

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Sean Mathews recently had blood tests indicating elevated prostate PSA levels and is discussing next steps with his physicians.

Ken Roosa is under the care of cardiologists for some heart issues. He has been placed on medication and is scheduled to see a specialist for further evaluation.

Iris Hash's son, Bobby Eppards, is in cardiac rehab in Carmel.

Floyd Coley has experienced issues with his hip, requiring an injection. He is scheduled to see a surgeon after the first of the year to discuss options. Floyd is also dealing with GI issues.

Doris Parnell is suffering from shoulder pain and also battling kidney issues.

Joni McConnell is being treated with antibiotics for a lung infection. Later she will be scheduled for a procedure to remove fluid from her lungs. At some point in the future, she will also be scheduled to have a heart valve repaired.

Former member Glenda Coons is suffering with knee, back and hip pain.

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

Benevolent Opportunity

We are now collecting ramen noodles for donation to the MSD of Martinsville school food pantry.

The congregation also provided a holiday donation to the women of Desert Rose which included backpacks, notebooks, and blankets for all the residents. In addition, we are also supplying candy for the Christmas stockings for their children.

New Year's Eve Fellowship:

New Year's Eve falls on a Wednesday this year. On that Wednesday, we will have a song service followed by a fellowship with pizza and snacks.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will not be until February due to other planned fellowships at year end and after the first of the year.

2026 Planning Sessions:

On Saturday, January 10th we will meet at the building at 8 AM for breakfast served by the ladies of the congregation. Following breakfast, the men and women will have separate meetings to plan the works of the congregation for 2026. The men will also conduct their monthly business meeting prior to their planning session. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

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).

December 21, 2025

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

- A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF GRACE

John Chowning

- Change is difficult. Bad habits are far easier to make than break. The roots of a besetting sin reach deeper and are tougher to eliminate than imagined.

Earlier this year, I participated in an eight-week seminar on healthier living. The leader of the seminar had worked closely for several years with alcohol and other drug addicts. He stated that the most significant piece of wisdom he gleaned from this experience was that to change destructive behavior in humans, a person needs to be held to a standard of excellence in an atmosphere of grace.

The most effective teachers are ones who expect every student to do well. They set the standard for student achievement high. They are demanding but also gracious when mistakes are made or ignorance comes to light. A student is not embarrassed or ridiculed for making a mistake. Rather, they are encouraged to learn from their error(s) and not repeat the same mistake twice. I have had some students in elementary school who were so afraid of being wrong and then embarrassed for it, they refused to try. It was safer that way.

While remembering our Lord's death with my beloved brethren recently, I was reminded of this insightful observation. As you and I discern the Lord's body, we recognize that a significant reason for the bread's unleavened nature is to bring to our remembrance Jesus' sinlessness. He did no sin (1 Peter 2:22). God's lamb for my sin was perfect, without blemish or spot (1 Peter 1:19). The excellence of His sinless life is the standard by which I am to examine myself and my life (1 Cor. 11:28). God's standard for my life as a Christian is inflexible, unchanging, and perfect. Clearly, God has the highest standard of excellence for every one of His children.

The cup reminds me that God's standard of excellence is bathed in an atmosphere of grace. For every one of my blemishes and insufficiencies made evident by Christ's sinless example and standard, Christ's blood is sufficient. If I walk in the light, even

though I do so imperfectly, I will have fellowship with God and the blood of Christ will cleanse me from all sins (1 [John 1:7](#)).

My shortcomings and sinful imperfections are not ignored or excused in any way, nor am I embarrassed or ridiculed for them. The blood of Christ is God's gracious provision. There is no reason for me to quit trying. I need ever to strive for greater holiness and spiritual excellence in my life.

In addition, there is no reason to compromise God's perfect standard of spiritual excellence for me as it is exemplified in Immanuel's life. God's atmosphere of grace, memorialized in the Lord's Supper by Christ's blood, is not and never will be an excuse for sin in my life ([Rom. 6:1-2](#)). Rather, this weekly memorial of God's standard of excellence in an atmosphere of grace, when properly remembered, will rightfully provoke me to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world — "*looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works*" ([Titus 2:12-14](#)).

Long before we humans figured out that the best way to make real and lasting changes in our lives was to hold ourselves accountable to a standard of excellence in an atmosphere of grace. Jesus took unleavened (i.e. Passover) bread, gave thanks to God, and said to His disciples, "*Take; eat; this is my body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me*" (1 Cor. 11:23-24). Then, "*also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink [it], in remembrance of me*" (1 Cor. 11:25). This is why we ought to leave every Lord's Day assembly as better people than we came (1 Cor. 11:17). This is why we need to fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith (cf. 2 Tim. 2:7).

God wants each of us to be spiritually successful ([Rom. 8:37](#)), and He has provided us the perfect conditions to do so. He has given us a standard of excellence in an atmosphere of grace.