

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 17, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:11

### Bible studies

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

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

### Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader . . . . . Reg Killingley

Pianist . . . . . Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading . . . . . Ephesians 1:1–23

Sermon . . . . . Neil McIver

### Quick takes

1. Day of Pentecost—The congregation will observe the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, June 1. Following is the schedule.
  - 1:00—Interactive Bible study
  - 2:00—Bible study—by Dave Havir
  - 3:00—Church service—sermon by Jim Bald
2. Thank you from Big Sandy school for two events—The Big Sandy school district thanks our congregation for hosting two banquets in our building (its athletic banquet on Thursday, May 8, and its FFA banquet on Tuesday, May 13).
3. Thank you—The congregation thanks Michael Bald and Bernice Burson for providing excellent service at the two recent school banquets in our building.
4. “Safe Haven for the Unborn”—On Tuesday night, the city council of the town of Big Sandy unanimously passed an ordinance identifying itself as a “Safe Haven for the Unborn.” Although some cities call it by another name, the city council’s decision made Big Sandy the 75th city in the nation (and the 58th in the state of Texas) to pass such an ordinance.

5. Wednesday-night Bible study—May 21 at 7:00.
6. Community baccalaureate celebration for Big Sandy graduates—Everyone is invited to a gathering to honor Big Sandy graduating seniors. Besides hearing a guest speaker, community churches provide a gift card to seniors who are chosen by a random drawing. (Last year our congregation was one of the three churches that participated in providing a gift card to three seniors. This year, there are five congregations providing gift cards of \$250. The five churches are Church of God Big Sandy, Cowboy Church, First Baptist Church, Grace Communion Church, and Refuge Church.)
  - When—Sunday, May 18, at 6:00 p.m.
  - Where—Big Sandy Civic Center
7. Annual board-nomination process—The annual election for the board of the Church of God Big Sandy began last week and continues today. (The nomination portion of the process occurs in May and the election occurs in June.)
8. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Big Sandy Becomes Safe Haven for Unborn" by Mark Lee Dickson.
9. Among Friends—This week's article is "First Commandment—Part 2" by Dave Havir.
10. Eye on the World—Not available at bulletin deadline.

## Prayer updates

Here is information about **Jon Swenson** of Coatesville, Ind. Here are excerpts from **Kayla Swenson** on Monday: "It is not looking good for Jon's wound. They are talking about taking him in for explorative surgery this coming Wednesday to see what, if anything, is intact." Here are excerpts from Kayla right after his exploratory surgery: "I just spoke to **Dr. Desai** in the waiting room. She said that the flap did bleed at some points, so she does think there's a good chance it is still alive. She ended up using some cadaver skin to cover it, as a test to see if the flap will take. She said she didn't want to burn through skin grafts if there is a chance that it's not alive (because it would be a waste). So his wound dressing will stay covered until we meet with the doctor on Monday. Either she will proceed with a normal skin graft or a repeat flap procedure."

**Linda Moers** of Crockett reported: "I see my ENT [ear, nose and throat doctor] again on May 27 and then the laryngologist on June 4. Still no normal voice. I get winded and tired when I try to talk. But I am blessed that I am able to swallow and to sleep at night."

**Amy Case** reported about her **Aunt Linda** of Leverett's Chapel: "She is wearing a neck brace and a back brace, but she is doing better. She has been moved to a recovery/rehab facility. She should be there for two or three weeks."

**Randy Wallace** of Iowa (ex-son-in-law of **Vonda Ouellette**), who recently had open-heart surgery, is expected to be released shortly.

**Sid Gandy** of Houston reports that his cancer has aggressively returned and has spread. He appreciates your prayers.

## New prayer requests

The **Sooter** family (from the Fort Worth area) requested prayers for a family friend (35-year-old **Drew** of Lubbock). Here are excerpts from a report on Friday, May 9: "Drew went to the ER because he was speaking gibberish. When he fought the staff there, he was sedated." Here are excerpts from a report on Tuesday: "After numerous scans and tests, Drew has been diagnosed with chiari malformation type 1. This is when brain tissue extends into the spinal column and interferes with the flow of cerebrospinal fluid that protects the brain and spinal cord. He is still in the hospital (where his wife works) and is expected to have corrective surgery later this week. His main symptom now is very painful migraines." Here are excerpts from Friday: "Drew had surgery yesterday to widen the path for the spinal fluid to get to his brain. His wife texted last night and said everything went well. Thanks to everyone for your prayers."

**Crystal Dodson** (director of Hawkins Daycare) recently went to a hospital with a collapsed lung.

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**Aizlyn Waites** (age 12) of Avinger died on May 13. Please remember her parents, **Jeremy** and **Tiffany**, and the rest of her family in your prayers.

## “First Commandment—Part 2”

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 May 17, 2025.

By Dave Havir

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with our series. The topic is the Ten Commandments. The presentation was titled “First Commandment—Part 2.” (The plan is to have most of the Commandments have their own individual Bible study, but I wanted to pay extra attention to the First Commandment.)

### Foundational scripture

■ Exodus 20:2—“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

Then, the Lord proceeded to remind the children of Israel about the Ten Commandments.

Old Testament lesson = After God delivered them from Egypt, He reminded them of His expectations from them.

New Testament lesson = When God offers His bountiful grace to New Testament disciples, He still has expectations of them (Romans 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-8).

### First Commandment

■ Exodus 20:3—“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

### Old Testament scriptures

Notice some Old Testament scriptures.

■ Isaiah 40:10—“Behold, the LORD God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.”

■ Isaiah 40:11—“He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”

■ Isaiah 40:12—Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand? Who has measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Who has weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

■ Isaiah 40:13—Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord? Who was His counselor and taught Him?

■ Isaiah 40:14—With whom did He take counsel? Who instructed Him? Who taught

Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge? Who showed Him the way of understanding?

■ Isaiah 40:18—To whom will you liken God? What likeness will you compare to Him?

■ Isaiah 40:22—It is He who sits above the circle of the earth. The earth's inhabitants are like grasshoppers. It is He who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent.

■ Isaiah 40:23—He brings the princes to nothing. He makes the judges of the earth useless.

■ Isaiah 40:25—The Holy asks: "To whom will you liken Me?" and "To whom shall I be equal?"

■ Isaiah 45:5—"I am the LORD, and there is no other. There is no God besides Me."

■ Isaiah 45:6—"I am the LORD, and there is no other."

■ Isaiah 45:7—"I form the light and create darkness. I make peace and create calamity. I, the LORD, do all these things."

■ Isaiah 45:9—"Woe to him who strives with his Maker!"

■ Isaiah 45:18—Thus says the Lord (who created the heavens; who is God; who formed the earth and made it; who has established it; who did not create it in vain; and who formed it to be inhabited): "I am the LORD, and there is no other."

### New Testament scriptures

Notice some New Testament scriptures.

■ John 5:19—The Son can do nothing by Himself, but He does what the Father does.

Whatever the Father does, the Son also does in like manner.

■ John 5:20—The Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He does.

■ John 5:21—As the Father raises the dead and gives life, the Son gives life to whom He will.

■ John 5:22-23—The Father judges no one but has committed all judgment to the Son—that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

■ John 5:26—As the Father has life in Himself, He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.

■ John 5:27—The Father has also given the Son authority to execute judgment.

■ John 5:28-29—There is a resurrection of life and a resurrection of condemnation.

■ John 10:28—The Son said: "I have given them [My sheep] eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

■ John 10:29—The Son said: "My Father (who has given them to Me) is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

■ John 10:30—The Son said: "I and My Father are one."

■ 1 Corinthians 8:6—Paul wrote: "There is one God, the Father (of whom are all things, and we for Him) and one Lord Jesus Christ (through whom are all things, and through whom we live)."

■ 1 Corinthians 15:24-28—The Son delivers the Kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule, authority and power.

■ 2 Corinthians 1:3—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—the Father of mercies and God of all comfort."

■ 2 Corinthians 1:8—When Paul and other disciples were burdened beyond measure and above their strength, they were in despair for their lives.

■ 2 Corinthians 1:9-10—Instead of trusting in themselves, they trusted in God—who has delivered, who does deliver and who will deliver.

### Savior through the Son

■ 1 Timothy 2:3—God is the Savior.

■ 1 Timothy 2:5—"There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."

■ 1 Timothy 4:10—Trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men.

■ Titus 2:13—Look for the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

■ Titus 3:4—The love of God our Savior appeared toward man.

■ Jude 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."