

# Dewey Avenue Church of Christ

March 29, 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 4)**

### ***Using the Sword***

*By Dale Parsley*

In our last article, it was established that (1) a Christian can serve as a soldier or a police officer (Luke 3:10-14; Romans 13:1-7), and (2) a Christian who is a citizen or a non-soldier is permitted to carry a sword (Luke 22:36).

So when can a Christian defend himself or use the sword? This question is sometimes difficult to answer because it depends on the situation.

For example, I've heard parents tell their children, "You don't start any fights, but if someone starts one with you, make sure you finish it." Is that advice biblical? One reason some people spend their lives in and out of prison is that the only way they know to deal with conflict is through violence. So if someone starts a conflict with you, why not teach them Proverbs 15:1? Remain calm, speak kindly, and seek to diffuse the situation. If you cannot remain calm, why not remain quiet? Or if someone is hostile toward you and the situation cannot be diffused, why not walk away? Why not endure the insult or the wrong and seek to be at peace with all men? (Romans 12:17-21)

Yet in spite of all this, there are still times when de-escalation and retreat are not possible. And if a person is determined to harm you or someone else, self-defense should be a last resort, not a first or even second response.

I once had a friend who was a black belt in karate say, "What do you do if a man walks up to you, pulls out a weapon, and asks for your wallet?" "You pull it out of your back pocket and give it to him." Are a few bank cards and some cash worth risking your life over? Are they even worth taking his life over? Perhaps the government will successfully do its job by punishing the man, which could even lead to his repentance! (Romans 13:1-6)

However, there are other situations where a person wants more than a wallet. He may also want to do physical or sexual harm to you or another person. I believe the sword is permitted in situations like these. In fact, when Jesus told His disciples to carry a sword in Luke 22:36, He was speaking of them ultimately as they would carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). As the disciples went about their daily lives, they could carry a sword and, at times, use it.

From these examples, we can see that it is sometimes hard to know when to use the sword. Yet clearly there are situations—when protecting yourself or the lives of friends and family from evil—in which it is permitted.

Next week, we will discuss the question of government and war.

### 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](http://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

## Worship Schedule

Mar– Clay Perkins

Apr– Darren Parks

### March 29

#### Morning Worship:

Announce/Pray: Dave Lancaster

Song Leader: Caleb Parsley

Usher/Monitor: Tom Becker

Usher/Moniltor: Don Archer

Reading: Desmond Parks

Communion: Darren Parks

Closing Prayer: Carlos Molina

#### Evening Worship:

Announce/Pray: Dave Lancaster

Song Leader: Caleb Parsley

Communion: Darren Parks

Closing Prayer: Carlos Molina

### Wednesday Mar 25

Announce/Pray: Dave Lancaster

Song Leader: Caleb Parsley

Closing Prayer: Carlos Molina

### April 5

#### Morning Worship:

Announce/Pray: Darren Parks

Song Leader: Connor Lancaster

Usher/Monitor: Hal Powell

Usher/Moniltor: Mevin Truax

Reading: Jaxon Elrod

Communion: Dave Lancaster

Closing Prayer: Dave Parks

#### Evening Worship:

Announce/Pray: Darren Parks

Song Leader: Connor Lancaster

Communion: Dave Lancaster

Closing Prayer: Dave Parks

### Wednesday April 8

Announce/Pray: Darren Parks

Song Leader: Connor Lancaster

Closing Prayer: Joe Elrod

## Upcoming Events

\*Today is a Church, eat, Church to celebrate Feb & Mar birthday/anniversaries.

\*Elders Meeting April 6 @ 6pm

## Youth Events

\*Lads 2 Leaders practice after PM Worship

\*Mar 29 Traveling Youth Group @ Camden Ave

## Thank You!

To all individuals who helped with the Clothing Giveaway yesterday! We had a record amount of people come!

## Upcoming Birthdays/Annivers

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

Apr 2– Don Collins

Apr 3– Brody Booth

Apr 5– Jesse & Nedra Barnhart M/M

Apr 9– Richard Lee Davis

Apr 9– Jay Mote

Apr 9– Bobby Collins

Apr 9– James Collins

## PRAYER LIST

\*Becky Hinton had facial surgery last week and received good news.

\*Please keep Shirley Hearn in your prayers as she is recovering at home from a broken hip.

\*Joe Elrod had an ablation on Wednesday.

\*\*Daryan Perkins grandfather Phil Markle received good news on his bladder biopsy results.

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Alan Shultz Family, Cindy Nichols, Ashley Penisi, Tina Keith, Tom Good-night 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.*