

**ELDERS**

Nathan Adkins  
937-798-3267  
Greg Conley 923-8238  
Greg Hall 325-4255  
Mark Parks 831-3081  
Chris Scott 356-4368

**MINISTER**

Mark Day  
cell: 606-831-1975

**ASSOC. MINISTER**

Jerry Sturgill  
606-831-2061

**DEACONS**

Daniel Goshorn  
J.C. Hughes  
Brad Morris  
Nathan Parks  
Jeremiah Smith  
Jerry Sturgill  
Matthew Vonderheide  
Steve Wallace

**SERVICES**

Sunday Bible Study 9:45am  
Morning Worship 10:45 am  
Evening Worship 6:00 pm  
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

**WEB PAGE**

[www.flatwoodschurch-  
ofchrist.org](http://www.flatwoodschurch-ofchrist.org)

**MISSIONS**

-Dustin Bolks  
**Sioux Center, Ia.**  
-Dahn Ramkelawan  
**Suriname, SA**  
-Michael Mayo  
**Thailand, SE Asia**  
-Herman Joseph  
**Guyana, SA**  
-Mohamed Ally  
**Guyana, SA**  
-*"In Search of the Lord's  
Way"* TV broadcast

**SEARCH TV**

Sundays 7:30 am (on Fox)

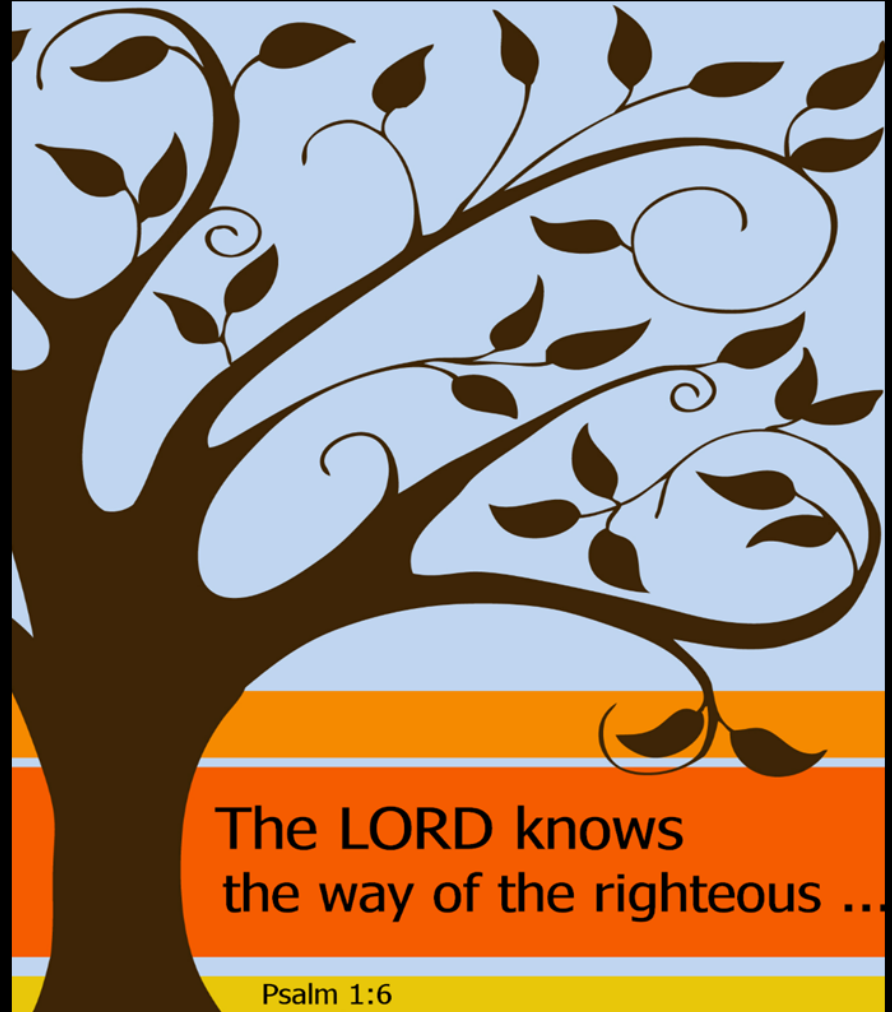
FLATWOODS CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**HERALD**

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**The LORD knows  
the way of the righteous ...**

**Psalm 1:6**

**We offer FREE: 4 Bible correspondence course series by mail:**  
an 8 lesson series by Hurt, a 6 lesson series "Acts Of The Apostles"  
by Pharr, the "Studies In The Bible" 30 lesson series, and the  
20 lesson series "Getting To Know Jesus" by Pharr. Let everyone know!

## On Abortion as a “Fellowship Issue”



Setting aside our numerous and significant differences in doctrine for a minute, let’s take a look what American Catholics have been up to and see what we can learn.

For some time now an issue has been brewing concerning the inclusion of pro-abortion Catholic politicians in their church’s communion. With a Catholic now sitting in the Oval Office, they’ve realized the time has come to develop an official policy on the matter. A delegation of bishops are currently working to hammer out a formal statement about communion and its place. A number of Catholic leaders have gone on record to recommend denying communion to such members, and one New Mexico state senator was recently denied communion by his priest.

Again, we don’t share their views on priesthood, communion, salvation, and a number of other things. But this dustup is a rather interesting situation which provides us with a chance to discuss some important concepts.

**First of all, we should note they are absolutely right to say such a clear, plain-to-see sin separates one from God and the fellowship of the church.** It might sound harsh, but just change the analogy to something broadly considered to be both sinful and morally repugnant and it gets a lot easier to understand.

Let’s say your local state senator, a church member, came out as a vocal proponent of race-based slavery. I don’t think there would be any controversy if a church decided to censure such a member. Endorsing something so abhorrent would obviously be grounds for confrontation and potential removal from fellowship.

Between abortion and slavery, both are obvious, egregious sins. The only difference is that one has cultural approval and the other does not. If openly supporting slavery would be grounds for censure, so should openly supporting abortion.

**Second, there’s something to be said for a doctrine of exclusivity in a time of near universal inclusion.** Yes, God does not want any to perish (2 Peter 3:9), but that doesn’t mean He’s going to save everybody. Jesus turned away literally thousands in His ministry (Luke 9, John 6, for a couple of examples).

We do not need to be unnecessarily harsh gate keepers, pushing people away from the church with arbitrary standards or a holier-than-thou attitude, but neither should we lead people to believe that God’s church has no boundaries. If we aren’t embodying any definable set of beliefs, we offer little reason for anyone to be interested in belonging.

**Third, the big question here is this: if this action and other difficult, controversial ones like it are right and necessary for church leaders to undertake, do the leaders in our congregations have the strength to carry them out?**

Though we might not be in that situation right now, the determining factor is the same as always – faithful in little, faithful in much (Luke 16:10). If I can’t preach boldly on a truth which the world will hate or some in the congregation might reject, then the answer is no. Those of us who preach must possess the fortitude to say what needs to be said, regardless of what anyone thinks. We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29). Elders likewise must be committed to do uncomfortable but crucially important things like confronting sins where necessary.

On the other side of the table, if you’re a church member, are you willing to follow the lead of Godly men when they make those hard decisions? Have you truly submitted yourself to their lead as those who care for your souls? (cont. page 3, column 2)

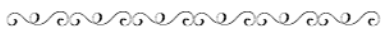
# News & Notes



## Sermons Today

**10:45AM: Hallelujah**  
**6:00PM: The Prosperous Way of the Righteous**  
**Scripture Reading:**  
**Psalm 1** NKJV

- 1- Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
- 2- But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.
- 3- He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.
- 4- The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away.
- 5- Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
- 6- For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.



## 2021 Dates to Remember:

- Aug 8**– Ice Cream Social– 7p– annex  
**Aug 14**– Rachel Conley Duke baby shower– 1pm– annex  
**Sep 3-4**– Campout at the Adkins’ house– see Nathan or Serpell for details  
**Oct 17-21**– our Gospel Meeting with Allen Webster

## Gauging Our Faith

	08/01/21	Goal	08/02/20
<b>Bible Study</b>	94	110	46
<b>AM Worship</b>	128	160	97
<b>PM Worship</b>	90	110	58
<b>Mid Week</b>	75	110	46
<b>Contribution:</b>	\$6579.67	\$6000.00	\$5775.29

## Ice Cream Social

Tonight at 7pm, we will meet in the annex for an ice cream social. Bring your favorite flavor and topping to share and join the fun, fellowship and flavorful treat.

## Member Info Change

Buck and Veronica Wheeler have a new home phone number: (606) 388-2895. Please, note this in your member directories.

## Duke Shower Date Change

Rachel Duke’s baby shower had to be rescheduled because Rachel has a mild case of Covid. The date will be Saturday, August 14th, at 1pm in the annex. Their gift registration is on babylist.com.

## On Abortion... (Pg. 2 Article, Cont.)

It’s a beautiful thing when God’s church has one heart and one mind to follow Him and let Him handle whatever comes our way. In that scenario we’re showing God we believe in Him and that He will reward us for seeking His way (Hebrews 11:6).

Thank God for those leaders who fear God rather than man (Matthew 10:28) and will do that which is difficult but necessary. Pray for those who preach and teach that they will have boldness, pray for those who lead that they would be strengthened and built up as God’s shepherds rather than hired hands, and pray for our congregations that they will follow such men and not be burdensome to them.

—by Jack Wilkie, July 28, 2021

Note: Jack Wilkie is editor of focuspress.org and author of “Church Reset: God’s Design for So Much More.” He also preaches for the Forney church of Christ in Forney, TX, where he, his wife, Allison, reside with their two children.

## ☞ Today's Servants ☜

### **WELCOME:**

**AM/PM:** Mark Parks

### **SONG LEADER:**

**AM:** Jeremiah Smith

**PM:** Ranie Wohnhas

### **FIRST PRAYER:**

**AM:** Daniel Goshorn

**PM:** Steve Wallace

### **LORD'S TABLE\*:**

**Presiding AM:** Chris Scott

**Assisting:** Matt Vonderheide,  
George Wallace, Chris Legg

**Presiding PM:** Greg Hall

\*gluten-free bread

### **Scripture Reading:**

**PM:** Gabe Scott

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**AM:** Tanner Adkins

**PM:** Braydon Snell

## ☞ Wednesday Servants ☜

**WELCOME:** Greg Conley

**SONG LEADER:** Jeremiah Smith

**PRAYER:** Nathan Parks

**DEVOTION:** Mark Parks

## ☞ Weekly Servants ☜

**POWER POINT:** Luke Wallace

**BLDG. ATT.:** Jeremiah Smith

**COORDINATOR:** J.C. Hughes

**ATTENDANCE:** John Gambill

## \*\*\* Youth Notes \*\*\*

\*\*\* Sundays \*\*\*

### **Pew Packers**

5:45pm in front of  
the auditorium-  
geared to age 12 & under,  
but everyone is  
welcome to attend

\*\*\* Sept 3-4 \*\*\*

### **Campout at the Adkins' cabin**

Sign-up on the foyer board.  
See Nathan or Serpell for  
details.



## Welcome, Visitor!

We are so pleased to have you  
as our guest today.

If you are a first-time visitor with us, please, fill out a 'visitor card' that you will find on the back of the pew. You may put it in the collection box or give it to one of the men at the auditorium doors as you exit.

We have tract racks on the wall in the foyer with free tracts and literature. We also have Bible correspondence courses you can sign up to receive by mail at no cost to you. Let our preacher know if you would like to set up an in-home Bible study. Thank you for attending. We hope to see you often.