

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Liz Sturgill is still struggling but continues to receive dialysis treatments.
Jeff Sturgill has a sore on his foot but is now doing better.
Jesse Riddle is experiencing weakness but is able to attend Sunday AM services.
Delores Hendrickson has been unable to attend services but is doing better.
Ken Roosa's cousin, Al Hurt, had emergency colon surgery.
Charlie Henard's aunt has lung cancer and is not doing well..
John Richardson is recovering from gall bladder surgery.
Shirley Cook's nephew in Illinois, Dale Pflum, is suffering from cancer.
Karen Sproles is doing better but will have a nerve block injection in her knee soon.
Nan Coons, wife of Darian and daughter-in-law of Eldon and Glenda Coons, had observation surgery and removal of a kidney stone as well as flushing out of her urinary tract. She was released then readmitted to the hospital with complications related to her having nausea and not being able to eat. She is some better but is still in the Vanderbilt hospital.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

Deepest Sympathy:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Virginia McKinney at the passing of her sister in St. Louis.

We are also in prayer for brother Bob Hawkins at the recent passing of his dear friend and sister in Christ, Margaret Meeks, who lived in Halls, Tennessee. Bob conducted the funeral service in Tennessee last week.

Our sympathy is also extended to Randall and Linda Jones at the recent death of their brother-in-law. He was the husband of Diane, Linda's sister.

2024 Men and Women's Planning Sessions:

On Saturday, January 20th the men and women will meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM at the building. Following breakfast, the men and women will have separate planning sessions to determine the works that we will pursue for 2024.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, January 7th, following the AM services.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, January 3rd at 5:00.

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 24, 2023

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 (March through October)

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

POINTING FINGERS AT OTHERS

Roger D. Campbell

See if any of this sounds familiar: the prime minister or president blames the legislature and the legislature blames the top ruling figure in the country. The national government blames the state/provincial governments and the state/provincial governments blame the national government. The coach blames the players and the players blame the coach. The teacher blames the parents and the parents blame the teacher. The husband blames the wife and the wife blames the husband. The overseers blame the congregation and the congregation blames the overseers.

When we say “pointing fingers,” we refer to placing the blame for something on someone else. If a blatant mistake occurs, some activity does not go well, or if something is left undone that should have been done, people often begin pointing fingers.

Finger-pointing is not something that is limited to one gender, one culture, one financial class of people, or those from one level of educational training. It is something that folks from all walks of life do, it knows no geographic boundaries.

Finger-pointing has been around since the population of the earth was only two people! After Eve and Adam violated God’s instructions by eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they began making excuses. Their excuses involved pointing fingers at someone else, as if blaming someone else for their misdeed somehow would erase the reality of their own sinful conduct.

After the transgressions took place in the Garden of Eden, God asked Adam, “Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat” (Gen. 3:11)? What was Adam’s response? “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat” (3:12). Adam admitted that he ate the fruit, but, at least in part, he was pointing a finger at someone else. He pointed a finger at Eve, saying she gave him the fruit. And, his words also had “the ring” of blaming God for giving him the women who gave him the fruit.

Well, what about Eve? She, too, did some finger-pointing. When Jehovah asked her, “What is this that thou hast done” (Gen. 3:13), she

admitted she had eaten the fruit, but her complete statement was, “the serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.” Instead of taking full responsibility for her failure, she pointed a finger at the serpent.

In the next book of the Bible, we again read of a person who sinned against God, but rather than “man up” and show remorse for his evil-doing, he tried to place the blame on someone else. We are talking about Aaron (the first high priest of Israel and older brother of Moses). What sin did Aaron commit? He led the Israelites in building and worshipping a golden calf. Moses’ question to his elder brother was, “What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them” (Exodus 32:21)? Aaron’s wimpy, finger-pointing answer was, “thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief. For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf” (Exodus 32:22-24). At whom did Aaron point a finger? At “the people.” Aaron gave a cowardly, non-sensical, blame-others response. God’s people deserve better leadership than that!

In contrast to the finger-pointers in the world, when King David messed up by committing adultery and other evil deeds, rather than blame someone else, he “told it like it was.” With no stipulations or attempt to minimize his guilt, David declared, “I have sinned against the LORD” (2 Sam. 12:13). His sin was ugly, but his spirit of repentance and taking responsibility for his grievous error was beautiful.

The Bible says, “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12). It also is written that the God of judgment “will render to each one according to his deeds” (Rom. 2:6). When we stand before the judgment seat of the risen Son of God, pointing a finger at others will not remove the guilt of any transgressions we have committed.

If a sin was committed, but we had no involvement in it, we are not responsible for it. On the other hand, if we broke God’s law or failed in some manner when others were counting on us, let us be mature enough to admit our fault, take responsibility for our action, and strive to do better in the future.