

Dewey Avenue Church of Christ

March 15, 2026

701 Dewey Avenue
St. Marys, WV 26170

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

Hal Powell

Lew Wilson

Darren Parks

Deacons:

Joe Elrod

Camaron

Lancaster

Brian Mercer

Jodi Mote

Clay Perkins

Clint Perkins

Minister:

Dale Parsley

Youth Minister:

Carlos Molina

THE CHRISTIAN AND WAR (Part 2) Problems with Pacifism

By Dale Parsley

Pacifism is the commitment to abstain from any kind of physical violence or harm toward another. It is the idea that Christians cannot use any form of self-defense in virtually any situation. It is the belief that Christians cannot serve as police officers, nor serve in a combative role in the military. Even though there have been many admirable pacifists throughout history, and even though there are many things pacifists believe that are true, this view still has its problems.

Consider some of the Scriptures mentioned in last week's article:

One of the more prominent passages is Matthew 5:39: "But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also." Historically, the Jews lived in a right-handed dominant culture. If a person were to strike someone, it would normally be done with the right hand. Yet Jesus says if someone "slaps you on your right cheek," implying that it would have been a backhanded slap. The point is that such a slap was an act of severe public humiliation—an insult to a person's honor. It was not a life-threatening assault with a closed fist or a weapon.

In other words, the passage is not about a man with a baseball bat intending to attack or kill you or your family. In fact, interpreting Matthew 5:39 according to a strict pacifist view leads to serious problems. If self-defense is considered a sin, then it should not matter whether one is a citizen, soldier, police officer, Christian, or non-Christian. Allowing all manner of violence—such as murder, rape, and assault—would produce chaos and allow evil to reign.

Loving your enemies in Matthew 5:43–48 means that love is desiring and acting in what is in the best interest of another. But does this promote non-violence in every circumstance? If a man is physically assaulting a child, the most loving thing to do is intervene. In doing so, one is acting in the best interest of both the victim and even the one committing the wrong.

Matthew 5:9 teaches that Christians are to be peacemakers. However, the Scriptures also say, "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18). This implies that complete harmony is not always possible, since peace requires both parties. The Bible does not promote peace at any price. Peace that compromises truth or promotes sin as a solution is itself sinful.

Romans 12:17–21 teaches that Christians are not to seek revenge but should leave vengeance to God, since He will repay. However, there is a difference between revenge and self-defense. Self-defense prevents harm from being done, whereas revenge is a response to something that has already happened. Furthermore, one of the ways God administers punishment is through government authority, as seen in Romans 13:1–7—a passage we intend to examine in more detail next week

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: www.gbntv.org & Youtube

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 & www.facebook.com/deweyavenue

Worship Schedule

Mar– Clay Perkins

Apr– Darren Parks

March 15

Morning Worship:

Announce/Pray: Camaron L

Song Leader: Jodi Mote

Usher/Monitor: Richard Lee Davis

Usher/Moniltor: Ethan Davis

Reading: Noah Molina

Communion: Clint Perkins

Closing Prayer: Hal Powell

Evening Worship:

Announce/Pray: Camaron L

Song Leader: Jodi Mote

Communion: Clint Perkins

Closing Prayer: Hal Powell

Wednesday Mar 18

Announce/Pray: Camaron L

Song Leader: Jodi Mote

Closing Prayer: Lane Perkins

March 22

Morning Worship:

Announce/Pray: Connor L

Song Leader: Clint Perkins

Usher/Monitor: Lew Wilson

Usher/Moniltor: Jesse Barnhart

Reading: Noah Mote

Communion: Dave Parks

Closing Prayer: Joe Elrod

Evening Worship:

Announce/Pray: Connor L

Song Leader: Clint Perkins

Communion: Dave Parks

Closing Prayer: Joe Elrod

Wednesday Mar 25

Announce/Pray: Connor L

Song Leader: Clint Perkins

Closing Prayer: Tom Becker

Upcoming Events

*Mar 28 Spring Clothing Giveaway

*March 29 will be a Church, eat, Church to celebrate Feb & Mar birthday/anniversaries.

Youth Events

*Lads 2 Leaders practice after PM Worship

*Mar 29 Traveling Youth Group @ Camden Ave

Upcoming Birthdays/Annivers

Mar 15– Nathan Booth

Mar 15– Adam Burns

Mar 16– Noah Mote

Mar 16– Issac Molina

Mar 19– Meredith Bradford

Mar 20– Tom Meeks

Mar 22– Pat Bills

Mar 22– Connie Binegar

Mar 24– Dale Parsley

Mar 25– Gala Stewart

Mar 27– Cheryl Talkington

Mar 28– Stephen Hays

Mar 29– Carmen Powell

PRAYER LIST

*Cindy Nichols, Pat's sister-in-law, will have cancer removal surgery on Tuesday.

*Fay Williams has been dealing with illness.

*Pat Nichols has been dealing with illness.

*Please keep Ashely Penisi in your prayers (friend of the Parsley family and others in the congregation). She underwent brain surgery last week and is recovering.

*Keep Daryan Perkins grandfather Phil Markle in your prayers as he has a bladder biopsy upcoming.

*Tina Keith had heart surgery and is home recovering.

Tina Keith, Tom Goodnight Family, Angie Parsley, Judy Lough, John Hinton, Jim & Blye Grove, Retta Parsley, Jane Ann Becker, Fay Williams, Gerald & Janice Burns, Betty Timmons, Shirley Grubbs, Bill & Lorraine Dutton, Gail & Sandy Mote, & John Rockhold.

If you or someone you know would like to receive the bulletin via email, send request to: office@deweyavechurchofchrist.org

Any updates for the bulletin, please email to: office@deweyavenuechurchofchrist.org. If you would like to be added to the One Call list for phone updates, please contact Camaron Lancaster.