

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

21, 2025

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

## WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

Galatians 3:23ff

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](tel:910-8143)

[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

MySpectrumWiFif8-2G

MySpectrumWiFif8-5G

password: purplelemon096

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas**

**Dec 27-30 -Winter Camp at Yosemite Bible Camp; 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up; [www.wvoc.org/ybc](http://www.wvoc.org/ybc)**

**THERE WILL BE NO MEN'S OR LADIES BREAKFAST FOR JANUARY - will resume in February**

**January 1 - Happy New Year's Day**

**January 6 - Elders Meeting at 8:00 a.m.**

**January 8 - Men's Bible Study time changed to 7:30 a.m. in church kitchen**

**January 8 - Thursday night dinners resume**

### Let's Make a Difference

*Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honoring one another.*

*Romans 12:10 NLT*

Being focused on others is the authentic lifestyle of a heart devoted to Jesus. The many stories in the Bible of Jesus' life on earth tell of his love and devotion to others everywhere he traveled. He sought out those opportunities to serve others.

The slightest act of kindness can transform someone's life. Searching for ways to make a difference is how Jesus lived. Only he knows the future and the needs ahead, which is a stark contrast to our lack of insight, but we can open our ears and listen for opportunities. With our eyes, let's seek opportunities to help fulfill God's plan. With our hearts, let's never miss a chance to make a difference.

*Jesus of joy, we ask you to help us embrace your ways so that we will see others through your eyes and hear others as you do. Help us act on the needs you put before us and never miss an opportunity to show your loving goodness, your kindness, your tenderness, your gentleness, and your generosity to those you arrange in our pathway every day.*

*(Taken from Pause and Pray devotional)*

## PASTOR'S CORNER - A Time of Joy and Thanksgiving!

### Twelve Days of Christmas:

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas My true love gave to me:  
12 drummers drumming; Eleven pipers piping; Ten lords a leaping;  
Nine ladies dancing; Eight maids a milking; Seven swans a swimming;  
Six geese a laying; Five gold rings; Four calling birds;  
Three French hens; Two turtle doves; And a partridge in a pear tree!

I offer this up just in case you need some ideas of what to get me for Christmas.

But actually, I remember spending many Christmas parties where we would spend time caroling and this is one of those songs that we all like, but because we only sing it once a year, the words are frequently hard to remember. So, I hope this helps in your festivities.

I also hope that during this time of hustle and bustle we can remember the ONE who is the source of this time of cheer. It may seem strange to say this because with all the nativity scenes we may see and all the religious songs we may hear on the radio – often times our reflections are only a passing thought. If you reflect on the frequent mention in the Gospels of Jesus' you will see they always mention His getting away from it all and finding some quiet place and a quiet time where He can be with His Father. As we approach our New Year's resolutions and as we get closer to our family gatherings let us remember our **Heavenly family** – God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Let us remember the many blessings of this past year and the many answered prayers of this past year and thus offer up truly heartfelt thanksgivings to the LORD! And, I would challenge you share these blessings during your family get togethers to help them to turn to the Lord with praises as well. Maybe during one of your gatherings you could take the time to have everyone sit down together and each one of you share one or two of your most cherished blessings from this past year. Allow others to see how God has blessed each and every one of us and how that has in turn has blessed the whole family assembled at the moment.

Debra and I offer up a prayer and thanks for and to each and every one of you! God Bless! **Merry Christmas!!!**



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

## NEW THIS WEEK

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

### **New Prayer Requests this week:**

**Bob**, friend of Chris & Natalie, had a heart attack last week but is suffering from many other critical issues right now and is fighting to live; please pray for healing for him.

**Tate**, Nina's grandson, has been transferred to Los Angeles for surgery after falling and breaking his femur; also still having multiple health issues

### **Our family members who are traveling this week**

## Continued Prayer:

**Ann Cowsert**, our sister in Arizona, is struggling with a serious knee issues

**Jan** wearing a heart monitor until tomorrow; follow up on CT scan in January

Numerous **members of Sally's family** has health problems: Father recovering from work accident; cousin Kelly recovering from surgery; Rueben, brother, knee injury.

**Barbara Pflugh** continues to be under the weather

**Tank** continues to struggle with various health issues

**Ron** was diagnosed with Bell's Palsy

**Hannah**, Trina's daughter, continue to pray for her

**Mike G.**, Borjas' friend, has prostate cancer and having radiation treatment

**Anthony**, Borjas' grandson needs strength to help him with his co-workers

**Anne**, Nina's daughter, it appears nodules on her lung have enlarged; sees doctor in February to begin treatment; is going for a second opinion

**Buddy** healing of his shoulder

**Mark Keeley** recovering from knee replacement

**Robert** is struggling with some digestive problems

**John Maltby**, prostate cancer

**Vivian** dealing with blood pressure problems



*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

*~Romans 12:2 NLT*

**It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.**

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas --- oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it --- overspending...the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma --- the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church, mostly black.

These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears.

It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat.

Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them."

Mike loved kids--all kids--and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church.

On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me.

His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years.

For each Christmas, I followed the tradition --- one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

**As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there.**

You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad.

The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the envelope. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us.

**May we all remember each other, and the Real reason for the season, and His true spirit this year and always. ~ Nancy W. Gavin**