



TRUE LIGHT

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

March 14, 2021

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship:
8:45 a.m. (masked)
Sunday School 9:50 a.m.
10:30 a.m. (masks optional)

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
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DEACONS

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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**

TO THE GIRL ON THE ELEVATOR

I saw her from a distance carrying what appeared to be a clear plastic bag. She stepped inside the elevator just a few steps ahead of me. I looked more closely at the garbage bag and saw that she had partially filled it with clothes.

Then I looked at her face. Her eyes were red, and she was fighting tears. She lifted a shaking hand and punched a 3. I reached out and touched the 6, and the elevator door closed.

She was thin and pale and not very old. If I had to guess, I'd say somewhere in her 20's. There were just two of us on the elevator, but she didn't make eye contact. She leaned heavily against the wall and looked down at the floor. Her whole demeanor said, "Don't talk to me." The second the elevator doors opened, she practically ran out, and when she turned right, well, I knew where she was going.

You see, the 3rd floor to the right is ICU. That's where we - my husband Bill had COVID-19 - were when we arrived back in January.

Now, I'm sitting next to Bill (who is sound asleep and improving) in a dark hospital room on the 6th floor, and I can't stop thinking about the girl on the elevator. If I could talk to her, I would say, "You aren't alone! I know you feel like you are, but there is a God in heaven watching

That's another bad thing about COVID. It has stolen our hugs and replaced them with fist bumps, which...fall far short of conveying the emotion that comes from having someone's arms wrapped around you.

over you. I hope you know Him. Seek comfort from Him. Lean on Him. Pray to Him. **Trust Him.** There is no one you will ever need in your life as much as you need God."

DON'T.YOU.GIVE.UP!

I don't care what the doctors, nurses, well-meaning friends and neighbors say. If they tell you there is no hope, they are wrong. Only God knows what lies ahead. He may say, "No." He may say, "Not yet." But He may say, "Yes." Keep hoping and praying, even when you are so tired and discouraged that you want to give up.

DON'T.YOU.GIVE.UP!

And, ask everyone you know to pray. The Bible says the prayers of a righteous man *"availeth much"* (James 5:16 KJV). Find your prayer warriors and let them lift you and your loved one up to God. You will feel their prayers, and it will comfort you in a way you have never felt before. Lean on friends and neighbors. The world is full of good people who want to help. Let them. When you are in the midst of a crisis, it's okay to say, "I need help."

Cry. Cry buckets full if you want to. Cry on the elevator with a strange old lady who can see your heart is breaking. Tears are a universal language. People hurt. People cry. We don't hide smiles when we are happy. Don't hide your tears because you are sad.

Take one day at a time. My grandma would say, "Don't borrow trouble." I know the "what if's" are scary but don't let them overwhelm you. When it's really, really hard, take it hour-by-hour or minute-by-minute.

I wish... I wish I could have hugged the girl on the elevator. She sure looked like she could use a hug. That's another bad thing about COVID. It has stolen our hugs and replaced them with fist bumps - which, in my opinion, fall far short of conveying the emotion that comes from having someone's arms wrapped around you.

I will be praying for the girl on the elevator ... even a pandemic can't stop our prayers. In fact, it probably increases their frequency and their power. I know I've spent more time in prayer and thinking about the verse, *"Be still and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10).

Won't you say a prayer for her, too? And for all those like her who are scared and fighting tears. They need you, and so do I.

Teresa Kindred, www.heartlight.com

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

March 14 - David Billingsley
Kim Flowers
Ted Mason
March 15 - Marc Forman
Beckie Tanner
March 17 - Brian Thomason



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Cleaning Supplies (non-aerosol) * Furniture Polish * Grape Juice (bottled) * Small Freezer Bags * Spaghetti Sauce * Taco/Burrito Mixes
PICK-UP DATE APRIL 26

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

March 17 - Daniel & Sandra Moore
March 19 - Morris & Beverly Karnes

Attendance for March 7: 106
Contribution for March 7: \$4378

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: * **Pauline and Sonny Allen** remain at Cypress Point, room 24, and would appreciate cards and notes of encouragement * **Mike Duley** has been diagnosed with bursitis in his hip and arthritis in his shoulder. He is also having some issues with his back * **Don Jackson** continues to have trouble with his knee, and will be meeting with his doctors to discuss options * **Jerry Don McGowan** has been moved to Winchester Place * Keagan Owens, Bernie teen diagnosed with leukemia, hasn't been doing well

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Pam Claeys * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Grant Howard * Don Jackson * Morris Karnes * 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 * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cra-vens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers * Kim Goins * Ronnie Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Annette Lumsden * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Charles Powell * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Diana Gavel * Jerry Grimes * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Jerry Don McGowan * Paul Maddox * Brenda Robinson * Gene Rowland * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead * Eva Latham

Our Shut Ins

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

Easter Potluck

An Easter potluck dinner is planned for Sunday, April 4, following morning services. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you would like to attend.

NAMES IN THE BIBLE WORD SCRAMBLE 2

- 1. ISTTU _____
- 2. EOSSM _____
- 3. AGRHA _____
- 4. LBAOROMEHWT _____
- 5. JELIAH _____
- 6. IKEELZE _____
- 7. EINALD _____
- 8. EIHNAEHM _____
- 9. HATMEWT _____
- 10. REPET _____

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to Sonja and the Mays family in the death of our brother Ronnie Mays, who passed away March 8. His funeral was held Thursday in Bernie.

OUT OF OUR POVERTY

Warren Buffett and Bill and Melinda Gates made history when they launched the Giving Pledge, promising to donate half of their money. As of 2018, this meant giving away 92 billion dollars. The pledge made psychologist Paul Piff curious to study giving patterns. Through a research test, he discovered that the poor were inclined to give 44 percent more of what they had than wealthy people. Those who've felt their own poverty are often moved to greater generosity.

Jesus knew this. Visiting the temple, He watched the crowds drop gifts into the treasury (Mark 12:41). The rich tossed in wads of cash, but a poor widow pulled out her last two copper coins, worth maybe a penny, and placed them into the basket. I picture Jesus standing up, delighted and astounded. Immediately He gathered His disciples, making sure they didn't miss this dazzling act. *"This poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others,"* Jesus exclaimed (v 43). The disciples looked at each other, bewildered, hoping someone could explain what Jesus was talking about. So, He made it plain: those bringing huge gifts *"gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything"* (v 44).

We may have little to give, but Jesus invites us to give out of our poverty. Though it may seem meager to others, we give what we have, and God finds great joy in our lavish gifts. Winn Collier

EVERY BREATH

When Tee Unn came down with a rare autoimmune disease that weakened all his muscles and nearly killed him, he realized that being able to breathe was a gift. For more than a week, a machine had to pump air into his lungs every few seconds, which was a painful part of his treatment.

Ten Unn made a miraculous recovery, and today he reminds himself not to complain about life's challenges. "I'll just take a deep breath," he says, "and thank God I can."

How easy it is to focus on things we need or want, and forget that sometimes the smallest things in life can be the greatest miracles. In Ezekiel's vision (Ez. 37:1-14), God showed the prophet that only He could give life to dry bones. Even after tendons, flesh, and skin had appeared, *"there was no breath in them"* (v 8). It was only when God gave them breath that they could live again (v 10).

This vision illustrated God's promise to restore Israel from devastation. It also reminds me that anything I have, big or small, is useless unless God gives me breath.

How about thanking God for the simplest blessings in life today? Amid the daily struggle, let's stop occasionally to take a deep breath, and *"let everything that has breath praise the LORD"* (Psalm 150:6). Leslie Koh

March, when days are getting long, Let thy growing hours be strong, To set right some win-try wrong. Caroline May
