ELDERS

Nathan Adkins 937-798-3267 Greg Conley 923-8238 Greg Hall 571-1977 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

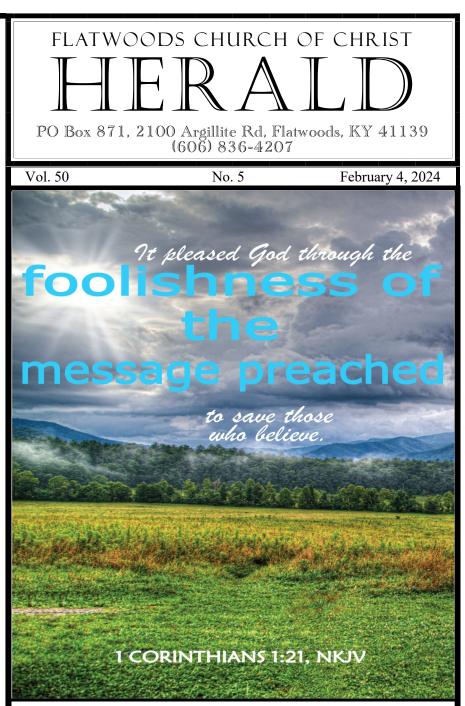
Sunday Bible Study 9:45am Morning Worship 10:45 am Evening Worship 6:00 pm Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

> <u>WEB PAGE</u> www.flatwoodschurchofchrist.org

MISSIONS

-Jerry Sturgill Tri-state area -Daniel Goshorn Peru. SA -Dustin Bolks Sioux Center, Ia. -Dahn Ramkelawan Suriname, SA -Michael Mavo 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

<u>SEARCH TV</u> Sundays 7:30 am (on Fox)



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!

Serving Tables or Ministry of the Word?

While the early church overcame persecution from outside and continued to grow, problems from within posed more serious threats. Luke records one of the first problems within the church in Acts 6:1-4:

Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The church provided for those of its number in need (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32, 34-35). Widows were particularly vulnerable in those times because they typically spent their entire lives serving in households that belonged to their fathers and then their husbands. Often, they did not own property. They had few economic opportunities. The people of God provide for widows in their affliction (Jas. 1:27).

The Hellenists were Greek-speaking Jews from the Dispersion (or their descendants) as opposed to Jews born in Palestine who primarily spoke Aramaic. Perhaps because the Hellenists were not as familiar to the church in Jerusalem, their widows were neglected. Whatever the reason, this partiality shown to one group caused a complaint of discrimination to arise.

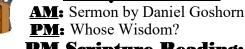
The apostles responded to this problem by directing good and wise men to be appointed over this matter to serve as administrators to ensure that the work was done fairly with no neglect. The apostles could have served tables, but they recognized their role was to minister the word of God. The apostles were not saying that the business of caring for widows was unimportant, but rather there were others who could take care of that work who were not necessarily capable of teaching and preaching the word of God as the apostles did. The church—both in the first-century miraculous era and today—is made of many different members who all have distinct roles to fill in doing the Lord's work (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-31).

The inspired record includes notes surrounding this episode that show because the apostles were not hindered in their ministry of the word, numerical growth of the church resulted from the word of God increasing (Acts 5:42; 6:7). Later Paul would write of the church supporting (honoring) widows if they had no relatives to support them (1 Tim. 5:3-16). In that same chapter, he went on to write: "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine" (1 Tim. 5:17). The importance of the ministry of the word to the growth of the kingdom is a theme in the Scriptures we must not overlook. The Bible places an emphasis on how it is proper to provide for those preaching and teaching the gospel so that they have time for their important work (1 Cor. 9:4-14; Gal. 6:6).

-Mark Day



Today's Sermons



<u>**PM Scripture Reading:**</u>

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

20 Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness:

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Attendance & Contribution Goals 1/28/24 1/29/23 Goal **Bible Study** 90 AM Worship 79 130 106 71 **PM Worship** 90 90 **Mid Week** 61 56 **Contribution:** \$5,367.01 \$6,373.01

Dates to Remember

Feb. 18-Elders, deacons, preachers meeting at 4:30pm in the large annex classroom Feb. 23-Ladies' lunch at Olive Garden in Ashland at 11:30am Feb. 23-25-Challenge Youth Conference 2024 in Pigeon Forge, TN <u>March 3</u>– Due date for pantry items for Potter Children's Home March 29-31-Lads2Leaders 2024 Convention in Louisville, KY April 14-17-Gospel meeting with Phil Sanders

Potter Children's Home

Starting in February, we will be gathering pantry items for Potter Children's Home. The pantry items requested will be posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. Pantry items will be picked up the week of March 3rd.



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WELCOME: AM/PM: Greg Hall

SONG LEADER:

AM: Brad Morris **PM:** Nathan Adkins

FIRST PRAYER: **AM:** Mark Parks

PM: Jordan Conley

LORD'S TABLE*:

Presiding AM: Chris Scott **Assisting:** Nathan Parks, George Wallace, Matt Vonderheide, Terry Fouts, Luke Wallace, Mark Gullett, Ernie Perry

Presiding PM: Mark Parks Assisting: Gabe Scott *gluten-free bread

CLOSING PRAYER:

AM: JC Hughes **PM:** Mason Morris

<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u>: PM: Noah Day

BUWednesday Servants

WELCOME: Chris Scott SONG LEADER: Jeremiah Smith **PRAYER:** Mark Parks **DEVOTION:** Jerry Sturgill

🔊 <u>Weekly Servants</u> 🗷

LIVE STREAM: Jackson Morris POWER POINT: Jason Fouts BLDG. ATT.: JC Hughes COORDINATOR: Matt Vonderheide

***** Youth Notes *****_

**** Sundays **** **Pew Packers 5:45pm** in front of the auditoriumgeared to age 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 plate 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.