

**Church of God Big Sandy**  
**ChurchofGodBigSandy.com**  
**Sept. 3, 2022 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:41**

**Bible studies**

Interactive study—1:00 p.m.	Dave Havir
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	Ecclesiastes 11:1-10
Sermon	Dave Havir

**Quick takes**

1. 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

2. 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

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. Destin housing at the Pelican is full—We learned that the Pelican Beach

Resort in Destin has no more rooms available for the Feast of Tabernacles. Ami Ison (a member from a sister congregation in Tennessee) recommends checking with The Emerald Coast by Owner (emeraldbyowner.com). Ami is also willing to receive telephone calls at (731) 614-2635 to help people with their questions.

5. Wednesday-night Bible study on Sept. 7—Wynn Skelton is scheduled to continue his series about 1 Peter.

6. "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.

7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Moral State of America Is in Deep Trouble" by Bill Donohue.

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

9. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 40 pages. (This edition has three articles and 256 headlines.)

### **Prayer updates**

**Timberly Dunnam** reported that she had mostly good days through the week, but she had back pain on Friday.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Linda Avey** had fallen and was diagnosed with a torn muscle in her right shoulder. She was able to get things done. However, her go-getter approach to life influenced her to sometimes overdo her activities this week. She is trying to adjust her activity level. She and **Ron** thank you for your prayers.

On Wednesday, **Nancy Amburgey** went to a doctor appointment concerning her recent dog bite. She thanks you for your prayers after her recovery from the pain and swelling of her left arm.

**Dorothy Jones** (mother of **Shirley Spearman**) reports that she had a good week—with improved energy and with only one day that was somewhat taxing. She appreciates your prayers.

**Brian Biggs** remains in serious condition in a hospital. He and his mother, **Judy**, thank you for your prayers.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Ken Tate** was having difficulty with his food passing the esophagus. As it turned out, the medication he had before a procedure actually relaxed his esophagus enough that the food passed to his stomach before the procedure was needed. He and **Janice** thank you for your prayers.

In the Aug. 6 bulletin, we mentioned that **Teresa Freeman** of Penhook, Va., had been diagnosed with breast cancer. Her husband, **David**, gave the following report: "The surgeon wants to do a mastectomy on the right breast and a biopsy on the left breast. The doctor also wants to do genetic testing. The cancer is low grade and slow growing—and it appears to be not in the lymph nodes. Teresa and I thank you for your prayers.

### **New prayer requests**

**Martha McIver** has been dealing with a lot of leg, foot and knee pain. She reported: "While it is not a throbbing pain, it is stabbing pain—that threatens to make me fall when it hits."

On Thursday, **Teresa McLearen** was diagnosed with covid. However, her husband, **Dave**, does not have it.

**Anna Booher** of Shreveport, La., was diagnosed with covid and pneumonia.

**Harold Eaton** of Knoxville, Tenn., was diagnosed with stage 4 lymphoma.

**Chuck Calahan** of Tyler (father of **Sue Johns** and **Linda Gallia**) died on Aug. 29. Please remember his family in your prayers.

**Roy Page** of Bullard (uncle of **Pam Havir**) died on Aug. 30. (The funeral was scheduled this morning in Tyler at 10:00.) Please remember his wife, **Nancy**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

### **Thought for the week**

"The United States needs to spend \$35 billion to meet the demand for 1.2 million public ports for electric vehicles by 2030—and that is not counting the 28 million ports needed in homes."—*Christopher Carbone*.

### **Thought with a twist**

"Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad."



## Watch and Pray

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. 3, 2022.

**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—Although I believe that most of the people reading this article have had the correct view of "watching" for most of their Christian walk, I wanted to remind my friends of the importance of watching.

Some people identify watching as merely watching world events. While watching world events can have wonderful value, it should not be the main emphasis for watching.

At this time, I want to mention two approaches to avoid concerning the area of watching world events.

- Watching does not give people permission to push their personal opinions about prophecy upon other people.
- Watching does not give people permission to set prophecy dates on behalf of God.

### **Pushing personal opinions**

*Jeremiah 23:16*—"Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord.' "

*Jeremiah 23:21*—"I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied."

### **Setting dates for God**

*Matthew 24:36*—"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

## **Staying awake**

I believe that Matthew 24 shows that there are two lessons about staying awake.

- Stay awake by watching world events.
- Stay awake to promote proper behavior.

If watching world events does not lead to proper behavior, it is of little value.

## **Watching events**

I believe that Bible students understand the following basic ideas.

- Watching events should be a motivation to influence people to have proper behavior.
- Watching events should not increase a person's negativity within himself or toward other people.
- Negativity within oneself often manifests itself as fear.
- Negativity toward other people often manifests itself as condemnation.

Let's notice the obvious references in Matthew 24 about watching events.

*Matthew 24:3*—"Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

*Matthew 24:15*—"Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand) . . ."

*Matthew 24:32-33*—"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!"

## **Proper behavior**

Let's notice the obvious references in Matthew 24 about how watching should lead to proper behavior.

*Matthew 24:16-18*—"Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes."

*Matthew 24:42-44*—"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

*Matthew 24:45-47*—"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods."

*Matthew 24:48-51*—"But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- Matthew 25:1-13 mentioned the parable of the 10 virgins.
- Matthew 25:14-30 mentioned the parable of the talents.
- Matthew 25:34-46 mentioned helping the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick and imprisoned.

### **Luke's version**

*Luke 21:34*—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly."

*Luke 21:35*—"For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth."

*Luke 21:36*—"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."