



27 . 2026

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

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

Mark 14:6ff

Classes in English & Spanish

**PRAISE &
WORSHIP**

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

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

MySpectrumWiFi8-2G

MySpectrumWiFi8-5G

password: purplelemon096



Men's and Ladies Prayer
Breakfasts

Saturday, October 3

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

Ladies - 9:30 a.m. at the Nelson's home

*The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him.*

Lamentations 3:25 NIV

*God, you are a good father, and I know I can
depend on you. I trust that you know what's best
even if I don't understand the process or if I get
frustrated in the waiting. Even when I am
struggling, help me to seek you faithfully.*



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

October 1 - Men's Bible Study in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m.

October 1 - Thursday night dinner @ 5:30 p.m. Cook - Lori

October 3 - Men's and Ladies' Prayer Breakfasts
Men's 8:00 a.m. in the church kitchen
Women's 9:30 a.m. Nelson's home

October 6 - Elders Meeting at 8:00 a.m.

October 8 - Men's Bible Study in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m.

October 15 - Men's Bible Study in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m.

October 15 - Thursday Night Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Cooking?

October 24 - Ladies Day at West Visalia Church of Christ
Sign up sheet in back corner. 8:30 - 9:15 desserts and beverages
9:30 - 12:00 with lunch to follow at Marie Callender's: \$20
RSVP for lunch by Friday, Oct. 16th

Pastor's Corner

TGC: Struggling with Prayer? Ask God for Help.

01/31/26 [Courtney Reissig](#)

Prayer is hard for me. Thankfully, blessedly, I've grown from someone who shrugged off my lack of fervor in prayer as "not my gift" to someone who looks forward to getting up early to pray—and praying all throughout the day. One of the most important things I've learned about growing in prayer is that the best place to start isn't finding a new system — it's admitting our struggle to God and asking Him to help us pray. During Jesus's earthly ministry, people talked with him and came to him for healing and salvation. In a way, these men and women in the New Testament modeled prayer, how to talk to God. One man's response was to ask for help in his faith. These words are an example of the proper heart posture of prayer. You don't have to come with eloquent words, and you don't have to come with perfect faith. But you must know your need, or you'll never come.

Making prayer a priority—a discipline—offers us a way to be daily reminded of our true condition. If you struggle to pray, take time to remember your need for God. Consider your sinfulness and the even greater grace of Christ. Praying for God's help to pray may sound odd, but it's a prayer we can offer with confidence. God doesn't give any command that He doesn't also give the necessary grace to live out. He'll help us pray. He already has in His Word. A good place to start is [Matthew 6:9–13](#), the Lord's Prayer. (In Luke the disciples ask the Lord for help them pray which Jesus answers with His example.) Here, Jesus teaches us to make God the focus of our prayers. We can boldly approach him as our Father as we also reverence his name. Praying for the furthering of His kingdom and the supremacy of His will before addressing our needs helps put our requests in the right perspective. Asking for daily bread and for forgiveness reminds us that God cares about and ultimately provides for both our physical and our spiritual needs. And we're reminded that we must extend forgiveness to others. Finally, praying for deliverance from evil reminds us how much we must rely on Him for resisting temptation. Jesus does more than give us words we can pray. He's also **praying for us** ([Rom. 8:34](#)), and His Spirit is working within us. Paul writes in [Romans 8:26](#) that the Spirit "helps us in our weakness" because we don't always know what to pray. When we're at a loss, the Spirit is praying for us. When our words fail us, the Spirit never does. There isn't a prayer spoken (or left unspoken) that the Spirit doesn't guide and make complete by His power.

God expects us to talk to Him because we're in a relationship with Him. He wants us to bring our requests, offer praise, and confess our sins, but He doesn't leave us to figure it all out on our own. If we want to grow in prayer, we can make the disciples' request: "Lord, teach us to pray."



*Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am
he who will sustain you. I have made you and I
will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue
you. ~ Isaiah 46:4*

SHARING MERCY

"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
Matthew 9:13

IN WORD How much like our Master are we in this regard? Are we more zealous for our reputation than we are for His lost sheep? With whom do we fellowship? If we placed ourselves at this dinner at Matthew's house, would we be more likely to react like the Pharisees or like the Savior? Our answer to these questions tells us whether or not we have forgotten where we came from.

Jesus ate with tax collectors – traitors to Jews, treacherous moneygrubbing extortionists. He also mingled with prostitutes and other unsavory characters, so much so that He was accused of gluttony and drunkenness. Why would the Messiah allow His reputation to be so tarnished? Because the gospel was meant for such as these.

It is meant for us, too? What about those of us who claim no such degradation in our past? It's there. It may be buried deep within us, and we may have covered it well, but if we don't know it's in there we're likely to become like the Pharisees at Matthew's table. We've forgotten that it was once just as offensive for Jesus to dine with us.

IN DEED Anyone who is appalled at the depravity of someone else doesn't understand the gospel. In order to understand the gospel, we must begin by knowing that we are all children of Adam and, as such, are partakers in the rebellion common to man. That this rebellion manifests itself in one person as murder and in another as a selfish fib is no matter – it all comes from the same seed. Some sinners are more whitewashed than others, but rebellion is at the core of us all. Knowing this does not leave room for the mind of a Pharisee – it casts us on our faces, grateful for His mercy. Know this gospel of mercy, savor it, never forget it. And welcome others into it.

"Mercy imitates God and disappoints Satan."
~ John Chrysostom

(Taken from In His Steps by Chris Tiegreen)

For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

~ 1Corinthians 15:53

Lord of the resurrection, I cannot begin to comprehend what it means to, one day, be clothed with the imperishable, to put on immortality as if it were a garment. But I want to prepare for that glorious day as I demonstrate compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience to all those around me. Prepare me for heaven. Fit me for eternity. Fashion me into the person You want me to be so that I will be ready for my eternal clothes of righteousness.

~ Joni Eareckson Tada, Diamond in the Dust

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

NEW

Welcome home to **Ron** and **Nancy**

Brenda's knee surgery had complications which may require her to wear a cast for a period of time

Brenda's heart doctor has found a problem with one of her heart valves. Course of action still to be determined.

Sandy continues to struggle with stomach issues. Pray that a proper course of action will soon be determined.

It was good to see **Joyce** back last Sunday

Continued Prayer

LeRoy has been dealing with a body rash

Reuben, Borjas's brother-n-law, needs knee surgery as soon as possible

Victor is returning to Mexico – blessings and safe travels

Jan, back, neuropathy and tendonitis issues

Clara, Buggies friend, waiting for the pathologist results from her recent surgery

Sally, having knee issues

Trina's **Aunt Doreen**, had a massive stroke and had to have surgery due to swelling and bleeding.

Borjas's grandson is having serious health issues

Debra continuing with PT and has some testing coming up from the new neurologist

Joe/Lori's children as they deal with various life struggles

John and Ashley are dealing with personal family issues

Mike will be having several tests over the next few weeks; he and **Sandy** are having multiple issues.

Natalie is dealing with work stress

Rhonda, Trina's friend, has been diagnosed with stage four lung cancer

Sally's brother, **Reuben**, is struggling with back pain

Tank as he deals with health issues and **Mary** as she cares for him



*Love God ~ Love Each Other ~ Love the Lost ~ Live in His Light
Amar a Dios ~ Amarse Unos a Otros ~ Amar a los Perdidos ~ Vivir en Su Luz*