

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Judy Coley will be getting a pathology report on 3/8. She is expected to have the stint that is required every 3-4 Months. Prayers are needed for Judy, Floyd and their family.
Ernest Brown has Covid-19 is at home is weak but is doing better. Prayers are requested.
Evelyn Murphy has gotten over Covid-19. She is staying with her Dad (Ernest Brown) and taking care of both of them. She is doing well. Prayers are requested.
Clay Sturgill (Ray's brother) had his other leg removed and is in the nursing home in Whitesburg, Ky. for rehab. He is not doing well at all. Prayers for Clay and the family are appreciated.
Jeff Sturgill has been troubled with back problems and will be off work and recuperating until March. He is doing a lot better but the problem comes and goes.
Stephanie Sturgill has received her last Chemo treatment and is doing pretty well. Please pray for her recovery.
Kern Shoopman (Jesse Riddle's Brother-in Law) is suffering from stage 3 Cancer and is to begin chemo treatment this week. Please pray for him and his family.
Eric Bowlen had shoulder surgery is expected to be recuperating with extensive therapy. Eric's therapy is to be completed on 3/10. It will be good to see Eric and family back with us soon.
Karen Sproles is having problems with a place on her back and one on her foot. Her thyroid problem is being watched for now. Karen has been ordered to receive home bound care for these issues as well as home occupational therapy. She is scheduled to turn in her heart monitor on 3/10. After the heart monitor results she will be doing a stress test. Karen is in a lot of pain. Please pray for Karen.
Iris Hash was to see a surgeon on 3/3 to determine if and when to have surgery correct her Hiatal hernia. Overall, Iris is doing some better and looking forward to seeing everyone at services soon.
Ada Hamm has been diagnosed with lung cancer and has made the decision not to have treatments for lung cancer. Please pray for Ada.
Sean Mathews – Stomach problems (ongoing). Prayers would be appreciated.
Jamie has injured his foot and to have corrective surgery but no date is set for now.
Shannon Jones (Randal Jones' daughter) is back in the hospital.
From Joni McConnell: Please keep my cousin and family in your prayers
He was buried March 1 in Joplin, MO.

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: Ladies Bible Study to resume on 4/1 at 11:00 AM.

Daylight Savings Time – resumes on 3/14. Clocks to be set forward.

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).

March 7, 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

Proverbs 14:15 *“The naïve believes everything, but the sensible person considers his steps.”*

Our passage today, typical of Proverbs, is wrapped around a couple of contrasts. The naïve and the sensible. Believing everything and considering the steps. It is this last statement that I want to build some thoughts on today. Consideration of ones’ steps. A big segment of the country understood that literally last week. Most of the country was covered with snow and ice. Driving was tough. Walking to the mail box was tough. We had to consider our steps. We were careful.

But our passage is not about walking on wintery sidewalks. It is about the thoughtful consideration of one’s behavior, attitude and choices. The wise or sensible person is one who doesn’t just plow ahead full steam. He’s thinking before he acts. He thinks before he speaks. He considers the impact his choice will have upon his soul. This is something that seems to be missing so much today. So many celebrities, athletes, politicians, and, reporters have said things that weren’t thought out. Their mouths were running faster than their brain. And, they get in trouble. Many have had to come back and apologize and beg for their jobs. What they lacked was considering their steps.

Now, take that thought to a different area. As we consider consideration, wrap that around congregations starting back up once again.

First, this is an opportunity to really evaluate, consider and look at the entire worship package including Bible classes. Here is a fresh window to start new, fresh and make adjustments. Many places will just go right back to the same schedule and way things were done in the past. Nothing wrong with that, but put some consideration into it before the decision is made.

For instance:

- Are two Sunday services working and if so, are two sermons on Sunday the best and most effective way to teach and accomplish your goals? Some places have made adjustments through the pandemic and have gone nearly a year with just one Sunday service. Did that work well?

- Are Sunday morning Bible classes and the format of those classes working? Are classes on Sunday the best means to teach or have we found a class during the week works better?

- Have we seen that using disposable Lord’s Supper elements are much more sanitary and having a basket or drop box for the contribution works well?

- Congregations got through a year with few or no Gospel Meetings. Maybe it’s time to think about the purpose of those, the length of those and what we are wanting from them.

The business community is making some serious evaluations as we move to the other side of the pandemic. Large office buildings are expensive to maintain and working from home, for many actually works better. School systems are taking a look at different methods of teaching having gone through long periods of Zoom classes and e-learning. Restaurants are looking at things differently now. The menu that everyone touches may be made safer. Seating may be different. And, what we are witnessing is that on the other side of the storm, adjustments are made. Some have found better and safer ways of doing things. Some are making preparations in case something like this happens again.

And, for congregations, the post pandemic church may come out stronger, closer and more focused than ever before. Wise and sensible leaders will consider the best steps in not just getting everyone back, but in how things will be done. Don’t just assume the way before the pandemic is the only way or the best way. Put some thought into worship—the hours you meet, the order of things in worship, the number of songs, where you place the Lord’s Supper in the worship and so many other things. Here is a window to make great adjustments and do things better.

We can just get back to the way things were, or we can consider how to make things better. These are the things to be talked about, thought out and prayed about. Before everything returns to normal, make sure that your normal is the best way of doing things. Talk to others and find out what they are doing. Share some ideas. Try some things, as long as you stay within the Biblical guidelines.

This is a time to do some considering...

Roger Shouse