

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Bob Hawkins had a setback last week and was unable to be out for services. He has been dealing with dizziness and swollen feet as he continues his recovery from his cardiac pacemaker insertion. He has consulted his cardiologist for next steps. Elena Hawkins has consulted an orthopedic doctor about a possible partial left knee replacement. She was given an injection to see if this will avoid the need for surgery. Allen Davis has been diagnosed with a growth on his lung and is scheduled for surgery on May 14th. Bryan Dyer, Susie's son and Cindy's brother, continues treatments for his cancer. Lisa Bunch is being treated with low dose cortisone for polymyalgia muscle pain. Charlie Henard is receiving periodic infusions to treat his Multiple Sclerosis. Virginia McKinney is battling kidney failure but has been able to attend services. Alice Wade has two sisters which have been diagnosed with cancer. Her sister Shirley is being treated for lung cancer and her sister Linda is battling cancer that has spread to multiple locations. Joni McConnell is recovering from heart valve replacement and is undergoing PT. Deloris Hendrickson is dealing with problems sleeping, back pain and GI issues. Brother Charles Blair, gospel preacher at the Stop 11 congregation, recently had successful hand surgery and is undergoing a lengthy rehab process. Karen Sproles is receiving therapy at home for treatment of symptoms of cellulitis.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, and Kathy Malowitz

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb and his wife, Eta (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See reports of their works on the bulletin board.

Benevolent Opportunity:

For the month of May, we are collecting macaroni and cheese for donation to the Martinsville school food pantry.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next monthly men's business meeting will be Wednesday, May 6th at 5:00 PM.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be today, following the morning service. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song then dismiss.

Gospel Meeting:

The Shelbyville Rd Church of Christ at 4915 Shelbyville Rd in Indianapolis is hosting a gospel meeting May 3 – 7 with brother Gale Nelson as speaker. Services will be at 10 and 11 AM and 5 PM on Sunday and at 7 PM on Monday - Thursday.

Radio Program:

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

God's Plan For Our Salvation:

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

May 3, 2026

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

JUDGMENT MUST FIRST BEGIN WITH THE HOUSE OF GOD

Tracy Dugger

Peter writes: *“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear”* (1 Peter 4:17-19).

Many hold that Peter refers to a time of persecution in which the church would suffer and that he is not speaking of the final day of judgment. The persecution was the overflow of what would occur in Jerusalem when God punished the Jews for their rejection of the Christ (Matt. 23:36-24:28). I agree and realize this is a more difficult section of Scripture.

I was reading Ezekiel 5-6 recently and was reminded of Judah’s divine punishment due to its false religion, immorality, and hypocrisy. God, through Ezekiel, promised retribution for their sin. It made me think of these verses in 1 Peter 4. Ezekiel makes clear that before Babylon gets their punishment, Judah and Jerusalem will get theirs. Before Assyria got their punishment, Israel (the northern kingdom and Samaria) got theirs.

God sent judgment against Jerusalem in the first century. That judgment served many purposes. One of those purposes was a reminder that God is serious about rejection of His Word. And, when a people reject His Word, there is judgment. That judgment especially includes and often begins with His own people. Did not God’s judgment of Rome include and often begin with the church? Read Revelation 2-3 and see how God promises judgment on those churches or Christians who were not faithful!

Is it a truth that at any kind of divine judgment, that His people who know better, but are not living right, that God will begin with them? If I were a principal at a school, and I was trying to do the right and fair thing, and a group of boys were involved in some bad things, and one of the boys was my son, where would punishment begin if I were to do the righteous thing? With my own child first! In a church, before I condemn the world for an immoral action that is also being practiced by some in the church, would it not be proper to first begin with ourselves? Isn’t this what 1 Corinthians 5 is about? Isn’t Paul dealing with this in Romans 2? He writes in Romans 2:24, *“For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.”*

All of this is a reminder to the church to examine itself and to remember that being God’s people is no excuse to ignore any portion of His Word. No wonder the admonition following Peter’s warning in chapter four ends with these words: *“Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator”* (1 Peter 4:19).