

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Sept. 27, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:09

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dwayne Gallia
Presentation study—2:00 Neil McIver
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Isaiah 9:1–7
Sermon Wynn Skelton

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havir is speaking in the Shreveport, La., area.
2. Dominoes—Tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Oct. 1 at 7:00.
4. Day of Atonement—The congregation will be observing the Day of Atonement on Thursday, Oct. 2. Here is the schedule.
 - 1:00—Interactive Bible study
 - 2:00—Presentation Bible study—Dave Havir
 - 3:00—Church service—with Wynn Skelton giving the sermon
5. Opening-night meet and greet—At the Feast site in Big Sandy, there will be an opening-night meet and greet on Monday, Oct. 6, 6:00–8:00. Coffee and cookies will be served.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Fasting on the Day of Atonement" by Dave Havir.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "Preparing for the Day of Atonement—Part 1" by Dave Havir.

Prayer updates

On Tuesday, it was good to see **Jon Coffee** at the church service during the Feast of Trumpets. While he was happy to be in attendance, he informed **Dave Havir** that he presently does not feel his health is well enough for him to speak in Big Sandy during the Feast of Tabernacles. We certainly understand, and we greatly enjoy seeing his smiling face. He appreciates your prayers.

On Thursday, **Gary Wilson** was able to return home from his in-patient stay at physical therapy.

On Thursday, **Gary** and **Becky Woodring** arrived back in Texas. They divided the trip from western North Carolina to Texas into two driving days. Mr. Woodring said he is feeling better. He reported that his wife did 95 percent of the driving. He had a doctor's appointment on Friday.

On Friday, **Morris Foster** reported that he continues to make progress. Next Wednesday, he is scheduled for a follow-up visit with a urologist. He is planning to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Panama City, Fla. He thanks you for your prayers.

New prayer requests

David Sproat of Arizona sent the following report on Thursday: "I have been urinating blood for a few days now with little improvement. I have experienced several of these episodes since my bladder surgery several years ago, but this one is lasting longer and is more intense. Please pray that the Father will have mercy on me and stem the flow of blood and heal my urinary tract once and for all. Thank you and all the brethren for your love and concern. Wishing you all a blessed and fulfilling fall holy days."

Ranae Phelps of Gladewater died on Sept. 19. Please remember her husband, **Phillip**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Big Sandy Feast activity schedule

- Light breakfast every day
- Church service at 11:00 a.m. every day
- 10/7—Lunch
- 10/8—Games and crafts
- 10/9—Movie
- 10/10—personal options, nearby museums
- 10/11—Interactive Bible study—Mike Bailey
- 10/12—Lunch and indoor picnic
- 10/13—Interactive Bible study—Don Smith
- 10/14—Lunch

Feast speaking schedules

Big Sandy

Oct. 7 Wynn Skelton
 Oct. 8 Dave Havir
 Oct. 9 Dave Havir
 Oct. 10 Wynn Skelton
 Oct. 11 Richard Crow
 Oct. 12 Will Martin
 Oct. 13 Don Smith
 Oct. 14 Wynn Skelton



Destin

Oct. 7 Ken Tate (40 minutes)
 Oct. 8 Clint Ison (10 minutes)
 Oct. 9 Danny Miller (10 minutes)
 Oct. 10 Dave Havir (10 minutes)
 Oct. 11 Mike Wiesman (30 minutes)
 Oct. 12 Dave Havir (10 minutes)
 Oct. 13 Dave Havir (10 minutes)
 Oct. 14 Neil McIver (20 minutes)

Ben Franklin (30 minutes)
 Chad Tate (30 minutes)
 Bill Crow (30 minutes)
 Ramon Coleman (30 minutes)
 John Havir (30 minutes)
 Anthony Kimmons (30 minutes)
 Daniel Hammons (30 minutes)
 Neal Parker (40 minutes)

“Preparing for the Day of Atonement—Part 1”

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 Sept. 27, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a two-part series. The presentation was titled “Preparing for the Day of Atonement—Part 1.” Since we celebrated the Feast of Trumpets on Tuesday, Sept. 23, and we will celebrate the Day of Atonement on Thursday, Oct. 2, there are only two Wednesday nights (Sept. 24 and Oct. 1) between the two celebrations.

Last Wednesday was the first Bible study. An interesting twist this year is that our next Wednesday-night Bible study (Oct. 1) will actually be a part of our observing the Day of Atonement—since sundown for us will be around 7:04 and our Bible study starts at 7:00.

Since our Bible-study presentations are primarily given for our friends and brethren around the country, I enjoy our small crowd

on Wednesday night. I will certainly understand if the brethren want to stay home to start their fast. But it is vital for a sound technician (generally Michael Bald) to be there. Even though I would understand if our pianist (Dixon Cartwright) wants to be at home, I won’t be surprised if he comes to play music for us.

The presentation on Wednesday night was about fasting. A subtitle for the presentation would be “Three Situations for Fasting.” But, before I discussed the three concepts, I gave a few foundational scriptures.

“When you fast”

■ Matthew 6:16-18—The Son of God began His comments about fasting by saying “When you fast . . .”

■ Luke 5:33-35—When the disciples asked Christ why His disciples at that time were not

fasting, He asked: “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them?”

■ Luke 18:9-14—When Christ gave a parable about people thinking they were more righteous than other people, He pointed out that the Pharisee fasted for the wrong reason.

■ Acts 13:3—When Barnabas and Paul were chosen to serve the Lord, the brethren in Antioch fasted and prayed before laying hands on them.

■ Acts 14:23—When the brethren appointed elders (to serve) in every church, they prayed with fasting.

■ 1 Corinthians 7:1-5—Paul wrote that marital love should be consensual, and one of the few reasons for a delay in marital love was time for fasting and prayer.

Three situations

When considering three situations for fasting, a person could take a chronological approach—before, during and after.

In the presentation and in this article, I am reversing the order—after, during and before.

After a sin—part of repentance

■ 1 Samuel 7:5-6—The people fasted and prayed: “We have sinned against the LORD.”

■ 1 Kings 21:2-29—After Jezebel arranged a large fast through deception (producing a forged letter of her husband, King Ahab), Ahab conducted a meaningful personal fast.

■ 1 Kings 21:8-16—Jezebel forged a letter (she wrote it and sealed it with her husband’s seal) and tricked the elders and the nobles into conducting a fast—during which time Naboth was assassinated.

■ 1 Kings 21:27—Ahab tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his body, fasted, lay in sackcloth and went about mourning.

■ Ezra 10:1-6—When Ezra came there, he ate no bread and drank no water as he mourned.

■ Nehemiah 1:3-11—Nehemiah said: “We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which you commanded Your servant Moses.”

■ Nehemiah 9:1-3—“The children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth and with dust on their heads.”

■ Daniel 9:3-19—Daniel said: “I set my face toward the LORD God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.”

■ Daniel 9:5—Daniel said: “We have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled.”

■ Daniel 9:19—Daniel said: “O LORD, hear! O LORD, forgive! O LORD, listen and act!”

During a trial—seeking help

■ Judges 20:21-26—After the children of Israel were defeated by the Benjamites on two days, they went to the house of God and fasted.

■ 2 Samuel 12:15-23—When the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David became ill, David fasted for the baby to live.

■ 2 Chronicles 20:3-4—When the armies were approaching Judah, King Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast.

■ Ezra 8:21-23—Ezra proclaimed a fast—being ashamed to ask for an escort of soldiers.

■ Esther 4:1-3—There was great mourning among the Jews with fasting, weeping and wailing—and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

■ Esther 4:16—Esther sent a message to Mordecai: “Gather the Jews who are present and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise.”

■ Jonah 3:5-10—“The people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth—from the greatest to the least of them.”

■ Matthew 17:21—The Son of God said: “This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Before important events

Fasting is a wonderful means for connecting with the Father before important events.

■ Exodus 34:28—Moses fasted for 40 days and 40 nights (neither eating bread nor drinking water). And the Lord wrote the word of the covenant (the Ten Commandments) on the tablets.

■ Matthew 4:1-11—When the Son of God was to be tempted by the devil, He fasted 40 days and 40 nights.