NOVEMBER 22,2026

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

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning
8:30 Bible Classes
Mark 16:1ff
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

MySpectrumWiFif8-2G
MySpectrumWiFif8-5G
password: purplelemon096



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

November 26 – THANKSGIVING DAY (no men's Bible study)

November 29 – Song & Supper 5:30 or 6 pm Bring a dish to share and a song to sing

December 1 – Elder's Meeting at 8:00 a.m.

December 3 - Men's Bible Study in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m.

December 5 – PRAYER BREAKFASTS
Men's in the kitchen at 8:00 a.m.
Women's at 9:30 a.m. at Jan's

December 10 - Men's Bible Study in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m.

December 17 - Men's Bible Study in the kitchen at 7:30 a.m.

December 20 – Christmas Program at Shafter Mennonite Church at 6:00 p.m.

December 25 – Christmas Day



Pastor's Corner

Is it o.k. to 'Fake It till you Make It"?

Should I do something when my heart's not in it? Isn't that being fake? The simple answer in the Bible is that being kind when we don't feel like being kind isn't fake – it an act of love. So how should Christians understand the relationship between authenticity and obedience?

When we don't feel like obeying, the answer isn't to disobey, nor to dismiss our feelings. Emotional honesty and godly obedience aren't opponents in a tug-of-war – they are on the same team. The psalms make it clear that God welcomes our questions and struggles. God wants the 'real you' so He can transform it into the new 'real you'. We should pray honest prayers: Here's my heart, Lord, with all its entanglements and temptations. 'Help!" is a cry that our Father hears and answers. So if we're being emotionally honest, is obeying God when we don't feel like it *'fake or inauthentic'*? The trendy but tricky word 'authentic' is about being genuine and true to yourself. But is this the old or the new me? In **Eph 4:22-24,** Paul instructs the church, 'Put off your old self, … put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." Being true to the new self often means rejecting selfish urges that feel like a comfy old blanket. Acts of obedience even when we don't want to are completely authentic to the new self as we grow in Christlikeness. We are transforming into His image (**2 Cor 3:18**) and we won't be fully perfected until heaven, and for a time our first impulse in this life will often be 'not feel like it'. Scripture teaches that denying our own will in favor of God's is proof of faith and maturity (**Luke 9:23**). That means we are moving in the right direction. Obedience to God doesn't produce lifeless religion. Jesus promises the opposite: rivers of living water will flow from our hearts (**John 7:38**). As we make difficult, unnatural choices to honor Christ by the power of His Spirit, we begin to love what He loves. **Phil 2:13** assures us that God works within us to help us obey Him and to *want* to obey Him. He generously provides the new desires that we can't drum up on our own (**Phil 4:19**). In His grace, God calls us to come to Him even when we don't feel like it. Now, every time we struggle with our crooked hearts and messed up desires, we can run to Him for love, help, power, and comfort. As we confess our sins and failures, He gathers us up, reminds us of who we are, and shows us the right way to go. Heeding that voice is authenticity at its best.



I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.
John 10:9

You will never turn any created thing into your personal messiah. There is one true Messiah, and life can be found only in him.

I wish I could say that I never look for life where it can't be found, but the temptation to do this this still haunts me. As much as we all know that there is only one true, God, we still hunt for God-replacements. We all still tend to look horizontally for what we will only ever find vertically. There are times when we ask creation to be our Savior:

- We attach our identity to the respect of another.
- We draw too much of our sense of well-being from our physical appearance.
- We think material possessions have the power to make us happy.
- We attach our meaning and purpose to our achievements.
- We ask our jobs to make us content.
- We try to base our identity on our children.
- We attach our sense of spiritual well-being to the "perfect" church.
- We base our identity on our education.
- We ask our spouses to make us happy.
- We look to food and drink to satisfy and calm us.
- We continually say, "If only I had ____, then my life would be _____."
- We attach our identity to the luxury of our cars or the affluence of our neighborhoods.

The list is really endless. There is nothing in creation that you can't try to turn into your personal messiah, but it never, ever works. The creation can never, ever give you what the Creator alone can. It makes no sense at all to desperately look for what you have already been given by your Savior.

All the good and glorious created things that God puts in our lives are things he has designed and placed there to point us to the only place where life can ever be found – in him. All created things are signs that point us to what can be found in him. You know how this works from driving around or from taking a trip: a sign points you to a thing, but the sign is not the thing. Creation points us to the Creator, but it can never give us what the Creator can give. All the good situations, locations, possessions, relationships, achievements, and natural beauties of this physical world are wonderful blessings from the hand of God, but they have no ability to give you the one thing that your heart desperately desires – life. Jesus said it this way: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). With these words, he ends our need to search. He is life, so there is no need to look for it anywhere else.

For further study and encouragement: Psalm 115
(Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp)

Prayer Request

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

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

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

NEW

Lynn's (Barbara and Adrianne's sister) cancer has returned and she is home on hospice

Robert continues to have struggles with his health issues

Debra was able to get a diagnosis this week and is doing better

Lori's mom had surgery this past week

Rosa (Vivian's friend) had surgery for kidney cancer on Wednesday

Ron has two CT scans scheduled for December 8 and sees the doctor on December 20

Jan's mammogram results from UCLA were good: Praise the Lord for 13 years cancer free



Continued Prayer

Adrianne continues to struggle with her health issues as her doctor tries to determine a diagnosis and treatment

Mary Porter's niece lost her husband recently to COVID

Ayden, John/Ashley's son, is struggling with some teenage problems

Anthony's (visitor) **mom** is having health problems

Sandy, more tests and waiting

Barbara & LeRoy, Sandy continue to have issues and are under doctor supervision and waiting for results

Mike, doctors are still working on finding a solution to his blood pressure problem

Debra waiting on results of her nerve tests

Clara, Buggie's friend, suffering from a low hemoglobin count

Marsha, friend of the Nelsons, is having pancreatic surgery soon to deal with a tumor on her pancreas

Reuben, Sally's brother, needs knee surgery as soon as possible; having many doctor visits; also struggling with back pain

Sally, having knee issues

Borjas's grandson is having serious health issues

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

John and Ashley are dealing with personal family issues

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

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