



# MARCH



16, 2025

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

## dates to Remember

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.

March 20 - Thursday night dinner at 5:30 p.m.

March 30 - Celebration Lunch following Services for Rebecca and Sammy's Birthdays

March 30 - Song & Supper 6:00 p.m.

April 1 - Elder's Meeting at 8 a.m.

April 5 - Men's Prayer Breakfast in kitchen at 8 a.m.  
Women's Breakfast at Jan's at 9:30 a.m.

### GOD IS OUT IN FRONT

*Go in peace; your way in which you are going has the Lord's approval." ~ Judges 18:6NASB*

In this verse, "peace" means the "freedom from fear." What a wonderful promise: you can proceed through your life without fear. Although most of us don't often fear for our physical lives, our world is full of other dangers. Oftentimes, as we think about our world, with all its illnesses, turmoil, and political strife, we allow our hearts to be overwhelmed with anxiety. We worry for ourselves and our loved ones. We fret over how things will turn out. But when this verse says that your way has the Lord's "approval," the literal meaning in the original language is "to go in front of."

In other words, God is preceding you. He holds the future in His hands. He knows how things turn out - and He doesn't want you to be afraid. You are blessed because you can live your life free from anxiety.

*Comfort my heart, Lord, when my worries threaten to overcome me.  
Increase my trust in You.*

(Taken from God Calls You Blessed by Rae Simons)

### WORSHIP TIME

Sunday Morning

8:30 Bible Classes

1 Samuel 1

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

MySpectrumWiFif8-2G

MySpectrumWiFif8-5G

password: purplelemon096

## MARCH COOKS:

March 20 - Jan

March 27 – Barbara Pflugh



### Pastors Corner of Light: How Are You Preparing for Battle?

It was a no-man's-land, a few empty acres separating the people of Israel from the looming fortress of Jericho. Well, there was *one* man there—Joshua. Wait. Check that. Now there are *two*, one with a drawn sword in his hand. *Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"*

*"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so. (Josh. 5:13-15)*

The real drama in many of God's best stories occurs *before* the battle starts, in hearts bent low before him. After that, it's all over but the shouting.

Joshua's question about which side he was on seems reasonable. It's the Commander's reply that comes as a surprise. After all, there was no question that God was most definitely on the side of Israel. Just re-read all the promises of victory and blessing He had made to Joshua. But as others have noted, the Commander of the LORD's army hadn't come to take sides; he'd come to take over.

Prior to the encounter Joshua must've been trying to formulate a plan. He must've been marshaling his faith and praying, just as we do. I'm sure he believed God was near, but he couldn't have grasped just *how* near nor that He would appear in army fatigues! Mercifully, Joshua was relieved of command. In fact, his whole Israelite army had no further duty but to march for seven days in silence in the sacred company of the Ark of the LORD.

Sometimes, we too may feel so lonely, so solitary, as we survey some foreboding Jericho blocking our way, but that not true. Christ has promised to be with us always, armed and in command. The thing we must *not* do is charge into some ill-fated, hurried, committee-driven action before we've bent low in reverence, before we've taken off our shoes, so our faith can find footing. "is Remember what Jesus told us: "In the world you will have tribulations. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33 "... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Mtt 28:20



## In His Own words:

### CLAY'S STORY

As a lifelong type 1 diabetic, I knew what was coming. I had seen my mother die from renal failure when she was forty-eight, and I was now forty-nine. For years my kidneys had slowly been losing function and now were down to 40 percent. I just wanted to see my only child graduate from high school. But God had other plans.

Two days before my son's graduation, I had a heart attack – and I never saw it coming! I was in great shape; I worked out five or six days a week, and I had a slim build and low cholesterol. The doctors told me, however, that years of diabetes had caused plaque to build up in my arteries. The next thing I knew, it was bypass surgery time. All the things you think are so important – job, house, graduation parties, whatever – fade into the background when you think about your chest being cracked open.

My wife and I cried as we planned for the worst and prayed for the best. I survived and began the recovery process. The dye used in the process of mapping my arteries, however, caused my kidney function to drop to 20 percent. After some days it became clear that my kidney function would keep deteriorating: I needed a kidney transplant.

While my wife was in the clinic waiting to be tested as a possible donor – and praying – Paul, the father of my son's friend, walked up to her. He put his hand on her shoulder and said he was there to be tested too. I had met Paul only a few times before. It turned out that he was a member of Journey Fellowship, a church we had visited a few times (we're now members!). And by God's grace he was an excellent match to be a kidney donor.

As weeks went by, my body was getting weaker, but my spirit stronger, as I saw the hand of the Lord on my life as he worked through countless people and in response to many prayers. I had ten medical procedures, including four surgeries in six months, and then dialysis. It culminated on December 15, 2010, with Paul and me lying in the hospital next to each other waiting for transplant surgery. We both made it through, and today our families are, needless to say, dearest friends.

The year 2010 was one of great physical pain and intense emotional distress, and while it may sound odd, I would not trade it now for anything. God drew me close to him through all of the struggles, closer than I had been in any period of my life. Even though I had grown up in church and had been growing in my faith, the perspective I now have on life is priceless. I am so thankful for many little things every day, and I see God's beauty, love, and purpose everywhere.

(Taken from [God Will Carry You Through](#) by Max Lucado)

God hear my cry; listen to my prayer. I call  
to you from the ends of the earth  
when I am afraid. Carry me away to a high  
mountain. You have been my protection, like  
a strong tower against my enemies. Let me  
live in your Holy Tent forever. Let me find  
safety in the shelter of your wings. Give all  
your worries to him, because he cares about  
you . . . . God, who gives all grace, will make  
everything right. He will make you strong  
and support you and keep you from falling.  
"Don't worry about tomorrow, because  
tomorrow will have its own worries. Each  
day has enough trouble of its own."

Psalm 1:1-4; 1 Peter 5:7, 10; Matthew 6:34

(taken from [God will Carry You Through](#) by Max Lucado)



# 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.**
- ❖ **Buggy and Mike** are both struggling with flu symptoms
- ❖ **Jan** is waiting for biopsy results
- ❖ **Rose** was to see a doctor on Friday to see if she can remove the brace and walk on that foot

**Tom and Joyce** are struggling with some issues

**Joann**, Joyce's sister, is having health issues

**Casey**, young friend of Nancy's, is losing site in his remaining eye after having one eye removed from cancer and he is in a lot of pain

**Rhonda**, Nina's niece, is suffering from internal bleeding

**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

**Bentley**, James' grandson, broke his collarbone and received a concussion.

**Brenda** is improving after surgery but financial situation is critical

**Ronnie**, Nancy's son, is need of prayers for physical, mental and spiritual health

**Trina's** DIL's grandmother has dementia; pray for decision on her care

**Rose** fell and broke her ankle

**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

**Lynn M. and Nick B.** are struggling with health issues.

**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 responders

**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

