

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 30, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:23

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. David Smith

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 Joshua 6:15–25

Sermon Morris Foster

Quick takes

1. Annual board-nomination process—The annual election for the board of the Church of God Big Sandy is in progress. (The nomination portion of the process ends today, and the election occurs in June.)
2. Wednesday-night Bible study—May 27 at 7:00.
3. Edifying the Body—“U.S.-Israel Alliance, Military Peak but Political Uncertainty” by Yaakov Katz.
4. Among Friends—“2 Thessalonians 2—Part 1” by Dave Havir.
5. Eye on the World—The project was not complete at the bulletin deadline.
6. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

- Mickey Ashcraft
- Judy Biggs
- Jon Coffee
- Angela Dunnam
- Timberly Dunnam

- Ruth Roe
- Ronnie Shirley
- Elaine Townsend
- Mickey Voyce
- Donna Weese

Prayer updates

On Monday **Ken Tate** (family friend of **Greg** and **Minette Smith**) got permission to pass along an update about Mrs. Smith. He wrote: “**Janice** and I heard from our dear friends, Minette and Greg Smith, earlier this evening. Minette, who is suffering from metastatic cancer, has reached a critical stage. She asks the Father and the Messiah to grant her either immediate healing or, in Their mercy, take her. Minette and Greg thank all you prayer warrior for sharing this journey with them. Minette, even though she is in pain, says that she is not afraid of what comes next—as both of them have placed their lives completely in the hands of the Creator. She knows He will (whether now or in the resurrection) call and she will answer. He will have a desire for the work of His hands (Job 14:15).” On Friday, Mr. Smith informed **Dave Havir** that hospice care has been helping Mrs. Smith to be comfortable.

On Tuesday, **Sheila Alexander** reported about her mother: “Unfortunately, Mom [**Linda Avey**] has gone downhill the last couple of days and is barely responsive.” On Wednesday, Mrs. Avey was moved to Hospice of East Texas in Tyler. During parts of the day, she was not very talkative. When **Dave Havir** visited her on Thursday and when the family left the room, he reported that she did most of the talking for 35 minutes. (When Mr. Havir visited Mrs. Avey last weekend, she mentioned something to him that was shocking—telling him that her pain during the previous evening was the worst pain she had ever felt. At the time, he wanted to mention it to help remind people to pray for her, but she did not want him to mention it to anyone. Since then, she gave him permission to tell people.)

On Wednesday, we received the following update about **Diane Koehn** of Flagstaff, Ariz.: “The ventilator tube was removed on Monday—which is a slight, but positive, improvement. She is still in the ICU.”

New prayer requests

On Tuesday, **Tricia Sooter** gave the following report about her husband, **Richard** (of Fort Worth): “Richard had a heart cath this afternoon. The doctor said a stent from 2021 was partially clogged and there was a blockage above it. The doctor cleaned out the stent and put another one next to it. Thank you for your prayers.”

On Thursday, **Gordon Rensing Sr.** (father of the **Gordon Rensing** who attends our congregation) fell and went to a hospital in Longview, where he was diagnosed with a broken hip. The surgery on Friday went well.

On Sunday, **Kathryn Pearce** (of the Big Sandy community) went to a hospital for testing. A friend reported: “She said that her liver enzymes were out of whack.” On Friday, it was reported that she is out of the hospital and recuperating at a friend’s house.

Art Morris of Butler, Ohio (father of **Linda Daniels**), died on May 26. Please remember his family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

Numbers 6:22-26—“And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ‘Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, “This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: ‘The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.’”

Psalms 23—“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

2 Corinthians 1:1-4—“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17—“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.”

Jude 24-25—“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.”

“2 Thessalonians 2—Part 1”

This article was posted in the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com) for the weekend of May 30, 2026.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a series about 1 and 2 Thessalonians. The title of the presentation was “2 Thessalonians 2—Part 1.”

Many Bible students believe that 2 Thessalonians was written as a clarification of 1 Thessalonians. If so, the clarification apparently comes into play in chapter 2.

Four foundational ideas

When I read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2, I believe that there are four foundational ideas involving a probable clarification of information.

■ Paul wrote about issues concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

■ Paul asked that they are not to be shaken in mind—not to be troubled by spirit, by word or by letter.

■ When Paul mentioned not to be trou-

bled by letter, he mentioned: “as if from us.”

■ When Paul said not to be troubled, he mentioned: “as though the day of Christ had come.”

Two specific concepts

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 mentions two specific concepts.

■ “For that day will not come until the falling away comes first.”

■ “For that day will not come until the man of sin (the son of perdition) is revealed.”

So I chose to give two presentations about 2 Thessalonians 2.

■ May 27 = Falling away

■ June 3 = Antichrist

Two sections of Scripture

Notice what 1 Timothy 4:1-2 mentions about departing from the faith.

■ Giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons

■ Speaking lies in hypocrisy

■ Having their own conscience seared with a hot iron

Notice what Hebrews 6:4-6 mentions about people falling away and not being renewed unto repentance.

■ Those who were once enlightened

■ Those who have tasted of the heavenly gift

■ Those who have become partakers of the Holy Spirit

■ Those who have tasted the good Word of God

■ Those who have tasted the power of the age to come

Positive words of Christ

Here are some words in the Gospel of John, quoting Christ saying some positive words about the future of some believers.

■ John 10:28—The Son of God said: “I give them eternal life and they shall never

perish. Neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

■ John 10:29—The Son of God said: “My Father (who has given them to Me) is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

Helpful warnings by Christ

When the Son of God described “the seed is the Word of God,” He gave warnings of why people reject God.

■ Luke 8:11—The parable was about the seed being the Word of God.

■ Luke 8:12—Sometimes, the devil comes to take away the Word out of their hearts.

■ Luke 8:13—Sometimes, people receive the Word with joy, but they have no root so temptation influences them to fall away.

■ Luke 8:14—Sometimes, the cares of this life (riches, pleasures, etc.) choke the Word.

■ Luke 8:15—And, sometimes, people keep the Word with a good heart and bear fruit with patience.

Encouraging words

Notice how the end of 2 Thessalonians 2 helps people with encouraging words.

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14—Paul wrote: “God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth—to which He called you by our gospel for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:15—Paul wrote: “Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.”

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17—Paul wrote: “Now, may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father (who loved us and gave us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace) comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.”

Thoughts for the week

“You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.”
—Zig Ziglar (formerly of Holly Lake)

“You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”
—Martin Luther King Jr.