

**SCHEDULED TO SERVE APRIL 7:**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: **B. CAMPBELL**  
SONG DIRECTOR: am **B. CAMPBELL**  
                          pm **B. GRIM**  
PRAYER: am **JR. DAUGHERTY**  
                  pm **De. HOOD**  
READING: **H. JUNG**  
WAIT ON TABLE **A. SKINNER**  
**J. RICE**  
SERVE CONGREGATION **D. MELOTT**  
**M. HOOD**  
CLOSING PRAYER: am **Jo. RICE**  
                          pm **R. McCOY**

**Wednesday Invitation:** April 3, 2024  
*Justin Rice*

PREPARE COMMUNION—April 2024  
*Sue Skinner*

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Sunday

Bible Study 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.

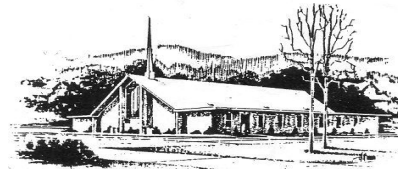
Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE RECORD:**

Week of  
March 24

Bible Study	34
AM Worship	55
PM Worship	29
Wednesday	31



Bridge Street  
**Church of Christ**  
1139 S. Bridge Street - PO Box 292  
New Martinsville WV 26155

*March 31, 2024*

**MESSENGER**

**PREPARED FOR SPIRITUAL BATTLE**

Throughout the New Testament, various passages describe a spiritual battle in which all Christians are engaged. In writing to the church in Corinth, Paul said: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3-5). Timothy was told to "Fight the good fight of faith" (1 Tim. 6:12). Jude admonished Christians to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 3).

This spiritual war is going on all around us. It is not something we can ignore or escape. Are we prepared to fight? How do we prepare for battle? Notice what Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm" (Eph. 6:10-13). In this passage, Paul mentioned three essential things we need to do in order to be prepared to fight the good fight.

**First, we must put our trust in God.** We have a powerful enemy against us and, because of this, we cannot merely rely on ourselves in order to overcome his opposition. We need to put our full faith in God. Paul said that "we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37). Even though these powerful forces will "wage war against the Lamb . . . the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful" (Rev. 17:14). We need to trust in Christ and follow His leadership and commands so we can share in His victory.

**Second, we must know our enemy.** The enemy of God and His people is the devil. We cannot afford to be "ignorant of his schemes" (2 Cor. 2:11). In addition of his attempts to deceive us through temptations or the opportunities of turning away from the Lord, Satan also obscures and confuses people's understanding: "if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Cor. 4:3-4). Peter warns: "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith" (1 Peter 5:8-9).

**Third, we must arm ourselves.** Paul orders that we must "Put on the full armor of God, so that [we] will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil" (Eph. 6:11). He then described the pieces of this armor: "Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:14-17). Each of these components represents something that describes the word of God or is derived from the word of God. In other words, if we want to be sufficiently armed for the spiritual conflict, we need to know God's word, use it, and allow it to protect us.

We cannot escape the spiritual war that is being fought all around us. God has provided everything we need to be properly equipped for this fight. And through Jesus Christ, we can be fully assured of victory in the end.

*Paolo Di Luca*

**MESSENGER**

**Bridge Street  
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1139 S. Bridge Street - PO Box 292  
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**Paolo Di Luca**  
*Evangelist*  
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*God's Plan for Man's Salvation*

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*"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30*

The Gospel Must be **HEARD**

Rom. 10:17                      John 8:32

The Gospel Must be **BELIEVED**

John 8:24                      Mark 16:16

Sins Must be **REPENTED OF**

Luke 13:3, 5                      Acts 2:38

Christ Must be **CONFESSED**

Matt. 10:32-33                      Rom. 10:10

There Must Be **BAPTISM**

(Immersion) for the Remission of  
Sins

Acts 2:38                      1 Peter 3:21

There Must Be **CHRISTIAN**

**GROWTH** and **FAITHFULNESS**

1 Peter 2:2                      Rev. 2:10

2 Peter 3:18

**Office:** 304.455.2130

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We are honored to have you with us today. Please return this evening (6:30) and Wednesday evening (7:00) for our mid-week Bible Study.

If you have any questions about what we do during worship, we invite you to speak with our minister. His name and contact information is on the back of today's bulletin.

**Power Country 99.5 FM(radio)--7:30 am**  
**WTRF 7(TV)- Wheeling, WV--6:30am**  
**WTOV 9(TV)- Steubenville, OH--10:00am**

*"I Know I Am Loved."*  
*April 7, 2024*

**SCRIPTURE READING**  
**March 31--April 6, 2024**

**Sunday, March 31--I Samuel 20--21**  
**Monday, April 1--I Samuel 22--23**  
**Tuesday, April 2--I Samuel 24--25**  
**Wed., April 3--I Samuel 26--28**  
**Thursday, April 4--I Samuel 29--31**  
**Friday, April 5--II Samuel 1--4**  
**Saturday, April 6--II Samuel 5--8**

# KEEP IN PRAYER

## Family:

Joyce Campbell--Multiple Sclerosis  
 Clair Twyman  
 Danny Goff & family  
 Wilbur Dawson  
 Joyce Greathouse  
 Bill Caputo  
 Lorene Eddy

## Friends:

Sean Klug—Health issues  
 Glendora Ellas (Cumberledge's niece)  
 Lucille Haught (Carla Haught's mother)  
 Kim Haught (Carla Haught's sister/health issues)  
 Carl Haught (Carla Haught's father)  
 Terry Varner  
 Julie Philips (friend of Bruce & Carmen Grim)  
 Lorene Eddy's son, Danny  
 Cindy Di Luca's brother, Mike Inman  
 Scott Johnson (Sandy Geho's brother)  
 Byron Henbest (Potter Children's Home)  
 David Hamilton (Potter Children's Home)  
 Jeff Harris--Chemo treatments  
 Nursing Home Residents  
 Janice Graham--J. Campbell's sister  
 Zack Lamp--Sue Skinner's nephew  
 Dave Schultheis(Wanda Schultheis' son)

**SPRING GOSPEL MEETING**  
**April 14-17, 2024**

**BRIDGE STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 1139 S. Bridge Street  
 New Martinsville, WV 26155  
 304-455-2130

**Times of Service:**  
**Sunday: Bible Study--9:45 AM**  
**Morning Worship--10:30 AM**  
**Evening Worship--6:30 PM**  
**Monday through Wednesday--7:00 PM**

**SUNDAY:**  
 Bible Study: **FOLLOWING JESUS**  
 Morning Worship: **LESSONS FROM THE CROSS**  
 Evening Worship: **MATTHEW**

**MONDAY: HEART OF A SINNER**  
**TUESDAY: CALMING THE STORM**  
**WEDNESDAY: THE VALUE OF LIFE**

[www.bridgestreetcofc.org](http://www.bridgestreetcofc.org)

## THE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS

In *Matthew 4:1-11*, we find one of the difficult moments in Jesus' life. He is in a dry and deserted place. He is uncomfortable, lonely, and completely isolated from civilization.

While in the wilderness, Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights and became hungry (*Matt. 4:2*). Why is He fasting? This was an opportunity for Him to begin focusing on the mission given to Him by God the Father.

At the end of the fasting (while in a vulnerable position), the tempter came to test Him (*Matt. 4:3*). He knows that if he can persuade Jesus to sin, then God's entire plan for our salvation would be destroyed!

### I. The temptations of Jesus (*Matt. 4:1-11*).

- Turn stones into bread (v. 3).
- Jump off of the pinnacle of the temple (vv. 5-6).
- Bow down and worship Satan (vv. 8-9).
- Jesus resisted every one of these temptations!

### II. All these temptations challenged Jesus' trust God.

- With the first temptation, Satan is challenging Jesus' trust God's ability to take care of Him. But just like God took care of Israel in the wilderness when they were hungry, Jesus trusted God would do the same for Him (*Matt. 4:4; Deut. 8:3*). That eventually happened (*Matt. 4:11*).
- With the second temptation, Satan wanted to see if Jesus trusted God's word. The devil quotes from *Psalms 91:11-12*, but he misapplies it. This psalm was initially intended to encourage men to trust in God, not test God (*Matt. 4:7; Deut. 6:16*).
- With the third temptation, Satan challenged God's plan to give Jesus all authority and power. Jesus refused to bow down and worship Satan (*Matt. 4:10; Deut. 6:13*)! Instead, He would trust God's plan for Him, even if it meant enduring the suffering of the cross.
- With each temptation, Jesus refused to relinquish His trust in God!

### III. Will you trust God?

- Will you trust God if you lose your job (*Matt. 6:33*)?
- Will you trust God when you begin feeling lonely and forsaken (*Heb. 13:5*)?
- Will you trust God when you engage in evangelism (*Matt. 28:20*)?
- Will you trust God when you begin struggling with a spiritual weakness (*Ps. 119:105*)?
- Will we trust in God's plan for the growth of this church (*Acts 2:47*)?

Trusting in God and His word is the key to effectively resisting Satan (*Prov. 3:5-8*).