

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Elena Hawkins is still experiencing left knee pain after receiving a steroid injection. Allen Davis is recovering from surgery to remove a growth on his lung. Judy Coley has been battling bronchitis. Deloris Hendrickson is being treated for a urinary tract infection. 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’s sister Shirley is being treated for lung cancer. Alice’s sister Linda is also battling cancer that has spread to multiple locations and recently suffered a fall. 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. He is also being treated for pneumonia.

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. The Goshorns were with us Wednesday night and provided an update on their work.

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, June 3rd at 5:00 PM.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, June 7th following the morning service. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song then dismiss.

Welcome The Nick Davis Family To Our Morgan St. Family:

We rejoice that the Nicolas (Nick) Davis family has decided to be a part of our Morgan St. family. Nick Davis, his wife Michelle and their son Alex are members of the Lord’s church and asked to place membership last Sunday. We also extend a warm welcome to the rest of Nick and Michelle’s family, sons Ayden and Benjamin and grandsons Miles and Maverick. We look forward to our fellowship with them.

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 17, 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

THE CHILD OF GOD AND GOVERNMENT

We can be righteous under a righteous ruler, and we can be righteous under a wicked ruler. No civil government can force a Christian to do evil!

Be instant in the Political Season (2 Tim. 4:2).

No one would deny that this year is a “political season.” In fact, perhaps more so than most election years of the past, it has been the political season for some time now. It may be beneficial for Christians at this stage to spend some time meditating upon the word of God for some very important reminders.

Elihu asked Job and his friends, “*Is it fit to say to a king, Thou art wicked? And to princes, Ye are ungodly*” (Job 34:18)? Regardless of how accurate such a description may be, to what extent or through what avenue should a child of God protest wicked leadership? It is true that children of God should not call a wicked ruler good (Isa. 5:20; 1 Kings 22:13-14), and given the opportunity, a child of God should promote what is right and stand against what is wrong before a ruler. For example, John the baptizer took the opportunity to express the unlawful life Herod was living (Mark 6:18). In fact, if ever given an opportunity, a child of God should never turn down a chance to influence leaders toward righteousness. The Proverbs writer notes, “*Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness*” (Prov. 25:5). In reality, however, very few children of God will ever be presented with the opportunity to so directly influence their leadership as John the baptizer or Daniel did. Therefore, we are left with such indirect avenues as voting, writing and/or calling representatives, and more locally, influencing the world around us to seek righteousness and abhor evil.

What should be our attitude toward leadership? The law of Moses included, “*thou shalt not...curse the ruler of thy people*” (Exodus 22:28). David explained to his servants upon rejecting the opportunity to reach out and slay the wicked King Saul, “*The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD’s anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD*” (1 Sam. 24:6). Jesus taught us to “*Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s*” (Matt. 22:21). Peter wrote, “*Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well*” (1 Peter 2:13-14).

Let us step back for a moment and observe what appears to be the overarching message of God’s word concerning the relationship between the child of God and civil government. We can be righteous under a righteous ruler, and we can be righteous under a wicked ruler. No civil government can force a Christian to do evil! The way God designed government, it is supposed to punish evildoers and praise those who do well. What if this very institution becomes a “terror to good works” (Rom. 13:3) instead of evil? What if the ruler promotes the shedding of innocent blood, and stifles godliness? Does the child of God “curse the ruler?” Does the child of God “stretch forth his hand against” the ruler? Does the child of God reject all civil law? No, the child of God continues to live righteously himself; and, continues to teach others to do so as well.

If the government “strictly commands not to teach in His name” (Acts 5:28), the child of God still teaches in His name. If that means being reduced to poverty, we can be righteous in poverty (Matt. 12:42-44). If that means prison, we can be righteous in prison (Acts 16:25). If that means death, we can be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10). We can be as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who told their ruler, “*...O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thy hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou has set up*” (Dan. 3:16-18, ASV).

Children of God should pray for their country —not necessarily that some righteous ruler will come along and save everyone, but that the Gospel will convict and save everyone. More importantly, children of God should pray for the remnant of faithful Christians to remain faithful no matter what the outcome of the “political season.”

Take note of these Wicked Rulers who Reigned during the lives of Righteous People:

- Pharaoh over Moses (Exodus 2:15),
- King Saul over David (1 Sam. 24:16-20),
- Nebuchadnezzar over Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Dan. 3:17-18),
- Belshazzar over Daniel (Dan. 5:29-30),
- King Ahab over Elijah (1 Kings 19:9-10),
- Herod over John the baptizer (Mark 6:17-18),
- Pontius Pilate over Jesus (Acts 4:27),
- Caesar Nero over Paul (Acts 28:19-20). - John Hall