



6, 2025

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

Important Dates and INFORMATION

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

If you will help out with a dessert or cookies let LaDona know.

- April 10 - Thursday night dinner at 5:30
- May 3 - Men's Prayer Breakfast in kitchen at 8 a.m.
Women's Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Place TBD
- May 6 - Elder's Meeting at 8:00 a.m.

RECENT COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Pantry shelves on the west wall installed - thank you, James
- Pantry reorganized
- Painting of outside doors and walls of the patio completed
- Repair of the wall in the kitchen
- New back door installed in the kitchen

APRIL COOKS:

- April 3 - Nancy and Ron
- April 10 - Adrienne and Barbara
- April 17 - Darlene
- April 24 - Barbara and LeRoy



A Prayer to Start Your Day

Dear Lord,

Your timing is seldom my timing, but Your timing is always right for me. When I am impatient, remind me that You are never early or late. You are always on time, Lord, so let me trust in You today and every day.

Amen

WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning
8:30 Bible Classes
1 Samuel 3:10

Classes in English & Spanish



9:00 Prayer Worship
Please give us your requests

9:30 Worship Service
Worship in English & Spanish

Elders

Eddie Fisher	342-8337
Garry Nelson	331-3858
Mike Westbrook	910-2197

Deacon

Ron Nunlist	746-6531
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Minister

Jim Young	527-7026
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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](tel: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

**Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
for we brought nothing into this world, and
it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having
food and clothing, with these we shall be content.
~ 1 Timothy 6:6-8**



PASTOR'S CORNER - Gen Z, Fight 'Brain Rot' by Reading Books

February 3, 2025 | [Luke Simon](#)

When I was a senior in high school, I admitted myself into rehab. Not the kind you are thinking of, but a self-prescribed rehab from my constant companion: my phone. My phone addiction took away my ability to sit in silence, focus for any length of time, or engage deeply with anything meaningful. As Oxford Press might say, I was a victim of "brain rot." So I quit. For an entire year. Now, I needed to find something to do with my new "free time".

With COVID-19, school on pause and the world locked down, I was stuck at home with nowhere to go and nothing to do. That's when I stumbled on something "NEW" — books. At first, reading was just a way to fight off boredom. My first choice was [Walter Isaacson's biography of Steve Jobs](#). I loved it. Somewhere between Jobs's story and the rhythm of reading, I found something transformative. Books didn't just fill empty hours. They opened up new worlds, challenged how I saw things, and made me think in ways my phone never could.

What surprised me most was how different reading was from scrolling. My phone had trained me to skim, to consume quickly, and to expect instant gratification. Books demanded something deeper: focus, patience, and the willingness to sit with ideas that don't immediately resolve. This wasn't easy at first. They made me think in ways my phone never could. A study found that college professors were noticing their students read less and were unable to allocate sufficient chunks of time to read longer works. This is a symptom of a larger problem. In 1976, nearly 40% of high school seniors read six or more books a year for pleasure. By 2021, that had plummeted to just 13%. Even more alarming, the percentage of high school seniors who didn't read a single book for fun jumped from 11.5% to 41%.

In 2024, Oxford's Word of the Year was "brain rot"- a term that perfectly captures the endless scrolling and shallow consumption that has dulled our ability to think critically. Rather than resigning ourselves to this future as helpless, anxious, doomscrolling victims, I want to encourage us to see this as an opportunity we can be builders. Builders aren't just creators; they're people who take what's broken, neglected, or shallow and work to make it whole, meaningful, and lasting. In a world shaped by quick takes, they wrestle with complexity. And at the heart of it all, in a world of rot, builders *read*. For Christians, it's deeper than that. As people of the Word, we're called to read, think, and engage with the world in a way that reflects God's truth. And Christian builders have always done this—wrestling with the ideas of their time and learning to help shape our culture. Let us remember reading teaches us how to think critically, understand context, and navigate complexities—all vital skills for understanding our culture (& Bible) and building a better one. Let us go forth – AND READ!

Love makes us patient,
understanding and kind,
And we judge with our heart,
not with our mind.
For as soon as love enters the
heart's open door,
The faults we once saw are not
there anymore.



Better is a dinner of herbs
where love is than a fatted ox
and hatred with it.
Proverbs 15:17

Today, ask that love color
your vision. Consequently, all
faultfinding will be
eliminated.

Obedience

*I will keep on obeying your instructions
forever and ever
Psalm 119:44 NLT*

Good God, when I am breezily living in the freedom you have blessed me with, may I not forget the benefit of boundaries. I pray that my heart wouldn't grow cold toward your instructions for life. Keep me malleable in your hand. Spirit of God, may I remain sensitive to your voice. Let me distinguish your instructions from those that are man-made. Your word is full of wisdom; when I am following you, I know I will find renewal in obedience.

Thank you for your grace that is a constant flow, not a sporadic drip. I don't need to hoard it now, afraid that one day it will dry up. As I continue to submit my life to your grace, let everything I do be done in response to your character, not as a reaction or trigger to false beliefs. I can trust that everything you ask of me is done with my benefit, and the benefit of others, in mind. I yield to your better way.

*What has the Lord been nudging you toward?
(Taken from 365 Days of Prayer for Life)*

Prayer REQUESTS

If you need prayer, please let the Elders know, put a note in the box in back of the auditorium or call Vivian Fisher (889-4075) to start the prayer chain.

PRAISES

- Trina's family member, **Nicole**, is all good!
- **Amanda**, Mike and Sandy's granddaughter, was released from the hospital following surgery; doing well
- **Jesse** has a follow up next month with the urologist

NEW

- ❖ **Lord, give me concern and compassion for the lost I meet today. Open doors so I might share YOUR message.**
 - ❖ **Buggy** and her husband **Gary** are both struggling with health issues
 - ❖ **Vivian** is traveling this Saturday to Texas
 - ❖ **Gene's grandson** was in a car accident which totaled his truck but just gave him a bump on his head
 - ❖ **Sammy's** colonoscopy last week showed an ulcer; pray for quick healing
 - ❖ **James**, Darlene's brother, had tests recently and will need surgery; waiting for more information
 - ❖ **Barbara Pflugh** is struggling with back pain
 - ❖ **Rhonda**, Nina's niece, heart valve surgery went well but hemoglobin going low requiring transfusions; still trying to figure out the cause
 - ❖ **Parise**, Nancy's DIL, will be having a endoscopy to see if ulcers have healed
 - Joyce** will be having knee replacement surgery on April 10
 - Kathy**, Buddy's SIL, had surgery and needs prayer
 - Trina's **Aunt Betty and daughter Lori** are struggling with health problems
 - Casey**, young friend of Nancy's, finished chemo and radiation; still on feeding tube
 - Ronnie**, Nancy's son, is need of prayers for physical, mental and spiritual health
 - Rose's** foot is doing better but still has to wear brace another month
 - Tom and Joyce** are struggling with some issues
 - Joann**, Joyce's sister, is having health issues
 - Oliver**, Earl's friend, is struggling with throat cancer
 - Monroe**, child of Natalie's best friend, needs prayer as well as the family
 - Debra** will be seeing a vascular surgeon in April
 - Jessie**, Earl's relative, had his cancer return and has spread throughout his body
 - Colleen**, Sharon's family member, collapsed; may be the result of heart problems
 - Kristina**, Debra's co-worker, is struggling with serious liver/kidney problems
 - Bill**, Debra's brother, cancer treatments
 - Robert** continues to struggle with back pain
 - Ron's brother/wife**, serious health issues and other difficulties
 - Hannah**, Trina's daughter, continued prayer for her
 - Wendy**, member of Debra's family, brain cancer
 - One of Earl's nephews** is serving in Syria; prayers for all our first
 - Everett**, a relative of Nancy's, is nearing his final days due to his cancer.
 - Mary P.'s relative, Sam**, is recovering from a **serious** heart condition
 - Chris and Jonah**, friends of Trina's who are soldiers in the Middle East
 - Our Youth** to pray to make good choices
- For those that have upcoming tests this week or test results**



Unspoken Prayers. We know their names, and, above all, God knows them