Traveling speakers—We are pleased to announce the following traveling speakers coming to our congregation.
  - Sept. 17 Terry McAdams
  - Sept. 24 Ken Tate
4. Feast of Trumpets—The congregation will be observing the Feast of Trumpets on Monday, Sept. 26. Following is the schedule.
  - 1:00 Interactive study—TBA
  - 2:00 Presentation study—Dave Havir
  - 3:00 Church sermon—Reg Killingley
  - 4:15 Congregational food

5. Day of Atonement—The congregation will be observing the Day of Atonement on Wednesday, Oct. 5. Following is the schedule.

- 1:00 Interactive study—TBA
- 2:00 Presentation study—Dave Havir
- 3:00 Church sermon—Jim Bald

6. Pastor's travel for Feast of Tabernacles—Following is Dave Havir's travel schedule for this year's Feast of Tabernacles.

- First two days in Destin
- Day three is a travel day to Myrtle Beach
- Five days in Myrtle Beach

7. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| • Mickey Ashcraft         | • Ruth Roe          |
| • David and Becky Bonilla | • Sonny Rosenberger |
| • Timberly Dunnam         | • Ronnie Shirley    |
| • Elaine Holloway         | • Elaine Townsend   |
| • Annette Payne           | • Donna Weese       |

8. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Marxist Religion" by Richard McDonough.

9. Among Friends—This week's article is "Watch and Fast" by Dave Havir.

10. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 40 pages. (This edition has two articles and 323 headlines.)

### Prayer updates

**Timberly Dunnam** gave the following report: "My week has been up and down. Thankfully the kidney-stone pain has eased a lot."

**Dorothy Jones** (mother of **Shirley Spearman**) reports that her week was up and down. As you know, her weakness is ongoing. On Friday, her back was hurting. She appreciates your prayers.

On Wednesday, **Brian Biggs** went home from the hospital. He and his mother, **Judy Biggs**, appreciate your prayers.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Harold Eaton** of Tennessee had been diagnosed with stage-4 lymphoma. Early this week, he went to a hospital in Athens, Tenn., to have a stent inserted in his kidney. Then, he went to Vanderbilt Hospital in

Nashville for further treatment for his lymphoma. (On Wednesday, his wife, **Wendy**, was involved in a traffic accident.)

### New prayer requests

On Wednesday, **Jean Benedict** fell in her home. She called her sons and they called an ambulance. Mrs. Benedict was diagnosed with a broken right hip. She had surgery that evening. (This surgery was the insertion of a rod, which was different from her having her left hip replaced years ago.) Her family is taking good care of her. She appreciates your prayers.

On Wednesday, **Elaine Townsend** went to an ER in Longview because her blood pressure was too high. While there, her blood pressure came down and she also learned about another factor to address—that her sugar level was too high. She was sent home around 11:00 p.m.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Theresa McLearn** was diagnosed with covid. Shortly thereafter, her husband, **Dave McLearn**, was also diagnosed with covid.

**Jerome** and **Helen Ellard** of Big Sandy were diagnosed with covid. They are recovering well but don't plan to attend with their congregation this weekend.

**Melven** and **Ivirne Allen** of Big Sandy were diagnosed with covid.

**Mike Germano** of Charlotte, N.C., has been receiving treatment for leukemia. He has also been diagnosed with pneumonia.

On Monday, **Carol Richmond** of East Texas was scheduled for surgery in Longview to remove a blockage in her colon.

**Wayne Cole** of Happy Valley, Ore., died on Sept. 4. (He was 92 and was married for nearly 70 years.) Please remember his wife, **Doris**, and the family in your prayers.

**Jimmy Nicholson** of Maryville, Tenn., died on Sept. 6. Please remember the family in your prayers.

### Feast of Tabernacles speaking schedules

#### Big Sandy

Monday—10/10	Wynn Skelton
Tuesday—10/11	Wynn Skelton
Wednesday—10/12	Gordon McCarty
Thursday—10/13	Bert Moers
Friday—10/14	Ron Avey
Saturday—10/15	Max Davis

Sunday—10/16  
Monday—10/17

Mark Weiss  
Vance Stinson

### **Destin**

Monday—10/10  
Tuesday—10/11  
Wednesday—10/12  
Thursday—10/13  
Friday—10/14  
Saturday—10/15  
Sunday—10/16  
Monday—10/17

Dave Havir  
Dave Havir and (hopefully) Richard Crow  
Danny Miller and Neal Parker  
Ben Franklin and Steven Gibson  
Daniel Hammons and Ken Tate  
Neal Parker  
Neil McIver and Steven Gibson  
Ken Tate

### **Myrtle Beach**

Monday—10/10  
Tuesday—10/11  
Wednesday—10/12  
Thursday—10/13  
Friday—10/14  
Saturday—10/15  
Sunday—10/16  
Monday—10/17

Lyle Kerby and John Havir  
Chris Kerby and Jim Johns  
Arnold Stamey and Lenny Cacchio  
Steve Andrews  
Jordan Wayne and John Havir  
Brian Kelso and Dave Havir  
Ryan Andrews and Jim Johns  
Dave Havir and Lenny Cacchio

### **Prescott**

The order is not finalized.  
1 DVD by Dave Havir (to be recorded this month)  
2 DVDs by Ken Tate (given in Big Sandy, March 24, 2018)  
Dennis Benson  
Pat Gordon  
Bob Schimmel  
Drury Sylvester

### **Thought for the week**

"As America self-destructs with green energy, China  
preps for war with coal." — *Chuck DeVore*

### **Thought with a twist**

"I didn't say that it was your fault. I said that I was blaming you."



## Watch and Fast

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 Sept. 10, 2022.

**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—Last week, I wrote an article titled "Watch and Pray" (which focused on Matthew 24, Matthew 25 and Luke 21:34-36). This week, I want to write about a similar topic that I called "Watch and Fast" (which will conclude in the book of Esther).

Before we read from the book of Esther, let's notice four sections of scripture in the New Testament.

### **Recognizing liars**

Christ's words to the congregation at Ephesus (Revelation 2:2) mentioned that it is appropriate to recognize evil and to recognize lying. While the subject of the verse is religious leaders, the same view would also apply to civil leaders.

*Revelation 2:2*—"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars."

### **Identifying bad leadership**

The apostle Paul's words to the congregation at Corinth (2 Corinthians 11:20) mentioned it is appropriate to recognize negative leadership traits. In fact, he mentioned five negative leadership traits.

*2 Corinthians 11:20*—"For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face."

### **Identifying a death threat**

The book of Acts (Acts 9:23-25) describes a situation where Paul recognized

that people were plotting to kill him. Notice that he successfully avoided them in a basket.

*Acts 9:23-25*—"Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket."

### **Another death threat**

The book of Acts (Acts 23:12-23) describes another situation where Paul recognized that people were again plotting to kill him. Notice how he escaped from this messy situation.

*Acts 23:12*—"Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket."

*Acts 23:16*—"So when Paul's sister's son heard of their ambush, he went and entered the barracks and told Paul."

*Acts 23:20-21*—"And he said, "The Jews have agreed to ask that you bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more fully about him. But do not yield to them, for more than forty of them lie in wait for him, men who have bound themselves by an oath that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him; and now they are ready, waiting for the promise from you."

*Acts 23:23*—"And he called for two centurions, saying, 'Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night.' "

### **Mordecai's problem**

Notice the situation that confronted Mordecai.

- Esther 3:1-2—King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, and the servants were required to bow down and pay homage to Haman.
- Esther 3:2—Mordecai (a Jewish man) would not bow down.
- Esther 3:5-6—Haman was angry and sought to kill all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom.

- Esther 3:13—A letter was prepared giving a decree to kill the Jews.

Notice how Mordecai reacted when he learned about the contents of the letter.

*Esther 4:1-2*—“When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry. He went as far as the front of the king’s gate, for no one might enter the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth.”

Notice how the Jewish people reacted when they learned about the contents of the letter.

*Esther 4:3*—“And in every province where the king’s command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.”

### **Esther's problem**

Notice the situation that confronted Esther.

- Esther 4:4-7—Esther was obviously concerned for Mordecai.
- Esther 4:8—Mordecai wanted Esther to discuss the matter with the king.
- Esther 4:9-11—Esther replied that the law prohibited her from approaching the king.
- Esther 4:12-14—Mordecai reminded Esther that she was also in danger from Haman's decree.

How did Esther and the people address the challenge?

*Esther 4:15-16*—“Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: ‘Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!’ ”

- *Esther 7:1-10*—As it turned out, God spared the Jewish people, and Haman received the consequences for his evil.

### **Two reminders**

- Watch to discover which people are trying to hurt you.
- Turn to God with fasting for His deliverance.

