

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 17, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:41

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Mark Weiss

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 Ecclesiastes 12:1–14

Sermon Terry McAdams

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—Terry McAdams (who has been a regular guest speaker in our congregation) recently missed some speaking opportunities in our rotation due to health challenges, but we are happy that he is feeling well again and able to speak to us.
2. Dominoes tomorrow—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Jan. 21 at 7:00.
4. Community activity in our building—Our church building will be the location of the community event titled “Musical Memories” sponsored by the Big Sandy Museum on Saturday evening, Jan. 24. Attendees will have the opportunity to buy their tickets at locations around town. (Dave Havir is reminding the widows to contact him so that the congregation can buy their tickets to the event.)
5. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “According to the Bible, Who Is the Savior?” by Dave Havir.”
6. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 2” by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—Will be posted on our website on Saturday morning.

Prayer updates

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Lisa Smith** was dealing with pain in her left hip and challenges with her vision. On Tuesday, Mrs. Smith and her mother (**Margaret Pitre**) both received steroids as treatment for a lung infection. On Friday, Mrs. Smith reported that she got her glasses with a prism lens for her left eye. She reported: "I got my lens, but they're so different from what I'm used to. I drove around a bit yesterday, but long distance is not advised for a week—because my eyes get tired. My eyes need time to adjust. I am probably going to stay home again tomorrow. If you can swing by the house, I have food for you to take to church. I want to make some food for everybody."

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Lana Hicks** (of Thomasville, Ga.) had a seizure on the evening of Jan. 2. Her daughter (**Tara**) has sent regular updates (which **Dave Havir** has sent out on the text prayer line). On Wednesday, her daughter reported: "They did an ultrasound late yesterday and found a couple of things. She does have a blood clot in her right shoulder that the doctors are treating with blood thinners. The blood clot is what is causing the mild fever. She also has a cyst on her pancreas that the doctor said was minor and most likely benign." On Thursday, Mrs. Hicks' daughter reported: "At 3:00 today, they are performing surgery to place a tracheotomy tube and a feeding tube. She was squeezing my hand this morning on command and wiggling her toes. She even raised her arm up. The neuro doctor said she is doing excellently. Praise God." On Friday, Mrs. Hicks' daughter reported: "Mom is doing great! Tracheotomy surgery went well yesterday. Physical therapist came in today and sat her up and put her feet on the floor. She is mouthing words. She is following commands. She is weaning off the ventilator really well. Her body is heavily drugged, but the doctor said it is going to take weeks for her body to metabolize all of the heavy sedatives she has been on for the past two weeks. It's obvious that she is determined to get better. Praise the Lord!"

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that the vehicle of **Michael** and **Linda Baggett** was smashed by another vehicle. They thank you for your prayers. (They report that they are still sore.)

In previous bulletins in November 2025, we mentioned that **Ronnie Shirley** was diagnosed with colon cancer and was awaiting a procedure (that is considered to be a less-invasive method of removing a polyp). Mr. Shirley has a doctor appointment on Jan. 20 and is scheduled for the polyp removal on Jan. 27.

In the Dec. 27 bulletin, we mentioned that **Frank Canepa** of Flagstaff, Ariz., was dealing with an infection behind his knee and with vertigo. His wife, **Joyce**, reports that both conditions are improving.

New prayer requests

When **Dave Havir** learned that **Brenda Hogg** was in the hospital, he began a text exchange with her on Sunday. Following are her excerpts: "Yes, I am in the hospital. I had a UTI for over three months and a large kidney stone. They have done surgery twice to blast the stone and to collect the fragments of the stone."

When **Brenda Hogg** was informing **Dave Havar** about her stay in the hospital, she informed him about some other serious matters. She continued: "On the day I was scheduled for surgery, **Willis's** brother (**Amos**) committed suicide. It is a horrible time for our family right now. On Thursday [Jan. 8], Willis developed chest pains and was admitted to the hospital overnight. Tests came back okay, and he was released on Friday [Jan. 9]. Our family is presently heavily burdened." On Thursday, Jan. 16, Brenda reported: "We humbly ask for your continued prayers (for strength, comfort and God's peace) as we walk through this difficult time. The love, encouragement and support of our spiritual family mean more than words can express."

Norma Penney of Big Sandy died on Jan. 14, 2026. Please remember the family in your prayers.

"Proverbs 6:16-19—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 Jan. 17, 2026.

By Dave Havar

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 2."

The presentation began with the second listed characteristic that God hates—that being a "lying tongue." From there, I also talked about the second characteristic that God loves—that being a "truthful tongue."

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. When we get to No. 6, we will be including Deuteronomy 19:15-19.

Quick reference to Rahab

Before we talk about both the evil of lying and the righteousness of telling the truth, I

want to make a brief reference to Rahab in the book of Joshua.

(I often make positive comments about Rahab, because I am one of her biggest fans. Her example does not teach Christians to lie for selfish or hurtful reasons, but it does present a wonderful exception that is praised in Hebrews 11 and James 2.)

I have met several Christians who try to explain that Rahab didn't lie. I hate to burst their bubble, but she lied.

- Joshua 2:6—She hid the spies on the roof.

In Joshua 2:4-5, notice a probable lie and three obvious lies.

- She said: "The men came to me, but I did not know where they were from." (I suppose it is possible that she did not know that it was Joshua who sent the two men.)

- She said: "As the gate was being shut (when it was dark), the men went out." (She hid them on the roof.)

- She said: "Where the men went, I do not know." (She had hidden them on the roof.)

- She said: "Pursue them quickly for you may overtake them." (She hid them on the roof.)

Notice how the New Testament praised her actions.

- Hebrews 11:31—"By faith, the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."

■ James 2:25—“Was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?”

Lying tongue

Now, let’s talk about a lying tongue.

Satan has a lying tongue. Notice how the Son of God described the devil in John 8:44.

■ “He was a murderer from the beginning.”

■ “He does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.”

■ “When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources.”

■ “He is a liar and the father of it.”

Notice three effective approaches the devil used to entice Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-5).

■ The serpent used a “setup” question (verse 1).

■ The serpent contradicted the Lord God (verse 4).

■ The serpent subtly created doubt about God’s intentions (verse 5).

In the New Testament account of the devil tempting the Son of God, the devil sought to manipulate Him to react to his leadership (verses 3 and 6) and to ultimately fall down to worship him (verse 9).

Poignant examples

■ Genesis 27:5-23—In one of Rebekah’s worst moments, she lied to hatch a plan to trick her husband (Isaac) into taking the blessing from Esau and giving it to Jacob.

■ Romans 1:25—Some religious people exchange the truth of God for a lie.

■ Timothy 4:1-2—Paul described how some deceiving spirits and demons influence the speaking of lies in hypocrisy.

■ Revelation 2:2—Some Christians spot the false leaders and have found them to be liars.

■ Revelation 21:8—When John listed eight behaviors that point people toward the lake of fire, notice the final one listed—“all liars.”

■ Revelation 21:27—When John listed three behaviors that will not be in the New Jerusalem, notice the final one listed—anything that causes a lie.

■ Revelation 22:15—When John listed six behaviors that will be outside the New

Jerusalem, notice the final one listed—“whoever loves and practices a lie.”

Truthful tongue

Now, let’s talk about a truthful tongue.

The Son of God is the perfect example of a truthful tongue.

■ John 1:14—We have beheld the glory of the Word—the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

■ John 1:17—The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

■ John 14:6—Christ said: “I am the way, the truth and the life.”

■ John 18:37—Christ 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.”

Additional verses

Here are a few other verses that teach the importance of speaking the truth.

■ Proverbs 8:7-8—“My mouth will speak truth. Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are with righteousness. Nothing crooked or perverse is in them.”

■ Zechariah 8:16—“Speak each man truth to his neighbor. Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice and peace.”

■ Luke 3:12-13—Christ told the tax collectors: “Collect no more than what is appointed for you”—although this instruction would definitely be supporting the Eighth Commandment (of not stealing), it can also apply to government people not lying.

■ Luke 3:14—Christ told the soldiers: “Do not accuse falsely”—which entails people not lying.

■ John 4:23-24—Those who worship God must worship in spirit and in truth.

■ 1 Corinthians 5:8—Christians should live their lives in sincerity and truth.

■ Ephesians 4:15—Paul wrote to “speak the truth in love” that we might grow up to be like Christ.

■ Ephesians 4:25—Paul wrote to put away lying and to speak truth with our neighbor.

■ Ephesians 4:29—Paul wrote that the words coming out of our mouth should be those of edification to impart grace to the hearers.