

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 23, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:44

### Bible studies

Interactive study (1:00) . . . . . Neil McIver

Bible study (2:00) . . . . . Wynn Skelton

### Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader . . . . . Neil McIver

Pianist . . . . . Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading . . . . . Psalm 92:1–15

Sermon . . . . . Wynn Skelton

### Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Wynn Skelton. Mr. Skelton is scheduled to give a Bible study and a sermon today.
2. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havir is giving a sermon in Houston.
3. Thank you from Chamber of Commerce—The Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce thanks the congregation for allowing it to use our building for its annual dinner last Thursday.
4. Thank you to the servers—The congregation thanks Ron Avey, Linda Avey and Michael Bald for serving at the Chamber dinner in our building on Thursday.
5. Thank you from Jean Benedict—Jean Benedict, the Benedict family and the Shipman family thank the congregation for hosting the funeral of Eli Benedict and the meal for the family.
6. Visitation and funeral for Linda Foster on Jan. 23 and 24—Mrs. Foster died on Jan. 16. Please note the following arrangements.
  - Visitation tonight, 5:00–7:00, Croley Funeral Home, Gladewater
  - Funeral tomorrow, 11:00 a.m., church building, family meal following
7. Prayers for peaceful protesters—Please pray for the citizens who are maturely and responsibly exercising their right of peaceful protest.

8. Prayers for victims—Please pray for the citizens who are suffering from the criminals, mobs and thugs who are tormenting our country.
9. Reminders for attending—Here are reminders for people who choose to attend the church service in the building.
  - We do not provide masks or gloves. If these are important to you, please bring your own.
  - We expect attendees to make good use of our spacious hall by spreading out.
10. Edifying the Body—This week’s article (41 pages in length) is “Report of the President’s Advisory 1776 Commission” by the Advisory 1776 Commission. (Comparing this report with decisions by the new administration in Washington, D.C., will help people to understand how the Trump policies were largely a four-year reprieve from the policies of the previous administrations as the deep state returns to resurrected policies.)
11. Among Friends—This week’s article is “The Left Forgets What Martin Luther King Stood For” by guest writer Robert L. Woodson (black civil-rights activist who is founder and president of the Woodson Center in Washington, D.C.).
12. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 34 pages.

### Prayer updates

Please remember to pray for the following people who live at home but are not able to regularly attend our church service—**Sonny Rosenberger, Laura Moran, Annette Payne, Ronnie Shirley** and **Timberly Dunnam**.

Please remember to pray for the following people who are rehabbing at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater—**Ron Feaker** and **Elaine Holloway**.

Please remember **David Bonilla**, who is still dealing with right-side weaknesses (inability to use right arm but can move right leg some). Please remember **Becky**, who is juggling her work schedule with caring for her husband.

On Monday, **Laura Moran** went to a doctor appointment and reports that she was diagnosed with emphysema. She is scheduled to see a pulmonologist on Tuesday.

**Linda Foster** died on Jan. 16. Please remember her husband, **Morris**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

### New prayer requests

The family of **Debbie Smith** of McKinney (daughter of **Melodee Eishen**) is dealing with the coronavirus. Following are excerpts from a report by Mrs. Eishen: “**Brandon** [husband] is in the hospital with China flu complications—still running high temperature, pneumonia, etc. Their daughter **Avery** has also tested positive with symptoms.”

**Howard Baker** (of the local United congregation) had an X ray and ultrasound revealing a fracture and torn ligament in his ankle. The doctor determined it best to treat the injury nonoperatively

**Nancy Witt** of Tulsa, Okla., fell and broke her ankle in two places. She is in a rehabilitation center—where she may reside for six to eight weeks.

**Craig Bruno** of Beaumont has been diagnosed with covid.

**Esther Searls** of Lenexa, Kan. (mother of **Melodee Eishen**), died on Jan. 11. Please remember the family in your prayers.

**Sandra Nelson** of Cincinnati, Ohio, died Jan. 11. Please remember the family in your prayers.

**Tom Blackwell** of Harrison, Ark., died on Jan. 16. Please remember his family in your prayers.

**Osamu Gotoh** of South Pasadena, Calif., died on Jan. 17. Please remember his family in your prayers.

**Jean Ishmael** and daughter **Patricia Worthington** of Sapulpa, Okla., both died on Jan. 18 due to covid. They were in two different hospitals and reportedly passed away within 15 minutes of each other. Please remember the family in your prayers.

## “The Left Forgets What Martin Luther King Stood For”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, [churchofgodbigsandy.com](http://churchofgodbigsandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 23, 2021. Black civil-rights activist Robert Woodson (founder and president of the Woodson Center in Washington, D.C.) is the guest writer. (This article was posted at [wsj.com](http://wsj.com) on Jan. 17.)

By **Robert L. Woodson**

**W**ASHINGTON, D.C.—As the nation celebrates the birth of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the progressive left will again seize the moment to twist the story of black Americans’ struggle, to the detriment of those who suffered most in that struggle.

They’ll put all the attention on the oppressive conditions faced by black freedom fighters—what white racists did to them—rather than on their own spirit in fighting to gain equal rights under the law.

### Ignoring achievement

Instead of celebrating blacks’ achievements and the progress made toward delivering on America’s promissory note, the left will transport yesterday’s real injustices into today’s false social-justice narrative, ignoring the principles that were so crucial to Dr. King.

History is full of inspiring examples of black people succeeding against the odds, including building their own schools, hotels, railroads and banking systems when doors were closed to them. According to the economist Thomas Sowell, “the power-

ty rate among blacks fell from 87 percent in 1940 to 47 percent by 1960.”

### Cherished values

These accomplishments were made possible by a set of values cherished among the blacks of the time: self-determination, resiliency, personal virtue, honesty, honor and accountability. Dr. King understood that these values would be the bedrock for black success once true equality was won.

As early as 1953, he warned that “one of the most common tendencies of human nature is that of placing responsibility on some external agency for sins we have committed or mistakes we have made.”

### Perpetual victims

Today the progressive left wants to ignore the achievements and pretend that blacks are perpetual victims of white racism. *The New York Times*’s “1619 Project” essay series is the latest salvo in this attack on America’s history and founding—claiming “anti-black racism runs in the very DNA of this country.” This statement is an abomination of everything Dr. King stood for.

Further, the left's disinterest in historical accuracy—as evinced in the *Time's* dismissal of corrections sought by prominent historians—and its frequent perversion of blacks' story will have grave consequences not only for blacks but the nation as a whole.

### True to founders

In the sharp contrast to the claims of the "1619 Project"—which disparages the American Revolution and Declaration of Independence and insists America is hopelessly racist—Dr. King believed deeply in the need to remain true to the Founders' vision—the "patriot dream that sees beyond the years."

To him, that was the only avenue toward fulfilling America's promise.

As he wrote in his 1963 "Letters From a Birmingham Jail": "One day the South will know that when these disinherited children of God sat down at lunch counters, they were in reality standing up for what is best in the American dream and for the most sacred values in our Judeo-Christian heritage, thereby bringing our nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the founding fathers in their formulation of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. We will reach the goal of freedom in Birmingham and all over the nation, because the goal of America is freedom. Abused and scorned though we may be, our destiny is tied up with America's destiny."

### Grievance-based identity

Dr. King, who sought full participation in America, would never have indulged today's grievance-based identity politics—whose social-justice warriors use race as a battering ram against the country.

In fact, in "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" Dr. King explicitly warned against the type of groupthink that characterizes identity politics: "Individuals may see the moral light and voluntarily give up their unjust posture; but, as Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us, groups tend to be more immoral than individuals."

■ Yesterday's values prepared blacks to walk through the doors of opportunity opened to them through civil rights. Family, faith, character and moral behavior were all crucial to their victories.

■ Today's social-justice warriors trade on the currency of oppression, deriding the concept of personal responsibility and always blaming external forces. I can think of no better way to instill hopelessness and fear in a young person than to tell him he is a victim—powerless to change his circumstance.

### Avoided excuses

During the civil-rights movement blacks never permitted oppression to define who we were. Instead we cultivated moral competence, enterprise and thrift, and viewed oppression as a stumbling block—not an excuse.

Dr. King would have refused to participate in today's identity-politics gamesmanship because it frames its grievances in opposition to the American principles of freedom and equality that he sought to redeem.

### Created equal

He upheld the country's founding principles and sought to destroy only what got in the way of delivering the promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—as well as the recognition that all men are created equal.

Last month the school board of Westfield, N.J., approved a history course on critical race theory, which is the embodiment of the oppressor narrative embraced by the left. At the board meeting a young woman spoke passionately in favor of the course—ending her comments by blaming slavery for the absence of black fathers in the home. This is how successful the left, with its lethal message of despair and distortion of history, has been at undermining agency within the black community.

### Confronting evil

To honor the legacy of Dr. King, we must not only acknowledge the evil he confronted, but also focus on his example in overcoming it. He persevered and triumphed in the face of evil, because he was beholden to the truth, honor and love for all mankind—driven as he was to see blacks share fully in the American dream.

We must not let the purveyors of identity politics fudge the record: Martin Luther King Jr. believed in the promise of America. In fact, he helped to fulfill it.