

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 29th

Floyd Coley is experiencing back pain associated with nerves in his spinal area and is scheduled to have an injection to relieve the pain.

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 and is now in the hospital with sepsis. Alice's sister Linda is also battling cancer that has spread to multiple locations and recently suffered a fall.

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

Deepest Sympathy:

Our prayers go out to the Tim Burdsall family at the passing of Tim's aunt Beverly Burdsall Killian. Services were held last week.

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.

Men's Business Meeting:

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

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, July 5th following the morning service. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song then dismiss.

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 28, 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

WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

Joshua Alexander

Is the church of Christ a cult, a denomination, or something else entirely?

You may be wondering, what exactly is the church of Christ? If you live in the south, chances are you have neighbors, family members, or friends who regularly gather in a building bearing this name. While driving through town, you may have noticed the name “church of Christ” on signs in front of “church buildings,” or perhaps you saw it while scrolling through social media. Although the church of Christ is especially common in the southern United States, it is not confined to one region. Congregations exist throughout the United States and around the world.

Because of this visibility, many opinions circulate concerning the exact nature of the church of Christ. Some say the church of Christ is a cult founded by Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone during the American Restoration Movement. Others describe it as simply another conservative denomination within Christianity. With so many competing explanations, confusion is understandable. This raises an important question: Is the church of Christ a cult, a denomination, or something else entirely?

To answer that question, we must go back to the beginning. The story of the church of Christ does not begin in nineteenth-century America, but at the very beginning of time. In the Garden of Eden, after the sin of Adam and Eve, God pronounced judgment upon the man, the woman, and the serpent. Within that judgment, God revealed His plan for mankind’s redemption: *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”* ([Gen. 3:15](#)). This prophecy pointed forward to Jesus Christ. The Lord’s suffering on the cross was the bruise to His heel, and His resurrection from the grave was the crushing blow to the serpent’s head (Satan).

For fifteen hundred years, the children of Israel were God’s chosen people. God revealed His presence through the tabernacle, the temple, and the ark of the covenant. Israel was given laws, sacrifices, and feast days that were to be faithfully observed. Yet these things were never intended to be permanent. The Bible teaches the law of Moses served as a “schoolmaster” to bring the Israelites to Christ ([Gal. 3:24](#)). The law of Moses could not fully remove sin, for *“it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins”* ([Heb. 10:4](#)). Sin entered the world through one man, and therefore redemption required the blood of a perfect Man —Jesus Christ (1

[Cor. 15:22](#), 45).

The prophets foretold of a change of the law. Jeremiah spoke of a new covenant that would replace the old ([Jer. 31:31–34](#)). Daniel prophesied of the kingdom of God being established during the days of the Roman Empire —a spiritual kingdom that would never be destroyed ([Daniel 2:44](#)). Jesus later confirmed that His kingdom was *“not of this world”* ([John 18:36](#)). Isaiah, Micah, and Joel spoke of a time when “all nations” would be included and when God’s Spirit would be poured out ([Isaiah 2:1–2](#); [Micah 4:1–2](#); [Joel 2:28–32](#)).

These prophecies were fulfilled in Acts chapter 2. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter declared that the events taking place that day were the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy ([Acts 2:16–21](#)). When the people asked what they must do, Peter instructed them to *“repent and be baptized for the remission of sins”* ([Acts 2:38](#)). Those who obeyed were added by God to the church/kingdom ([Acts 2:47](#)). Jesus had promised to build His church ([Matt. 16:18](#)). Scripture affirms that He purchased it with His own blood ([Acts 20:28](#)). One cannot be added to a church that does not exist, nor can one purchase something that has not been established. Therefore, Jesus successfully accomplished His mission.

What, then, is the church of Christ? It is not a denominational title, but a description. The word church means an assembly (“a calling out”), and the phrase “of Christ” indicates possession. The church belongs to Christ because He built it and paid the price for it. Paul referred to first-century congregations as *“the churches of Christ”* ([Rom. 16:16](#)). In the New Testament, there was only one body, the Lord’s church, the church of Christ, not the many denominations that exist today ([Eph. 4:4](#)). The Lord’s church is not one of many!

The church of Christ is the body of believers who have obeyed the Gospel and belong to Christ. It is not founded by human leaders, governed by creeds, or directed by a earthly headquarters. Christ is its head and the Bible its sole authority. Our desire is not to start something new, but to be what the first Christians were. If we do what they did, we will be what they were: Christians, members of the church that belongs to Christ.