

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

June 14, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:31

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Daniel Hammons

Presentation study—2:00 Daniel Hammons
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Wynn Skelton

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Psalm 15

Sermon Daniel Hammons

Quick takes

1. God bless the fathers in the congregation—Although we should seek to honor fathers every day of the year, we hope that families will extend kindness and appreciation to their fathers this weekend.
2. Pastor's travel— Today, Dave Havir is giving a sermon in Salt Lick, Ky.
 - If you need to talk with him, feel free to text or call him.
 - Mr. Havir hopes to be back home on Tuesday, June 17.
3. Dominoes—Tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.
4. Wednesday-night Bible study—June 18 at 7:00.
5. Board election proceeds through June. Here are the names of the four nominated people who agreed to let their names proceed forward.
 - Daniel Hammons
 - Sue Jones
 - Neil McIver
 - Doyle Welborn
6. Presentation on June 21 about trip to Israel—Dave Havir asked Don Smith to give two presentations about his recent trip to Israel. (Mr. Smith and Mr. Havir,

who graduated in the same class at Ambassador College in 1974, participated together in an archaeological dig in Jerusalem in the summer of 1972.) A few weeks ago, Mr. Smith went back to Israel for the first time in 53 years. Mr. Smith plans to show accompanying slides during his presentation on June 21.

7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "UN Finally Declares Iran in Nuclear Violation" by Amichai Stein.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "God's Favorite Name Is 'Father'" by Max Lucado.
9. Eye on the World—This abbreviated edition has only two articles.

Prayer updates

Update Thursday night from **Sylvia Smelly** about her brother **Tom Pike**: "They switched some of his medications and gave a steroid to help stabilize his vessels. He is still in a very fragile state. They are still trying to mostly maintain stability. No word on the pneumonia yet—still very critical. They put a device on the heart to monitor its functions directly."

New prayer requests

Joanne Koenek has been dealing with multiple autoimmune illnesses and requests prayer for healing. Mrs. Koenek also requests prayers for her brother, **David Holcomb**, in Alabama. He is being treated for cancer.

Thoughts for the week

"We are not aging; we are ripening to perfection."—*Aunty Acid*
"I'm pretty sure I seized the wrong day."—*Linda Cartwright*

Scriptures to consider

Micah 4:5—"For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever."

Malachi 2:6—"The law of truth was in his mouth, and injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from iniquity."

Micah 6:8—"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

1 John 1: 7—"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Scriptures to consider

Matthew 7:21-23—"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Titus 1:16—"They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work."

Deuteronomy 5:16—"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you."

Colossians 3:19-21—"Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."

Ephesians 6:1-4—"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

"God's Favorite Name Is 'Father'"

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website (churchofgodbigsandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of June 14, 2025. (A version was posted at maxlucado.com in July 2016.)

By Max Lucado

SAN ANTONIO—Of all his names, *Father* is God's favorite. We know he loves this name most because this is the one He used most. While on earth, Jesus called God 'Father' over 200 times.

■ In His first recorded words Jesus explained, "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49).

■ In His final triumphant prayer He proclaims, "Father, I give You My life" (Luke 23:46).

■ In the Gospel of John alone, Jesus repeats this name 156 times. God loves to be called Father. After all, didn't Jesus teach us to begin our prayer with the phrase, "Our Abba"?

Abba was an everyday word. It was a home-

ly family word. The equivalent would be Poppa, Daddy or Dad. It is right for you to call God your Creator, indeed He is. You speak truth when you call Him your Master, indeed He is. It is appropriate for you to call Him your King, Lord and Sovereign God. But, if you want to touch His heart, call Him by the name He loves to hear. Call Him *Abba*. Call him your *Father*.

Some time ago my daughter and I spent several days in the Old City of Jerusalem. One afternoon, as were exiting the Jaffa gate, my daughter and I found ourselves in a throng of people. From somewhere in the crowd we heard the voice of a small child. "Abba! Abba!" We turned and looked. There was a young girl, perhaps 4 or 5 years of age. She had become separated from her family. As

the people were rushing passed, she was stopped and afraid. “Abba! Abba!”

From out of nowhere, her father appeared. By looking at his hair and clothing, I knew, he was a Hasidic Jew. When he heard his daughter cry *Abba!*, he had realized that she was separated from the family. I watched closely; I wanted to see what an *abba* would do.

He hurried over to her. Nothing was going to stop him from reaching his daughter. He immediately lowered himself to her level. He held her close. He then looked at her in the face and brushed away the tear. He gave her a firm word. He then stood and lifted her up. She wrapped her arms around his neck and legs around his waist. He held her as they descended the ramp. When he stopped at a busy street, she stepped off the curb, so he pulled her back. When the signal changed, he led her and her sisters through the intersection. In the middle of the street, he reached down and swung her up in his arms and continued their journey.

That is what an *abba* does. Isn’t that what God has done for us? When we wandered away, He found us. When He found us, He lowered Himself to our level. He brushed away our tears. He gave us a word of correction. He picked us up and He is leading us home. You have an *Abba*.

I know what some of you are thinking. *Yeah, God does that for some people. For good people. For strong people. Not me. I’m just ho-hum. I’m just average. I’m just measly old, little old, common, ordinary me.*

Really? Because I read something else. According to what I read in the Bible, you are anything but ordinary. I read that when you said yes to Jesus, He said yes to you, that, when you gave Him your heart, He returned the favor and gave you His.

I read that your *Abba* “has blessed [you] with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

That you are a “new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

I read that you “have obtained an inheritance” (Eph. 1:11).

You are “. . . heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” (Rom. 8:17).

I read that you are: “an ambassador of

Christ . . .” (2 Cor. 5:20) “. . . the fragrance of Christ . . .” (2 Cor. 2:15) “. . . transformed into the image of Christ” (Rom. 8:29).

I read that you have been “delivered . . . from the power of darkness and conveyed . . . into the kingdom of the Son” (Col. 1:13). I read that “. . . no one will snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28).

Normal? I don’t think so. I read that if you “Ask, you shall receive, seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you” (Mt. 7:7). “Whatever you ask in the name of your Father that will be given unto you” (Jn. 16:23).

I even read this: “Greater is he who is in you than He who is in the world” (1 Jn. 4:4).

You used to be normal, ho-hum, and average. No longer. You are not who you used to be! You are:

- God’s child (John 1:12)
- Christ’s friend (John 15:15)
- A member of Christ’s body (1 Cor. 12:27)
- A saint (Eph. 1:1)
- Redeemed and forgiven of all your sins (Col. 1:14)
- Complete in Christ, lacking in nothing (Col. 2:10)
- Free from condemnation (Rom. 8:1–2)
- God’s coworker (2 Cor. 6:1)
- Seated with Christ in the heavenly realm (Eph. 2:6)
- God’s workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
- A citizen of heaven (Phil. 3:20)
- Adopted into God’s family (Eph. 1:5)
- Born of God, and the evil one cannot touch you (1 John 5:18)
- You have been bought with a price . . . you belong to God (1 Cor. 6:20)
- You cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom. 8:35)

It seems to me that your *Abba* has high affection for you! If you have taken on the name of Christ, then you have clout. When you speak, God listens. When you pray, heaven takes note. What you bind on earth is bound in heaven. What you loose on earth is loosed in heaven. Your prayer impacts the actions of God.

Why? Because you are a child of God. And you have a good Father...a good, good Father.