



TRUE LIGHT

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

April 11, 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

David Carson

573-276-5567

Stan Dauck

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DEACONS

Wayne Reams

Joe Watson

Rodney Williams

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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**

WHEN EASTER (AND LIFE) FEELS MESSY

This morning she was flipping through her art book and she paused at a brilliant page. She thoughtfully examined her creation.

Her art captivates me. It's always so vibrant and free. Arms are outstretched. Carefree stick figures usually wearing long dresses for dancing, feet clad in clompy high heels, and ears dangling with dramatic earrings. The colors, the movement, the air that swirls around her happy people - they all tell the story of who we were created to be.

"You know what this is?" she asked. "No, tell me," I said. "It's the cross. With a crown on the top for Jesus... they killed Him 'cause they thought He did something bad. But He didn't!"

It's all around us. The story of creation, the fall of man, the devastating consequences of sin, and separation from our Maker. And then right across the page, the Light shines into darkness and brings hope, life and joy. + -- Color splashes across the darkness, feet are released from chains, and now swirl in intoxicating joy.

We didn't get a family Easter photo. We didn't even serve up a special meal around the dining table. In fact, I showed up to church a few minutes late, feeling rushed and ruffled. I was exhausted after a morning milking out an infected quarter on the cow and coaching a child through cleaning up shards of glass all over the kitchen counter. I had fried six pounds of sausage for our church fellowship meal while I directed five little people to get dressed, get hair done, and haul all their necessary belongings to the car. I glanced at day-old coffee in the Chemex and decided I didn't have time to microwave a mug. My perfume was lost under the smell of sausage.

As we pulled into the church parking lot, I glanced in my rearview mirror. I noticed my little girlie's hair was still wild and undone. The rest dashed inside while I stood there and quickly twisted her hair back, and then joined my brood next to their daddy on the pew - he had to be there for early worship.

Jesus didn't come to add perfection to an already put-together life. He came to meet our desperate need. He came to be the physician for our incurable sickness.

Life is just messy sometimes.

I glanced at the beautiful people sitting all around me, all put together and peaceful. I gulped against the chaos of my morning. Worship swirled and lulled me as I struggled to disconnect from the glass shards, sausage grease, and straining fresh milk.

Life is so messy, yet somehow coming into the presence of the Lord isn't in denial of that. He is not fazed by our dirty fingernails or our fly-away hair.

Jesus burst from his grave, bringing hope to the messiest of us. The first one He met was Mary, whose story swept the gutters of filth and hopelessness. He chose to meet her first, to meet her in her tear-smearred devastation. And when she couldn't get through her grief, he called her name.

"Mary." And then her blurred world focused. "My Lord," she whispered.

Maybe your Easter was picture perfect and everything you hoped it would be. Or, maybe you found yourself too far away to see or hear anything clearly. Maybe you felt like short little Zacchaeus, who couldn't see above the crowd and needed to climb a scrubby tree to even get a glimpse of the Savior. Sometimes, even on the most monumental days, you find yourself lost on the backside of a crowd.

Jesus' resurrection power came to all of us. He is there as your toddler falls apart. He is there as you catch a glimpse of yourself in the mirror and freeze. He is there. Jesus didn't come to add perfection to an already put-together life. He came to meet our desperate need. He came to be the physician for our incurable sickness.

The dark lines in the drawing point our eyes to the light. The very hopelessness of our lives before redemption makes the dance floor that much more stunning. Listen. The risen Lord is calling your name. Let your eyes focus. He is risen, even for the messiest of us.

Melissa Troyer, www.heartlight.org

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

April 11 - Levi Thompson
 April 12 - Maura Thomason
 April 13 - Casey Karnes
 April 15 - Traci McQuin
 April 17 - Bailey Mays
 Jon Neely



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

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Currently operating on an individual basis. Funds to help support this program are always needed and appreciated

Attendance for April 4: 144
Contribution for April 4: \$5830

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Remember: * Don Jackson was scheduled to return home this weekend * Paula Mason (Millie's sister) was scheduled for an MRI on her brain Thursday * Sonja Mays was recently hospitalized but is back at Winchester Place * Roxanne Carson got good results from recent scans

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 Cravens * 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 * Keagan Owens * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

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

Our Shut Ins

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

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to David Carson in the loss of his uncle, Jerry Owens, who passed away April 7 at his home in Bernie.

Attention 2021 seniors/parents: It's time to start compiling pictures for our senior appreciation night, tentatively scheduled for May 21. Please submit 30 to 50 photos via hard copy or flash drive/email to the church at your earliest convenience. Thank you!



A note of thanks:

Thank you so much for the pack n play with matching sheets. Baby Compton is so lucky to have an amazing church family in Missouri that loves him and his parents so well. We can't wait to bring him to visit.
 Love, Hannah and Riley Compton

BIBLE TRIVIA:

In what book of the Bible do we find mention of "wimples and the crisping pins"?

What is the name of the Bible character who had 30 sons who rode on 30 donkeys and controlled 30 cities?

(answer in next week's bulletin)

LOVE REINS US IN

Most young Samoan boys receive a tattoo signaling their responsibility to their people and their chief. Naturally, then, the marks cover the arms of the Samoan men's rugby team members. Traveling to Japan where tattoos can carry negative connotations, the teammates realized their symbols presented a problem for their hosts. In a generous act of friendship, the Samoans wore skin-colored sleeves covering the designs. "We're respectful and mindful to ... the Japanese way," the team captain explained. "We'll be making sure that what we're showing will be okay."

In an age emphasizing individual expression, it's remarkable to encounter self-limitation - a concept Paul wrote about in the book of Romans. He told us that love sometimes requires us to lay down our rights for others. Rather than pushing our freedom to the boundaries, sometimes love reins us in. The apostle explained how some people in the church believed they were free "to eat anything," but others ate "only vegetables" (Romans 14:2). While this might seem like a minor issue, in the first century, adherence to Old Testament dietary laws was controversial. Paul instructed everyone to "stop passing judgment on one another" (v 13), before concluding with particular words for those who ate freely. "It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall" (v 21).

At times, loving another means limiting our own freedoms. We don't have to always do everything we're free to do. Sometimes love reins us in. Winn Collier

IMPERFECT PLANS

I was exploring a library on the bottom floor of a new community center when an overhead crash suddenly shook the room. A few minutes later it happened again, and then again. An agitated librarian finally explained that a weight-lifting area was positioned directly above the library, and the noise occurred every time someone dropped a weight. Architects and designers had carefully planned many aspects of this state-of-the-art facility, yet someone had forgotten to locate the library away from all the action.

In life as well, our plans are often flawed. We overlook important considerations. Our plans don't always account for accidents or surprises. Although planning helps us avoid financial shortfalls, time crunches, and health issues, even the most thorough strategies can't eliminate all problems from our lives. We live in a post-Eden world.

With God's help, we can find the balance between prudently considering the future (Proverbs 6:6-8) and responding to difficulties. God often has a purpose for the trouble He allows into our lives. He may use it to develop patience in us, to increase our faith, or simply to bring us closer to Him. The Bible reminds us, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails" (Proverbs 19:21). As we submit our goals and hopes for the future to Jesus, He'll show us what He wants to accomplish in us and through us. Jennifer Benson Schuldt