

**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  
606-831-1975

**DEACONS**

J.C. Hughes  
Brad Morris  
Nathan Parks  
Jeremiah Smith  
Matthew Vonderheide

**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**

-Jerry Sturgill  
**Tri-state area**  
-Daniel Goshom  
**Peru, SA**  
-Dustin Bolks  
**Sioux Center, Ia.**  
-Dahn Ramkelawan  
**Suriname, SA**  
-Michael Mayo  
**Thailand, SE Asia**  
-Herman Joseph  
**Guyana, SA**  
-Mohamed Ally  
**Guyana, SA**  
-D.J. Hatfield  
**WVSOP support**  
-*"In Search of the Lord's Way"* TV broadcast

**SEARCH TV**

Sundays 7:30 am (on Fox)

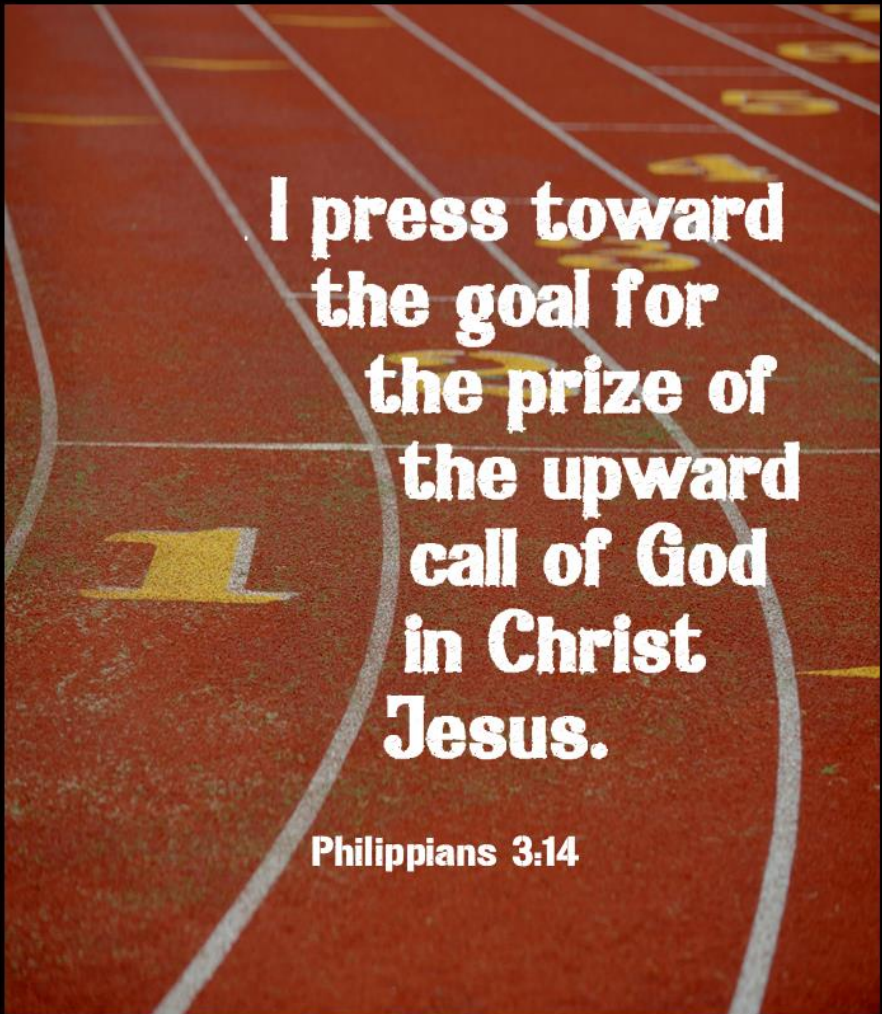
FLATWOODS CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**HERALD**

PO Box 871, 2100 Argillite Rd, Flatwoods, KY 41139  
(606) 836-4207

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**I press toward  
the goal for  
the prize of  
the upward  
call of God  
in Christ  
Jesus.**

**Philippians 3:14**

**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!**

## Preparing the Way for the LORD

*“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” (Isaiah 40:3-5.)*

These words are a prophecy of John, the forerunner of Jesus. When a king traveled, men were sent ahead of him to make the path smooth. John was no literal road construction worker, but in a spiritual way he prepared hearts for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 3:3 quotes the above passage in Isaiah regarding John. The two preceding verses describe his work thus, “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mt. 3:1, 2). John had a message from God to deliver. The Holy Spirit said of John in prophecy “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me...” (Mal. 3:1).

John was preparing hearts by preaching repentance. Repentance is one of the most difficult charges God asks of us; it involves a change of the will regarding sin that results in a changed life. John told the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to him in the wilderness to bring forth fruits worthy of repentance (Mt. 3:8). People who repented would become merciful in their giving (Lk. 3:10, 11). Tax collectors would no longer exact more than what was appointed (Lk. 3:12, 13). Soldiers would be content with their wages and no longer do violence nor falsely accuse (Lk. 3:14). Self-righteous religious leaders would not humble themselves; therefore, they would not truly repent. John told people what they needed to change in their life in order to please God. This takes courage. John had enough courage to tell Herod that it was not lawful for him to have his brother Philip’s wife; as a result of his courageously speaking the truth, he was thrown into prison and eventually beheaded (Mt. 14:3-12).

While John is often called “the Baptist,” this was not his name, but rather describes his work. He immersed people in water for the remission of sins. “John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins” (Mk. 1:4). Baptism is a burial, an immersion (Rom. 6:3,4; Col. 2:12). The purpose of John’s baptism was the same as the baptism the Lord later commanded in the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16; Lk. 24:47); it was “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Today, we are to administer the Lord’s baptism for the remission of sins to those who will repent at the preaching of the gospel.

John pointed the way to Jesus. When he saw Him, he said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water” (Jn. 1:29-31). John was willing to point his disciples away from himself to the greater one: the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 3:23-29). John said of Jesus, “He must increase, but I *must* decrease” (Jn. 3:30). We too need to point others to Jesus instead of ourselves. We too must preach God’s message, even the unpopular message of repentance. By your words and actions, you can prepare the way for those around you to receive the Lord Jesus and submit to His commandments.

-Mark Day

# News & Notes

## **Scripture Reading:** **Philippians 3:13-14**

13- Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14- I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

## **Devotional Book**

Mark Day is planning on assembling a devotional book to be distributed with an included Bible-reading plan for 2024. We need as many members as possible to write a devotional (or a few devotionals) of 300-500 words in length. These are to be on biblical topics that help encourage us in our Christian walk. Feel free to use personal experiences that help illustrate the lessons you are relating from God's word. This will be a way to get to know one another better and build one another up as members of God's family here at Flatwoods. Please send these to Mark Day in a digital format (preferably in Word) by April 2, 2023. Thank you.

## **Dates to Remember:**

**Jan 15**– elders/deacons/preacher meet-4:30p

**Jan 28**– Baby Shower for Kaitlyn Conley

Patterson– Venue at the Edge– 1p

Registry: [www.babylist.com/Kpattersonbaby](http://www.babylist.com/Kpattersonbaby)

## **Attendance & Contribution Goals**

	<u>12/25/22</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>12/26/21</u>
<b>Bible Study</b>	60	90	80
<b>AM Worship</b>	112	130	131
<b>PM Worship</b>	49	90	76
<b>Mid Week</b>	54	90	70
<b>Contribution:</b>	\$5263.95	\$6000.00	\$6625.00

## **Baby Shower Invitation**

Rachel Conley Duke and Bev Conley will be hosting a baby shower for Kaitlyn Conley Patterson on Saturday, January 28th at 1:00pm. The shower will be held at the Venue at the Edge, 1100 Our Lady's Way, Suite 200, Ashland, KY 41101. Please, RSVP by January 14th to (606) 923-7073. Kaitlyn's registry: [www.babylist.com/Kpattersonbaby](http://www.babylist.com/Kpattersonbaby)

Have  
you  
contacted  
a shut in  
lately  
?

Why  
not  
today  
?

## ☞ Today's Servants ☜

### **WELCOME:**

**AM/PM:** Greg Conley

### **SONG LEADER:**

**AM:** Nathan Adkins

**PM:** Ranie Wohnhas

### **FIRST PRAYER:**

**AM:** Chris Scott

**PM:** Jeremiah Smith

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

**Presiding AM:** Mark Parks

**Assisting:** Jordan Conley,  
JC Hughes, Ranie Wohnhas,  
Blake Hem, Jacob Martin,  
Tanner Adkins, Matt Vonderheide

**Presiding PM:** Chris Scott

**Assisting:** Jacob Brown  
\*gluten-free bread

### **SCRIPTURE READING:**

**PM:** Tanner Adkins

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**AM:** John Gambill

**PM:** George Wallace

## ☞ Wednesday Servants ☜

**WELCOME:** Mark Parks

**SONG LEADER:** Brad Morris

**PRAYER:** John Gambill

**DEVOTION:** Mark Day

## ☞ Weekly Servants ☜

**LIVE STREAM:** Jesse Legg

**POWER POINT:** Luke Wallace

**BLDG. ATT.:** Matt Vonderheide

**COORDINATOR:** Brad Morris

**ATTENDANCE:** John Gambill

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

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

# Pew Packers

## 5:45pm

in front of the  
auditorium-

geared to 12 & under  
but everyone is  
welcome



## 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.*