



26, 2026

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

### WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

Mark 6:33 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](mailto: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](mailto:grammyjan51@yahoo.com)

[Sandy Westbrook 910-8143](mailto:Sandy.Westbrook@att.net)

[mikewestbrook@att.net](mailto:mikewestbrook@att.net)

Don't forget to check out our website

**No te olvides de visitar nuestro sitio web**

[www.shafterchurchofchrist.com](http://www.shafterchurchofchrist.com)

Bible on your phone

MySpectrumWiFi8-2G

MySpectrumWiFi8-5G

password: purplelemon096

mark your



Calendar

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

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 at Nancy's

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

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

May 7 - Thursday night dinner - Cook: Jan

May 10 - Mother's Day

May 14 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

May 21 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

May 21 - Thursday night dinner - Cook: Darlene

May 28 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

June 4 - Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

June 6 - Quarterly Brunch/Lunch at 11:00 a.m.



Happy Birthday

May 7 - Gerald Waldrum

May 21 - Enrique Gutierrez

May 30 - Ofelia Moreno

James and Trina

May 28



No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him.

1 Corinthians 2:9 NRSV

## PASTOR'S CORNER OF LIGHT- Blessed Are Those Who Wrestle

Oct 23, 2025 **Katie Polski**

(article modified) I was sitting with a friend who made a remark causing me to pause and wonder if God's blessing always looks like an easy, struggle-free life? If so, what does that mean for those in seasons of great suffering and hardship?

The Bible doesn't shy away from stories of wrestling, of tension, of people who refuse to let go of God even when their circumstances seem unbearable. Sometimes, profound encounters with God come during seasons of restoration and ease. Other times, these encounters happen when wrestling with Him, and the battle doesn't mean we're any less bless. Like my friend, many wonder where God is in the struggle. But Scripture reminds us that some of the most defining moments in faith happen in the wrestling. In Gen 32, we encounter the powerful story of Jacob, whose life was marked by conflict, deceit, and struggle. The pivotal moment of Jacob's life occurs at the Jabbok River, where he has a strange and mysterious encounter with God. Jacob is alone, fearful, and preparing to face his estranged brother Esau after years of tension and deceit. But what happens next is unexpected: Jacob wrestles until dawn with a mysterious figure, later revealed to be God himself. This moment of intense physical struggle is no simple encounter; it's an intimate and transformative battle with God. Jacob doesn't come to God in passive submission. He fights. He clings. He refuses to let go. Wrestling with God isn't an act of defiance but of desperation—a fight to hold on to the very One we cannot live without. Jacob's struggle reminds us that a deep encounter with God often comes at a cost. It's one thing to question God out of bitterness, demanding answers from a distance. It's another entirely to wrestle with Him—to bring our doubts, fears, and frustrations into His presence and refuse to walk away. This kind of engagement isn't easy. It requires vulnerability, perseverance, and the willingness to be changed. Even Jesus wrestled in the Father's presence. Jesus didn't avoid the struggle—He entered into it fully. Wrestling with God isn't a mark of weak faith; it's the essence of real faith that's unafraid to engage deeply with the One who holds all things. Make no mistake—wrestling can leave a mark. For us, the struggle may not result in a physical wound, but an encounter with God rarely leaves us unchanged. Wrestling with God may require surrendering a cherished dream, taking a risk in faith, or enduring a season of uncertainty. The struggle shapes us, leaving scars that tell the story of transformation.

If you're wrestling with God, don't despair. Lean into the struggle not to prove your strength but to discover God's. Bring your doubts, your anger, your fears before Him. He isn't afraid of them. In the wrestling, we don't push God away; we press into Him more deeply than we ever have before.



**The best friendships have weathered misunderstandings and trying times. One of the secrets of a good relationship is the ability to accept the storms.**

**Alan Loy McGinnis**



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

### **TRAVELING**

**Garry and Jan** are at the coast

**Darlene** is in Alaska

**Barbara** has been in Cabo

**Adrienne** has been traveling with a friend on a crafting adventure

### **NEW**

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

**Jim's** heart-valve replacement procedure is Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Ben/Jeannie** left to Oregon on Tuesday.

**David** is sore and struggling physically after his second car accident.

**Mike Dover**, elder at Central, is in the hospital and not doing well

**Mary C.'s daughter** fell and broke her arm and wrist

**Doris Friesen's son** passed away this last week. (Doris is at Carrington)

**Earl** was not feeling well last Sunday

**Wendy**, Debra's SIL, had brain surgery this week for cancer

### **Continued prayer:**

**Earl's brother-in-law**, who has ear cancer, is now being cared for by hospice

**Tom**, friend of the Nelson's, is battling leukemia again; please pray for remission

**Vanessa**, Buggie's friend, found out she has stage 4 kidney disease

**Joe Acosta**, friend of Eddie's, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer

**Anne** is part-way through her chemotherapy

Trina's aunt **Betty** passed away; pray for her daughters, **Karen** and **Laurie**

**Bob**, Nina's relative, has been diagnosed with cancer

**Tonya's mom** is doing better but dealing with heart and respiratory issues

**David** is still trying to work out his transportation situation after his car accident

Pray for **Everett's wife and three children** as they grieve his passing

**Sally's father** is in Delano Skilled Nursing Care

**Grandson of Sally and Borjas** is struggling to find his way with the Lord



***You don't get wisdom by experience or research. You get wisdom by means of relationship. Grace makes that relationship possible.***

It is one of the often understated, definitively dark, and dangerous results of sin. What is it? Sin reduces all of us to fools. Sadly, we demonstrate that foolishness every day. We think we can spend what we want to satisfy our seemingly endless desires without getting into hopeless debt. We think that sex, food, and fun will satisfy the hunger of our hearts for contentment and life. We think we can rebel against authority, and it will be all right in the end. We think we can be selfish and demanding in our relationships and our loved ones will still want to be near us. We think we can pursue the pleasures of creation at any time and in any way we want, and not get fat, addicted, and in debt. We think that we can step over God's boundaries without consequences. We think we deserve what we do not deserve and are able to do what we cannot do. Shockingly, there are more times than most of us recognize or would be willing to admit when we think we're smarter than God.

To sinners (and that includes us all), wisdom is not natural. It is one of humanity's most profoundly important quests. Perhaps there are few more significant questions than this: "Where is wisdom to be found?" It is hard for us to gain wisdom by research or experience because they are filtered and interpreted by our own foolish hearts! It is here where the Bible greets us with a radical, counterintuitive message. You can't buy wisdom. You can't get it by hard work or lots of experience. No, wisdom is the result of *rescue* and *relationship*. To be wise, you first need to be rescued from you. You need to be given a new heart, one that is needy, humble, seeking, and ready to get from above what you can't find on this earth. And then you need to be brought into a relationship with the One who *is* wisdom. Colossians 2:3 says of Jesus, "in (him) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Think of this: grace has connected you to the one who is wisdom. Grace has caused wisdom to live inside you. This means that wisdom is always with you and is always available to you.

The One who is wisdom now guides you. Wisdom protects you. Wisdom convicts you. Wisdom teaches and matures you. Wisdom encourages and comforts you. Wisdom works to change your thoughts and redirect your desires. Wisdom forgives your past and holds your future in his hands. And wisdom will welcome you into an eternity where foolishness will be no more. Today you will once again demonstrate your need for wisdom's work. Don't resist. Reach out for help with a thankful heart; wisdom has come to be with you forever.

***For further study and encouragement: Proverbs 2***  
(Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp)

### **Prayer to Start Your Day**

*Lord, this world is filled with temptations and distractions; we have many opportunities to stray from Your commandments. Help us to focus, not on things of this world, but on the message of Your Son. Let us keep Christ in our hearts as we follow Him this day and forever.*

*Amen.*

