

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Dean Cook passed on the morning of 12-28-20. Dean will be greatly missed. Such a fine man. I guess that maybe the Lord needed a good welder. In this especially difficult time it is asked that everyone pray for Shirley and the family.

We are very proud to announce that Sean and Christa Mathews' children, Jaxson Mathews and Michaela Mathews were baptized on 12-19-20. We are so proud of these two new young Christians and for their parents as well. Please pray for Jaxson and Michaela as they begin their growth as faithful servants of Christ.

Charlie Henard's Mother (she lives in Murfreesboro, TN) has been diagnosed with Covid. She is doing very well. Oxygen was removed on 12-29 and it is hoped that she will be going home soon. Please continue in praying for Charlie's Mother.

Ethan Bell (Virginia McKinney's great grandson) passed on 12-24. Please pray for the family in their loss.

Eric Bowlen had shoulder surgery is expected to be recuperating with extensive therapy for the next two months. Prayers are requested for Eric.

Karen Sproles had a CT scan performed and it revealed that she has a nodule in her thyroid. Additionally, Karen had an Echo Cardia Gram that revealed an enlarged ventricle valve. Please pray for Karen.

Iris Hash has been diagnosed with her Hiatal hernia and is now strongly considering surgery. Iris has some new medication and is also on probiotics and doing well with that. She is also experiencing some problems with indigestion. Overall, Iris is doing some better and looking forward to seeing everyone at services soon.

Jeff Sturgill has been troubled with back problems and doing a lot better.

Stephanie Sturgill began Chemo treatments on 12-24-20. She is doing pretty good. Please pray for her recovery

Linda Bush is at home and doing better. It has been decided that the procedure will not be necessary and she is no longer wearing the heart monitor

Ernest Brown recently celebrated his 102 birthday and is at home doing well.

Teddy Burgess (friend of Evelyn Murphy) is doing much better.

Donnie Thurman (Ken's cousin) has been undergoing Cancer treatments and is at home.

Donnie's long prognosis is not good. Even so, he is upbeat and is back to attending Church services. Your prayers are needed and appreciated.

Sean Mathews – Stomach problems (ongoing)

Dalton Ward's uncle Mike passed. Please pray for the family in their loss.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale

Pray For The Work We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia)

Charles DiPalma (Mission work in Australia and New Zealand)

Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies

Upcoming Events:

God's Plan For Our Salvation:

1. **Hearing** the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. **Believing** what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. **Repentance** (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. **Confession** (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. **Baptism** (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. **Faithful Christian Living**, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

January 3, 2021

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

Jump Start # 2740

Hebrews 4:16 *“Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

For the past couple of days we have been taking a look at some of my favorite hymns and next on my list is the hymn, “Blessed Assurance.” Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! What a wonderful thought and concept that is. And, that ties in directly with our verse today, having confidence. In the King James, our verse is stated, “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace...” The opposite of confidence or boldness is to be scared, unsure, and timid. God is to be feared. God is not like us. We know what we have done and that alone can make us shy about approaching Him. But through the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we not only have forgiveness, but confidence. We are not cocky, careless or thinking it’s all about us, because it’s not. It is all about Jesus. Therefore we come, we come with assurance to the throne of God.

The hymn “Blessed Assurance” was written by the very gifted Fanny J. Crosby in 1873. Fanny Crosby has been called the “Queen of hymn writers.” There are 8,000 hymns attributed to Fanny Crosby. Others would include, “To God be the glory,” “Praise Him, Praise Him,” “All the way my Savior leads me,” and “Jesus is tenderly calling you home.” Crosby also wrote over 1,000 secular poems. And, what is remarkable about all of this is that she was blind from the age of six weeks. As an infant, she had an eye infection. A mustard poultice was applied to her eyes which damaged the optic nerve and left her permanently blind. Crosby was born in the state of New York in 1820 and died in 1915. Books containing her lyrics sold over 100 million copies but because of the low regard for lyricists and the hypocrisy of many publishers, Crosby received very little money for all her work.

The story behind “Blessed Assurance,” is that Crosby was visiting her friend Phoebe Knapp, who wrote many of the musical scores for her hymns. Knapp played a new melody for Crosby and at the conclusion Crosby replied, “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine.”

Some lessons from all of this:

First, our walk of faith must involve the assurance of what God has promised. Our hope is in the Lord. That wonderful John 3:16 passage

promises, “whoever believes in Him will not perish,” is true. We have let God down more than we’d like to admit. But, as John wrote, if we walk in the light as He is in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. You and I can make it to Heaven. God says so. We must believe Him.

Second, our confidence and assurance can be a source of help for others. There are so many Christians that live with doubt. Defeated and discouraged they drag into a church building looking as if they have been run over by a truck. We can be the encouragement. If I can make it, we’d tell them, anyone can. Stop taking inventory of all your sins and wrongs. Have they been forgiven? Then let them go. Lift your head up. Together, we can make it. You, me and the Lord. Depressed and discouraged brethren are the delight of Satan. Some keep assembling, but they really don’t think that they’ll make it. They need a boost of confidence, assurance and faith in the Lord. You can be just what they need.

Third, what a wonderful story in Fanny Crosby. Rather than being bitter because of her blindness, angry with the doctor’s treatment that led to her loss of sight, and carrying the victim card the rest of her life, she wrote hymns. Even when living in poverty, she kept praising the God that she loved. I wonder how many of us would have done that. Why write hymns if I’m not going to get paid for it, is what some would conclude. It wasn’t about money, fame or herself. It was all to the glory of the Lord. She had a way with writing and she used it constructively for the Lord. Her story makes us look in the mirror at our talents. Are we doing what we could for the Lord? Are we only available if we get a shout out, pat on the back or some compensation? Her songs are still sung today. More than a hundred years later, the Lord is still honored and praised by the words that she wrote.

Fourth, the chorus of Blessed Assurance, “This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.” This is my story. This is what I am all about. What a wonderful definition of life. What is your life all about? Praising my Savior, this is my story. What a wonderful motto for life. What powerful core values that will bring to the surface. What a difference that choice will make in the shaping of our attitude, words and actions.

Roger Shouse

Addition to Prayer list/announcements -

Dean Cook – Visitation will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Thursday - January 7, 2021 at Neal & Summers Funeral Home in Martinsville on Poston Road.

There is to be a Graveside Service on Friday – January 8, 2021 at 11:00 AM with burial to follow at New Southpark Cemetery across from the Funeral Home.