

# CHURCH OF CHRIST

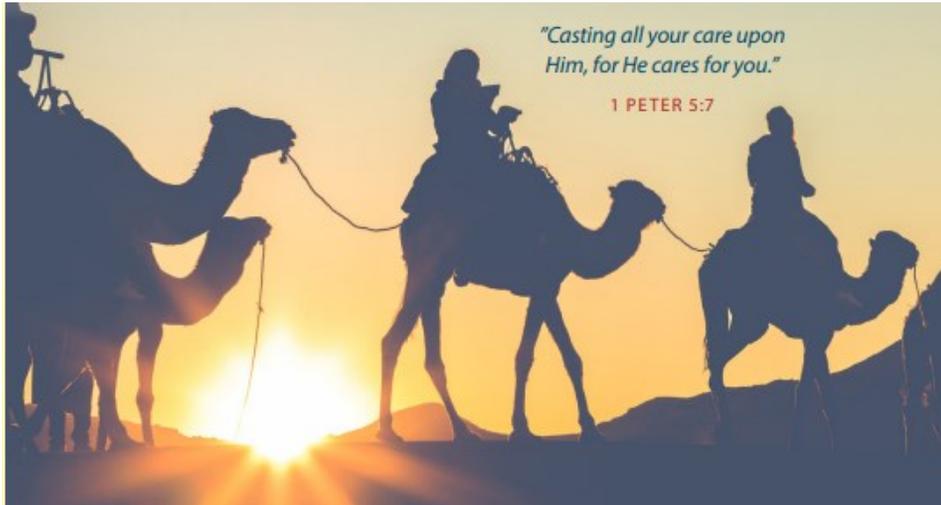
of Genesee County

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.

**August 23, 2020**



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

## PRAYER

Marty and Joyce Stearns.  
Gracie and Tracy Clark.  
Joan's brother Hurley—is doing better and Opal, sister Christena Apostolico in Ohio—health, and Donna Bill Alldaffer—encouragement  
Cindy Atkinson—health-having Blood-pressure trouble, 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—upcoming outpatient surgery procedure Chere' - Priya (health issues) and Daniel  
John and Linda Schafer-wife Linda is in need of prayer  
Rachel Hall—health problems  
Dale and Sue Gregory—health  
Pat Crain—fell and broke her hip  
Vivian Golwitzer—upcoming surgery this week  
Marilyn Moffitt—health and family  
Mason and family  
Phillis Bateman-was sick this last week  
Wendy Penoyer— upcoming surgery this week  
Cassidy Penoyer- while away at school

**Food closet: Cereal**

## SERMONS

**AM: Mankind plays HIDE-AND-SEEK with God**

**PM: A Great, Faithful Optimist**

## Who is at the Controls?

If life is a flight through time, who is in the cockpit?

If life is a joyride, who is behind the wheel?

If life is a voyage, who is at the helm?

Decisions determine direction (Joshua 24:15). Direction determines destiny (Matthew 7:13–14). Will we ascend or descend at the judgment? It depends on who makes our decisions.

### ME

Invictus is commonly quoted by valedictorians at high school graduations across America. It sums up the philosophy of many youths as they begin their adult lives. It was written by William Ernest Henley, an early humanist who was crippled since his childhood in Gloucester, England. His “Master-of-my-fate-captain-of-my-soul” philosophy was only a little ahead of its time.

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.  
In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeoning of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed. . . .  
It matters not how strait the gate.  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate;  
I am the captain of my soul.

Frank Sinatra’s song “I Did It My Way” is often requested at funerals. From the beginning of adult life to the end of it, many say, “I make my own choices—nobody tells me what to do.”

Bible examples abound of those who had self on life’s throne.

Note the personal pronouns of a certain rich man:

What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops? So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry’ ” (Luke 12:17–19). God called him a fool (Luke 12:20). Another rich man had the “me” philosophy and awoke in torments (Luke 16:23). Self-will took Nebuchadnezzar from his throne (Daniel 4:30–37) and kept Moses from Canaan (Numbers 20:8–12). Felix trembled at the thought of giving control to Christ (Acts 24:25); Agrippa came close to handing over the reins, but not close enough (Acts 26:28). The prodigal is not the only young man who has let such thinking take him to the far country and into the pigpen of sin (Luke 15:11–32). We will never be able to pull ourselves from the mire into which sin has sunk us. The man who says he is in control of his life is mistaken. The devil allows him to think so, but serving self is sacrificing at Satan’s altar. There are no free men in sin’s death camp (Romans 6:17, 23). When we were young, our fathers may have allowed us to “drive” in the driveway while sitting in their laps. We felt we were in control, but if the car veered, Dad quickly took over. Many are sitting in Satan’s lap, “steering” their lives to a lake of fire. “Me” is not a safe guide for life (Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23).

### MEN

Others allow public opinion to make their decisions. How many should make Saul’s confession? “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice” (1 Samuel 15:24).

Adam gave in to Eve and let forbidden fruit get him into a jam (Genesis 3:6). Abraham feared Abimelech enough to tell a lie (Genesis 20:11). Aaron made a golden calf at public demand (Exodus 32:21–24). In the New Testament, Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, but he was too much of a people-pleasing politician to stand by his decision (Matthew 27:2–26). Many rulers believed on Jesus but would not confess Him, “for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42–43; cf. 5:44). Even Barnabas gave in to peer pressure and disassociated himself from Gentiles (Galatians 2:13). We must strongly resist the pressure to conform to the world’s mold (Romans 12:1–2). Evil companions are bad for good morals (1 Corinthians 15:33), so we should stay away from them as much as possible (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Pitching tents toward Sodom has left behind the smoking ruins of many families (Genesis 13:12; 14:12; 19:16, 24, 26, 31–36). Any who love the opinions of father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters more than Christ, cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:26; cf. 18:29–30). Men do not have a safe guideline for crossing the chasm that divides earth and eternity (Matthew 7:13–14).

## **MESSIAH**

A third choice is to allow Christ to rule life. He stands knocking at the door of every heart (Revelation 3:20), but He will never force entry (cf. Luke 24:28–29). He drafts no soldiers, and presents no subpoenas for His mediatorship (Matthew 22:37; 2 Corinthians 5:14). One who comes to Jesus must renounce all (Revelation 12:11), take up his cross, and follow as closely as he can in the Master’s steps (Luke 14:26–27; 1 Peter 2:21–22).

The choice is difficult, but it is never regretted (2 Corinthians 7:10). His truth sets us free (John 8:32); His life is abundant (John 10:10); His rule is not burdensome (1 John 5:3). Joshua gave God his life (Joshua 24:15) and was never disappointed. Paul gave Christ his heart and never looked back (Acts 9; 2 Timothy 4:6–8; cf. Luke 9:62).

The truth is, “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other” (Luke 16:13).

Who is at your controls?

By Allen Webster

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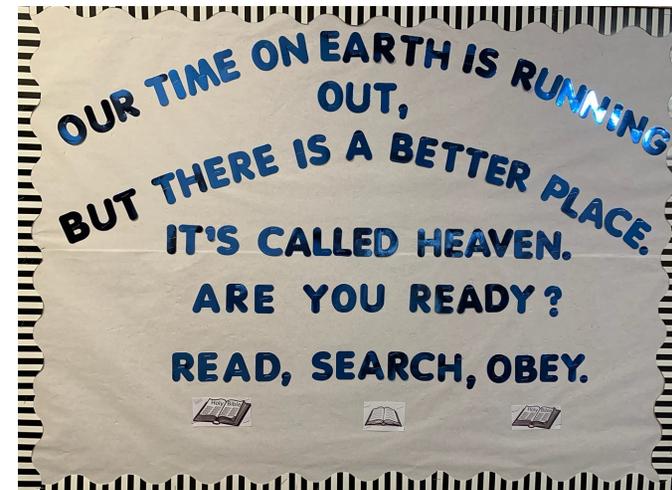
### Does the Bible Offer Hope for Depression?

(Note: This article considers the spiritual side of a serious topic. Please note that depression sometimes necessitates medical intervention.)

Depression is perhaps the most common emotional problem that we face today. Experts suggest as many as one in five Americans experiences severe depression sometime during their lives, and depression may be the most common health problem for women. Symptoms of depression include apathy, insomnia, difficulty in concentrating, and a general loss of interest in life. Severely depressed people may become suicidal, violent, or completely withdrawn. Depression has always been a problem for mankind. Bible characters such as King Saul, Elijah the prophet, Job, and others experienced depression.

problems may cause it. After his defeat of the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Elijah was physically exhausted. When Jezebel threatened his life, he fled into the wilderness and was ready to die. The angel of the Lord comforted him and strengthened him with food, telling him, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you" (1 Kings 19:7). He still felt overwhelmed and alone, however. He said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life" (1 Kings 19:10). He repeated, "I alone am left; and they seek to take my life" (1 Kings 19:14). The Lord encouraged him by letting him know that there were still seven thousand faithful persons in Israel, and by sending Elisha to help him. Loss is a common psychological cause of depression. Job lost his possessions, family, health, and even his reputation. He cried, "The thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me. I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes" (Job 3:25–26). Later he learned that God continued to control the universe: "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You" (42:2). Unfulfilled hopes and dreams and feelings of worthlessness or helplessness brought on by stress also cause depression. These feelings often come because one has lost proper perspective. Disappointments may be opportunities in disguise—times to rearrange priorities, making them in line with God's will. We can overcome feelings of helplessness and worthlessness by understanding that God is still in control. He demonstrated His love for us in the cross (Romans 5:8).

Sin has spiritual consequences, which often include depression. Obeying God is the key. "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love" (John 15:10). God does not intend for us to be depressed, and He is eager to forgive and comfort. —Bob Prichard



**Ephesians 5:15-17** See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

