



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 45

March 8, 2026

Number 8

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

- Bible Classes 10 am
- Worship 10:45 am  
and 6:00 pm
- Wednesday Bible  
Study 7:00 pm

### Elders

- Mike Ernstberger  
270-293-7027
- James Pigg  
270-293-2319

### Deacons

- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

### Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison  
270-978-7569

### Location

- Green Plain  
Church of Christ  
3980 Murray Paris  
RD  
Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone:  
(270) 492-8206
- Email:  
greenplaincoc  
@gmail.com

### Web Site

- greenplain-  
churchofchrist.org

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LOCAL CONGREGATION *By Robert Hatfield*

**T**he New Testament church was comprised of locally-formed congregations in various places where Christians lived. Christians worked together within these local congregations to accomplish the work of the church (cf. the church at Jerusalem [Acts 5:11], the church at Corinth [1 Cor. 1:2], and the seven churches in Asia [Rev. 1:4, 11]). It is vital to the work of the Lord for Christians to associate themselves with (that is, place membership at) a particular local congregation.

What responsibilities do Christians have to the local congregation? Let's go to the Bible.

**Submit to the structured system of church government.** Elders are to be appointed at every congregation (where there are qualified men) to oversee the work of that local congregation (Acts 14:23). The elders are responsible for feeding the flock of God "which is among you" (1 Pet. 5:2); therefore, each congregation is autonomous. There is no such thing as "THE elder" who rules over all congregations. God has structured the church so that

each member submits to the authority of the eldership. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves ..." (Heb. 13:17). The work of the elders is a monumental responsibility for which they will give an account on judgment day (Heb. 13:17)! As long as the elders continually submit to the authority of Jesus Christ, God expects Christians to submit to the elders. Deacons are appointed to be responsible for coordinating specific works (cf. 1 Tim. 3:8-13; Phil. 1:1). Many believe the account in Acts 6:1-6 to refer to the work of deacons. It is worthy to note that the deacons are not the elders; they work under the elders' oversight. The majority of the congregation is made up of members, of course. Each member is important and brings various talents and abilities to the congregation (cf. 1 Cor. 12:14-20).

**Get involved in the work!** It is the work of the church! It is not the work of the elders, deacons and preachers to accomplish by themselves. That "victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" only

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**NEWS AND NOTES**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Green Plain Members: Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder (Spring Creek), Dave & Ann Thompson (Hickory Woods), Joan Lathrop, Wanda Barrett ((Spring Creek Rehab), Roy and Marie Wyatt, Mary and Jesse Vincent.

**Family and Friends:** Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Kim Burrows, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison, Ted Clark, Larry Wyatt, Patrice Wyatt, Jackie Herndon, Janice Canter, Peyton Mays, Patricia Dowdy and Darren Mays.

**OUR SYMPATHY AND LOVE** is extended to our sister Carolyn Byars and family at the death of her brother this past week.

**PANTRY ITEMS March 2026:** 1-Tooth Paste; 8-Koolaide; 15-Salt; 22-Pepper; 29-Jelly or Jam  
All items must be **non-perishable or canned.**

**March 2026; Anniversaries:** 12-Marie & Roy Wyatt; 15-Sue & Bobby Hall.. **BIRTHDAYS:** 9-Gail Hutchison; 14-Roy Wyatt; 20-James Pigg.. Congratulations!

**HOME BIBLE STUDY;** Request a **FREE** home Bible study—“Back to the Bible” for anyone who is interested in gaining more knowledge of the Bible. This study can be conducted in your home or in our building. You may call 270-978-7569 or write us at Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris RD, Hazel, KY 42049.

**ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRECSPONDENCE COURSE.** Send your name, complete mailing address and phone number to Green Plain Church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris Rd, Hazel, KY 42049 or enroll online on our webpage. This is a great way to increase your Bible knowledge.

**THOSE TO SERVE March 2026**

Announcements: Mike

Lord’s Table AM: James & Chad

Lord’s Table PM: 1-Chad; 8-James; 15-Chad; 22-James;  
29-Chad

Opening Prayer AM; 1-Bobby; 8-Jonnie; 15-Jimmy;  
22-Perry; 29-Mike

Closing Prayer AM; 1-Roy; 8-Don; 15-Jesse;  
22-Russell; 29-Bobby

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

Count Contribution: James & Chad

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS AT  
GREEN PLAIN  
Spring Session  
Green Plain School  
of Biblical Studies  
March 23-May 18  
“A study of the book of  
Revelation” with Dan Sikes**  

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**SPRING GOSPEL  
MEETING  
April 19-23  
With Josh Manning  
Eastwood church of Christ**

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comes if Christians are “steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:57-58). If you are interested in being a part (or being more of a part) of the congregation’s collective work for the Lord, then let one of the elders know of your desire! Do not be afraid to challenge yourself and try things that you have not done before. The church is involved in evangelism (Acts 1:8), edification (Eph. 4:16; 1 Thes. 5:11) and benevolence (Gal. 6:10), and there is plenty of work for all to do!

**Assemble together for Bible study and for worship.** The New Testament church did (Acts 20:7). Each committed individual who truly loves God will want to assemble with God’s people for the purpose of worshipping Him. The elders provide the congregation with opportunities to study the Bible together. Most congregations assemble for Bible study on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Members who submit to the authority of the eldership (as God desires) will be sure to attend Bible classes as well as worship to God.

**Pray with and for the church.** The church, both locally and worldwide, needs our prayers. The Lord admonished His disci-

ples to pray for more workers (Matt. 9:38). “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thes. 5:17). The church at Rome was to “continue instant in prayer” (Rom. 12:12). The New Testament records several instances in which the first century church prayed (Acts 2:41-42; 4:24-31; 12:5, etc.).

**Commit yourself to Christ and to His Work!** If you love Him then you will keep His commandments (John 14:15). If you love Him then you will love the church for which He died (Acts 20:28). If you love the church then you will be faithful and urgent in carrying out the work of the church (Matt. 9:35-38). And if you love the church then you will be dedicated to serving in every possible capacity in the local congregation. Remember Galatians 6:9! It is important to remember that Christians represent Christ, the church of Christ and the church that meets at a specific locale. That is something worth remembering and taking with you where ever you go!

The local congregation is God’s plan for His people to accomplish the work of the church worldwide, and Christians have a specific responsibility to the local congregation. Let us not take lightly this enormous responsibility.

-robertbhatfield@gmail.com

## A FEW SIMPLE THOUGHTS ABOUT SPREADING

### THE WORD *By Preston Silcox*

If we’re concerned about lost souls and if we desire to build up the local church, there are a few necessary matters to which we must give careful attention. Consider the following:

**We must have a perception of the need.** This includes understanding that Christ obligates us to take the gospel to those around us (Mat. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,16), as well as simply observing that the local church must be perpetuated.

**We must follow the pattern of God’s Word.** While reaching the lost is essential and building up the local church is vital, we must not go beyond the limits of God’s Word to accomplish the tasks. Pragmatism says if it works, it must be right; the Bible says if it is authorized, it is right (cf. Col. 3:17).

**We must apply the principle of Acts**

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**8:1,4.** These two verses show the scattering of the saints and then the scattering of the seed. They indicate that every member was involved in the process of evangelism—not just those in leadership positions.

**We must recognize the power of the Gospel.** While some shy away from personal work believing that they are not assertive or eloquent enough, the Bible shows that the power to convert the sinner from the error of his way is in the message, not the messenger (cf. Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12).

**We must understand that persistence is essential.** Consider 1 Corinthians 15:58 in light of the subject at hand: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

So are we really concerned about lost souls and do we really care about building up the local church? Then let’s get to work!

#### TRUE SAYINGS:

- “Too often, we interpret scripture to fit what we already believe rather than adjust what we believe to scripture.”
- “If a tombstone is all that’s left to remind the world we’ve been here, it’s a grave mistake.”
- “People cannot change the truth, but the truth can change people.”
- “We cannot avoid the hardships of our earthly passage. We can, however, find comfort and solace in the promises of God and by making the most of the blessings and time God has granted us.
- “Sometimes one action, one decision, one moment can change everything for you. So it is when you choose to follow Christ.”

#### 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!

## Bible Study Opportunities

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS 10:00 AM**  
**“A Study of Luke”**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:50 AM**  
**“The Fear of the Lord”**

**SUNDAY WORSIP 6:00 PM**  
**“The Lord Is My Strength”**

**Wednesday 7:00 PM**  
**“A Study of I Kings”**

