

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.

April 26, 2020



Philippians 4:9 *“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”*

Website: www.coc-gc.org

PRAYER LIST

Joe Wilkerson-health
Marty and Joyce Stearns
Gracie, Tracy and Austin Clark.
Cindy Dobbs—heroine in the fight against COVID-19 as a healthcare worker. Pray for her often.
Joan’s brother Hurley and Opal, sister Christena Apostolico in Ohio—health problems, and Donna 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, Marie Hall—health. Friend Jackie is in need of prayers.
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
Jeff Stevens—health-getting better
Chere’ - request prayers for Priya Daniel, her son who has 2 co-workers in the hospital with Pneumonia and prayers are requested
John and Linda Schafer-wife Linda is having serious health problems and in need of prayer
Gary and Lisa Stebbins—Pray for Lisa and Gary.

Food closet: Anything right now

SERMONS

AM: It Is No Laughing Matter

Five Bible Pictures of Hope

The Bible uses five pictures to help us understand hope. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then five pictures are worth a whole sermon full of words.

Hope is light—to help us see through the darkness of sin.¹ God said, “I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed” (Psalm 132:17). As the lamp of the tabernacle never went out (Exodus 27:20–21), so gospel hope shines as a beacon drawing us to salvation. Hope does not deny the reality of dark and painful circumstances. However, it does shine a bright light into these valleys.

Hope is a peg—to hold things together when the world is falling apart. “Grace has been shown from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place” (Ezra 9:8). We all have those days when one bad thing after another happens (cf. Job 1:13–19). Sometimes that “day” stretches into weeks in a hospital bed or waiting room, and months in therapy or grief (cf. Job 7:3). How does one keep going? He hopes that tomorrow will be better.

Hope is a door—a way out of despair (Hosea 2:15). The meaning of hope in Scripture is almost the opposite of ordinary usage now. When we “hope” for something, we express uncertainty. Biblical hope not only desires a thing, it also expects it. Scriptural hope does not mean “cross your fingers.” It is not a lip-biting gaze as you watch the kicker go for a field goal in the last seconds when down by two points. The confidence of hope is not mathematical or logical; it a moral certainty.

Hope is a helmet—to shield us from the harsh blows of life: “As a helmet the hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:8). A helmet protects a soldier’s head in battle (1 Samuel 17:5, 38), a player’s head in a game, or a worker’s head in construction. The gospel blocks Satan’s vicious blows (Ephesians 6:10–17).

Hope is an anchor—to hold us in place in storms. There are sixty-six drawings of anchors in the catacombs, the tunnels where Christians hid during Roman persecutions. Hope was their anchor (Hebrews 6:19; 10:34). Christians have strong consolation (Hebrews 6:13, 17).

Hope is ultimately only found in Jesus. We get into Him and His church by baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27) and remain there by faithfully walking in the light (1 John 1:6–9). Our congregation is being careful during this time, and not doing the things we normally do, but we will leave the safety of our home to teach and baptize you. That is how important your soul is to God (Matthew 16:26).

Want hope in the midst of this chaos? There’s only one way: become a Christian. —Allen Webster

Five Bible Pictures of Hope is light, peg, door, helmet and anchor.

Judgment Day Excuses That Won't Work

Jesus will come again (John 14:3). On the same day, He will judge all men. That day is called both “the last day” (John 12:48) and “the day of judgment” (2 Peter 3:7). What excuses might be given that day?

“BUT, LORD, I THOUGHT . . .”

This sounds like Naaman when he was told to dip in the Jordan to be rid of leprosy (2 Kings 5:11). He thought he knew how things ought to happen, but God thought differently. On judgment day it might be, “But I thought that all a person had to do to be saved was believe in Jesus as God’s Son.” The Bible says, “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone . . . by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:17-24). Jesus will judge us by the Bible (John 12:48).

“BUT, LORD, I WAS ALWAYS TOLD . . .”

In the religious realm, all kinds of faulty messages are given. Only God’s word is truth (John 17:17). Some might say, “I was told that one church is as good as another.” God’s Word teaches that there is only one body or church (Ephesians 4:4), that Jesus promised to build one church (Matthew 16:18), and that He purchased and saves only one church with His blood (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:23-25).

“BUT, LORD, MY PASTOR ALWAYS SAID . . .”

It is amazing how many people hang their soul’s destiny on what a preacher has to say. The only Pastor whom we should accept as final authority is “our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep” (Hebrews 13:20). He alone has all authority (Matthew 28:18-20). At the judgment, some may plead, “But my pastor said that it doesn’t matter how you worship, just as long as you worship the Lord.” The Master said, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

Think about it. —Roger Campbell, Cleveland, Tennessee

To Decay or not to Decay?

To the “man on the street,” one of the most impressive arguments for an ancient Earth is the testimony of sedimentary-rock layers.

Scientists (and park rangers) show us examples like the Grand Canyon and present their theory so effectively that—as we observe layer after layer of sedimentary rocks piled one on top of another—the only explanation seems to be that vast amounts of geologic time must have been involved. Each division of the rocks, we are told, represents a time long ago, and an ancient world that long since has ceased to exist. Creationists, however,

beg to differ, and suggest that a closer look at the “record of the rocks” suggests youth, not antiquity, for our home planet.

Embedded in sedimentary rocks all over the globe are what are known as “polystrate” fossils. Polystrate means “many layers,” and refers to fossils that cut through at least two sedimentary-rock layers. Probably the most widely recognized of the polystrate fossils are tree trunks that extend vertically through two, three, or more sections of rock that supposedly were laid down in epochs covering millions of years. However, organic material (such as wood) that is exposed to the elements will rot, not fossilize. Thus, the entire length of these tree trunks must have been preserved quickly, which suggests that the rock layers surrounding them must have been deposited rapidly—possibly (and likely) during a single catastrophe like Noah’s Flood. Trees, reeds, catfish, whales, and the other organisms with which the fossil record abounds—and that exist as polystrate fossils—did not die and lie around for hundreds, thousands, or millions of years while slowly being preserved. Truth be told, polystrate fossils testify loudly to a young Earth whose layers formed rapidly—and not very long ago! It is a young Earth after all.

Kyle Butt , Apologetics Press



2 Timothy 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*