

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Ray Sturgill's brothers-in-law, Darrel Short and Teddy Adams are in bad health. Sister Judy Coley is suffering with another urinary tract infection. Alice Wade's sisters Shirley and Linda in Florida are both suffering with cancer. Shirley is back in the hospital. Bob Hawkins was fitted with a device inserted into his shoes to treat his vertigo. Dave and Tina Knoy's sister-in-law, Connie Knoy, is being treated for episodes where she loses consciousness. Dave and Tina Knoy's daughter-in-law, Jessica Haynes visited the Mayo Clinic and is now being treated with a different medicine for her chronic migraine issues. Former member Beryl Miner will undergo chemo for treatment of inoperable cancer behind one of his eyes.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Karen Sproles, Iris Hash. Karen will be moving to Florida on October 17th.

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 their reports on the bulletin board.

Benevolent Opportunity:

For the month of October, we will be donating instant mashed potatoes in support of the Gunner Burnham food pantry.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, November 4th at 5:00.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, November 1st following the morning service. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have another worship service.

Stop 11 Church of Christ Lectureship:

The Stop 11 Road Church of Christ in Indianapolis will host their annual lectureship November 1st – 5th. The theme is "God on Trial". Services are 10, 11 AM and 1:30, 2:30 PM Sunday and 10, 11 AM and 1:30, 7 and 8 PM Monday – Thursday. Brother Bob Hawkins will be speaking on Sunday morning, November 1st. In Bob's absence, brother Donnie Vick will be our guest speaker.

Ladies' Day:

The ladies of the congregation will be hosting a Ladies' Day on Saturday, October 17th beginning at 9:30 AM. Ladies from area congregations will be invited. The theme is "Women Under Construction" and the guest speaker will be sister Emily Vaughn from the Paris, IL Church of Christ.

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).

October 11, 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 FIRE HE COULD NOT PUT OUT

Derrick Stiles

Jeremiah knew what it was like to become discouraged while doing the work of God. He had been called to preach to a stubborn and rebellious nation. His message was often rejected, his motives were questioned, and his faithfulness brought him suffering rather than popularity. Yet Jeremiah's life teaches us something powerful: there may be moments when we feel like quitting, but when God's Word truly lives within us, there is a fire that refuses to go out.

Jeremiah's ministry was not easy. God had warned him from the beginning that people would fight against him ([Jer. 1:19](#)). He preached repentance, warned Judah of coming judgment, and pleaded with the people to return to God. Instead of listening, many mocked and opposed him. In Jeremiah 20, that opposition became personal. Pashhur, a priest and chief officer in the house of the Lord, struck Jeremiah and placed him in the stocks ([Jer. 20:1-2](#)). Imagine Jeremiah's condition. He had been publicly humiliated and physically mistreated—not because he had done wrong, but because he had faithfully proclaimed God's message.

Sometimes doing what is right does not immediately make life easier. Noah obeyed God but was surrounded by an unbelieving world. Elijah stood for God and found himself running from Jezebel. Paul preached Christ and experienced beatings, imprisonment, rejection, and persecution. Faithfulness does not guarantee freedom from difficulty. Sometimes faithfulness is demonstrated by continuing through the difficulty.

Jeremiah reached an emotional breaking point. He cried, *"I am in derision daily; everyone mocks me"* ([Jer. 20:7](#)). Every time he spoke, his message brought him more trouble. He confessed, *"The word of the LORD was made to me a reproach and a derision daily"* (v.8). Finally, Jeremiah decided he had endured enough. He said, *"I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name"* (v.9). In modern language, Jeremiah was saying, "I'm finished. I'm not doing this anymore." Have you ever felt that way? Perhaps you have tried to encourage someone who refuses to listen. You have attempted to teach the Gospel and been rejected. You have served in the church without feeling appreciated. You have tried to help someone only to have your motives questioned. You have prayed for someone who continues down the wrong path. Eventually, discouragement whispers, "Why keep trying?"

Jeremiah discovered the answer. He tried to stop speaking, but something happened inside him: *"But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not"* ([Jer. 20:9](#)). Jeremiah could stop his mouth temporarily, but he could not extinguish the message in his heart. That is the difference between simply knowing the Word and allowing the Word to live within us.

Fire spreads. Fire produces light. Fire produces warmth. Fire changes whatever it touches. Jeremiah had been so deeply affected by God's Word that remaining silent became harder than speaking. The pressure from the "outside" told him to quit, but the conviction on the "inside" told him to continue. Christians need that same fire today.

We live in a world that desperately needs the Gospel. There are neighbors who need to hear about Jesus. There are children and grandchildren who need godly examples. There are discouraged Christians who need encouragement. There are wandering souls who need someone to lovingly call them home. There are lost people who need to hear that salvation is available through Christ. Paul expressed a similar conviction when he wrote, *"Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel"* ([1 Cor. 9:16](#))! Peter and John demonstrated it when authorities commanded them to stop speaking about Jesus. Their answer was, *"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard"* ([Acts 4:20](#)).

When the Gospel truly changes us, we cannot be content to keep it to ourselves. However, spiritual fire must be fed. A campfire neglected will eventually become ashes. In the same way, if we neglect prayer, worship, Bible study, Christian fellowship, and service, our enthusiasm will weaken. Paul therefore told Timothy, *"Stir up the gift of God which is in you"* ([2 Tim. 1:6](#)).

Perhaps the fire in your heart does not burn as brightly as it once did. Maybe disappointment has dampened your enthusiasm. Perhaps criticism has made you hesitant. Maybe unanswered prayers have discouraged you. Jeremiah reminds us that discouragement does not have to be the end of our story. Go back to the Word. Remember the cross. Remember the empty tomb. Remember the forgiveness you once received. Remember the hope of heaven. Remember the souls around you who need Christ. Remember that our labor "is not in vain in the Lord" ([1 Cor. 15:58](#)).

Jeremiah wanted to quit, but he could not put out the fire that burned within him. May God's Word become so deeply rooted in our hearts that we can say the same. When we are tired, keep serving. When we are criticized, keep loving. When someone rejects the truth, keep teaching. When the work becomes difficult, keep going. The world may try to silence the message, discouragement may try to weaken the messenger, and hardship may tempt us to quit; but when God's Word is truly burning within us, there is a fire we simply cannot put out.