



26, 2024

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

BIBLE CLASS

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

John 2:18 ff

Youth Class: Eddie Fisher

Children's Class: Debra Young

PRAYER TIME

9:15 AM – 9:30 AM

WORSHIP TIME

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Elders

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

Deacon

Ron Nunlist 746-6531

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

A **BIG** thank you to Mike and Eddie for cleaning our building each week. We appreciate their continued service but they might enjoy a break. If you can help with the cleaning, it is broken up into 3 areas to make it easier, so please sign up for one of the areas to help out. The sign up sheet is on the table at the back of the auditorium.



Mark Your Calendar

May 30 - Thursday Night Dinner

June 1 - Men's and Ladies Breakfast

June 4 - Elder's Meeting 8 a.m.

June 14 - MOVIE NIGHT at 6:00 p.m.

June 23 - World Broadcasting Presentation - Please plan to be here



Congratulations!

To **REBECCA DIAZ** who will be graduating from 8th grade. Rebecca received many awards. Some of those are Certificate of Academic Excellence for having a GPA of 4.15 and being on the Principal's Honor Roll for two years, a Faculty Award, Principal's Award, and Perfect Attendance for two years

Congratulations also to Garry and Jan's granddaughter, Kylea, who graduated Summa Cum Laude in May from Azusa Pacific University with a double major and a minor. She also received the Servant Leadership Award



Pastor's Corner of Light: What is the Purpose / Result of Fasting?

Jesus seems to be telling us in **Mt 6:17,18** that fasting is for the sake of God. Fasting is a rebellious act, saying no to the things we desire to create a deep sense of hunger within us for the perfect justice and righteousness of God. **Isaiah 58** records a fast in which God calls Israel to attend to the oppressed, end the systematic exploitation (v. 3c) and violence (v. 4) that perpetuates oppression. Instead of merely giving to the poor, God through Isaiah, calls Israel to “loosen the chains of injustice” (v. 6a)—by addressing the unjust systems keeping them poor.

In our age, we are constantly assaulted with demands for our attention, distracted by entertainment, and concerned with our self-image online. In **Isaiah 58** God seems to desire a fast that unsettles Israel to the core of their being, where they cannot truly find rest until they are united with the object of their desires: God. Put simply, fasting allows one's soul to experience an unsatiated hunger that only God can truly satisfy. The fasted soul, united with God, does not desire the praise of others. The soul in God does not feel overly burdened when feeding the poor, liberating the oppressed, and countering injustice. Instead, the fasted soul feels a compulsion from God to do these things. The soul that is in God cannot help but desire God's kingdom here on earth.

It is this desire for God's kingdom of justice and freedom here on earth that impels the fasted soul to prayer. This compulsion to prayer is the result of the tension the fasted soul attains between dwelling in the presence of God and living in a broken world. We must engage creation as it is and not escape into a holy shelter away from the oppressed and poor. A fasted soul in prayer moves the believer to a prayer inspired course of action. When we fast, we train our souls to focus on its true desire—God.

Starved of idols, the fasted soul yearns for God. Yet faced with the tremendous need in the world, our first recourse is to call out in prayer asking that God help us bring His kingdom into this world – to loosen the bonds of injustice, to break the yoke of oppression, to feed the hungry, to open homes to the homeless, and to clothe the naked. Prayer arising out of a fasted soul often leads to us finding ways to take action and exemplify the sheep in the **Mt 25:31ff** parable by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and visiting the prisons. I pray that your fasting and prayers will lead you to action, to take up your cross and imitate Christ by loving all His children.

CHAMELEON CRAWL

When we think of the chameleon, we probably think of its ability to change color according to its surroundings. But this lizard has another interesting characteristic. On several occasions I've watched a chameleon walk along a pathway and wondered how it ever reached its destination. Reluctantly, the chameleon stretches out one leg, seems to change its mind, attempts again, and then carefully plants a hesitant foot, as if afraid the ground will collapse under it. That was why I couldn't help laughing when I heard someone say, “Do not be a chameleon church member who says, ‘Let me go to church today; no, let me go next week; no, let me wait for a while!’”

“The house of the Lord” at Jerusalem was King David's place of worship, and he was far from being a “chameleon” worshiper. Rather, he rejoiced with those who said, “Let us go to the house of the Lord” (Ps. 121:1). The same was true for believers in the early church. “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer . . . Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts” (Acts 2:42-26).

What a joy it is to join with others in worship and fellowship! Praying and worshipping together, studying the Scriptures together, and caring for one another are essential for our spiritual growth and unity as believers.

Worshiping together brings strength and joy.

From Our Daily Bread by Lawrence Darmani

If God is your Father, the Son is your Savior, and the Spirit is your indwelling Helper, you have hope no matter what you're facing.

Who in the world do you think you are? I'm serious. Who do you think you are? You and I are always assigning to ourselves some kind of identity. And the things that you and I do are shaped by the identity that we have given ourselves. So it's important to acknowledge that God has not just forgiven you (and that is a wonderful thing), but he has also given you a brand-new identity. If you're God's child, you are now a son or daughter of the King of kings and the Lord of lords. You are in the family of the Savior, who is your friend and brother. You are the temple where the Spirit of God now lives. Yes, it really is true – you've been given a radically new identity.

The problem, sadly, is that many of us live in a constant, or at least a rather regular, state of *identity amnesia*. We forget who we are, and when we do, we begin to give way to doubt, fear, and timidity. Identity amnesia makes you feel poor when in fact you are rich. It makes you feel foolish when in fact you are in a personal relationship with the One who is wisdom. It makes you feel unable when in fact you have been blessed with strength. It makes you feel alone when in fact, since the Spirit lives inside of you, it is impossible for you to be alone. You feel unloved when in fact, as a child of the heavenly Father, you have been graced with eternal love. You feel like you don't measure up when in fact the Savior measured up on your behalf. Identity amnesia sucks the life out of your Christianity in the right here, right now moment in which all of us live.

If you've forgotten who you are in Christ, what are you left with? You're left with *Christless Christianity*, which is little more than a system of theology and rules. And you know that if all you needed was theology and rules, Jesus wouldn't have had to come. All God would have needed to do was drop the Bible down on you and walk away. But he didn't walk away; he invaded your life as Father, Savior, and Helper. By grace, he made you a part of his family. By grace, he made you the place where he lives. And he did all this so that you not only would receive his forgiveness, but so that you would have everything you need for life and godliness.

So, if you're his child, ward off the fear that knocks on your door by remembering who God is and who you've become as his chosen child. And don't just celebrate his grace; let it reshape the way you live today and the tomorrows that follow.

For further study and encouragement: 1 John 3:1-10

Taken from New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp



There are sign-up sheets on the round table in back for May if you would put your name down to help with cleaning assignments of the building.

They are broken up into 3 groups so should make it a little easier to pick a group you feel you can do to help with. And we really need the help!

- 1. Clean auditorium and disinfect chairs / door handles*
- 2. Clean the 2 outside restrooms and North entry doorway*
- 3. Clean foyer floor, dust, glass doors / windows / Nursery restroom*

Ask Vivian or April where the vacuums are and cleaning supplies. If supplies are needed let Mike know as he has key for toilet paper and paper towels.

We really would appreciate it if you or your family would pick 1 of the 3 chores that need to be done. THANK YOU!

Prayer REQUESTS

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

PRAISE

Congratulations to Andrew and Abby Fisher on the birth of Olivia Mae and to Grandparents Ryun and Cindy and Great-grandparents, Eddie and Vivian. Olivia weighed in at 9 pounds 13 ounces and arrived at 1:23 a.m. on May 20.

*NEW

Lord, give me the same concern and compassion for the lost that you have. Open doors that I might share your message of love and salvation.

***Nancy** continued prayers for her recovery; she had another trip to emergency this week also

***Ron** was admitted to the hospital early Monday morning with Rhinovirus and was able to come home on Wednesday; both Ron and Nancy are feeling better but still have bad coughs

***Garry's uncle Charles** passed away after his fall down the basement steps

***Mary C.'s daughter** is having legal issues and **her son, Terry**, is looking for a job.

***LaDona** pray for continued recovery from her fall.

***Cindy Fisher** went to the hospital this past week with some type of intestinal infection

Wesley, Connie's son, is dealing with some serious legal issues. Pray they get resolved quickly and positively and that he find some sense of peace as he goes through his situation.

Hannah, Trina's daughter, has gotten her job and schooling stabilized – Praises! But she continues to struggle with health issues.

Travelers pray for safe travels for all those traveling

Buddy has a PET scan on June 4th; pray for good results

Chelsea, update from scooter accident: all 5 brain bleeds healed, neck sprain healed, skull fracture not healed yet but is going in the right direction; thank you to everyone for your prayers

Ron, Nancy's son, has a job interview this week; prayer for a good interview

David, Ron's brother, impacted bowels and kidney stones and possible blood clot in his leg

Cheryl White, is in rehab after a stroke caused her to fall and fracture in one of her vertebra. If you would like to send a card, mail to: Bakersfield Rehabilitation Hospital, 4400 Kirkcaldy Dr., Bakersfield 93306

Chloe, daughter of Lynn's missionary friends in Thailand and **Lucia**, Lynn's granddaughter, are both suffering from long COVID with extreme fatigue, depression, and anxiety

Demetrio, pray for good results from his MRI and for **Jan** for good results from endoscopy

Mary N. continued prayer for her well-being; having back and hip pain

Marsha, terminal cancer; prayer also for her husband, **Wayne** (friends of Don Loveless)

Millie, Ron's sister-in-law, declining on hospice; sleeping most of the day and low blood pressure

Robert is still struggling with arthritic pain

Janese is struggling with a severe flair-up fibromyalgia; severe headache and pain all over

Barbara, doing physical therapy after her shoulder surgery

Joyce as she takes care of Tom who is now at home and **Tom** as he adjusts

Nikki, Nelson's granddaughter, struggling with mental health issues; pray for effective treatment

Lucia, Ron/Lynn's granddaughter, continues to struggle emotionally and physically post COVID

Tank is struggling with health problems

LeRoyce Savage, terminated his cancer medications and letting Hospice come in

Aidan, great grandson of Barbara, undergoing physical therapy after brain surgery

Jim, liver cancer; needs a transplant, (a request from Adrienne's niece)

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