

**\*\*\* If anyone has a topic you would like for Dale to present a lesson on, you can write it down and please sign your name, in case Dale has any questions and place it in the box on the table in the back of the auditorium.**

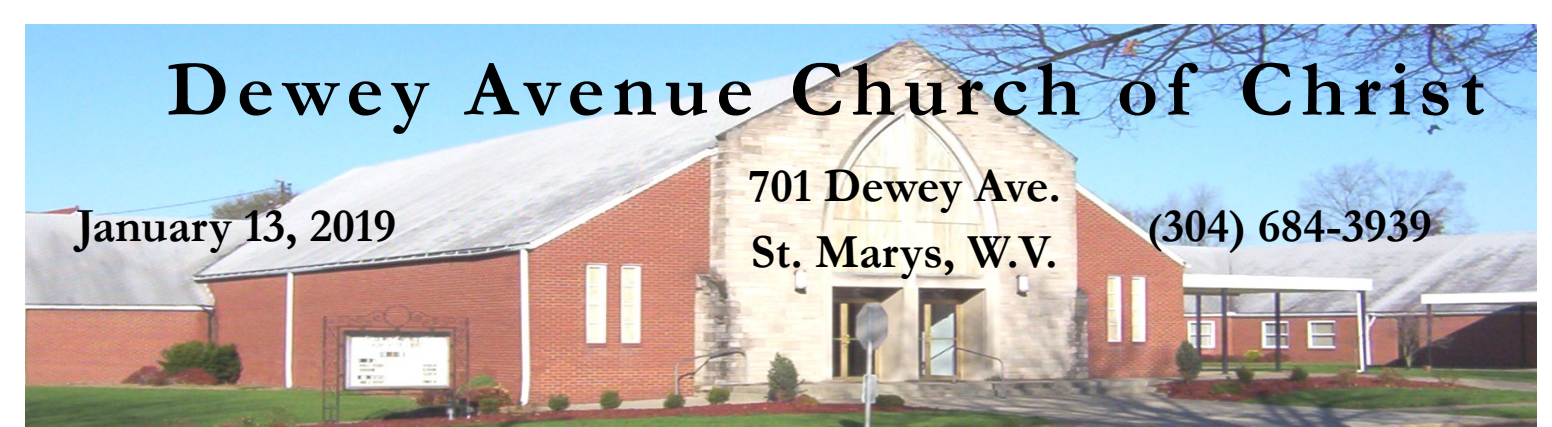
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\*Any updates or information for the bulletin please contact Terri Parks @ 304-684-1141, email at terrinazelrod@hotmail.com or drop off in box by office door.

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***The Church is offering valet parking to anyone struggling with the commute from the parking lot to the building. If you need help, please let one of our elders or deacons know.***

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**CHRISTIANITY MIXED WITH PAGANISM**

By Dale Parsley

A preacher friend of mine told me a story about a Christian lady who called and asked him if he had any black chickens. When asked why, she said the blood from a black chicken can cure her friends' case of shingles. Even though this Christian lady would denounce paganism and witchcraft, my friend told me this belief is a form of witchcraft. A little bit of research on the internet reveals it also may have originated from the pagan beliefs of some American Indians (see [www.lumbee.web.unc.edu/online-exhibits-2/healing-practices/](http://www.lumbee.web.unc.edu/online-exhibits-2/healing-practices/)).

When Paul and Silas arrived on the island of Cyprus to preach the gospel, they encountered a man named Elymus, who the Bible identifies as a "magician, Jewish false prophet" (Acts 13:7). In other words, he integrated pagan beliefs with Old Testament Judaism, essentially forming his own religion, which made him a person of influence with some government officials (Acts 13:7). Considering the gospel message from Paul and Silas was a threat to his influence, he sought to undermine Paul's preaching in which Paul sharply rebuked him and miraculously struck him blind (Acts 13:10-12).

Mixing God's Word with false religions is nothing new and seems to be on the rise. A study conducted by the pew research center in 2017, revealed that a good number of people today who self-identify as Christian also hold to some "new age" beliefs too. For instance, 37% believed that spiritual energy can be located in physical things like mountains or trees; 40% believed in psychics, 29% believed in reincarnation, and 26% believed in astrology.

([www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/10/01/new-age-beliefs-common-among-both-religious-and-nonreligious-americans/](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/10/01/new-age-beliefs-common-among-both-religious-and-nonreligious-americans/))

I wish I could say that mixing pagan beliefs with God's Word is like mixing oil with water, in that one can clearly see the separation. However, because pagan beliefs mixed with the Scriptures can go unnoticed, it's more like mixing water with a poison. As Christians, we must strive to have a trained eye to spot error from truth (Hebrews 5:14). Preachers on TV like Joel Olsteen may not teach error on everything, but the overall promising message of health, wealth and fame is no different than what the devil tempted Jesus with in Matthew 4:1-10.

When it comes to matters of science and medicine, there is nothing wrong with certain medicines, exercises, and diets, as long as they do not incorporate any form of paganism or violate Scripture. When it comes to beliefs regarding an after-life, right and wrong, our faith and meaning to life, God's Word is the final authority (2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 12:47-48).

### Upcoming Events

\***Winter Training Series** Jan 17th -31st. Will need cookies!

\* Elders and Deacons meeting Jan 13th after evening services.

\* Duffy Youth Devo Jan 19th.

\* Youth Devotional here Jan 20th.

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### 2019 Schedule

The 2019 event/birthday calendar will be printed and ready in the back at Sunday evening services for everyone! If anything needs added to the calendar please let Dale or Terri know this morning.

### Ladies Inspiration Day

A planning meeting for the Ladies inspiration day will take place **Jan 13th** after AM service to make plans for the October 2019 event.



### Bringing in 2019 with scripture

*Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

~ Ephesians 1:9-10

*For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

~ Colossians 1:19-20

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### SYMPATHY

*Prayers going out to the family of Bill Duer. Bill passed away last Sunday and services were Friday.*



### Prayer list

\*Louise Perkins had surgery on Tuesday. She is home and recovering well at this time.

\*Paul Grubbs, father of Rhonda Perkins is seriously ill at Cleveland Clinic.

\*Buzz Williams is home. Still has more doctors visits. Faye is doing better as well.

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Lorraine Dutton, Gerald Burns, Ruth Eddy, Kathy Lancaster, Bob Nally, Paul Duval, John Keith, Dick Neely, Evelyn Hall, Louise Perkins, Paul Grubbs, Betty Bills, Jean Nazelrod, Charlotte Wilson, Dick Hall, Loraine Dutton, John Rockhold, Colleen Kiester, Cindy Wilson, Geraldine Stewart, Gail Mote, Madeline McFadden

### Upcoming Surgery

Tom Becker has knee replacement Jan. 30th.

#### Church Sign:

January- Larry Butcher

February-Rodney & Debbie Ramsey

#### Schedule of Services

#### **Sunday**

Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Worship: 6:30 p.m.

#### **Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7:00

#### January 13th

#### Morning Worship:

**Announcements:** Clay Perkins

**Song Leader:** Clint Perkins

**Ushers:** Melvin Truax, Buzz Williams

**Communion:** Brian Mercer, Lew Wilson, Richard Lee Davis, Richard Davis, Ethan Davis, Rodney Ramsey

**Reading and Prayer:** Dave Parks

**Closing Prayer:** Tom Becker

**Hall Monitors:** Melvin Truax, Buzz Williams

#### Evening Worship:

**Communion:** Joe Elrod

**Prayer:** Hal Powell

**Closing Prayer:** Dave Lancaster

#### Wednesday:

**Song Leader:** Clint Perkins

**Prayer:** Darren Parks

**Closing Prayer:** Caleb Parsley

#### January 20th

#### Morning Worship:

**Announcements:** Larry Butcher

**Song Leader:** Darren Parks

**Ushers:** Clay Perkins, Joe Elrod

**Communion:** Melvin Truax, Clint Perkins, Don Archer, Stephen Hays, Fred Arnett, Jason Cuzzen

**Reading and Prayer:** Camaron Lancaster

**Closing Prayer:** Brian Mercer

**Hall Monitors:** Clay Perkins, Joe Elrod

#### Evening Worship:

**Communion:** Connor Lancaster

**Prayer:** Caleb Parsley

**Closing Prayer:** Karson Elrod

#### Wednesday:

**Song Leader:** Darren Parks

**Prayer:** Buzz Williams

**Closing Prayer:** Dan Kessinger



### Radio and TV Programs

**Good News of Peace:** Sundays: 8:00 AM on WRRR 93.9 FM

**Gospel Broadcasting Network:** Dish Network Channel: 9407 (noon); Direct TV Channel: 376 (7:30 AM)

**In Search of the Lord's Way:** 7:30—Channel 4, Parkersburg; 7:30—Channel 15, Parkersburg; 8:00— Channel 7, Wheeling; 11:30—Channel 5, Clarksburg

