

# CHURCH OF CHRIST

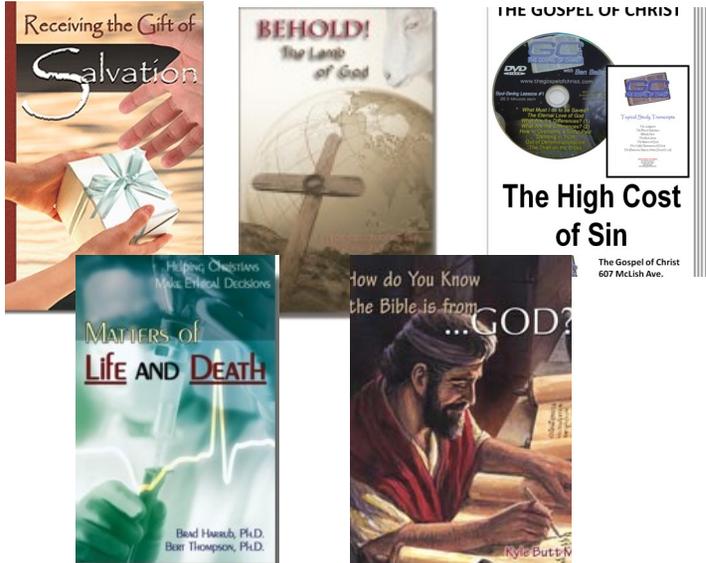
of Genesee County

5284 Fenton Road, Flint, Michigan 48507

## 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.

## March 1, 2020



# PRAYER LIST

Joe Wilkerson-health  
Al Haskell - kidneys  
Marty Stearns  
Gracie, Tracy and Austin Clark.  
Cindy Dobbs—health  
Joan’s brother Hurley and Opal, sister Christena  
Apostolico in Ohio—health problems, and Donna  
Chere’— Pryia and Adam Vannoy  
Bill Alldaffer—encouragement  
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—brother in Geneses Hospital out ICU,  
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—blood clots  
Joyce Artibee—health—Jeannie’s sister  
Jeff Stevens—health  
Yolanda Burnett-health  
Michael Golwitzer—recently in the hospital  
(thank you to everyone that stepped up to continue  
the work of the Lord—Amen)

Food closet: Canned Meats

## SERMONS

AM: Sanctification

PM: Immortality of the Soul

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

**We are grateful that you are  
spending time with us today!**

Churches of Christ believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God (2 Tim. 3:16,17). Therefore, we insist upon Bible authority for everything we teach and practice (Col. 3:17).

We believe that we ought to teach what people in the first century were taught, believe what they were taught to believe, and do what they were taught to do.

We believe that we can be Christians only, just like they were then, nothing more and nothing less. We believe that we can be members of the church which Jesus built (Mt. 16:18) and for which He died (Acts 20:28), without being a member of any man-made institution.

We do not claim to be a perfect church, but we strive to be a church that is sound in doctrine, active in good works, and united in the bond of peace.

**Visit our website at [www.coc-gc.org](http://www.coc-gc.org)**

## **“The Whole Armor of God” Ephesians 6:14-17.**

God has aptly equipped each Christian soldier to win the battle, but what is this “armor” that we are supposed to wear?

First we have the belt of truth, which ties everything else together in this list of armor. Paul said, “Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth.” The principle is that if your armor is going to hold, it must be girded by the belt—which in this case is truth. Imagine if you were in a battle, and you have your gun, your helmet, your water, etc. But you forgot your belt. Imagine what that would be like—going through the whole battle constantly pulling up your pants. Or, imagine how embarrassing it would be if your pants fell down in the middle of the battle. It is the belt of truth that holds everything together. It is therefore one of the most-essential parts in the Christian’s armor. Someone might ask, “What is truth?” Pilate asked this same question in John 18:38. So many in the world today are skeptical about truth. But in John 17:17, Jesus told us what truth is when He said of God, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” God’s Word (the Bible) is our absolute source of truth today. If we do not have ourselves girded with truth, then there is no way for us to win the battle. In fact, knowing the truth is the key to overcoming the enemy. In John 8:32 Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Second, Paul says that Christians must not only put on the belt of truth, but also adorn themselves with “the breastplate of righteousness” (Eph. 6:14). The breastplate is what covers the body’s main organs (heart, lungs, stomach, intestines, etc.). If those organs are injured during battle, the soldier cannot continue to fight. Having a good breastplate is essential to winning the battle. Righteousness is the attribute of the Christian’s armor that can help protect us from the slings and arrows of the evil one. Just as the shield of faith protects us, so our righteousness will not allow the devil to penetrate us with his temptations. Our righteousness and our desire to do right are what protect us from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Here are some passages from the Book of Proverbs that illustrate the value of righteousness. In Proverbs 10:30 we read, “The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the earth.” Proverbs 11:5-6 says, “The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, but the wicked will fall by -4- his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, but the unfaithful will be caught by their lust.” Proverbs 12:28 states, “In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.” Righteousness is one of the most-valuable things we could ever have. It gives us life.

Third, Paul mentions that we must “shod our feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15). If you have ever been camping or, if you have ever been in a battle, you know how important a good pair of boots is. Those boots can help your feet stay dry and comfortable. If your feet are wet, or if they hurt because they have bruises and sores on them, you will never make it in any kind of adventure. The same is true in regard to the Christian’s armor. If we do not have feet that are “shod with the Gospel,” and if our lives are not built around the

Gospel, then there is no way we are going to make it. The point is that we are to take the Gospel with us everywhere we go. This is important as it relates to knowing and understanding the Gospel. How can we prepare our lives by the Gospel if we do not know the Gospel? In 2 Timothy 2:15 we are told to study so that we can know. We are to be like those noble Bereans in Acts 17:11 who were willing to study the Scriptures daily. We are to be ready always to “give a defense to everyone who asks us a reason for the hope that is in us, with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15). We are to hide God’s Word in our hearts so that we will not sin against Him (Ps. 119:11). We have the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteous, and our Gospel boots.

Fourth, Paul then mentions the shield of faith (Eph. 6:16), which certainly is an essential item. Paul says, “Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” The history of the shield is an interesting point that comes to us from the Roman era. During battles, the enemy would fire at soldiers arrows that had been soaked in a flammable solution. Anything they hit would catch on fire, and thus destroy an army’s defenses. So, as a way of protecting themselves, armies invented shields that could be coated with leather and soaked in water. As soon as the arrows hit those types of shields, their fire was quenched. This explains the “shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”

Fifth, we see the helmet of salvation (Eph. 6:17). A helmet protects the part of our body that does our thinking—our brain. It is our brain that keeps our body going and that helps us continue to think clearly. Thus, an extremely important part of the Christian’s armor is the helmet of salvation. What protects us—even if we lose our lives in the battle? It is the fact that the faithful Christian has salvation on his side. One of the greatest tools in our battle against the devil is that no matter how harsh the temptations become (even if they are like those in Job’s day!), no matter how severe the persecutions may be, and no matter how fearful the enemy is, if we will remain faithful to God, we are guaranteed a home in Heaven. We could not possibly find a more-encouraging concept than that. “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.” In Revelation 14:13

Sixth and last we see the “sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17). No soldier goes into battle without some kind of weapon. Our weapon as Christians is “the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” God’s Word is our spiritual tool, and is what we use to defeat the devil. We cannot have a better tool than the Word of God. Romans 1:16 says that it is “God’s power of salvation.” It is “living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). The Word of God is able to pierce right through us to see what we’re made of. In Ephesians 4:15 we are told to “speak the truth in love.” So how do we overcome Satan? We must understand that we are in a battle. We must put on “the whole armor of God.” And we must utilize our spiritual-victory plan.

Are you in the battle today to win?

Ben Bailey - [www.thegospelofchrist.com](http://www.thegospelofchrist.com)

## God's Plan of Salvation

How to be saved

Hear the Word of God (Rom. 10:17)

Believe (have faith) that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 3:16; John 8:24; John 1:1)

Repent of your sins (2 Pet. 3:9; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38)

Confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Be baptized (immersed) for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21)