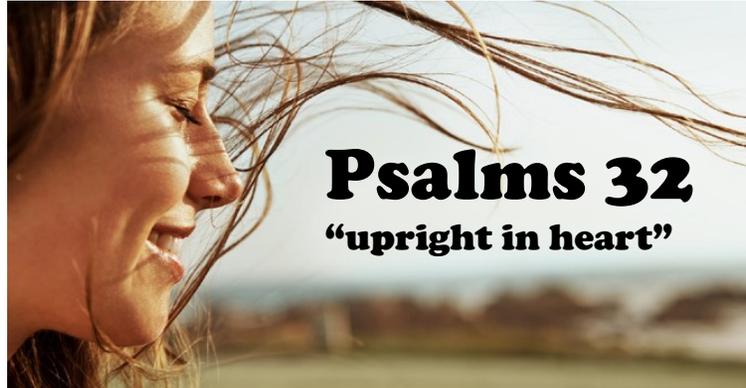


**“...strengthen thy brethren”**

Luke 22:32



**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**of Genesee County**

**5284 Fenton Road, Flint, Michigan 48507**

**December 22, 2019**

**Schedule of Services**

<b>Worship...</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Bible Study...</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>

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

**PRAYER LIST**

Joe Wilkerson-health  
Al Haskell - kidneys  
Jeannie Haskell - cold  
Marty and Joyce Stearns- Florida  
Gracie and Austin Clark—health.  
Dan Goddard-serious health issues  
Cindy Dobbs—health  
Joan’s brother Hurley and Opal, sister Christena  
Apostolico in Ohio—health problems, and Donna  
Chere’— Pryia and Adam 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,  
Charles Brewer—health, Marie Hall—health  
Betty requests prayers for Earlene Currier-health-Betty’s  
Aunt, Betty’s daughters: Donna, Carrie, Susan Wills,  
Debra and Lauren Weidner-grand-daughter  
Joyce Harrison—Betty’s cousin  
Joyce Artibee—health—Jeannie’s sister  
Caitlyn Parks-Meade—family ask for cards of  
encouragement be sent. Making improvement.  
Todd and Wendy—mother’s health

## Food closet: Cleaning Goods

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Ladies Bible Class January 14 and 28, 2020 (10 am)

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### SERMONS

**AM: What If Jesus Had Come Yesterday?**

**PM: "...they are they which testify of me..."**

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### TRYING TIMES

In 1776, in a pamphlet that he titled *Crisis*, Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls."

Paine's description was accurate. Those who opposed the English king and his invading army were severely tried, and in some cases killed.

For example, Joseph Warren, an American patriot, courageously spoke out for freedom and was beheaded by British officers at Bunker Hill. The British officers presented Warren's head as a gift to their commanding general.

No doubt, Bible students are reminded of John the Baptist, a far greater patriot who lost his head for courageously declaring the truth. John rebuked Herod for his adulterous marriage to Herodias (Matthew 14:4). Herodias, the wife that Herod had stolen from his brother Philip, did not appreciate John's assessment.

In fact, when the opportunity presented itself for her to get even with John, she wasted no time in doing so. Through

her daughter, she requested the head of John the Baptist on a platter.

Today, times are beginning to surface that try men's souls. Perhaps, not too far into the future, those who courageously speak out against homosexuality and other societal sins will suffer at the hands of an oppressive government. Will we have the courage of Joseph Warren or, better yet, the courage of John the Baptist? Will we stand strong like an oak, or will we be like a reed shaken with the wind? (cf. Luke 7:24).

—Wade Webster, Illustration take from Farrar, Steve. *Battle Ready: Prepare to Be Used by God*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: David C. Cook Publishers, 2009, p. 11.

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### SEVEN GREAT OBJECTIVES OF LOVE

Love for God (1 John 4:7–8).

Love for Christ (1 Peter 1:8).

Love for God's commands (1 John 5:3).

Love for the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

Love for brethren (1 John 3:14, 23; 4:11).

Love for souls (1 Peter 4:8).

Love for His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8).

—Stauffer,

## A CRACKED POT

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on one end of a pole that he carried across his neck. One pot had a crack in it. The other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house. The cracked pot arrived only half full.

For two full years, the bearer daily delivered only one and a half pots of water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, but the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack causes water to leak out all the way to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you do not get full value from your efforts."

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot. Compassionately, he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the cracked pot noticed the sun warming the beautiful wildflowers along the path. This cheered it some, but it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load again. So, again, it apologized.

The water bearer said, "Did you notice the flowers were only on your side of the path? That is because I knew about your flaw and took advantage of it. I planted flowers, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you water them. For two years I have picked beautiful flowers to decorate the master's table. Without you being just as you are, he would not have this beauty in his house."

The moral of this story: Each of us has unique flaws. We are all cracked pots. But it is the cracks and flaws that make our lives together so interesting and rewarding. Consider each person individually and look for his or her good traits. There is a lot of good out there. There is a lot of good in you!

"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:14). —Author Unknown

## SUNDAY 12/22/2019

### Morning Worship:

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

### Bible Class:

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

### Evening Worship:

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

## WEDNESDAY 12/25/2019

Song Leader: Bill Alldaffer  
Opening Prayer: Todd Penoyer  
Bible Teacher: Michael Golwitzer  
Closing Prayer: Al Haskel

