

June 30, 2019

## ***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 and 6:00 PM

#### **Wednesday**

Bible Study – 7:00 PM

#### **Thursday**

Ladies Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March – 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

### **Pray For The Sick And Afflicted:**

Sherrie Williams (surgery)

Delores Hendrickson (fell)

Dean Cook

Karen Sproles (surgery)

Shirley Cook’s brother Bill, his wife Doris and their son Dale

Randy Murray (Cindy Murray’s husband)

Ernest Brown (Evelyn Murphy’s father)

Shirley Farmer (Jesse’s sister)

Zachary Baxter (Susie Burdsall’s grandson, deployed in the U.S. Navy)

Merl McCurry (Tina’s father, heart issues)

Steve Flick (Tina’s uncle, stroke and cancer)

Pete Nusz (Tina Knoy’s cousin’s husband, cancer)

Edwin Parnell (Mike Parnell’s brother, cancer)

### **Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

Goldie Gilbert, Al and Gertrude Reynolds

### **Pray For The Mission Work That We Support:**

John Grubb (mission work in Asia)

Charles DiPalma (mission work in Australia and New Zealand)

Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies

### **Pray For Our Upcoming Events:**

**Summer Gospel Meeting** – Today is the last day of our summer gospel meeting with brother Ronnie Whittemore. Services today include Bible study at 9:30 AM, worship services at 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM. There will be a pitch-in dinner following the morning service. All visitors are invited and encouraged to join us.

**Monthly Pitchin-in Dinner** – Our next monthly pitch-in dinner will be today, immediately following the morning services. Following the pitch-in we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for an afternoon service then dismiss for the day.

**Men’s Business Meeting** – The next men’s business meeting will be held Sunday, July 7th, at 5:00 PM.

### **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. After the above five steps, **Faithful Christian Living** (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

## PRAYER IN PUBLIC WORSHIP

Ronnie Whitemore

It has been accurately observed that the reading of the Bible is God's communication to man and prayer is man's communication to God. Righteous people have always been prayerful people. In the Old Testament, faithful Abraham and courageous Daniel were prayerful men (Gen. 20:17; Dan. 6:10). Both the devoted David and the meek Moses were men who prayed to God (Psalm 51; Num. 11:2). In the Gospel records, many passages note the prayerful life of Jesus. In turn, Jesus taught His disciples to pray (Matt. 6:9-13) and the early Christians engaged in prayer in the first century. The apostle Paul also believed in and taught about prayer. The New Testament instructs Christians to pray for laborers (Matt. 9:38), enemies (Matt. 5:44), and all men (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

### WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is a blessed privilege of Christians. No problem is too great or too small to take to God in prayer. Prayer is also an important aspect in worshipping God. It is not merely a mechanical part of worship. It involves: 1) the heavenly Father to whom prayers are addressed; 2) the Son who mediates (1 Tim. 2:5); 3) the Holy Spirit who intercedes (Rom. 8:26); and 4) God's children who are the petitioners. Prayer is more than just talking to God. Prayer is not a substitute for speech making. It is the sincere desire of the heart expressed in words unto God (cf. Rom. 10:1). Prayer involves more than an attitude. It includes expressing matters unto God.

From a positive standpoint, prayer consists of praise (Matt. 6:9), thanksgiving (Eph. 5:20), confession of sins (1 John 1:9), petitions, supplications and intercessions (1 Tim. 2:1-3). From a negative standpoint, prayer is not a substitute for obeying the commandments of the Lord (Matt. 7:21). Someone has well said: "Work as though everything depends on you and pray as though everything depends on God." Prayer is the recognition of man's dependence upon God.

### WHY PRAY IN WORSHIP?

Change of location does not change man's need for prayer. Whether one is in the security of his home, confronting a crisis or in the church building, the need to pray remains the same. Paul exhorted that we should "*pray without ceasing*" (1 Thess. 5:17). One cannot pray too much or too often. God's people should always possess a prayerful attitude. Prayer should be a spiritual habit. Whether "*...evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice*" (Psalm 55:17).

When God's children assemble together to worship Him "*in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24), there is always the occasion and need to pray. Every person has a need to pray and an interest in the prayers. The sick, chronically ill, the lost, the faithful, the weary and the strong need the power of prayer. God will strengthen his people in temptation (Matt. 6:13; 26:41), grant them wisdom (James 1:5-7), forgive their sins (Matt. 6:11; James 1:17) and give peace (1 Tim. 2:1-2). Only the ignorant or arrogant express no interest in prayer unto God.

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### WHEN PRAY IN WORSHIP?

The command to pray is given by God, but the specific time to pray is left to man. It is customary to open and close worship services in prayer. Though some may consider this to be a tradition and ridicule it merely because it has been practiced for years, it continues to be practiced because it makes good sense. Just as a person begins and ends his day by praying to the heavenly Father, worship services are begun and ended by addressing God in prayer. Worship services generate particular needs. News is learned about the condition of the sick and elderly; therefore, there is a need to pray for them (James 5:13-16). The Gospel preacher who addresses the assembly with a Bible subject needs and wants the prayers of his brethren (2 Thess. 3:1-2). Present in the assembly are men and women who need to render obedience to the Lord as well as wayward and weak members who need to return to their first love. They all need the prayers of the saints on their behalf. Various programs of work in God's kingdom are usually planned, discussed and executed at times when brethren assemble. God should be petitioned on behalf of every good work (Matt. 9:38).

### WHO SHOULD PRAY IN WORSHIP?

Everyone! Every man, woman and child should participate in prayer. Who should lead public prayers? Women cannot lead prayer in the presence of men. Paul instructed that women are not to undermine nor usurp the authority of men. "*But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence*" (1 Tim. 2:12). However, this does not mean that women have no part in public prayer. They are willing and voluntary participants in that they acknowledge and express their sentiments to God in their hearts as do all others who are being led in prayer.

### HOW LOUD SHOULD WE PRAY?

As a suggestion to all men who lead in public prayer, please be sure that you can be heard. All worshippers participate together in their worship in prayer unto God. Prayer does little good if the person who leads the congregation in prayer cannot be heard. While it is true that God will hear and the person leading the prayer knows what thoughts are being expressed, what about the rest of the church? Paul wrote, "*What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also*" (1 Cor. 14:15). It is distracting and a hindrance to prayer when brethren are trying to make out the words being spoken. Such efforts are often in vain. Imagine trying to listen to a sermon when you're unable to hear the speaker. Since acceptable worship is sincere and according to the truth, all participants should be able to hear and understand the prayer.

Though many other things could be said about prayer, these are sufficient to emphasize its importance in the lives of God's people. Since God communicates to us through His Word, does it not make sense that we should communicate to Him through prayer?

I often say my prayers;  
But do I ever pray?  
And do the wishes of my heart,  
Go with the words I say?  
I may as well kneel down and  
Worship gods of stone,  
As offer to the living God,  
A prayer of words alone.  
For words without the heart,  
The Lord will never hear;  
Nor will He to those lips attend,  
Whose prayers are not sincere.

- John Burton