

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 14, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:07

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Mike Bailey
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 Jonah 4:1-11
Sermon Morris Foster

Quick takes

1. Thank you to the congregation—Recently, Dave Havar received many food items to distribute on behalf of the Church of God Big Sandy. (He gathered 264 food items on Wednesday, Feb. 4, and 356 items on Friday, Feb. 6.) He reports that the items were given in the following manner. Many people thank the congregation for your kindness.
 - To members of our congregation
 - To individual families in the community
 - To the Agape House
 - To Mayor Linda Baggett (for the Lions Club)
 - To the Grace Communion congregation
2. Dominoes tomorrow—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Feb. 18 at 7:00.
4. Funeral in our building on Friday, Feb. 20—Our congregation will be hosting the funeral for Shirley Spearman (and a meal for the family) in our building on Feb. 20 at 11:00 a.m. Joyce Coleman will be coordinating the food. We appreciate all who are willing to help with food, with hall setup and with hall reset for the Saturday schedule.

5. Community music program—The Big Sandy Museum's musical fundraiser ("Musical Memories"), which was postponed on Jan. 24 due to weather, has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 7, at 7:00 p.m. All advance tickets will be honored on the new date.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Fraud by Design" by Jim Cardoza.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 6" by Dave Hahir.
8. Eye on the World—170 headlines

Prayer updates

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Ruth Roe** had an auto accident that resulted in broken bones (just above the wrist) of the two bones that run from the wrist to the elbow. She is scheduled to have a cast removed on Wednesday. She appreciates that her oldest granddaughter (age 34) lives on the property with her. And she appreciates your prayers.

Linda Avey reported that she is being cautious about her walking—to avoid falling. She also reported that a change in her dialysis schedule to Saturday has her listening to the church service online (instead of being in the church hall). She misses seeing everyone at church and appreciates your prayers.

Dave McLearen has missed the last two Wednesday-night Bible studies (so you know that he hasn't been feeling well). He reports that the gout has gone, but recently he has been dealing with significant back pain.

Ronnie Shirley's postponed surgery (to remove a polyp) was rescheduled to Feb. 26.

New prayer requests

Linda Moers (of Crockett) submitted a prayer request for **Meg McAnally** (22-year-old granddaughter of her friend **Charlotte**) who was in an automobile accident on Wednesday, Feb. 4. Miss McAnally was in Tyler looking for an apartment when a truck crashed into her. The driver of the truck was thrown from the truck and died. Mrs. Moers' initial report said: "Meg's injuries include a severed artery that carries blood to the brain, and she is on a respirator. She has numerous broken bones. She has not been awake since the accident occurred and they are praying for her to regain consciousness." On Friday, we learned that Miss McAnally remains sedated. The doctor did repair her broken leg, to be sure that there was not a blood loss there. The doctor apparently did not fix her broken foot or arm. The doctor did insert a tube in her skull to look for fluid in the brain. Miss McAnally's grandmother (Charlotte) is very appreciative of your prayers.

Len Labunetz from a congregation in Canada was diagnosed with an infection in his spine, which probably explains the swelling in his leg. He is doing physical therapy to regain strength in his legs to be able to walk.

Jim Stintsman (59-year-old son of **Norma**, who is the older sister of **Dave Havir**) has been diagnosed with stage-4 squamous-cell carcinoma. The diagnosis is considered “not curable.” (You might remember the positive report in last week’s bulletin from **Bonita Miller** of North Carolina about her husband. Mrs. Miller sent the following message to Mr. Havir: “We will be praying fervently for your nephew, Jim. My husband was also stage-4, metastatic. He is now cancer-free. God is our healer and our cure.” When Mr. Havir sent that message to his sister, she responded: “Thank you for that. It is what we needed to hear.”

Shirley Spearman died on Feb. 9. Please remember the family in your prayers.

“Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 6”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 14, 2026.

By **Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a seven-part series. The title of the presentation was “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 6.”

The presentation began with the sixth listed characteristic that God hates—that being “a false witness who speaks lies.” From there, I also talked about the sixth characteristic that God loves—that being “a true witness who speaks truth.”

Two traits talk about lying

At the beginning of the presentation, I wanted to make some quick observations about the difference between trait No. 2 (a lying tongue) and trait No. 6 (a false witness who speaks lies).

Both No. 2 and No. 6 have a broad application to everyday living.

- People lie for an advantage—often for power, control and money.

- People lie for status—for recognition, popularity and acceptance.

But here is an element that is associated with No. 6—a false witness who speaks lies has overtones of dealing with a legal system. We will notice that shortly when we discuss Deuteronomy 19:15-21.

Meaning of the names

A false witness who speaks lies certainly sounds like the devil. The adversary’s name describes who he is.

- “Satan” in Hebrew is described in *Strong’s*

Concordance as: “adversary, accuser, one who opposes, slanderer; as a proper name) Satan, the spirit being who is an opponent of God and slanderer of His creation.”

- “Satan” in Greek is described in *Strong’s Concordance* as: “hostile opponent.”

- “Devil” in Greek (*diabolos*) is described in *Strong’s Concordance* as: “devilish, malicious, slanderous.”

Satan is a false witness

- Genesis 3:4-5—The serpent lied about the Lord God to Adam and Eve.

- Luke 22:3-6—Satan entered Judas to confer with the chief priests and captains to betray the Son of God.

- 2 Corinthians 11:14—Satan projects himself as an angel of light.

- Revelation 12:10—The serpent (called the devil and Satan) was described as “the accuser of the brethren, who accused them before our God day and night.”

Court connection

Now, let’s go to Deuteronomy 19:15-21 to see the connection with a court.

- Deuteronomy 19:15—One witness is not enough for any iniquity or any sin. Matters should be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.

- Deuteronomy 19:16-17—Controversies between two individuals were taken “before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days.”

- Deuteronomy 19:18-19—When a false

witness testified falsely against a person, the Bible said: “You shall do to him as he thought to have done to [the other person].”

■ Deuteronomy 19:20—Such an approach would help to reduce the practice of being a false witness.

■ Deuteronomy 19:21—“Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”

Christ’s words

The Son of God mentioned “an eye for an eye” in the Sermon on the Mount.

■ Matthew 5:38-42—The Son of God said: “You have heard that it was said: ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you . . .”

(At this time, I want to share a brief personal opinion with my friends. I believe that it is healthy to introduce a scaled-down version of the concept of “an eye for an eye” to children and young people—to help them to deal with cruel individuals and to learn to self-respect. As young people grow up, they should shift toward the words of the Son of God in Matthew 5:38-42.)

Examples of false witnesses

■ Luke 11:53-54—Luke wrote: “The scribes and Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently and to cross-examine Him about many things—lying in wait for Him and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.”

■ Luke 20:20—Luke wrote: “They [chief priests and scribes, mentioned in verse 19] watched Him and sent spies (who pretended to be righteous) that they might seize on His words—in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.”

■ Matthew 26:59-65—Matthew wrote: “The chief priests, elders and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death.”

■ Acts 6:13-14—Luke wrote: “They also set up false witnesses [against Stephen].”

The Father is a true witness

■ Hebrews 6:18—It is impossible for God to lie.

■ Isaiah 45:7—Yet the Lord creates calamity.

■ 1 Kings 22:19-23—How did the Lord fulfill His goal of having Ahab to fall at Ra-

moth Gilead? After listening to several proposed solutions, He approved the plan of a lying spirit.

The Son is a true witness

■ John 5:19—The Son does what He sees the Father do.

■ John 5:30—The Son judges as He hears what the Father says.

■ John 7:16—The Son does the doctrine of Him who sent the Son.

■ John 8:28—The Son said: “As My Father taught Me, I speak these things.”

■ John 18:37—The Son told Pilate why He came: “For this cause I was born and for this cause I have come into the world—that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Old Testament reminders

■ Psalm 15:4—in the midst of characteristics that please the Lord in this psalm, David mentions: “He who swears [in a legal proceeding] to his own hurt and does not change.”

■ Proverbs 12:17—“He who speaks truth declares righteousness, but a false witness deceit.”

■ Proverbs 14:5—“A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness will utter lies.”

■ Proverbs 25:18—“A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword and a sharp arrow.”

■ Zechariah 8:16—“Give judgment in your courts for truth, justice and peace . . . Do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate, says the LORD.”

Giving a testimony

Although I did not spend much time with the final two scriptures in the Bible study, I wanted to quickly mention them as food for thought (on Wednesday night and at the conclusion of this article).

■ Amos 5:13—“Therefore, the prudent keep silent at that time, for it is an evil time.”

■ Luke 21:13-15—The Lord will turn some bad situations into an opportunity for Him to give a testimony through you. “Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.”