

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

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

Mark 5:35 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:SandyWestbrook910-8143)

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

Important Dates and INFORMATION

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

April 16 - Thursday night dinner at 5:30

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

May 2 - Prayer Breakfasts

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

Women's at 9:30 - location TBD

May 5 - Elder's Meeting at 8:00 a.m.

May 7 - Thursday night dinner - Cook: Jan

May 10 - Mother's Day



Our next quarterly luncheon will be on Saturday, June 6th. Instead of having our men's and ladies' breakfasts that Saturday morning, we will join together at 11:00 a.m. and have a brunch/luncheon instead. Mark your calendars now and be sure to attend for food and fellowship together.



Encouragement is awesome. It has the capacity to lift a man's or woman's shoulders. . . To breathe fresh fire into the fading embers of a smoldering dream. To actually change the course of another human being's day, week, or life.

~ Charles Swindoll

Pastor's Corner of Light: Research from Harvard Recommends Surprising Health Hack: Go to Church. Oct 27, 2025 Rebecca McLaughlin

Article modified: Imagine someone hands you a box of pills. You open it and find 52 of them. You ask yourself: could this be just what I need? You read the printed information in the pillbox and it claims this medication—if taken at least weekly—could elongate your life expectancy by seven years, significantly increase your chance of happiness, and substantially reduce the likelihood you'll suffer from depression. Thinking this is too good to be true, you check the side effects. They're listed as a greater sense of meaning, greater likelihood of volunteering, and more generosity toward those in need. Once again, you're skeptical. You turn to the back of the box to see the source: you find this medication has been extensively tested by none other than Harvard School of Public Health. **Would you take the pills?**

Going a step further, if the research showed that it would reduce mortality by 20% to 30% over a 15-year period, how urgently would we want to make it publicly available? The good news is that this miracle drug—religion, and more specifically regular church attendance—is already in reach of most Americans.

Whatever your beliefs, my guess is that you wouldn't expect a Harvard professor to write you this prescription: "Church. Take once a week (or more) for best effects." But study after study has shown that people who attend religious services once a week or more are happier, healthier, and longer-lived than those who don't. Any other practice that had this effect would be widely advertised in public health campaigns. Sadly, in the first quarter of the 21st century, 40 million Americans (around 12% of the population) have stopped attending church. The **results** of what has been called "the great de-churching" in America have been measurably bad. Less churchgoing has led to lower mental health and happiness, more loneliness, more drug abuse, more alcoholism, less volunteering, less giving to those in need, reduced life expectancy, and more suicides. Even the most skeptical experts acknowledge that declining church attendance in the United States and (over a longer time period) across the West has had devastating side effects.

In chapters 1 and 2 of *How Church Could (Literally) Save Your Life*, there is a focus on the data on the mental and physical health benefits of weekly church attendance. These results can't be explained away simply by social contact. As VanderWeele explains, "Social support is critical, yet this accounts for only about a quarter of the effect." The religious element seems to be vital. Parents gathering to cheer for their kids' sports team won't see the same level of benefit. We humans seem to thrive when we worship together. If church is something of a "miracle drug," why not start popping that pill now?



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

PRAISE

Eddie and Vivian returned home this last week from vacation in Montana
Ron and Nancy were able to spend a few days in Carmel this past week
Ben and Jeannie are settling into their new house in Roseberg, Oregon

NEW

Anne has begun her chemotherapy
Joyce had a laser surgery on her cataracts this last week
Trina's aunt **Betty** is on hospice and **Ronnie Sue's** mom is not doing well

Continued prayer:

Bob, Nina's relative, has been diagnosed with cancer
Tonya's mom is doing better but is still in the hospital with heart and respiratory issues
David is still trying to work out his transportation situation after his car accident
The family of Everett, Nancy's friend who passed. Pray for his wife and three children.
Wendi, friend of Buggie's, will have brain surgery in the next few weeks
Jim will have a cat scan April 10th then follow-up with Dr. Peck when he gets the results
Trina's uncle Leon had a stroke and moved to Encompass for rehabilitation
Sally's grandfather is in the hospital with multiple health issues
Earl's brother-in-law has ear cancer
Grandson of Sally and Borjas is struggling to find his way with the Lord
Both of Nina's sons, Mark and Jerry have been having stomach issues
Joyce getting over a sinus infection
David's leg was injured and his car banged up in a car accident.

We will be moving names to the Extended Long-Term Prayer List

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 current on the prayers

PLEASING FRUIT

You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.

John 15:16 NLT

Father, I want to trust in your choices and to hear them. I know I need help to hear your voice and to rely more upon you, rather than myself. Give me ears to hear, and eyes to see, and that when I do find what you are doing, I respond with a willing heart.

Help me to produce fruit that is pleasing to you and accomplishes your will rather than my own. I ask that my heart would be given over to you. Amen.

Yes, you're weak, you're often foolish, and you tend to want your own way, but God's redeeming grace is greater.

Perhaps Isaiah 53:6 is the most accurate diagnostic passage in the Bible: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Now, what you have to see first is that this passage is divided into two parts, *diagnosis* and *cure*. You simply will not be interested in the cure if you haven't accepted the diagnosis, and you have to know that the cure is only as effective as the accuracy of the diagnosis.

The diagnosis: *All have gone astray, each turning to his own way.*

The first thing that should hit you in this diagnosis is that it is all-inclusive. There are no exceptions. It is an accurate description of the heart and life of every person who has ever lived. You and I must forsake our attempts to convince ourselves and others that we are exceptions. Whatever this passage is describing is something we all do. What is it? Well, in some way, we all wander away from the Creator's plan for us. We all find ways to step outside of his boundaries. We all do things that he does not want us to do and fail to do what he has called us to do. In fact, we all, in word, thought, or deed, in moments of foolishness, weakness, or self-interest, wander away every day.

The passage says we're like sheep. That's an important element of this diagnosis; sheep wander because they're sheep. It is their nature to do so. So our wandering-away problem is deeper than moments of bad choice and behavior. Our problem is a matter of nature. There is something inside us, something with which we were born, that causes us to wander away from the good and wise will of the Great Shepherd, and the Bible names it – sin. Sin is a matter of our nature before it is ever played out in our behavior. And what does that sin do to us? It causes us to make life all about us, to want little more than our own way, and to live like little self-sovereigns.

What is the solution for people like us? Well, systems of behavior reformation won't work for us because our problem is deeper than behavior. Systems of self-help won't work because we are our own biggest problem. There is only one place to run for help. There is only one place to find a cure. It is only ever found in God's redeeming grace. The grace that placed our iniquity on the Savior so that we could be both forgiven and delivered is more powerful than our sinful natures. Our cure is not a system; it is a person, and his name is Jesus! Run to him, he really is all that you need.

***For further study and encouragement: Ezekiel 34:11-16
(Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp)***



Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice an echo. Gratitude follows grace as thunder follows lightning.

~ Karl Barth