



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**July 5, 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**

## INDEPENDENCE DAY - HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FEEL ABOUT ALL OF THIS?

July 4. Independence Day. Freedom. Happy Birthday America!

Fireworks, Suntan lotion. Picnics. Family togetherness. Cookouts. Fun.

Confusing court rulings. Moral decay and unabashed decadence. Rising rejection and scandalization of biblical faith in the media and press. Greater intervention and eavesdropping on our private lives by the government which has increasingly shown it cannot be trusted to tell the truth or play fair with our private information and their political clout.

Among all the ambiguity and ambivalence, which is it?

How are we supposed to feel on a day like today?

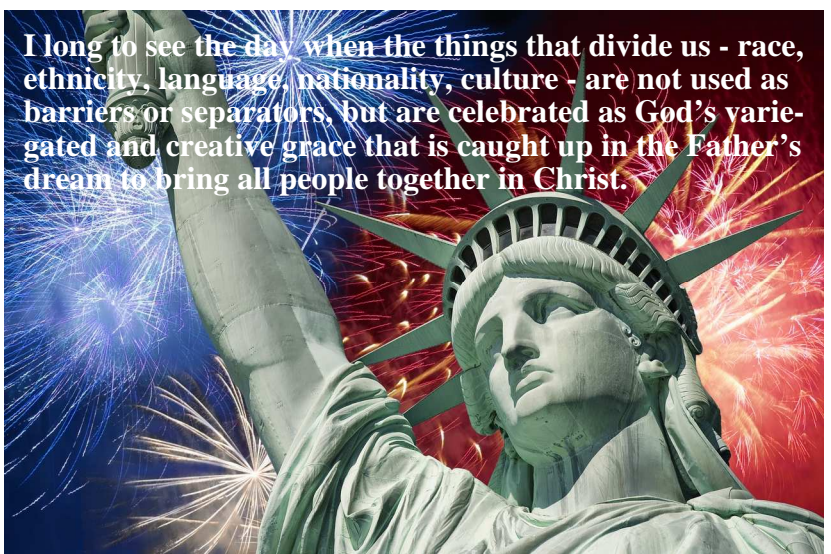
What version of America are we supposed to love as followers of Jesus?

I'm not sure what July 4 means to you, but for me, it means the following:

First, I am thankful for being born where I was born and given the blessing of growing up knowing English and having all the advantages of being a citizen of the United States of America. I am deeply grateful for all who sacrificed to give us the freedoms we hold dear and often take for granted. I honor the families who have paid the "ultimate sacrifice." I honor those who carry in their minds and bodies the awful reminders of the cost of these freedoms. I came of age when a lot of young men and a few young women came home in boxes and I have a number of friends who deal with the ongoing problems associated with Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. For the prosperity, advantages, and blessings I enjoy today, I thank those who have sacrificed greatly. I commit to use these advantages of my earthly citizenship and my religious freedoms to grow the Kingdom of God and share God's blessings with others who do not have them.

Second, I recognize that any form of government or system of humankind is flawed and subject to manipulation, coercion, and outright evil. Revelation, the last book of our Bible, reminds us that any system - religious, familial, or political - that is governed by flawed human beings can and ultimately will be corrupted. Until the promised great re-creation, our universe will continue to groan, longing for its liberation when we are fully adopted into God's promised Kingdom, the new heavens and new earth that will bless us with perfection, untainted by the Fall, and filled with the glory of God's presence.

Third, for our world to find peace, the peoples of our world must know Jesus and be conformed to his character and compassion. Jesus' last words - Jesus' commission to share his story, his way of life in God's Kingdom, family and his baptism with the world - are my marching orders. To this task and privilege I pledge my heart, soul, mind, and strength to honor God and love my neighbor into God's Kingdom. I long to see the day when the things that divide us - race, ethnicity, language, nationality, culture - are not used as barriers or separators, but are celebrated



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## CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

### BIRTHDAYS

July 5 - Sam Garner  
Vickie McClard  
July 7 - Sylvia Mayberry  
July 9 - Louella Akers  
Chloe Collier  
July 12 - Josh Young  
July 13 - Jerry Collier  
July 14 - Meg Simmons  
July 15 - Jason McGowan  
July 17 - Kevin Mays

### CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

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

**PICK UP DATE TOMORROW!**

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 7 - Jason and Casey Karnes  
July 16 - Rick and Ginger Beard

Attendance for June 28: 93  
Contribution for June 28: \$3938

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

**Remember:** \* **Sharlette Watson** will have a biopsy Thursday for two spots on her pelvic bone, with follow up July 14. Her MRI showed no spread to the lungs or liver \* **Kathy Caudle** was diagnosed with severe degenerative arthritis in both hips, and a non-removable cyst on the right hip. She will begin therapy Monday for four weeks to see if it helps before exploring other options \* **Jackson Howard** had surgery on his elbow Tuesday in St. Louis and is doing well \* **Joy Greer's** test results came out good. The doctors changed some of her medication \* **Janet Wood** will be having knee replacement surgery this month \* **Sue Jester** (Amy Thomason's mother) scheduled for extensive knee surgery Tuesday \* **Wes and Linda Morgan**, both diagnosed with COVID 19. Wes is recuperating at home; as of Friday, Linda was in the hospital at Piggott \* **Leon Smith** will have knee replacement surgery July 15 \* **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 \* Jackson Howard \* Morris Karnes Sonja Mays \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Kevin Mickey \* Reba Owens \* Ida Roberts \* Gayle Rodgers \* Waynetta Rodgers \* Elwood Rush \* Jane Smith \* Kevin Steed \* 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 \* 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 \* 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 Keith Parker. There is a schedule of speakers on the table in the foyer.*

Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you: **Jesus Christ and the American soldier.** One died for your soul and the other died for your freedom.

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as God's variegated and creative grace that is caught up in the Father's dream to bring all people together in Christ.

Fourth, I pledge my allegiance to the only Kingdom that cannot be shaken and on which I take my stand as life's only solid ground: the Kingdom of God. I commit to be more than a good citizen, I pledge to be salt and light no matter what the political climate may be or what freedoms I may have been given or have had limited. I will honor those to whom honor is due. Most of all, I pledge to honor Jesus as Lord above all other leaders, rulers, or governments.

Today, I celebrate with family. Today, I give thanks for sacrifice. Today, I enjoy the freedoms that are mine by grace. Today, I pledge myself again to the work of our world's only hope, the reign of Jesus in the hearts of men and women who have seen God's love in Jesus' sacrifice and have given themselves to seeing his will being lived out on earth just as it is in heaven.

To a people proud of their city and nationality and pride at being a recognized Roman colony, Paul said it well two thousand years ago:

*Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.* (Philippians 3:20-21 NLT).

Until the dawning of this new day, I pledge to be God's person in my time, I my country, in my family, for God's glory and for the world's opportunity to know Jesus as Lord.

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

### *In Sympathy:*

*Sympathy is extended to the family of Shirley McGowan, who passed away June 28. Her funeral was Wednesday in Bernie.*

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*Sympathy is extended to Irish Baldwin in the loss of her good friend, Melanie Meadows, who recently passed away following a stroke.*

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*Sympathy is extended to Jonathan Simmons in the passing of his grandmother, Maxine Simmons, June 19. Maxine's funeral was held June 25 in Dexter.*

*And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away (Revelation 21:4).*