



# TRUE LIGHT

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

June 21, 2020

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

Bible Study..... n/a  
Worship.....10:15AM  
Worship..... n/a

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

### MINISTER

Stan Dauck  
573-293-5620

### ELDERS

David Burleson  
573-820-0329  
David Carson  
573-276-5567  
Stan Dauck  
573-293-5594

### DEACONS

Wayne Reams  
Joe Watson  
Rodney Williams  
Tim Woods

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Bernie church of Christ

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

We Welcome You  
To All Of Our  
Services

## DOWN THEY GO - FAMILIES IN THE FAST LANE

Absalom attacked David and his armies. David sent his troops out to repel the attack, but with strange orders. As the lines of fierce armed men marched out the gates of Mahanaim, I can see David grab the arm and look into the eyes of each officer pleading, "Be careful for my son. Win the battle, but please be careful. He is my boy."

But soldiers are not trained to be careful. Absalom fled defeated that day, and a low-hanging limb snagged his hair. Joab ruthlessly ran him through with darts, and Absalom died on the spot. Messengers ran to David and bluntly reported, "I wish all of your enemies were as dead as Absalom." Poor David. Disaster in the fast lane. Stumbling up the stairs under the weight of his sorrow. Agony. Tears. Grief over his dead son. But even more grief over the regrets of a guilty father. "Oh, my son Absalom. If only I had died instead of you!" (2 Samuel 18:33).

*Grief over his dead son. But even more grief over the regrets of a guilty father.*

We reluctantly leave the scene for now, to backtrack and review: how did David get here? We must know so we don't wind up here ourselves.

David's sad end is likely not attributable to one sin alone but to the style of his life once he entered the fast lane.

To begin with, David was *out of sight*. He was seldom at home. Too many battles. Too many responsibilities. Too many wives. Too many children. How could intimacy flourish? Too many soldiers to keep track of, too many construction projects, too much money to count. Too many preoccupations. David was the classic absentee father.

David is anchored by his roots, but the son's roots end at the hard surface of the freeway, because Dad is out of sight. Not only was David *out of touch* by being out of sight, but he was also out of touch emotionally. Absalom, the wayward son, was allowed to live in the same town with his father for years but not allowed to see his father's face. How out of touch! Tears over this stranger-son. Pride. Insecurity. Confusion. Emotional distance.

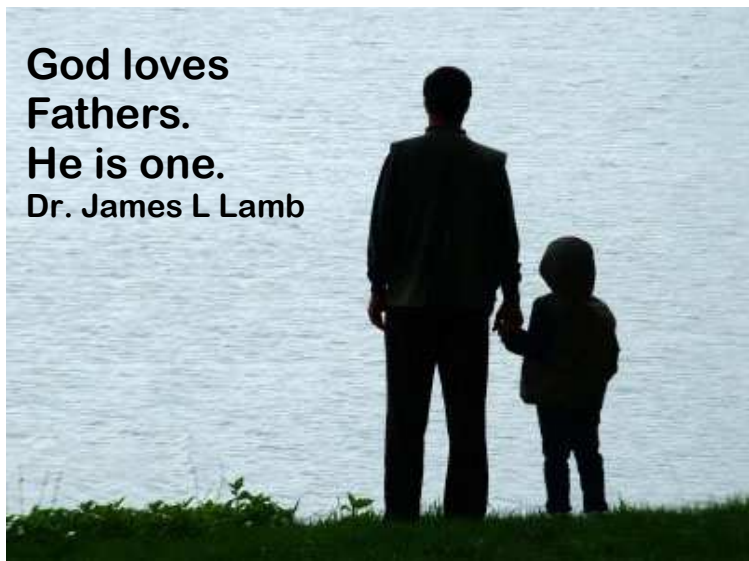
David was not only out of sight and out of touch, but also way *out of line*. Treacherous murder to cover adultery. David was big-time, heavy-duty out of line.

Kids suffer when parents are out of line. The tragic reality is that, even though kids may be angry at their parents' sins, they often imitate with a vengeance, the very patterns they have hated in their parents, whether it be workaholic, alcoholism, affairs or divorce.

Out of sight. Out of touch. Out of line. This left David completely *out of control*. When his daughter, Tamar, was raped by her brother, David was merely grieved. When Absalom's hands shed Amnon's blood, David was angry. Grieved and angry! But he did nothing! What is a father to do when paralyzed by guilt? How do you punish your sons for copying pages from your own book?

Continued on back

God loves  
Fathers.  
He is one.  
Dr. James L Lamb



## CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

### BIRTHDAYS

June 21 - Marty Howard  
June 22 - Drew Mason  
Houston Neely  
June 23 - Tansy Shelton  
June 24 - Maleah Clayton  
Sandra Moore  
June 25 - Jack McGowan  
Gloria Moore  
June 28 - David Burleson  
Landon Woods

## CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Cold Cereal \* Rubber Gloves \* All  
Fabric Bleach \* Aluminum Foil \*  
Non-aerosol Bathroom Cleaner \*  
Bottled Apple Juice

**PICK UP DATE JULY 6**

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June 24 - Josh and Jessica Young  
June 26 - David and Jane Terrill  
June 27 - Jason and Celia McGowan  
June 28 - Jack and Helen McGowan

**Attendance for June 14: 91**  
**Contribution for June 14: \$4755**

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36*

**Remember:** Jackson Howard has a broken growth plate in his elbow but should not need surgery \* Katie Skelton (Pam Claeys' granddaughter) is in need of prayers for addiction issues \* Sonja Mays has been moved to Winchester Place for rehab \* Janet Wood will be having knee replacement surgery next month \* David Burleson's PSA test showed a small increase \* Kevin Steed, deacon at Thayer church of Christ, has metastatic cancer that is inoperable. He is in his 50s \* Johnny Dauck, Stan's brother, will see his doctor July 2 \* Sue Jester (Amy Thomason's mother) scheduled for extensive knee surgery July 7 \* Sharlette Watson \* Helen McGowan as she continues with dialysis treatment

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** Louella Akers \* John David Barnett \* David Burleson \* Pam Claeys \* Billie Cooper \* Scott and Judy Flannery \* Sue Flowers \* Grant Howard \* Morris Karnes \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Kevin Mickey \* Reba Owens \* Ida Roberts \* Gayle Rodgers \* Waynetta Rodgers \* Elwood Rush \* Jane Smith \* David Terrill \* Bettie Thurston \* Joy Watson \* Marty Watson \*

### Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Kristi Altman \* Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Bill Fitzpatrick \* Kim Goins \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jeralds \* Andy Kelley \* Connie Lemmons \* Annette Lumsden \* Phil McKuin \* Ponna Mahan \* Paula Mason \* Betty Nicholson \* Donnie Rawlings \* Deanna Rogers \* Tammy Telker \* Bobby Thornton \* Paula Walls

### Other health issues (non-congregational):

Megan Brenna \* DeeDee Burch \* Mary Burke \* Clyde Jacques \* Lola Johnson \* Beckie King \* Nikki Lawrence \* Sonja Mays \* Alvin Miller \* Tom Provance \* Gene Rowland \* Traci Suiter \* Paige Tanner \*

### Our Shut Ins

Lois McKuin \* Marty Watson \* Joy Watson \* Elwood Rush \* Sue Flowers \* Travis Cooper \* Shirley Johnson \* Fern Botsch

Our Summer Series speaker  
this week will be Brent Newton.  
There is a schedule of speakers  
on the table in the foyer.



HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY

If you are a father, please pick up a cookie  
made in your honor, located on the table in the  
foyer.

### Continued from front:

Although David was out of control, he was not out of time. True, some of David's sons were dead, but he still had time to zero in on Solomon. David was not beyond the circle of God's love. Solomon at this time was not a junior high preteen. He was a man with a family and in line for the throne. Even so, David had not taken his hands off Solomon's heart - nor had God taken His hands off David.

David charged Solomon: "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts" (1 Chronicles 28:9-10). By this time, though, deep grief had taught him high values. With Solomon, David put some roots straight down through the hard surface of the fast lane.

About the time I hit my mid-forties, our children began to marry and leave us. I dreaded the rapidly approaching day when Chris, our youngest son, would leave home. Everything important to me was slipping into the past. The future seemed to have vaporized. Then our grandchildren came along. Hallelujah! Suddenly, everything important in life shifted to the future.

I am more eager than ever to teach the ways of God to my sons and daughters and their children. Or to our grandkids. Or someone else's. Carolyn and I grandparent dozens of kids besides our own. We leaned this from David.

*An old man, traveling a lone highway,  
Came at evening cold and gray  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide  
That barred his way at eventide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
That turbid stream held no fear for him.  
But he turned, when safe on the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.  
"Good friend," said a fellow traveler-near,  
"You're wasting your time in building here.  
You never again will pass this way;  
Your journey is over at close of day.  
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide.  
Why build this bridge at eventide?"  
The traveler lifted his old, gray head.  
"Good friend, on the way I've come," he said,  
"There follows on my path today  
A youth, who, too, must pass this way.  
This stream, which was but naught to me,  
To that fair-haired lad may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim.  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."  
Will Allen Dromcoole*

Things may not have gone well in your family. Possibly you have been out of sight, out of touch, out of control; but you are not out of time. Maybe it is not too late.

Step away from the computer and go make some phone calls. Circle around you what family you can. Sit down and say, "I know now that in many ways I have failed you. But could our family have a new start? We can still change the way we live. Let's be a family: father, mother, children and grandchildren for the future generations.

Lynn Anderson, [www.heartlight.com](http://www.heartlight.com)