

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 27, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:24

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 Reg Killingley

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading 2 Corinthians 1:21–22
and Ephesians 1:13–14

Sermon Gary Woodring

Quick takes

1. Welcome to our guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Gary and Becky Woodring. Mr. Woodring will be giving the sermon at the 3:00 church service.
2. Dominoes tomorrow—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Dec. 31 at 7:00.
4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Socialism vs. Capitalism" by John Stossel.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "The First Coming of the Messiah" by Dave Havar.
6. Eye on the World—Four articles and 132 headlines

Thought for the week

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved."—Jesus

Prayer updates

The **Dunnam family** thanks you for your prayers for **Angela** and **Timberly**.

Due to the national holiday on Thursday, **Linda Avey** reported that her dialysis schedule was different this week. She appreciates your concern and your prayers.

Sharon Burgin thanks you for praying for the torn tendon in her ankle.

Shirley Spearman thanks you for your prayers as she has recently dealt with dizziness, pain in her arm and some difficulty sleeping.

On Monday, **Jerome Ellard** had his follow-up appointment. He reported: "Because my pain level is so much lower, I don't need anything more invasive. They are just looking for me to do some physical therapy. I am grateful for everyone's prayers and for the good outcome today. Praise God."

In the Dec. 13 bulletin, we mentioned that **Frank Canepa** of Flagstaff, Ariz., has been having trouble with his eyes and with vertigo. Now, his wife (**Joyce**) reports that he has an infection behind his knee (that manifests itself as a rash) that has continued to spread. On top of that, he got extremely dizzy and fell in the bathroom on Dec. 17. Yesterday, Mrs. Canepa reported that the infection is better, but they would appreciate your continued prayers.

In the Dec. 13 bulletin, we mentioned that **Morris Foster** requested prayers for **Lance Christianson**, who was dealing with numerous very serious and potential health problems. Mr. Foster gave an update: "Lance Christianson is now on hospice care. Pet scan shows the cancer has spread. Prayers are appreciated."

New prayer requests

On Tuesday, **Lisa Smith** awoke with excessive pain in her left hip (appearing to be muscular). On Wednesday, the pain continued and she went to an ER—where doctors continued to believe that the problem was muscular. They gave her three shots, she was also anointed, and she was discharged. On Thursday, she was still experiencing pain.

Rose Ann Terhorst is scheduled for cataract surgery on Jan. 6 and Jan. 20.

Scriptures to consider

Ephesians 6:10—"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."

Ephesians 6:11—"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Ephesians 6:12—"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Ephesians 6:13—"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Ephesians 6:14-16—"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

Ephesians 6:17-18—"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

Ephesians 6:23-24—"Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen."

Jude 9—"Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'"

"The First Coming of the Messiah"

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 Dec. 27, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a two-part series. The presentation was titled "The First Coming of the Messiah." (The next presentation will be titled "The Second Coming of the Messiah.")

Eight interesting facts

In the Wednesday presentation, I briefly mentioned three articles about the first coming of the Messiah. Here was the first one.

Looking back to March 2021, an article by Hope Bolinger titled "Eight Interesting Facts About the Birth of Jesus" was posted at crosswalk.com on March 2, 2021. Following are the author's eight points.

1. Jesus was born in the same village as King David.

2. The birth of Jesus ruined Joseph's reputation.

3. Jesus' birth came after 400 years of silence from God.

4. Joseph could have had Mary killed for adultery.

5. Jesus was probably not born in December. (The author said: "Jesus most likely had

a spring birth." Personally, I believe that Jesus was born in the fall. More about that shortly.)

6. The narrative intentionally draws a contrast between Jesus and John the Baptist.

7. The wise men were not there.

8. A manger is a feeding trough.

Loving Father, Son and brethren

I made the following comments in the Wednesday presentation to any guests who may have been listening to my presentation on our website or on Facebook Live.

I mentioned that most people in our congregation believe that Jesus Christ was born in the fall of the year. Some believe that He was born on the Feast of Trumpets. More of my friends believe that He was born at the opening of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Therefore, there are people who love Jesus Christ (like the members of our congregation) who are not actively celebrating Christmas—yet they have great love for the Father, the Son and brethren.

■ They love our Heavenly Father.

■ They love our older Brother, who is the door for salvation.

■ They love the biblical details about the birth of Jesus Christ.

■ And they love the people who view the timing of the birth of Jesus Christ differently from their belief.

Two great commandments

Children of God certainly recognize the “first commandment of all.”

■ Mark 12:30—“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”

■ Mark 12:31—“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

I realize that all people sin and make mistakes toward God and toward each other.

I realize that people sometimes are not very kind toward other Christians who have a different understanding of the same Bible. Children of God are expected to have strong convictions, but we are also expected to have compassion toward people who view some items in the Bible a little bit differently.

I hope that people (who both accept that the Father sent His Son as the door to salvation) can be loving toward those who have a different view about the timing of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Let’s look at some more interesting articles.

Eight biblical prophecies

Looking back to December 2022, an article by Susan Aken titled “Seven Prophecies That Foretold Jesus’ Birth” was posted at iBelieve.com on Dec. 23, 2022. Following are the author’s seven points.

1. A descendent of Abraham would bless all people—(Genesis 12:3 and Matthew 1:1).

2. The Messiah would come from the house of David—(Jeremiah 23:5-6 and Luke 1:31-33).

3. The Messiah would be born of a virgin—(Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:20-23).

4. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem—(Micah 5:2 and Luke 2:15).

5. The Messiah would be called out of Egypt—(Hosea 11:1 and Matthew 2:1-15).

6. The Messiah would be called a Nazarene—(Matthew 2:23).

7. There would be a loss of children’s lives—(Jeremiah 31:15 and Matthew 2:16-18).

Over 300 prophecies

An article titled “Is Jesus for Real? Can There Actually Be Mathematical Proof?” (which was posted at bibletimes.net) mentioned that there are more than 300 prophecies that point directly to the Messiah. Here are eight of them.

1. The time of His birth—(see the timeline in Daniel 8 and 9).

2. He would be born in Bethlehem—(Micah 5:2).

3. He would be born of a virgin—(Isaiah 7:14).

4. He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver—(Zechariah 11:12).

5. He would be mocked—(Psalm 22:7-8).

6. He would be crucified—(John 3:14 referred to in Numbers 21:4-9).

7. He would be pierced—(Psalm 22:16).

8. He would die with the wicked and be buried with the rich—(Isaiah 53:9).

Savior and door

No matter when you believe the Son of God was born, please understand His role in your salvation.

■ John 3:16—God gave His Son that you will have everlasting life.

■ John 10:7—He said: “I am the door of the sheep.”

■ John 10:9—He said: “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved.”

■ John 10:11—He said: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

■ John 10:14—He said: “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.”

■ John 10:15—He said: “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”

■ John 10:16—He said: “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”

■ John 11:25-26—He said: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me (though he may die), he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

■ John 12:44-45—He said: “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.”