

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

Ray and Liz Sturgill are still recovering. Liz is receiving dialysis treatments at Spencer and home health care visits.

Sheila Wilson continues to receive chemotherapy at IU Health Martinsville and home healthcare visits.

Delores Hendrickson is back home and doing better following a brief hospitalization.

Jeff Sturgill is recovering at home from back surgery.

Bob Hawkins had another outpatient procedure for a problem with veins in his legs.

Gerald Dunn, brother of Susie Riddle, is in a health care institution in Bedford and is experiencing memory issues.

Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance and hip problems. She has a follow-up appointment with her cardiologist.

Karen Sproles is still confined at home and is receiving home health services. Her husband Chet broke his leg but is now back home again.

Iris Hash is feeling better and is still staying with her daughter.

John Richardson has been transferred to the Countryside Nursing Home in Avon, IN.

Terry Richardson is in rehab at The Waters in Martinsville.

Vickie Phillips, former member, is suffering from COVID.

Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.

Haven Duncan is suffering from some issues while in the Army at Ft. Benning, GA.

Jessica Haynes, Dave and Tina's daughter-in-law, is suffering from health issues.

Jessica Knoy, Dave and Tina's daughter-in-law's mother, is recovering from a stroke.

**Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash

**Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru)

**Deepest Sympathy:**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Liz Sturgill at the passing of her sister-in-law, Martina, in Kentucky.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next monthly pitch-in dinner will be held following the morning services on January 1. Following the meal, we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for an afternoon song service then will dismiss for the day.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, January 4th at 5:00 PM.

**Benevolent Opportunities:**

Please bring in coffee between now and December 18th to be donated to Desert Rose, the local women's shelter.

In addition, the congregation will be assisting two local needy families during the holiday season. Sean and Christa Mathews are leading this work. Money from the church will be used to purchase clothes and gifts for these families.

**Radio Program:**

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

**Note: For December 25<sup>th</sup> only, our radio program will air at 8:00 PM instead of AM.**

**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).

December 18, 2022

***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](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## WHY DIDN'T HE STOP THE STORM?

Storms in our lives are not always bad things, spiritually speaking. Just as rainstorms cause the foliage in the natural universe to grow, spiritual storms can cause one to grow spiritually too.

Matthew chapter fourteen (vs.22-33) deals with an event in the ministry of Christ that many people are aware of in religious and secular settings. The fact of Jesus walking on the water has entered our vernacular to mean that one is perfect or has an inflated opinion of themselves if they can “walk on water.” This means that no person is as unique or as perfect as Jesus was and no person ever will be. That being the case, the circumstances surrounding Jesus’ walking on the water deserve deeper investigation.

Previously in the ministry of Christ, Jesus had been asleep in a vessel that was tossed severely in a storm. The text tells the reader that Jesus was soundly asleep at the stern of the vessel. Upon the alarm of the Apostles in the boat, Jesus stops the storm. Mark 4:35-40 says, “And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?”

From this event, one learns that Jesus had the ability to stop the most powerful forces of nature. Notice the response of the Apostles in Mark 4:41, “And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” Since these events fall earlier in the chronology of Jesus’ life than Him walking on the water, one deep question might come to mind. Why did Jesus not stop the storm in Matthew fourteen?

Theoretically, He could have created a water surface that was calm and smoother than polished glass. Instead of Peter becoming distracted by the storm (Matt. 14:30), he could have easily strolled to where Jesus was on the face of the water some three or four miles from shore (John 6:19). Jesus allowed the storm to continue while Peter began to sink beneath the waves (Matt. 14:30). Why would Jesus allow the storm to continue amidst their fears and anxieties? Consider these:

There is a blessing that comes from weathering a storm. God can stop the storm in our lives, or He can go with us through the tempest. All Christians will face a storm in their lives. Some will face more than their fair share of troubles. Some storms will be in connection with chronic illnesses that have no real end in this life.

Some storms might be bereavement or loss —whether it is death or loss of a particular situation in life.

Just as Jesus might have stopped the storm that made Peter and the other Apostles fearful, but did not, He allows us to face storms too. What sort of blessings might one enjoy who endures the storm faithfully to the end?

We are blessed by storms because it makes us stronger in our Christian walk. Paul took pleasure in his infirmities. Second Corinthians 12:9-10 says, “And he

said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.” When a child of God faces a problem and navigates it successfully, he becomes stronger in his faith.

We are blessed by storms because it makes us focus on God. In Matthew fourteen, Peter started to sink because he took his eyes off Christ. Matthew 14:30 says, “But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.” When Christians face difficult situations in their lives, they are forced to pay more attention to God. Most faithful saints are driven to their knees in prayer when they deal with tribulations, bereavement, and infirmities.

We are blessed by storms because it makes us face our fears. While some are critical of Peter, he was the only one who had enough courage to get out of the boat. Jesus was critical of his “little faith,” because the Creator of the universe was right next to him, ready, willing, and able to pluck him from the tempestuous waves. Christ is near His people in a very real way (Heb. 4:14-16; cf. Matt. 28:20).

We are blessed by storms because we can see God’s providential working in our lives. Joseph had a terrible set of circumstances befall him through no fault of his own. Yet, he understood that the bad things help him in the deliverance of his entire family. Genesis 50:19-20 says, “Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.” From these passages and others, one might learn that the ability of God to accomplish His purposes in the face of evil is one proof of His power.

We are blessed by storms because we know that God is near in our times of trial. Paul was aware of this fact when he stood before the Lord. “Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” (2 Tim. 4:17-18).

We are blessed by storms because our trials help us comfort others. If we lived a life free from problems, we would not be able to relate to others or help them in their times of need. Second Corinthians 1:3-4 says, “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.” When we have already taken the journey of bereavement, pain, temptation, and tribulation, we can guide others as they struggle along the same pathway. Storms in our lives are not always bad things, spiritually speaking. Just as rainstorms cause the foliage in the natural universe to grow, spiritual storms can cause one to grow spiritually too. James 1:2-4 says, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” - Johnny O. Trail