

March

22, 2026

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

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

Mark 3:28 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](mailto:Sandy.Westbrook@att.net)

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



Please bring 12 plastic Easter eggs filled with candy for the children. Debra would like them by April 4th



dates
to
Remember

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

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

March 30 - Song & Supper 6:00 p.m.

April 2 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

April 2 - Thursday night dinner at 5:30 Cook: Nancy

April 4 - Prayer Breakfasts

Men's - 8:00 a.m. in the kitchen

Women's - 9:30 a.m. will be at Jan's home

April 5 - EASTER

April 7 - Elders Meeting 8:00 a.m.

April 9 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

April 16 - Thursday night dinner at 5:30 Cook:

April 16 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

April 23 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

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



Reasons to be Late: It happens to everyone! Here are some good excuses:

- 1) **"I prayed too long this morning and lost track of time"**: Sometimes you end up being late because of how super-duper-spiritual you are.
- 2) **"My children attempted to murder each other"**: This typically happens every Sunday morning before church.
- 3) **"I have 20 shoes, but they were all left feet, and I couldn't find any of their matches"**: More than just women have this problem.
- 4) **"I was making godly, biblical memes about the Bible and stuff"**: You do know that the ability to create spicy memes is a spiritual gift, right?
- 5) **"I had to own some libs on Facebook"**: Doing the Lord's work.
- 6) **"The last shall be first"**: You were just trying to follow the words of Jesus and be the last one to church.
- 7) **"Greta Thunberg was sitting in the road"**: Should someone be expected to run over protesters?
- 8) **"I'm not here this week, but I'm actually getting here *REALLY* early for next week"**: You're getting to church a full week before the pastor even shows up. Way to go!
- 9) **"I was caught up to the Third Heaven"**: Your pastor will be in so much awe that he'll forget you were late.
- 10) **"You know who I am married to?"**: Say no more.

Rattle off one or more of the excuses listed above, and you'll be golden. Become a master of the "late-to-church" excuses, and you can just show up whenever you want **OR** see if you can find a reason – to be early.

Reasons to be Early:

- 1) **Catch up on the latest Events**: Some people have had a really wonderful week or a truly trying week. Let them SHARE. It may bless them and maybe you as well.
- 2) **Get to know someone a little better**: Your life will be blessed as you develop your friendship with others – and so will theirs.
- 3) **Arrive early because you value the deep-felt friendship you have with others**. There is always one or two people you especially connect with. Arrive to ensure that you have time to connect with them a little bit more before you reach out to the rest of the family.
- 4) **Show respect to others** – they thought it was important to be there and find time for you, return the favor.
- 5) **Show respect to those leading the activity** – they have been faithful to put in time and effort to be ready to lead, we should be faithful in being ready to participate.

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said: "I think we consider too much the good luck of the **early** bird and not enough the bad luck of the [late] worm." There may truly be reasons for being late which are beyond our control but let us make the effort to come together in such a fashion that it follows the example of Acts 2 of fellowshiping with one another. One of our country's founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, espoused the virtues of being early to bed and early to rise. Incorporating this philosophy can make us healthy, wealthy and wise in a spiritual sense as well.

"Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?" ([Psalm 56:8](#))

This is a remarkable insight into the tender heart of our heavenly Father. He has a tear bottle—perhaps a tear bottle for each of His wandering children.

Ancient tear bottles (or wineskins) have actually been excavated by archaeologists in Israel. These vessels were used to catch and preserve the owner's tears during times of grief or extreme pressure. This psalm was actually written by David when he was being pursued by Saul on one side and surrounded by Philistines in the city of Goliath on the other. David apparently not only had his own tear bottle but also believed that God somehow was also storing up David's personal tears in His own heavenly bottle of tears.

There is a touching story in the earthly ministry of Jesus that provides another example: "Behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears . . . and anointed them with the ointment" ([Luke 7:37-38](#)).

The ointment was obviously not the same as the tears but followed the washing by tears. Some scholars think these tears came from her bottle, which was emptied on His feet and used to wash them. Others think that those tear bottles that have been found actually contained the collected tears of mourners at a burial site.

In any case, God does know all our wanderings, sorrows and tears and stores them up somewhere. Perhaps it is also a metaphor for His "book of remembrance," which is being "written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name" ([Malachi 3:16](#)). HMM

Give God All Your Mistakes

MAX LUCADO DAILY DEVOTIONAL

God not only wants the mistakes we've made—He wants the ones we're making. Are you drinking too much? Are you cheating at work or cheating at marriage? Mismanaging your life?

Don't pretend nothing's wrong. The first step after a stumble must be in the direction of the cross. 1 John 1:9 promises, "If we confess our sins to God, He can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away."

Start with your bad moments. And while you're there, give God your "mad" moments. There's a story about a man bitten by a dog. When he learned the dog had rabies, he began a list. The doctor said, "There's no need for you to make a will—you'll be fine." "Oh, I'm not making a will" he said, "I'm making a list of all the people I want to bite!" God wants that list! He wants you to leave it at the cross.

"Dear God, I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is your Son. I believe that he died for my sins and that you raised him to life. Jesus, I want to trust you as my Savior and follow you as Lord from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. In your name I pray. Amen."



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

NEW THIS WEEK

- Prayers that **Earl's daughter, Tonya**, that her mom's health improves. She is struggling with heart and respiratory problems.
- **David's** leg was injured and his car banged up in a car accident.

We will be moving these below to the Extended Long-Term Prayer List Next Week. We want to keep those all in our daily prayers, but we still need you to give us updates so we know how they are doing and if we need to change what we are praying for them. Everyone on our lists is important to us whether they are on the weekly Newsletter or Extended Long-Term Prayer List. Moving them to the Extended Prayer List continues to remind us of those needing prayers.

But we still need you to let us know on updates so we can stay on top of the prayers

Anne, Nina's daughter, doctors at UCLA have referred Anne to CBCC who will be working on a treatment plan for her

Mark Keeley continued healing from his second knee replacement

Mary P., continued healing

Earl prayer for health concerns

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

Gerald (Tank) is struggling with an infection in his body

Kris, Gerald's health care provider, fell and was injured bad enough that she will be out of commission for 4 – 6 weeks. **Mary** will need to be Gerald's temporary provider

Traveling

- Jeannie and Ben up in Oregon with their trailer checking the area's out and hoping to find a place.
- Ron and Nancy will be driving back from the coast this week.
- Garry and Jan flew to Portland Tuesday to visit family in Washington then this coming Tuesday will be meeting up with Buddy and Darlene to do a RiverCruise before returning home the 29th.
- Janese is in Alaska visiting
- Anne and Jeff on a trip to Palm Springs and New Port



Easter Word Search



BLESSED	G	M	R	W	J	G	I	S	A	S	F	Z	R	W	E
CHRISTIAN	C	N	Y	W	R	W	J	U	W	J	U	I	R	M	R
CRUCIFIED	I	T	I	L	C	X	C	O	N	N	S	E	I	X	E
EVERLASTING	L	L	V	T	N	R	D	L	Y	E	Y	T	N	X	L
FAITHFUL	O	R	G	L	S	E	U	U	N	F	G	W	Z	Z	I
HEAVENLY	B	P	R	X	S	A	V	C	N	N	U	I	U	A	G
JOYFUL	M	X	C	S	Z	U	L	A	I	X	J	L	C	I	I
LENTEN	Y	I	E	P	O	B	I	R	E	F	K	W	X	K	O
MIRACULOUS	S	L	L	B	O	V	P	I	E	H	I	A	A	Y	U
RELIGIOUS	B	G	F	H	V	S	Q	M	E	V	G	E	V	S	S
RESURRECTION	N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R	D	A	K
RISEN	T	D	R	V	G	N	N	R	D	U	Q	U	Q	C	B
SACRED	L	U	F	H	T	I	A	F	T	X	C	H	I	R	R
SPRINGTIME	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	L	E	N	T	E	N
SYMBOLIC	N	F	K	C	O	D	K	Y	X	W	I	F	F	D	U

