



TRUE LIGHT

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

December 27, 2020

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship:

8:45 a.m. (masked)

10:30 a.m. (masks optional)

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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"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**

NEW YEAR, NEW OPTIONS

I like the notion of "Fresh Starts" and "Second Chances." How about you? Did your fall semester in college or graduate school end on a low note? The spring semester that starts next month is a fresh start for you.

Was last year a tough one at work? Did you lose a job? Have to move your family from a place everybody really liked to a new location? One way to cope is to think of what you can gain rather than what you've lost. Focus on what to learn from the experiences to help you move forward. Make some new friends.

Is an important relationship in trouble? Did someone you love die? Are you worried about the bad-attitude friends your child has made? Maybe you need to look at these things through fresh eyes and with hope.

A sense of brokenness is often the mandatory first step to renewal and healing. So it isn't a bad thing to lament our losses. But, it is a bad thing to spend the rest of your life looking over a shoulder to the past instead of lifting your eyes to the future. It can be fatal to the human spirit.

As you might expect in light of all this, I see the turning of the calendar to a new year as a big deal. Doesn't the idea of a clean slate appeal to you, too? Doesn't the chance to start over sound great? But I'm not necessarily suggesting that you make a long list of New Year's Resolutions. In fact, I would advise against it.

Long lists are intimidating and frustrating. Most resolutions are too vague - reduce stress, save more money, be more helpful at home. And the notion of pledging to do something for 365 days is tough on people who are honest about just how often failure visits them. Perhaps there is a better way.

Remember the advice Jesus gave about just taking care of today and not biting off tomorrow's troubles? *Each day has challenges enough of its own!* He said (Matthew 6:34). Think about it, and you will realize that your own experience confirms it.

In the context of that statement, Jesus gave this counsel: *Strive above all else for the reign of God in your life, and the things that have been worrying you will resolve!* (Matthew 6:33 MSG). God's reign requires conscious surrender. Not of the entire year but of today's trouble, this stress, or a particular loss. Not of the other person but of my attitude toward her. Not of yesterday's failure so much as today's opportunity.

New Year 2021 is God's mercy to you. With his presence a reality and in one-day-at-a-time surrender to him, creative new things will come out of the waste-and-void chaos of the past. And life will become fresh every morning.

Rubel Shelly, *Leading in Hope*

2021
Happy New Year

Life can become fresh every morning!

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

December 28 - Kylie Allen
December 31 - David Howard
January 2 - David Carson
January 3 - Korey Adams



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 30 - Tim and Michal Woods
December 31 - Sonny and Pat Ingle

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Dry Spaghetti * Chili Mixes *
Large Freezer Bags * Microwave
Popcorn * Kidney Beans * Ranch style
beans

Pick Up Date February 1

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal * Crackers * Canned Spaghetti
Sauce * Rice * Dried Beans
Monetary gifts also appreciated

HOW TO CARVE A DUCK

My wife, Carolyn, and I met Phipps Festus Bourne in 1995 in his shop in Mabry Hill, Virginia. Bourne, who died in 2002, was a master wood carver whose carvings are almost exact replicas of real objects. "Carving a duck is simple," he said. "You just look at a piece of wood, get in your head what a duck looks like, and then cut off everything that doesn't look like it."

So it is with God. He looks at you and me - blocks of rough wood - envisions the Christlike woman or man hiding beneath the bark, knots, and twigs and then begins to carve away everything that does not fit that image. We would be amazed if we could see how beautiful we are as finished "ducks."

But first we must accept that we are a block of wood and allow the Artist to cut, shape, and sand us where He will. This means viewing our circumstances - pleasant or unpleasant - as God's tools that shape us. He forms us, one part at a time, into the beautiful creature He envisioned in our ungainly lump of wood.

Sometimes the process is wonderful; sometimes it is painful. But in the end, all of God's tools conform us *to the image of his Son* (Romans 8:29).

Do you long for that likeness? Put yourself in the Master Carver's hands.

David Roper

A BUBBLE BREAK

A young boy showered my husband, Carl, and me with bubbles as he came running by us on the Atlantic City boardwalk. It was a light and fun moment on a difficult day. We had come to the city to visit our brother-in-law in the hospital and to help Carl's sister who was struggling and having trouble getting to her doctor's appointments. So as we took a break and walked along the seaside boardwalk we were feeling a bit overwhelmed by the needs of our family.

Then came the bubbles. Just bubbles blown at us whimsically by a little boy in the ocean breeze - but they had a special significance to me. I love bubbles and keep a bottle in my office to use whenever I need the smile of a bubble break. Those bubbles and that vast Atlantic Ocean reminded me of what I can count on: God is always close. He is powerful. He always cares. And He can use even the smallest experiences, and briefest moments, to help us remember that His presence is like an ocean of grace in the middle of our heavy moments.

Maybe one day our troubles will seem like bubbles - momentary in light of eternity for *what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal* (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Ann Cetas

Attendance for December 20: 104
Contribution for December 20: \$4240

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: Pam Collier had gall bladder surgery Tuesday and is doing well * **Judy Duley** has been sick and waiting on results of a COVID test * **Morris Karnes** as he begins his treatments * **Pam Claeys** as she prepares for her cancer treatments * **Gayle Rodgers** hasn't been feeling well * 15-year-old Bernie teen, **Kagean Owens**, who has been diagnosed with leukemia

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Grant Howard * Don Jackson * Morris Karnes * Ronnie Mays * Sonja Mays * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Joy Watson * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Kim Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Angie Smith * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Jerry Don McGowan * Gene Rowland * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead

Our Shut Ins

Fern Botsch * Pam Claeys * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Shirley Johnson * Elwood Rush * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Joy Watson

New Addresses:

Pat Cooper
1316 Sara Lane
Dexter, MO 63841

Jerel and Sue Jester
15261 Edgewood
Dexter, MO 63841
Phone: 219-696-1526

The Arnold church of Christ will be having a creation seminar January 15-17. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery. Masks are required to attend.

