

Church of God Big Sandy
ChurchofGodBigSandy.com
September 5, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:40

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	Neil McIver
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading	Joshua 6:6-25
Sermon	Reg Killingley

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel–Today, Dave Havir is speaking in Huntsville, Texas.
2. Thank you to the board–The congregation thanks the board for acquiring the new chair in the auditorium. Although there were various challenges in finalizing the delivery date, the chairs arrived yesterday.
3. Helping with the chairs–After church today, Neil McIver and Michael Bald ask some of you to help to remove some of the protective plastic and cardboard covering on the legs of the chairs. Thank you for your help.
4. Havir family activity tonight–Dave Havir has scheduled a family activity throughout the building tonight after sundown. We hope they have a pleasant time.
5. Kennebeck family party tomorrow at noon–Mike and Brenda Kennebeck have scheduled a family activity in the classrooms tomorrow. We hope they have a pleasant time.
6. Dominos–Since the Kennebeck party is scheduled in the classrooms tomorrow, the regular domino games can be played in a portion of the main hall. Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
7. Want a movie on Sunday night?–Since we have the comfortable new chairs, Dave Havir is considering to show a movie on Sunday night (around 5:00). If interested, text him.
8. Wednesday-night Bible study–September 9 at 7:00.
 - Last week was “1 Peter 2:4-5 – Part 4”
“You are being built up as a Holy Priesthood”
 - Next week is “1 Peter 2:4-5 – Part 5”
“You are to offer Spiritual Sacrifices – Acceptable to God”
9. Feast of Trumpets–Saturday, Sept. 12.
 - 1:00 – Interactive study by Jim Bald
 - 2:00 – Bible study by Dave Havir
 - 3:00 – Church service, with sermon by Anthony Kimmons

10. Day of Atonement–Monday, Sept. 21.
11. Feast of Tabernacles–Saturday, Sept. 26 through Saturday, Oct. 3. Our congregation will be hosting Feast of Tabernacle celebrations at two sites – Big Sandy and Destin, Florida. (In addition, friends in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., have asked Dave Havir to established the speaking schedule for that Feast site.)
12. Edifying the Body–“5 Remarkable Animal Moms.”
13. Among Friends–“1 Peter 2:4-5 – Part 4” by Dave Havir
14. Eye on the World–Compiled by Dave Havir
15. From the Kitchen Manager at Alert Academy (east of Big Sandy): “I just wanted to send a note of gratitude your way for the food supplies the Lord blessed us with through you this year! It was kind of you to think of us. I so appreciate it!”

Prayer updates

Rocio Bailey reports that **Mike** is making slow (but anticipated) progress with his speech. (Considering that he had his stroke on August 7 and a smaller stroke four days later, your prayers have been appreciated.) He is scheduled to return home on Monday. Mrs. Bailey mentioned: “Mike would like to see his friends in the future, but not yet please. Thank you for your prayers.”

Brenda Kennebeck reported: “On Monday, **Robert** goes for immunotherapy. On Tuesday, he is scheduled to receive his radiation mask. He is still weak and has trouble using his left arm. And he still has lots of issues with his throat, being able to talk and being able to swallow. Thanks for the prayers.”

Jerry Thompson is doing well. This week, he was released from home-health care and is now scheduled for rehab next week.

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Dave McLearen** had an appointment to have a “loop recorder” inserted beneath the skin of his chest to record data. He reported: “I am doing okay. I am not sure how this recorder is doing, but the wound hurts frequently.” He is scheduled to return to the doctor on Tuesday for the bandage to be removed.

New prayer requests

On Tuesday, **Neil McIver** broke his thumb on his left hand. He hadn’t stopped working, but he had to be very careful. (Are you aware how much a person uses his thumb?) On Friday, he went to an ER to have it drained.

On Wednesday, **Harrison Plumber** of the Huntsville, Texas area went to the ICU in Conroe. He was diagnosed with having a major stroke. On Friday, the family reported: “He is able to speak and his movements are getting better. He is able to sit in a recliner. He is getting physical, occupational and speech therapy.”

On Thursday, **Vonda Ouellette** (mother of **Theresa McLearen** and **Jerry Thompson**) went to an ER. She was treated for dehydration. She is now feeling fine.

Shirley Johnson (cousin of **Linda Cartwright** from Clinton, Arkansas) died on Aug. 30. Please remember the family in your prayers.

2026 Feast speaking schedules

- **Big Sandy**

Saturday, 9/26	Richard Crow
Sunday, 9/27	Rod Lewis
Monday, 9/28	Don Smith
Tuesday, 9/29	Ray Hall
Wednesday, 9/30	Anthony Kimmons
Thursday, 10/1	Anthony Kimmons
Friday, 10/2	Will Martin
Saturday, 10/3	Ken Lewis

- **Destin, Florida**

Saturday, 9/26	Ken Tate and Neal Parker
Sunday, 9/27	Dave Havir and Ramon Coleman
Monday, 9/28	Dave Havir and Steven Gibson
Tuesday, 9/29	Ben Franklin and Bill Crow
Wednesday, 9/30	Daniel Hammons and Ken Tate
Thursday, 10/1	Danny Miller and Neal Parker
Friday, 10/2	Neil McIver and Bill Crow
Saturday, 10/3	Richard Crow

- **North Myrtle Beach**

Saturday, 9/26	Anthony Kimmons
Sunday, 9/27	Anthony Kimmons
Monday, 9/28	John Havir
Tuesday, 9/29	John Havir
Wednesday, 9/30	No services – family day
Thursday, 10/1	Dave Havir
Friday, 10/2	Dave Havir
Saturday, 10/3	Ralph Hanahan

“1 Peter 2:4-5 – Part 4”

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 Sept. 5, 2026.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a five-part series about 1 Peter 2:4-5 before the Day of Trumpets. From time to time through the years, I had spoken about 1 Peter 2:4-5 by mainly concentrating upon three concepts mentioned there. (Those three concepts will be covered in this series as Parts 3, 4 and 5. But Parts 1 and 2 include additional information added to this series.).

- Part 1 – “Christ was chosen by God to be a living stone.”
- Part 2 – “You are to be a living stone.”

- Part 3 – “You are being built up as a spiritual house.”
- Part 4 – “You are being built up as a holy priesthood.”
- Part 5 – “You are to offer spiritual sacrifices – acceptable to God.”

Holy priesthood

This article will focus upon part 4–“You are being built up as a holy priesthood.”

- 1 Peter 2:5–“You . . . are being built up . . . a holy priesthood.”

Aaron and sons were priests

- Exodus 28:1–Aaron and his sons were chosen by the Lord to minister to the Lord as priests.
- Leviticus 16:2–The Lord said to Moses: “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil (before the mercy seat which is on the ark) lest he die – for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.”
- Numbers 18:4–“They [your sons] shall be joined with you and attend to the needs of the tabernacle of meeting for all the work of the tabernacle. But an outsider shall not come near you.”
- Numbers 18:5–“And you shall attend to the duties of the sanctuary and the duties of the altar, that there may be no more wrath on the children of Israel.”
- Numbers 18:6–“Behold, I Myself have taken your brethren (the Levites) from among the children of Israel. They are a gift to you, given by the Lord, to do the work of the tabernacle of meeting.”
- Numbers 18:7–“Therefore you and your sons with you shall attend to your priesthood for everything at the altar and behind the veil, and you shall serve. I give your priesthood to you as a gift for service, but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”

Christ is High Priest

The book of Hebrews mentions the phrase “the order of Melchizedek” (found in Psalm 110:4) numerous times. (Hebrews 5:6; Hebrews 5:10; Hebrews 6:20; Hebrews 7:11; Hebrews 7:17 and Hebrews 7:21.)

- Hebrews 2:17–Christ had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest.
- Hebrews 2:18–Since He Himself has suffered (being tempted), He is able to aid those who are tempted.
- Hebrews 3:1–Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.
- Hebrews 4:14–Since we have a great High Priest (who has passed through the heavens), let us hold fast our confession.
- Hebrews 4:15-16–Since we have a High Priest who was tempted in all points without sin, He can sympathize with us—and we should go boldly before the throne of God.

- Hebrews 7:11–“If perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise?”
- Hebrews 7:12–Since the priesthood changed, there was a change in the law. (What was the change?)
- Hebrews 7:13–The priesthood was no longer tied to a physical family.
- Hebrews 7:14–It is obvious that our Lord arose from Judah (a tribe of which Moses did not connect to the priesthood).
- Hebrews 8:1-2–“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: ‘We have such a High Priest (who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven) – a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected.’”

Saints are called priests

- Revelation 1:5-6–John wrote: “To Him [Jesus Christ] who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father . . . be glory and dominion forever and ever: Amen.”
- Revelation 5:9-10–They sang a new song about the Lamb: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation; and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”

Verse about a “teaching” priest

- 2 Chronicles 15:4–“For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law.”

True God

- 1 Corinthians 15:24–The Son of God will deliver the kingdom to God the Father – after He puts an end to all rule, authority and power.
- 1 Corinthians 15:28–When all things are made subject to the Son of God, then He Himself will also be subject to the Father (who put all things under the Son) – that “God may be all in all.”

Teaching priest

- Hebrews 5:12-13–Although some Christians ought to be able to teach, they need someone to teach them (again) about the first principles of the oracles of God – because they are babes in the word of righteousness.
- Hebrews 5:14–Solid food belongs to those who are mature – that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The Biblical law

- Matthew 5:17-20–Christ said: “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

There is much misunderstanding about the Law of God.

- Some religious people seek to do away with the Law of God.
- Yet, other religious people (like the Pharisees in Matthew 23:13-30) apply principles of the Law in an unholy and destructive manner.

It is important to understand how God made changes in the New Covenant. (It is important to understand why God made changes in the New Covenant.)

- Acts 15:19—At the Jerusalem conference about circumcision, James said: “I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God [with the requirement of circumcision].”

(At other places in the Bible, Paul talked about being kind toward people who were not accepting your level of understanding. See 1 Corinthians 8:9-13 and 1 Corinthians 10:27-33.)

Let’s watch James apply that principle in the book of Acts.

- Acts 21:18-19—James greeted Paul.
- Acts 21:20-21—James mentioned to Paul that some people were troubled by what Paul was teaching – that he taught people “ought not to circumcise their children, nor to walk according to the customs.”

What was James’ suggestion?

- Acts 21:22-24—James suggested that Paul participate in a temple procedure of helping four men to partake of the Nazarite vow.

Is the Nazarite vow required today? Was it technically even required then (after Matthew 27:51)?

The Bible certainly teaches about the importance of law (Romans 6:1-2).

But the children of God are expected to understand the difference between God’s important expectations and some valuable customs.

5 Remarkable Animal Moms

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Sept. 5, 2026. (A version is posted at worldwildlife.org.)

By Staff

WASHINGTON, DC—The animal kingdom is flush with extraordinary parents.

It’s important to remember humans aren’t the only ones who take extraordinary steps to protect, nurture and raise their young. The animal kingdom is flush with moms that take the time to teach their babies how to find food and protect themselves against the elements.

Here's a look at five outstanding animal mothers going the extra mile for their young.

Orangutan

The bond between an orangutan mother and her young is one of the strongest in nature. During the first two years of life, the young rely entirely on their mothers for both food and transportation. The moms stay with their young for six to seven years, teaching them where to find food, what and how to eat, and the technique for building a sleeping nest. Female orangutans are known to "visit" their mothers until they reach the age of 15 or 16.

Polar bear

Attentive polar bear mothers usually give birth to twin cubs that stay with her for about two years to learn the necessary survival skills in the cold climate. The mother's den is created by digging into deep snow drifts, creating a space protected from the elements. They usually give birth between November and January and keep the cubs warm and healthy using their body heat and milk. The cubs leave the den in March and April to get used to outside temperatures before learning to hunt.

African elephant

When it comes to African elephants, a new mom is not alone in guiding her young. Elephants live in a matriarchal society, so other females in the social group help a calf to its feet after birth and show the baby how to nurse. The older elephants adjust the herd's pace so the calf can keep up. By watching the adults, the calf learns which plants to eat and how to access them. The females regularly make affectionate contact with the calf.

Cheetah

Cheetah mothers raise their young in isolation. They move their litter—usually two to six cubs—every four days to prevent a build-up of smell that predators can track. After 18 months of training as hunters, the cheetah cubs finally leave their mothers. The cubs then form a sibling group that will stay together for another six months.

Emperor penguin

After laying an egg, the mother emperor penguin leaves it with a male who protects the fragile, hard shell from the elements. The mother then travels up to 50 miles to reach the ocean and fish. She later returns to the hatching site to regurgitate food to the newly hatched chicks. Using the warmth of her own brood pouch, the mother keeps the chick warm and safe.