

OCTOBER 29, 2023

# CHURCH OF CHRIST



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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....6:00 p.m.

*Minister, John Keith  
(304) 266-9027*

**WELCOME!**

We invite you to all of our services.

*“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)*

## IT'S NOT GOODBYE, IT'S JUST SO LONG.

It is hard to believe that a little over nine years ago Tina and I began our association with you all. We have grown to love you all very much and I would be remiss if I did not say that we will miss you as much as we cherish you.

When we moved into our first house on Marietta Road, many of you came and helped us to unload the truck and you all have not stopped helping us since. God's people are known for their generosity with time and talent, and this congregation is no exception. Thank you!

We are so grateful for your support and patience as we adjusted to our first full-time, located work. You all allowed me to try to put into practice the many things I learned while I was a student at The West Virginia School of Preaching. Although I had been trying to preach since 1997, I was green, rough around the edges, and made my share of missteps, and misstatements (although I never said anything I didn't believe, but on a few occasions, I could have said it better). The vast majority of you were so gracious and allowed me to grow, learn, and work to perfect my craft (I'm still working on that one, and I suspect I will continue until I breathe my last). Thank you!

Thinking back over our time here, we recall with fondness our memories of those who have gone to their reward. Each one has left an indelible print on our hearts. Many times you gave me the honor of assisting with remembering your loved ones; thank you!

We got to see some of your children and grandchildren grow up, graduate, and begin their adult lives. We pray for their happiness, success, and most importantly, for their faithfulness. More recently, we welcomed some new-borns into our midst and it saddens us that we will not get to watch them grow up. Please be certain that you will be in our prayers as you bring the precious little ones up in these uncertain times.

As I have mentioned on a few occasions, one of the first things that impressed us about the church at Cambridge was how long it took for the building to empty when worship was over; so many of you stayed around just to visit with each other and it is still that way—don't lose that!

I realize this church has had its challenges over the years, but you know what? You're still here! I am confident you will find an enthusiastic man who is sound in doctrine and willing to work. In the interim, you could not have a better man fill the pulpit than Roger Rush. If you listen to him and study along in your Bible, you will learn so much.

As I close this letter, let me, once again, express our deep affection for you and profound gratitude for these past nine-plus years. It has been a treasured time and we pray that in God's providence we will continue association from time-to-time.

I thought it might be interesting to re-visit an article from the end of 2014. The last line of the article holds true for us yet.

## MUSINGS FROM 2014

As I contemplate ushering 2014 out and 2015 in, God willing, many things come to my mind. This year much like any other has had its share of ups and downs.

I've said "so long" to many who have left this life, many I'm sure of which go on to await their eternal reward. Others have departed, not saying "goodbye" or anything for that matter, evidentially, just simply not desiring my association—that's fine; I wish them well.

I watched my own family deal with various struggles and setbacks with pain, sickness, and loss. My mom continues to cope with having had breast cancer and my mother-in-law has been fighting cancer and she seems to face each day with renewed hope and faith in God. My own wife struggles hourly with her several health issues but had found it within herself and prayer to go on, even doing some very fine paintings.

I have lived to realize a long-held dream of graduating from the West Virginia School of Preaching and then the added blessing of being given the responsibility of minister at the 10<sup>th</sup> & Clairmont church of Christ in Cambridge, Ohio. They have been most gracious and encouraging and I really feel as if I have made many new friends there and I look forward with gladness at the prospect of continued service there- it's truly feeling like home.

I was blessed to be a part of West Virginia Christian Youth Camp's Singing Emphasis Week where some of the most faithful and talented young Christians assembled for a week of singing, learning, fellowshiping, and worshipping. When I become discouraged at some of the things I see happening in the Lord's church, I remember that we have a crop of young people coming up who still hold fast to the Word.

In September I had the opportunity to be a small part of an amazing Bill Monroe Mandolin camp in Tennessee where I met many pickers who share my interest of studying the music of the man from Rosine. I made some friends there that will last a lifetime.

Lord willing, our beautiful daughter will graduate from high school this coming spring and will begin another chapter in her life—I pray for her safety and diligence in the course she pursues.

Why do I write all of this? You say, "To brag", or to "focus attention upon yourself", maybe you are correct in some small way. But the blessings I have enjoyed this year; the trials—small though they be—are just another reason why I continue to believe in Almighty God.

The abundant life that Christ promised His followers (John 10:10) is certainly not limited to the here and now, but to the faithful and is a promise for eternity. Some things here on earth are good—some, not so much. I remember the words of Jesus; "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

Friends and family, health, and problems, they all come and go but the Lord has promised, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). With reference to all that the past year has brought, I close with a quote from one my favorite singers, Lester Flatt; "But I still think the good things outweigh the bad".

*Welcome! We are thankful for your presence.  
To our visitors, please fill out one of the blue cards and  
place it in one of the collection plates.*

Bible Study: Romans 5:14f  
 AM Lesson: Paul's Farewell (Acts 20:25-27).  
 PM Lesson: Become as Little Children (Matthew 18:1-4).  
 Wednesday Bible Study: Roger Rush

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- There will be a pot-luck dinner after morning worship today. All are invited.
- **Jenifer Douglas** has agreed to take over publishing the bulletin. Please let her know of any changes, additions, or subtractions from the current prayer list. Thanks, Jen!

<b><u>IN OUR PRAYERS:</u></b> Kevin Adkins, Diann Bachmann, Betsy Cook, Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Gary Jones, Rick Lambert, Hazel Leap, Jody Main, Carol Mitchell, Linda Steele, Helena Tewksbury.				<b><u>SHUT-INS:</u></b> Debbie Jones, Nancy Love, and Randy Yost
<b><u>FAMILY AND FRIENDS:</u></b> <b>Bill and Peggy Albright</b> (friend of the Starrett's), <b>Weston Boulet</b> (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), <b>Betty Cox</b> (Diann Bachmann's sister), <b>Ryleigh Farson</b> , <b>Linda Potts</b> (Joyce Starrett's sister-in-law), <b>Addy Reed</b> , <b>Rodney Reeves</b> (Erica Cunningham's father), <b>John Rockhold</b> , <b>John Shipley</b> (New Concord), <b>Conrad Schultz</b> , and remember to pray for <b>one another</b> .				
<b>AM STUDY</b>	<b>SUN. AM</b>	<b>SUN. PM</b>	<b>GIVING (\$2,460)</b>	<b>WED.</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>\$2,276</b>	<b>34</b>

**REMINDERS:**

- ❖ **POTTER Children's Home** left more on the table in the rear of the auditorium. Also, **Dave Hamilton** (the guy who picks up and leaves the cans) was in a car wreck and has a fracture in his back. He is doing well despite his injuries.