

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.

September 6, 2020



Website: www.coc-gc.org

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Marty (health) and Joyce Stearns-(In Florida). Request prayers for Austin, Gracie and Tracy Clark. Dale and Sue Gregory. Mason and family.

Joan's brother Hurley and Opal, sister Christena Apostolico in Ohio—she had taken a fall—and Joan's daughter Donna.

Bill Alldaffer—mother Edith Taylor-home and no COVID-19

Cindy Atkinson—health. (knee & B/P), friends needing prayer—Ireland Family, Wayne Hamilton, Kathy, Ilene Davenport, Jackie, Walt and Marie Hall Friend Jackie is in need of prayers.

Betty requests prayers for Earlene Currier, Betty's daughters: Donna, Debra, Carrie and Susan. Lauren Weidner-grand-daughter, Joyce Harrison—Betty's cousin

Chere' - request prayers for Priya, Adam, Shalini and Daniel. Marilyn Moffitt—health and family

John and Linda Schafer-wife Linda is in hospice

Rachel Hall—health problems

Al and Jeannie Haskill—Health

Pat Crain—fell and broke her hip

George Taylor-to return to the Lord

Betty's aunt Peggy Gunther passed away. Our prayers go out to the family

Food closet: Packages of Mask and Gloves

SERMONS

AM: Every Creature Mark 16:15
PM: Technology—Blood and Water

THE LORD'S CHURCH IS DISTINCTIVE

The overwhelming trend in religion today is toward ecumenism. Worldwide, politically correct culture pressures all religions to come together in unity of faith.

Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Shintoists, Mormons, and Jews are all asked to find a primitive common denominator that will allow them to become one. No one is to say the other is wrong and should change. Each has his own "truth" and it matters not if each contradicts.

Roget's Thesaurus gives these synonyms for ecumenism: "broadness, looseness, imprecision, inexactness." While the religious impetus is toward inexactness, truth is fixed, unalterable, and unchangeable. Truth is everlasting and cannot be altered to fit a changing world (Matthew 15:9, 13-14; Ephesians 4:4-6; Hebrews 10:25; James 4:4). We must not add to or subtract from God's Word (Revelation 20:12; 22:18-19).

This means we will not fit in with culture, so we can expect rejection and even persecution. "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). "You will be hated by all [men] for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Mark 13:13).

—Glad Tidings of Good Things (July 4, 2019)

"I am the way, the truth, the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Religious Freedom

Speaking to the Constitutional Convention on June 28, 1787, Benjamin Franklin spoke these words: "I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an entire empire can rise without His aid?" God said: "Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number" (Jeremiah 2:32). We live in an age when more and more voices are being heard on every side in an effort to silence God—to quiet Him and make Him irrelevant to America's public life.

Far from following the advice of today's civil libertarians, our founding fathers on many occasions publicly called upon their nation to fall down on bended knees and give thanks to Almighty God. In America we have been the undeserving recipients of God's most bountiful hand. Let us not become guilty of a most grievous sin—the sin of ingratitude. James wrote: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). Every generation is obligated

to learn from the past mistakes of others. In a real sense, the former generations will weigh in on the outcome of their successors. Jesus said, “Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you” (Luke 10:13–14). Religious freedom, while we still have it, is a privilege that so many people have not yet really learned to appreciate. For the person who is not a Christian, it is a squandered blessing. Some wrongly conclude that religious freedom is the freedom not to become a Christian. Technically, that’s true. But the fact is, the principle of religious freedom is unnecessary if you do not want to become a Christian. You can be a slave and not become a Christian. Religious freedom really shines, however, when such freedom allows you to become a Christian and to become free of the bondage of sin and death (Romans 8:2). That is the true spirit of religious freedom. Is that kind of freedom really working for you?

—Howell Ferguson, Bells, Tennessee

Reasons to Not Use Profanity

Profanity has become so common that many no longer consider it objectionable. It is printed in papers, used on camera, spoken in mixed company by both sexes, and used in the presence of children, as if God does not object. He does. God’s name is not to be treated irreverently.

God forbade the ancient Israelites’ taking His name in vain. “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain” (Exodus 20:7).

God’s name is holy and reverend; it is to be respected. “Holy and awesome is His name” (Psalm 111:9). God’s name is to be hallowed. Jesus said, “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name” (Matthew 6:9). The Greek word hagiozo means: “to set apart from common use” (Berry).

God’s name and His doctrine are not to be blasphemed (1 Timothy 6:1). It may surprise you to know that profanity is more common in so-called Christian America than in heathen countries. Idolaters often have greater reverence for their false gods than some persons do for the true and living God. To sin, a person does not have to say the

“ And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” JOHN 8:32

obscene words orally. He can use profanity in his heart even as he can commit adultery (Matthew 5:28) or murder (1 John 3:15) in his heart (see Matthew 9:4; Proverbs 23:7). “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord” (Psalm 19: 14).

A missionary was returning from India with his small son who had never been to America. One day an American on deck was using profuse profanity. The missionary said to him, “Sir, my boy was born and brought up in a land of idolatry, but in all his life he has never heard a man blaspheme his Maker until now.”

The New Testament forbids a person’s using profanity by command and principle (Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 3:8). As Christ is a member of the Godhead (Colossians 2:9; Matthew 28:19), His name is not to be taken in vain.

Children should be taught not to use profanity (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

To use profanity in the presence of persons who object to it is to manifest a lack of respect for them (Matthew 7:12).

—Eris Benson (adapted) <https://media.housetohouse.com/>

“For every idle word that men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment”
Matthew 12:36

