



January 19, 2025

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

### WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

John 15:1 ff

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

#### 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

MySpectrumWiFi8-2G

MySpectrumWiFi8-5G

password: purplelemon096

mark your



Calendar

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

January 23 - Thursday night dinner; Cooks: Sharon/Buggie  
30 - Cooks: Barbara/LeRoy

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

February 1 - Prayer Breakfasts

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

Women's at 9:30 at Vivian's

February 4 - Elders' Meeting at 8:00 am.

### REPENTANCE

*For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation. ~ 2 Corinthians 7:10 NASB*

In the seventh century, John Climacus wrote, "Repentance is not to look downwards at my own shortcomings, but upwards at God's love. It is not to look backwards with self-reproach but forward with trustfulness. It is to see not what I have failed to be, but what by the grace of Christ I might yet become."

Repentance doesn't need to be painful. You don't have to beat yourself up for mistakes you've made. Instead, repentance is a blessing – the birth of a new life. It leads to transformation and to salvation. The Greek word that is translated as "salvation" also means "well-being, safety, prosperity, deliverance from destruction." When you repent, you simply get back on track, back on God's path of blessing.

*Show me, God, where I have gotten off track.  
Give me the courage to repent, so that I can be exactly who You want me to be.*

(Taken from *God Calls You Blessed* by Rae Simons)

## Pastors Corner of Light: Trusting the Light!

Last week I spoke of finding the light – rekindling the desire to know God and know God's Word. When we find that relationship with the Lord, we must have the conviction of following and trusting Him. We have all been through tough moments when we wonder where God is. If you read through the many biblical narratives written in the Word, we see God working behind the narratives bringing the characters into situations they would have never planned themselves. It's important to recognize that the workings of God's grace aren't always predictable or comfortable or the way we expect.

Consider the story of Moses – raised as a son of Pharaoh but finding himself as a shepherd out in the wilderness of Midian. His life is, unknowingly, preparing him to fulfill God's promise to Abraham that his descendants would spend 400 years in slavery and then be delivered into the Promise Land.

The book of Ruth illustrates human hardship and human love but also God's assurance that He will exercise His wisdom and His sovereignty; He will remember His promises and will deliver gifts of kindness and grace. At the end of the story, Ruth and Boaz have a son. He was named Obed and is to become the father of Jesse, the father of David.

These words give us a sense of what this story has been about all along. Through this little story of hardship and love, God sets things in place to deliver something that is anything but little – the ultimate promise, the gift of gifts, the Savior, Jesus Christ, through whom God's redeeming love will flow. We need to see and believe that God will work and continue to work His redeeming plan until that plan is complete; this is the ultimate story behind every other story. Remember that it is at the intersection of God's sovereignty and His grace that life and hope are found. Our perseverance and faith will be rewarded: **James 1:12** “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life



*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing.  
Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable,  
and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable.  
Think about things that are excellent and worthy of  
praise. ~ Philippians 4:8 NLT*



## **The Winter Soul**

by Deborah Ann Belka

The winter of the soul  
is a cold and lonely season  
when it doesn't understand  
the intention or the reason.

The bitter winds that come  
chills it to the marrow  
with each gust that blows  
it feels like a poison arrow.

The freezing rain and sleet  
seizes up its every tear  
they become like icicles  
encased with all its fear.

The winter soul can't take  
the ills, the weight, the loss  
unless the soul is willing  
to keep clinging to the cross.

For it is in this icy season  
the soul can find His warmth  
and nestle in the comfort  
of what God will bring forth.

So if the battered soul  
is to survive this frosty time  
it must be willing to soar  
and over each blizzard climb.

Winter in the soul  
is a cold and lonely season  
but it can find great peace  
knowing God has his reason.



# 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.*

## NEW

- ❖ **Lord, give me concern and compassion for the lost I meet today. Open doors so I might share YOUR message!**
- ❖ **Trina's dad** needs to get his house sold as soon as possible
- ❖ **Westley's** court date was on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Janiel**, Nina's granddaughter, lost her job
- ❖ **Rhonda**, Nina's niece, is having heart valve surgery Wednesday
- ❖ **Kristina**, Debra's co-worker, is struggling with serious liver/kidney problems
- ❖ **Connie** had a biopsy on Tuesday
- ❖ **Dustin and Berenice Hooper** are in India
- ❖ **Lynn M. and Nick B.** are struggling with health issues
- ❖ **Pray for the fire victims and first responders**

**Betty**, Trina's aunt, lost her husband this past weekend.

**Judy Davis**, Joyce's sister, lost her husband Saturday, a week ago.

**Debra's co-worker** is having internal bleeding problems.

**Wayne**, Trina's friend, had a stroke.

**Bill**, Debra's brother, cancer treatments

**Sharon's son** had knee surgery

**Casey**, a young friend of Nancy's, stage 4 cancer in his face is on a feeding tube;

**One of Earl's nephews** is serving in Syria; prayers for all our first responders

**Mary C's granddaughter** has been incarcerated

**Mike** had an MRI; appointment later for result of previous results

**Robert** continues to struggle with back pain

**Ron's brother/wife**, serious health issues and other difficulties

**Susie Tracy**, continued prayer for her; dealing with her husband's death

**Hannah**, Trina's daughter, continued prayer for her

**Wendy**, member of Debra's family, brain cancer

**Trina's relative, Holden**, tested positive for Valley Fever

**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

**Nancy's son and DIL**, broken ankle for Ron and diabetes issues for Parice

**For those that have upcoming tests this week or test results**

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