



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 39

September 12, 2021

Number 35

## Schedule of Services

- Bible Classes 10 am
- Worship 10:50 am and 6:00 pm
- Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

## Elders

- Mike Ernstberger  
270-753-2108 Home  
270-293-7027 Cell
- James Pigg  
270-759-2145 Home  
270-293-2319 Cell

## Deacons

- Larry Enoch
- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

## Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison  
Cell: 270-978-7569

## Supporting Works

India—Dale Foster, David Nance, and Ronnie Gootam  
McKenzie, TN—Paul Jones

## Location

- Green Plain Church of Christ  
3980 Murray Paris Road  
Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone: (270) 492-8206
- Email: [greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org](mailto:greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org)

## “I WANT A CHURCH THAT MEETS MY NEEDS” *By William Woodson*

The statement made in the title is not only the desire of many in the religious world, but is becoming the philosophy of many Christians, because many of us are seeking a religion that “meets our needs.” The phrase itself has virtually become a new religious term. Many persons praise or blame a particular congregation because it is or is not “meeting my needs.”

Let me hasten to say that if the phrase means that we need to satisfy spiritual hunger, then it is a good expression. For surely everyone ought to be in a Christian community where his/her deepest spiritual longings are being addressed. The voice of God needs to be heard through spiritual teaching, and we need opportunities to serve, love, and be called to repentance.

But being a part of the church to some means reaching for goals of “self-actualization.” So, if the church doesn’t fulfill certain expectations, wants, and preferences, then they must move on to another emotional depart-

ment store with different merchandise more appealing to their “tastes.”

Sadly, and probably without realizing it, many congregations have gotten into thinking that “we have to do all these things and plan all the activities to meet people’s needs so they won’t leave.” Consequently, well-meaning leaders have turned God’s church into a merchandising institution. So we promote this program and that program for this group and that group.

But, in my judgment, the system has become turned upside down from the way God intended it to be. Whatever happened to the attitude in a Christian’s heart of “I’d like to be a part of this congregation because of what I can do to meet its needs?” When are we most fulfilled? When our needs are met? Or when we meet the needs of God’s church on this earth? We ought to be a part of a congregation **not** so that our needs

(Continued on page 3)

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members:** Faye Travis (Rehab in Mayfield), Peggy Jarvis, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Jim Fielder, Griselda Adams, Larry Enoch, Carolyn Byars, Mary and Jim Lowrie and Mary and Jesse Vincent.

**Family and Friends:** Teresa Tacker, Betty Pond, Bryan White, Kenneth Mizell, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Charlotte Parker, Roger Rhoades, Joel White and Mary Lou Joseph. Please let us know of those who have improved or any one who needs to be added to this list. Please continue to pray for those in Waverly, Tennessee, Haiti and Louisiana.

**THANKS** to all who contributed to and prepared the boxes for Covid patients at Murray Hospital and to those who contributed to the funds sent to assist in Haiti and in Tennessee.

- **COVID INFO:** Our Covid safety measures remain in effect for our worship services and Bible classes. It is recommended that we wear our masks, social distance and refrain from hand shakes and hugs. Let us consider one another's safety and act accordingly.
- **PANTRY ITEMS September 2021:** 5—Apple Sauce; 12—Canned Tomatoes; 19—Soups; 26—Canned Fruit Juices. Please bring any additional items you wish for the "blessing box" which is located next to the breezeway on the north side of the building.
- **August 2021 Anniversaries:** 28-Shane & Krysta Smith . **Birthdays:** 4-Jane Morris; 20—Peggy Jarvis; 27-Diana Travis; 28-Carolyn Byars; Please let us know if we have left anyone out.
- ***ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. Send your name and complete mailing address and phone number to the address on the first page of this bulletin.***
- **AREA EVENTS: Evangelism Seminar** at the Coldwater church of Christ September 24-25, 2021. See the bulletin board for additional details.



**GOSPEL  
BROADCASTING  
NETWORK**

**The Gospel 24/7**

**Online at [gbntv.org](http://gbntv.org)**

## ***LESSONS TODAY***

**AM Bible Study**  
***The Book of Acts\***  
**Worship**

**AM— *Miracles Today?***

**PM— *To Be Announced***

**Wednesday Bible Class**  
***A Study of 1 John***

(Continued from page 1)

can be met, but rather so that we may best meet the needs of God's work.

Christians need to recall the truth of the Scriptures that personal fulfillment is a great spiritual paradox. We are most filled when we empty ourselves and be filled serving others.

Jesus taught us, "*whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant...Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister*" (Mat. 20:26-28). Paul said of his own heart *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me*

Gal. 2:20). And again, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service*" (Rom. 12:1).

"Reasonable service" is not being served (having your needs met), but serving (meeting the needs of others). We need to relearn the axiom, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35).

Let's not demand that God's church be a place where people (leadership or membership) cater to our desires and preferences. Let's turn it right side up again and be a part of a congregation, not for what it can do for us, but for what we can do for it!

-Coldwater church of Christ bulletin

## **BE STILL AND KNOW** By David Sproule

We are living in uncertain times. We are living in dangerous times. We are living in troubling times. It seems that everywhere we turn there is something disastrous happening. It is enough to get you down and to keep you down. With all that's going on around us—from our families, to our local communities, to our nation, to the whole globe—what can we do? How can we keep from being distraught?

**Be still...and know** that God is still God. God has not surrendered His throne. He is still "the ruler over the kings of the earth" (Rev. 1:5). He is still the God of "love" (1 John 4:8), "peace" (Phil. 4:9), "all grace" (1 Pet. 5:10), "patience and comfort" (Rom. 15:5) and "hope" (Rom. 15:13). No matter what happens, put your trust in that!

**Be still...and know** that right is still right. The world is doing its dead level best

to confuse those who know what is right and who stand for what is right. Over 2,700 years ago, God said, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20). Those people are still living among us in the twenty-first century. Nevertheless, never doubt that the "commandments" of the Lord are "right" every time (Psa. 119:172), without fail, without exception. No matter what happens, put your trust in that!

**Be still...and know** that truth is still truth. We are told that we are living in a post-truth era and that truth today is subject to "the eye of the beholder" of whatever that truth is. However, God's truth is immutable (Matt. 24:35; 1 Pet. 1:23-25), just as God is (Heb. 6:18-20). Folks may try to twist and turn it to fit their agenda, but remember that

(Continued on page 4)



### COME VISIT WITH US

The church building is located southeast of Murray one mile off highway 641 - Near the corner of the Green Plain and Murray Paris Roads. We look forward to seeing you!

A warm and friendly welcome awaits!

**TRUTH.FM**  
*Internet Radio*  
 Download App or  
 listen online  
<https://www.truth.fm/>

Paul's letter to the Philippians he instructed them as to where to find the power to face life and deal with it successfully (Phlp. 4:11-13). The lesson within that text is equally important for us today.

Most everyone experiences periods of

time when things seem to go pretty well. But in almost every case, sooner or later, things change! Life is always in motion. All sorts of forces effect our lives. Illness, injury, emotional stress, psychological disorders, financial problems, loss of a job, the death of a

*(Continued from page 3)*

"the truth of the Lord endures forever" (Psa. 117:2). No matter what happens, put your trust in that!

**Be still...and know** that eternity is still real. It is so easy to take our eyes off of the "eternal," place them on the "temporary," and as a result, "lose heart" (2 Cor. 4:16-18). When that happens, work twice as hard to "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:2). Remember that "the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:17). No matter what happens, put your trust in that!

**Be still...and know** that Christians still win in the end. You may not feel like you are winning. Around the world it may appear that Christians are on the losing side. But don't put your trust in appearances (2 Cor. 5:7). Jesus has already crushed the adversary (Heb. 2:14). Satan has already lost! Faithful Christians will be victorious (2 Tim. 4:7-8). No matter what happens, put your trust in that!

Take a minute to refresh...

—[Be Still and Know - Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ \(pblcoc.org\)](http://Be Still and Know - Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ (pblcoc.org))

### THOSE TO SERVE SEPTEMBER 2021

**Announcements:** Chad

**Lord's Supper AM:** James & Chad

**Lord's Supper PM** 5-James; 12-Chad; 19- James; 26- Chad

**Opening Prayer AM:** 5-Jim; 12-Mike; 19-Jonnie; 26-Bobby

**Closing Prayer AM:** 5-Jesse; 12-Mike; 19-David; 26-Perry

**Song Leaders: AM-**Perry; **PM-** Mike; **Wednesday-**Chad

**Usher: ;=** Jesse

**Count Contribution: James & Chad**