

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Nov. 1, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:31

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havar

Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havar
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Romans 5:1–11

Sermon Ray Hall

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Ray Hall. He will give the sermon at 3:00 p.m.
2. Daylight-saving time ends tomorrow (in the early morning).
3. No dominoes tomorrow.
4. Memorial service for Shirley West—The memorial service for Shirley West is scheduled for tomorrow with grandson Aaron West scheduled to officiate.
 - When—Tomorrow
 - Time—1:00 p.m.
 - Where—our building
 - Our congregation will provide food for the family and friends
5. Memorial service for Pat Stewart—The memorial service for Pat Stewart (of the United Church of God East Texas) is scheduled in that congregation's building tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.
6. Wednesday-night Bible study—Nov. 5 at 7:00.

7. Community Thanksgiving Gathering—Our congregation has the privilege of hosting the 2025 Community Thanksgiving Gathering in our building. (Our congregation became active in this annual event in 2017. Our congregation had the privilege of previously hosting the event in 2019—and now again in 2025.)
- Date—Sunday, Nov. 23
 - Time—4:30 p.m.
 - Location—in our building
8. Helping with the Myrtle Beach Feast site in 2026—For 20 years our congregation helped Lyle and Kathy Kerby of West Virginia with the Myrtle Beach Feast site. (The Kerbys did most of the work, while our congregation offered our good name, and we did the speaking schedule.) For the past several years, we have not helped with the site. The coordinators for the past several years (Jamie and Sheila Wetherington and Ralph and Jenny Hanahan) have asked Dave Havir to oversee the speaking schedule again (as he had done in the past). The coordinators will continue with their successful efforts, and Mr. Havir will organize the speaking schedule.
9. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "What Do You Do With Pain?" by Max Lucado.
10. Among Friends—This week's article is "Finding Peace in Times of Calamity" by Dave Havir.
11. Eye on the World—Not available at bulletin deadline.

New prayer requests

On Monday, **Sandra Sharp** sent two texts about **Hunter Sharp** (24-year-old grandson) who was in a serious motorcycle accident. She reported about his receiving 11 units of blood, having a broken neck in a brace, other broken bones and "trying to save his leg." On Thursday, **Josh Sharp** (father of Hunter) gave an update: "Hunter was in a motorcycle wreck. He's on a ventilator. He has a fractured back and fractured neck. The doctors had to completely rebuild his pelvis. They went in yesterday to fix a busted muscle that was interfering with his bowels. They got it repaired. We request prayers for his leg and for his brain—prayers for a complete healing over his mind and body."

During the Feast of Tabernacles, **Debra Acosta** visited an ER. Last Sunday, She reported: "I have been very tired lately, weak at times, but do not have severity of symptoms as before. On Tuesday, I have an appointment for a fasting bloodwork." On Wednesday, she reported: "I went to the doctor yesterday. Test results will be available in two to three weeks. For now, symptoms are curtailed through medication, diet and rest. (Also **Pastor Dave**, I want to thank you for letting me be a part of your prayer team. It is a privilege and a joy to be able to pray with the saints of God. I am grateful to be a part of His people, and I am thankful for the amazing gift of prayers."

Issac Mendez (who attended the Feast in Big Sandy, who lives near Burleson and hopes to attend our congregation every other week) reported: “My niece **Alexis** is in a hospital in Arizona. She was complaining that her head was hurting and she passed out. They are running tests on her.”

Arcemio Morales from Guatemala was hospitalized in an emergency room, and his condition is very delicate.

Pat Stewart of Big Sandy died on Oct. 27. Please remember the family in your prayers.

“Finding Peace in Times of Calamity”

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 Nov. 1, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Like most religious people, I am happy that our Heavenly Father and His Son are involved in the affairs of this world.

■ Matthew 10:29-31—The Son of God said: “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin?

And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

So I ask you a question: How do you find peace during times of calamity?

Bible students are aware that the Lord is involved in the calamity embracing this world.

■ Isaiah 45:5-7—“I am the LORD, and there is no other. There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, that they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness. I make peace and create calamity. I, the LORD, do all these things.”

God ultimately wins

Even though Bible students understand that evil will have temporary victory (as history has convincingly revealed), children of God have faith and hope in the ultimate success of the Father and the Son.

■ 1 Corinthians 15:24—“Then comes the end, when He [Jesus Christ] delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He [Jesus

Christ] puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.”

■ 1 Corinthians 15:28—“Now when all things are made subject to Him [Jesus Christ], then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him [the Father] who put all things under Him [the Son], that God may be all in all.”

God raises up kings

Bible students are aware of scriptures that show God removing kings and raising up kings.

■ Daniel 2:20-21—Daniel said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons. He removes kings and raises up kings.”

Sometimes, God allows people to be involved

Bible students are also aware of scriptures that show God allowing people to be involved in the process.

■ 1 Samuel 8:5-6—Samuel was displeased when the people wanted a king.

■ 1 Samuel 8:7-9—The Lord told Samuel to give them what they wanted—after He instructed Samuel to warn them of what they were requesting.

■ 1 Samuel 8:11-18—Samuel warned them.

■ 1 Samuel 8:22—The Lord said to Samuel: “Heed their voice, and make them a king.”

Some Christians get involved in the process of choosing a king, and other Christians do not get involved.

Paul exercised his rights

It is interesting to notice that the apostle Paul exercised his rights on three occasions.

In the first two examples, Paul applied his citizenship to get out of difficult situations.

■ Acts 16:36-39—When the magistrates wanted to quietly release Paul, he mentioned: “They have publicly beaten and imprisoned innocent Roman citizens, and now they want to privately free us? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out.”

■ Acts 22:25-28—Paul asked: “Is it lawful for you to scourge an innocent Roman citizen?”

When the commander heard that Paul was indeed a Roman citizen, he said: “With a large sum I obtained my Roman citizenship.” To which, Paul replied: “But I was born a citizen.”

■ In the third example, Paul used his Roman citizenship to bear witness of Christ in Rome (Acts 23:11 and Acts 26:32).

Some believers in our present world seek to follow Paul’s example of using their rights—knowing that it may someday be a blessing to them and it may someday also be an opportunity to bear witness of Christ.

Keep a watchful eye

At this time, I want to tell my friends to keep a watchful eye upon all political parties. Our relationship with the Father and the Son is not connected to our relationship with any specific political party.

But I also want to mention a current pattern of the Democratic Party that raises a strong alarm for many observers.

Keen observations

At this time, I want to share excerpts from two articles.

Looking back to September 2024, an article by Dana Guterman titled “A Sudden Change at the Top: Was the Democratic Party’s Transition Truly Democratic?” was posted at ash.harvard.edu on Sept. 17, 2024.

Guterman wrote: “Never in American history has a party shifted course as quickly and effectively as the Democratic Party did this summer. In a matter of days, Joe Biden was out and Kamala Harris was in. And the party coalesced around their new candidate with a rarely seen enthusiasm and unity. The

rapid transition left many wondering: Was this process truly democratic?”

Looking back to October 2024, an article by Nick Hart titled “When Was the Last Time the Democrats Had a Presidential Primary That Was Actually Democratic?” was posted at medium.com on Oct. 5, 2024.

Hart wrote: “For at least the last three general elections, Democrats haven’t allowed their own base into a position where the driving force to get people to vote for them is anything but a ‘lesser of two evils’ choice. For over a decade now, we have seen the Democratic Party repeatedly use the power of endorsements and super delegates to shift the race towards whoever they believe is the conventionally attractive candidate to forward their neoliberal centrist agenda at any given moment. This culminated in their swapping out of Joe Biden for Kamala Harris at essentially the last possible moment—arguably the most extreme example in modern political history.”

It has been three election cycles

Writer Nick Hart was correct. Democrats have not allowed their voting constituents to choose their candidate for the last three presidential elections.

■ In the 2016 election, the Democrat elites convinced Bernie Sanders to step aside for Hillary Clinton.

■ In the 2020 election, the Democrat elites convinced opponents to step aside for Joe Biden.

■ Toward the end of the 2024 election, the Democrat elites forced Joe Biden to withdraw as the Democratic candidate.

■ After the Democrat elites forced Joe Biden out of the race, those same elites picked Kamala Harris as their nominee—and she did not receive a single vote.

Helpful reminder

In conclusion, I recommend that we remember the words of 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

■ 1 Timothy 2:1-2—“I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men—for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”