

**Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Elena Hawkins is still experiencing left knee pain after receiving a steroid injection. She also had a cardiac stress test and it was determined that she needs a heart catheterization which will be performed on June 29<sup>th</sup>

Floyd Coley is experiencing back pain and is scheduled for X-rays and to possibly see a neurosurgeon.

Joni McConnell fell, fractured her hip and is in The Springs rehab center in Mooresville.

Allen Davis is still recovering from surgery to remove a growth on his lung.

Bryan Dyer has completed his treatments for his cancer. Tests show it in remission.

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.

**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.

**2026 Morgan County Fair Booth:**

We will once again have a booth in the merchant's building at the 2026 Morgan County Fair, July 10 – 18. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board to help out with this important work.

**Benevolent Opportunity:**

For the month of June, we are collecting ramen noodles for the MSD food pantry.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next monthly men's business meeting will be Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> following the morning service.

Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song then dismiss.

**Area Gospel Meetings:**

The Paris, IL congregation will have a gospel meeting June 21 – 24 with brother Robby Eversole. Services will be at 9 AM, 10 AM and 6 PM on Sunday and 7 PM Monday – Wednesday.

The Bargersville Church of Christ is hosting a gospel meeting June 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.

Services are Sunday 9:30, 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM and Monday – Friday 7:00 PM.

The speaker is brother Chase Byers and the theme is "Lessons From Acts".

**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).

June 21, 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](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## BE CAREFUL NOT TO BE SIFTED

*Rick Owens*

The Savior warned Peter, “*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat*” (Luke 22:31). Satan sifts through one’s character, searching for the vulnerable areas he can use to cause his victims to stumble (Heb. 12:1). He used “lust” to cause the downfall of king David. With others he may use alcohol, anger, bitterness, hatred, or a myriad of other weaknesses present in life. The weak spot might even be a lack of commitment and a love for God.

The lesson to be learned is that Peter didn’t realize, neither may anyone else be aware of the ways the devil sifts through people to find the weak spots that may exist. That is why Christians must always be guarding themselves, wearing the whole armor of God to defend themselves against the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:11).

Pride, the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the selfish and self-centered will of humanity are all favored sifting techniques of Satan. However, since it is common knowledge to know the enemy will be sifting, one must continually monitor the vulnerable areas of life and strengthen them with the power of Scripture. The Lord continually answered Satan with, “*It is written*” (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10), and so should all the faithful.

Satan sifts God’s people when they suffer in this life; meaning, he sifts out the hurt and uses it to his advantage! We may wish we had never experienced hurt and trouble, and wouldn’t life have been so much more pleasant without the distress, the affliction, and the sorrow? The truth is life doesn’t unfold that way. People make poor decisions, unknown events are thrust upon us, and people find themselves in situations they wish were not reality. However, the difficult time in life may be of great value if they are allowed to be beneficial to the one who endures them, that doesn’t mean they are enjoyable, but they are valuable none the less.

Consider the apostle Paul, he told the beloved Philippians, “*For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you*” (Phil. 1:23-24). Who was Paul to leave his assignment early? The only person to benefit from his exit would have been Paul! Could anyone blame him for wanting to leave this life, a full of misery and punishment? Of course not! It is doubtful many suffered in the physical world more than he (2 Cor. 11:23-28), but he understood the assignment and it wasn’t because he was an

apostle. He was a faithful Christian who agreed to endure until the end, however his end may come (Rev. 2:10).

We are no different than Paul, we have agreed to endure until the end however the end comes, and along the way there will be difficulties. As we travel the road of life, we must do it with great courage. The Lord Jesus called out to His disciples on a stormy sea, and he told them, “*Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid*” (Matt. 14:27). Was it all about crashing waves and dangerous elements? Absolutely not! He was encouraging them to have courage in the face of frightening life events; after all, they would be tasked with carrying the Gospel into a stormy world, where the threats would be more than wind and waves. They would have their lives threatened by Roman rulers, Jewish leaders, and anyone who disagreed with heaven’s message. They needed the courage Jesus urged them to have.

That is true for us, we may not travel the world and face dangerous governments, but Satan will sift us down to our bare essence, discovering what we fear most, and then use it against us. The lesson is to face those times with the courage of the apostles as they looked into the eye of the storm, because the Lord is with us too (Heb. 13:5). Don’t be looking for the nearest exit, Paul didn’t. That doesn’t mean the exit doesn’t seem appealing, because it does, but it isn’t time; it wasn’t time for Paul, and it wasn’t time for the Lord when He prayed to the Father (Matt. 26:39). They continued, even when the road ahead was difficult, and so should we.

All the faithful who came before “endured,” even as they were sifted because it benefitted them, and it benefitted everyone who came after. That is what Paul told the good brethren in Philippi, “*It was more needful for them*” (Phil. 1:24). When Jesus continued to the cross, it benefitted the entire world for all who had ever lived because His blood washed the sins of the obedient, and all who would ever take advantage of His gift of life. Let’s never believe we have it worse than others, we never know what terrible hurt someone is carrying around, and he or she is enduring!

There will come a time, as another sits across from “you,” and he/she is encouraged by what is learned from your life by the troubles, by the difficulties, by the sadness, and by the hurt you have survived because you endured to the end; however, that end may come. Who are any of us to desire to leave our assignments early? Life is a mixture of happiness and heartache. Paul lived through the heartache, and he spread the happiness to others. Keep enduring!