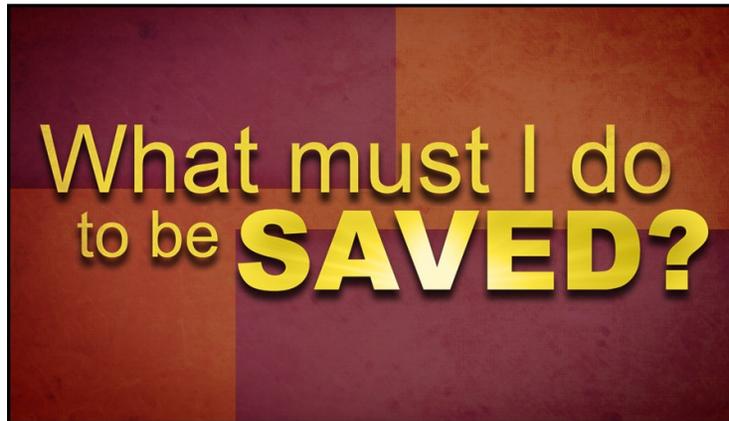


“...strengthen thy brethren”

Luke 22:32



**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
of Genesee County  
5284 Fenton Road, Flint, Michigan 48507

**August 25, 2019**

**Schedule of Services**

Worship...	Sunday	11:00 a.m.
	Sunday	6:00 p.m.
Bible Study...	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.

5284 Fenton Road, Flint MI 48507

Website: [www.coc-gc.org](http://www.coc-gc.org)

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Austin Clark - heart  
Allen Gregory—health  
Joe Wilkerson-health  
Al Haskell - kidney problems.  
Marty Stearns- health  
Betty Crewse—health  
Cindy Dobbs-health  
Gracie Clark—health  
Dan Goddard-serious health issues  
Wayne Timmons-took a fall  
Joan's brother Hurley and Opal, sister Christena  
Apostolico in Ohio—health problems, Donna  
Chere'— Pryia Vannoy (daughter) and Adam Vannoy (son),  
Daniel Vannoy—health  
Bill Alldaffer—Edith Taylor- Bill's mother, Cody Cantrell-coma,  
Tim Asbury—Medical Rehab  
Rachel Hall—health problems  
Cindy Atkinson—health. (knee), Cindy's friends-Ireland  
Family, Wayne Hamilton, Kathy, Jody Rynca-cancer,  
Mitchell Larson and Walt and Ilene Davenport— health  
Betty requests prayers for Earlene Currier-health-Betty's  
Aunt, Betty's daughters: Donna, Carrie, Susan Wills,  
Debra and Lauren Weidner-grand-daughter  
Ana Pyschar—Angela's sister  
Joyce Harrison—colon cancer—Betty's cousin  
Marie Hall—Cindy's sister in Genesis Hosp.—with blood clots

**SERMONS**

**AM: The Balm of Gilead**

**PM: Standing on the Promises**

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**Food closet: Canned Goods**

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**Ladies Bible Class Tuesday Aug 27th (10 am)**

## "Christ—the Firstfruits"

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul wrote at length concerning the resurrection of the dead, because some of the Christians in Corinth taught “that there is no resurrection of the dead” (vs. 12). As one of his proofs for the Christian’s eventual resurrection, Paul pointed to the fact of the resurrection of Christ, and showed that the two stand or fall together, saying, “if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins” (vss. 16-17)! After hypothetically arguing from the absurd in an attempt to get the Corinthian Christians to see that their stance on the final resurrection completely undermined Christianity, Paul proceeded to demonstrate that Christ had risen, and thus made the resurrection of the dead inevitable. It is in this section of scripture that some find a difficulty. Beginning with verse 20, Paul wrote: But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming (1 Corinthians 15:20-23, emp. added).

In view of the fact that Jesus was not the first person ever to arise from the dead (cf. 2 Kings 13:21; Luke 7:14-15; Matthew 10:8; 11:5), some have questioned why the apostle Paul twice described Jesus as “the firstfruits” from the dead in 1 Corinthians 15. Did Paul err? Was he ignorant of

the widow’s son whom God revived at Zarephath (1 Kings 17:22)? Did he not know that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43-44)? How could Paul legitimately speak of Christ as “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep”?

One solution to this alleged discrepancy can be found in the fact that Jesus was the first to rise from the dead—never to die again. All who have ever arisen from the dead, including the sons of both the widow of Zarephath and the Shunammite (2 Kings 4:8-37), the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:35-43), Lazarus, et al., died in later years. Jesus, however, accurately could be called “the firstfruits” of the dead because “Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him” (Romans 6:9). All others who previously were raised at one time, died again, and are among those who “sleep” and continue to wait for the bodily resurrection; only Jesus has truly conquered death. In this sense, Christ is “the firstborn from the dead” (Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5; cf. Acts 26:23).

Another possible explanation of the difficulty surrounding 1 Corinthians 15:20,23 and Paul’s use of the word “firstfruits” (Greek *aparche*) is to understand how “firstfruits” was used in the Old Testament. Under the Old Law, the firstfruits were the earliest gathered grains, fruits, and vegetables that the people dedicated to God in recognition of His faithfulness for providing the necessities of life. The Israelites were to offer to God a sheaf of the first grain that was harvested on the day after the Sabbath

following the Passover feast (Leviticus 23:9-14). Paul may have used the term “firstfruits” in this letter to the Corinthian church to reinforce the certainty of the resurrection. Just as the term “firstfruits” indicates that “the first sheaf of the forthcoming grain harvest will be followed by the rest of the sheaves, Christ, the firstfruits raised from the dead, is the guarantee for all those who belong to him that they also will share in his resurrection” (Kistemaker, 1993, p. 548). Jesus is God’s “firstfruits” of the resurrection. And, like the Israelites, God will gather the rest of the harvest at the final resurrection. It may be that Paul wanted the Corinthians to understand (by way of metaphor) that Christ’s resurrection is a pledge of our resurrection. It is inevitable—guaranteed by God Himself. by Eric Lyons, Apologetics Press

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## **Lawsuit over Jesus**

As the creation-evolution debate rages in courtrooms throughout America, and while lawsuits are being filed continually in objection to various visible vestiges of America’s Christian heritage, one court case in Viterbo, Italy is drawing worldwide attention. Atheist Luigi Cascioli is suing Catholic priest Enrico Righi for teaching that Jesus lived on Earth 2,000 years ago. Cascioli contends that Righi and the Catholic church have deceived many people by teaching that Jesus was a real historical person who actually lived in Palestine during the first century. After Judge Mautone initially refused to hear the case, his decision was overruled in December 2005 by the Court of Appeal, “which agreed that

Signor Cascioli had a reasonable case for his accusation that Father Righi was ‘abusing popular credulity’” by teaching the historicity of Jesus (Owen, 2006). Righi has now been ordered to appear in court “to prove that Jesus Christ existed” (Owen).

A mountain of evidence exists for the reality of Christ (none more important than the historical, inspired New Testament documents), and yet skeptics continue to allege that he is merely a figment of our imagination, and/or has been confused with one of several “known” historical persons from the first century. If skeptics and atheists are now going to take “Jesus” to court (which should not concern Christians in view of the evidence supporting His historicity), perhaps those same individuals will be consistent and put their beloved theory of evolution on trial. After all, evolutionary science professors worldwide teach students the “fact” that the Universe is the product of a Big Bang, yet no one has ever proven such to be the case. (In reality, a growing number of scientists are beginning to reject this explanation for the origin of the Universe—see Harrub, 2005). What’s more, students are repeatedly taught that life came from non-living chemicals billions of years ago, even though no one has ever witnessed spontaneous generation take place, and the law of biogenesis flatly contradicts this theory.

The fact that Cascioli’s case has reached this far is a sad commentary on today’s society. The fact that the unproven theory of evolution continues to get a free pass among “enlightened” skeptics who (allegedly) want only “the facts,” is also telling. by Eric Lyons, Apologetics Press

## **SUNDAY 8/25/2019**

### **Morning Worship:**

Announcements: Marty Stearns  
Song Leader: Al Haskell  
Opening Prayer: Al Haskell  
Lord's Supper: Lead: Marty Stearns  
Assist: Bill Alldaffer, Al Haskell  
Preaching: Michael Golwitzer  
Closing Prayer: Marty Stearns

### **Bible Class:**

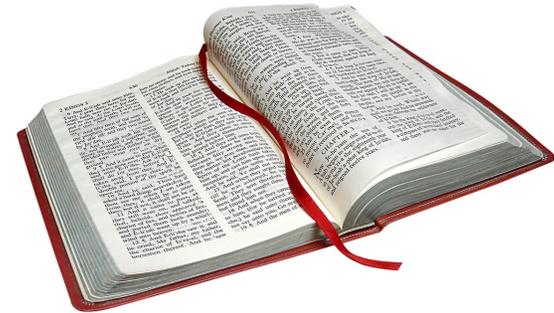
Song Lead: Bill Alldaffer  
Teacher: Michael Golwitzer  
Opening Prayer: Michael Golwitzer

### **Evening Worship:**

Announcements: Al Haskell  
Song Leader: Marty Stearns  
Opening Prayer: Al Haskell  
Preaching: Michael Golwitzer  
Lord's Supper: Michael Golwitzer  
Closing Prayer: Marty Stearns

## **WEDNESDAY 8/28/2019**

Song Leader: Bill Alldaffer  
Opening Prayer: Al Haskell  
Bible Teacher: Michael Golwitzer  
Closing Prayer: Marty Stearns



***Jeremiah 8:22 Is there no balm in  
Gilead; is there no physician there?  
why then is not the health of the  
daughter of my people recovered?***