

February

8, 2026

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 850 MINTER AVE., SHAFTER, CA 93263

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

Mark 1:21 ff

Classes in English & Spanish



9:00 Prayer Worship

Please give us your requests

9:30 Worship Service

Worship in English & Spanish

Elders

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Borjas Gonzales | 599-9311 |
| Eddie Fisher | 342-8337 |
| Garry Nelson | 331-3858 |
| Mike Westbrook | 910-2197 |
| Ron Nunlist | 746-6531 |

Deacon

Minister

Jim Young 527-7026

jimyoung2work@aol.com

Church Office 746-2205

Office Hours:

Monday ~ Tuesday ~ Wednesday
8 am to 1 pm

Thursday
11 am to 4:30 pm

Friday Out of the Office

Bulletin

Jan Nelson 332-6146

grammyjan51@yahoo.com

[Sandy Westbrook 910-8143](tel:910-8143)

mikewestbrook@att.net

Don't forget to check out our
website

No te olvides de visitar nuestro
sitio web

www.shafterchurchofchrist.com

Bible on your phone

MySpectrumWiFif8-2G

MySpectrumWiFif8-5G

password: purplelemon096

Reminder!

The annual business
meeting is TODAY

Important Dates and INFORMATION

Reminder...The sign-up list for the building cleaning for February
is on the back left table. Please sign up.

February 8 - ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

February 12 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

February 14 - VALENTINE'S DAY

February 19 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

February 19 - Thursday night dinner

February 26 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

February 26 - Community Chest Spaghetti Dinner

February 26 - 29 - SHAFTER COLOURS Events

March 3 - Elders Meeting

March 5 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

March 7 - Prayer Breakfasts (Men's and Women's)



May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things
your faith prompts you to do. ~ 2 Thessalonians 1:11 NLT

Lord, because of you, I have everything I need.
Thank you for equipping me to follow you well.
When I am discouraged or doubt my abilities,
help me to lean on you and move forward
in confidence.

The road the righteous travel is like the sunrise, getting brighter and brighter until daylight has come.

Proverbs 4:18 GNT



PASTOR'S CORNER

Crossway.org/articles

- abridged August 20, 2025 by: [Portia Collins](#)
Part 2

When we think of community, most of us long for the same things. Things like joy, safety, love, camaraderie, and a place where we're seen, supported, and encouraged. Even in the church, which is meant to be the clearest picture of what redeemed community should look like, we experience tension, disconnection, and relational pain.

When it comes to living out the heart of God and his design for community, we can't rely on our preferences or personal experiences to guide us. We need to hear from God. Specifically, we need Scripture—the very word of God. The book of Galatians is especially instructive on what it looks like to live in gospel community. In it, we find both a theological foundation and a practical vision for building communities shaped by grace, truth, and the Spirit of God.

Galatians makes it clear that we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ, not by works of the law. But this foundational truth doesn't just shape our relationship with God; it also reshapes how we relate to one another. Paul says, "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" ([Gal. 5:14](#)). When we are truly transformed by grace, we're free to reflect God's heart in how we treat one another. One of the most powerful examples of this is when Paul confronts Peter in [Galatians 2](#). Peter had been eating with Gentile believers, fully embracing the freedom they had in Christ, but when certain men came around, he withdrew in fear ([Gal. 2:12](#)). While Peter didn't outright deny the gospel, his behavior sent a message that contradicted it. So Paul addressed Peter's behavior publicly and directly, "because their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel" ([Gal. 2:14](#)). Paul's correction to Peter is incredibly instructive for us today. Paul demonstrates that a gospel-centered community is also a gospel-corrected community. Sometimes, living out the gospel in love means having hard conversations and preserving good, gospel community means addressing behaviors that undermine grace.

When grace shapes our relationships, we become people who really reflect God's design for community. Grace makes space for love, gentleness, patience, and burden-bearing. But it also makes space for more. Grace moves us toward others, even those who don't easily fit within our existing community. It compels us to seek out and welcome those who are different. While that kind of community won't always be comfortable, it will be beautiful, because it reflects the heart of the One who brought us together in the first place: whether it be ethnically, culturally, socioeconomically, or even denominationally.



If you need prayer, please let the Elders know, or call Vivian Fisher (889-4075) to start the prayer chain.

NEW THIS WEEK

Lord, give me concern and compassion for the lost that I meet today. Open doors so I might share YOUR message!

Linda, Sally's relative, passed away this week

Praises! James, Darlene's brother, is cancer free

Earl had a follow up doctor's appointment Tuesday

David has an acquaintance he is encouraging regarding her religious acceptance

Trina's son has the flu & **her nephew** received a concussion playing football

Ben & Jeannie, Nina's daughter and SIL, are traveling this week to Oregon

Anne, Nina's daughter, had a second lung biopsy at UCLA this week

Mark Keeley is had his other knee replaced this week

Praises! Tate is doing well at rehab and is to be released tomorrow

Demetrio had an ultra sound on his stomach this week; he also has a meeting with the state on his disability on February 26th

Morgan, Trina's DIL, was sick this week with an very high fever

Jan has an MRI on her back on Tuesday

Continued Prayer:

Sammy, pray he gets a full-time job with the company he is working for

Garry, Buggy's husband, has serious health issues and mental struggles as well

Tank began his radiation and chemotherapy and seems to be tolerating it okay

LaDona is now at 11605 Revolution Road, Bakersfield, CA 93312 until she is able to come home if you would like to visit or send a card

Mary P., pray for good results on the doctor's report

Earl prayer for health concerns

Bob, Earl's brother-in-law, requests prayer

Susan, LaDona's roommate at Brookdale to know the Lord

Kimara, friend of Chris & Natalie, for strength and comfort after the passing of Bob

Numerous **members of Sally's family** have health problems: Father recovering from work accident; cousin Kelly recovering from surgery; Rueben, brother, knee injury.

Mike G., Borjas' friend, has prostate cancer and having radiation treatment

Anthony, Borjas' grandson needs strength to help him with his co-workers

Buddy continued healing of his shoulder

Vivian dealing with blood pressure problems

***Mercy is what we have been given and what we are called to give.
It is my commitment to suffer with you, just as Christ suffered for me.***

Perhaps it is the most normal, most frequent moral contradiction in our lives. Perhaps it is the place where we all stumble the most. Perhaps our failure here demonstrates how much we still need what we so often fail to give to others. How is it possible that we who have been blessed with eternal love far beyond anything that we ever could have hoped to earn could be so regularly unloving to those around us? How could we ever fail to respond in mercy to others when we have been given mercy that is renewed with each new morning? Why are judgment and condemnation often our more natural responses to the sin, weakness, and failure of others than offering them the same grace that we have been given? Why are we so impatient when the extent of God's patience with us stands as one of the redemptive miracles of our lives? Why do we find it so hard to forgive when we have been forgiven at the price of the suffering and death of Jesus? Why can we walk past suffering with little compassion when our lives have been rescued by the tender compassion of the Savior? Why do we resist serving one another when the Lord of all things willingly came and served us even to the point of his death? How is it that we can be so unfaithful and disloyal in the face of the unaltered faithfulness of our heavenly Father? How could we ever lie to our neighbor's harm when we have been blessed with truth that has set us free?

The answer to each of these questions is humbling. We don't always respond to others as the Savior has responded to us because we don't share his heart. Our hearts are not always ruled by what ruled his heart. Our lives are not always motivated by what motivated his. We don't always find joy in what brought him joy. So we lack the mercy that drove and shaped his life.

Our selfish hearts, often more committed to our kingdom purposes than his, want the lavish riches of grace for ourselves, but do not want to have to make sacrifices of grace for others. We see this in the self-righteous anger of a parent, in the bitter unforgiveness of a spouse, in the dysfunctional bickering between neighbors, in divisions in the body of Christ, or in our unfaithfulness in our relationships. The war of kingdoms rages in our hearts, and one of the first casualties is mercy. It is sad but true - our refusal to give grace to others reveals how much we still need grace ourselves. Our failure to forgive shows how much we still need God's moment-by-moment forgiveness. The weakness in our love demonstrates how much our hope still rests on a God who will love us even on our very worst day. Struggles to live the gospel in our relationships with others picture how much we need the rich gospel ourselves. And it all argues that we still don't deserve the favor that we are given daily and are called to give to others who are as undeserving as we are.

For further study and encouragement: James 2:1-13

(Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp)



Jesus said to him, "If you are able? All things are possible to the one believing."

Mark 9:23 BLB