

# Dewey Avenue Church of Christ

December 18, 2022

701 Dewey Avenue  
St. Marys, WV (304) 684-3939

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Sun Bible Class:  
9:00 AM

Sun AM Worship:  
10:00 AM

Sun PM Worship:  
5:00 PM

### Wednesday

7:00 PM

## Leadership:

### Elders:

Dave Lancaster

Dave Parks

Hal Powell

Melvin Truax

Lew Wilson

### Deacons:

Richard Lee Davis

Joe Elrod

Brian Mercer

Darren Parks

Clay Perkins

### Minister:

Dale Parsley

## Youth Minister:

Carlos Molina

## The Anatomy of a Backslider

By Steve Higginbotham

There are many reasons why one would choose to leave a church; some of them are valid, others, not so much. But frequently, when it does happen, their departure follows a too familiar pattern. Consider the following anatomy of a backslider:

### 1. A Backslider Usually Suffers from Pride.

"Peter answered and said to him, 'Even if all are made to stumble because of you, I will never be made to stumble'" (Matthew 26:33).

Backsliders often suffer from pride, and pride is the precursor to a fall (Proverbs 16:18). The backslider's pride will feed discontentment, resentment, frustration, and disillusionment in any ideas or actions taken by church leaders that differ from the backslider's way of thinking. Because of their pride, the backslider can only see his thoughts and his ideas as worthwhile and dismisses the thoughts, wisdom, and contribution of others.

### 2. A Backslider Usually Becomes Undependable.

"Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What! Could you not watch with me one hour'" (Matthew 26:40).

Backsliders frequently become undependable. Though they may have once been a go-to person everyone could count on, the backslider begins to "drop the ball." They begin to divest from ministry and church programs. They resign from works in which they were involved. They're no-shows at "extra" activities outside of worship. They won't take on responsibility but do their best to hand off the responsibilities they once had to others. Their presence is sketchy. Their monetary contributions become spasmodic and decreased. And their help cannot be counted on.

### 3. A Backslider Usually Begins to Follow at a Distance.

"Having arrested him [Jesus], they led him and brought him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance" (Luke 22:54).

Seldom does a backslider wake up one morning and decide to "quit church." Rather, backsliding involves a gradual process. I remember many sermons wherein my dad would say, "Cars are a lot like people. They begin missing before they completely stop running." The same is true with backsliders. They remain present just enough to keep concerned brethren from inquiring about their spiritual well-being, but their misses soon become more of a pattern than an aberration.

### 4. A Backslider Will Finally Disassociate Himself from the Church.

"And a certain servant girl, seeing him [Peter] as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, 'This man was also with him.' But he denied him, saying, 'Woman, I do not know Him'" (Luke 22:56-57).

After months of withdrawal and lack of dependability, the backslider will muster the courage to make it official. There will be no more gradual decline and abduction of responsibility. They will finally muster the courage to say, "I'm done," "I quit," confirming the suspicions of concerned brethren.

More than likely, many reading this have seen this pattern play out far too many times. Maybe you're in the throes of this process as you read. Let me tell you, there's good news! There's hope! As I have tried to make clear in this brief article, even the apostle Peter traveled this well-worn path. But he returned! Just as there is a path that leads one away from Jesus and his church, Peter provides us with a pattern that will bring one back.

Source: Preachinghelp.org

## R a d i o a n d T V P r o g r a m s

**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

Visit us at [www.deweyavenuechurchofchrist.org](http://www.deweyavenuechurchofchrist.org) & [www.facebook.com/deweyavenue](http://www.facebook.com/deweyavenue)

## SERVING SCHEDULE:

**Worship Coordinator:** Dec: Richard Lee Davis Jan: Darren Parks

### Dec 18

#### Morning Worship:

Announce/Prayer: Camaron L  
Song Leader: Caleb Parsley  
Usher/Monitor: Elmer Burns  
Usher/Monitor: Jesse Barnhart  
Communion: Carlos Molina  
Closing Prayer: Dave Lancaster

#### Evening Worship:

Announce/Prayer: Camaron L  
Song Leader: Caleb Parsley  
Communion: Carlos Molina  
Closing Prayer: Dave Lancaster

### Wednesday Dec 21

Announce/Prayer: Camaron L  
Song Leader: Caleb Parsley  
Closing Prayer: Noah Molina

### Dec 25

#### Morning Worship:

Announce/Prayer: Clay Perkins  
Song Leader: Clint Perkins  
Usher/Monitor: Tom Becker  
Usher/Monitor: Hal Powell  
Communion: Dave Parks  
Closing Prayer: Darren Parks

#### Evening Worship:

Announce/Prayer: Clay Perkins  
Song Leader: Clint Perkins  
Communion: Dave Parks  
Closing Prayer: Darren Parks

### Wednesday Dec 28

Announce/Prayer: Clay Perkins  
Song Leader: Clint Perkins  
Closing Prayer: Joe Elrod

## Upcoming Events:

\*We need a volunteer to host the December birthday/anniversary celebration. Please let the elders or Dale know if you're willing to host.

*If you or someone you know would like to receive the bulletin via email, send request to: [office@deweyavechurchofchrist.org](mailto:office@deweyavechurchofchrist.org)*

*Any updates for the bulletin, please contact: Terri Parks (304) 299-1650 or [terrinerod@hotmail.com](mailto:terrinerod@hotmail.com)*

## PRAYER LIST:

\*Madeline McFadden is in Stone Rise recovering from her surgery.  
\*Rodney Ramsey will have heart surgery and possibly have a pacemaker put in.  
\*Jesse Barnhart will have knee replacement surgery Dec. 19th in Marietta.  
\*Please keep John Rockhold in your prayers.  
\*Mary Hoff, daughter of Fay is recovering at home following an auto accident.

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\*\*Ruth Eddy, Fay Williams, Jane Ann Becker, Larry Truax, Charlotte Wilson, Gerald Burns, Rodney Ramsey, Neva Wright, Betty Wilson, Lorraine Dutton, Gail Mote, Sandy Mote, Jane Ann Becker, John Rockhold, Evelyn Hall, Colleen Kiester, Bobbie Yost, Cecil Cline, Madeline McFadden, Dave Parks, Diane Shingler, Lisa Westbrook Smith, Harold Barnhart, and Carolyn Rule.

## YOUTH CORNER

\*Check out the new Dewey Ave Youth Group Facebook page@ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/142546485320>

\*CYC Conference Feb 24-26 in Pigeon Forge, TN. Please put the \$35 registration fee in the offering basket if you're going.

\*We will host the traveling youth group here at Dewey Jan 29th.

\*There will be no traveling youth group event for December.