



# TRUE LIGHT

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

April 25, 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  
573-293-5594

### DEACONS

Wayne Reams  
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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

## SIMPLE, COMPLEX, AND AWESOME

Do you ever feel God tapping you on your shoulder? Not literally on my shoulder, but lately, he seems to be trying to get my attention on a subject. In consecutive days, I started the book *Love Does*, by Bob Goff. On that same day, I heard an amazing sermon on the subject of love. I was re-reading all my marriage seminar material on Jesus' teaching on love.

The word "love" seems like such a subtle little four-letter message, but wow, the study of "love" is both deep and wide! There are different kinds of love, levels of love, and meanings of this profound and powerful little word. But, "love" is not a word that should be rolled out only at weddings, anniversaries, and marriage seminars. It needs to be put on and worn continually, like our wedding rings. We also need to grow in our understanding of what love means.

Jesus' love commands are the starting point in the pre-marriage seminar that I present (Matthew 22:334-40). Jesus tells us how all-encompassing our love should be for God - ...*with all your heart* (the emotional side of us), *with all of our soul* (the spiritual depth of our being), *and with all your mind* (with our thought and intellect). But, of course, Jesus goes on to say that we are to *love your neighbor as yourself*. The wise Mr. Rogers once defined the word "neighbor" as the people we meet each day. That is a lot of love we need to spread around to other folks.

At the same time, as if a huge contrast to all of that on love, as daily gruesome events unfolded, I couldn't help thinking, "Okay, how do I find all this love I'm supposed to give when the world is so devoid of it?"

We find it hard to exercise love when people cut us off in traffic, are rude at work, or ugly behind our backs. Even trying to be a loving person, I find myself failing my wife in the way I respond to her. Wow, loving my neighbor - and even the people that matter most dearly - can be a challenge. Living a life of love is a tough pursuit in our world that seems devoid of God's love.

I believe that we must go back and review how God loves us. Our Father's love is incredible and our ultimate example of what love should be. Bob Goff, in his book *Love Does*, says that love is an action word, a verb. God loves and pursues us. Love does not stop at thoughts and feelings. There are multi-levels of meaning to the word "love," but genuine love is demonstrated - **love does** something to show itself!

God doesn't just say he loves; he does something to show that love. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him* (John 3:16-17 - underlining added for emphasis).

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth* (1 John 3:16-18 - underlining added for emphasis).

*This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins* (1 John 4:9-10 - underlining added for emphasis).

How did God pursue us? The apostle Paul said it this way: *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us* (Romans 5:6-8).

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**CELEBRATING THIS WEEK**

**BIRTHDAYS**

April 25 - Jonathan Simmons  
 April 27 - Amelia Garner  
 April 29 - Scott Flannery  
 April 30 - Steve Burch  
 May 2 - Celia McGowan  
 Annabelle Shelton



**CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS**

Cleaning Supplies (non-aerosol) \* Furniture Polish \* Grape Juice (bottled) \* Small Freezer Bags \* Spaghetti Sauce \* Taco/Burrito Mixes

**PICK-UP DATE TOMORROW**

**FOOD PANTRY**

We are currently operating on an individual, "as needed" basis. Monetary contributions are very much appreciated.

**Attendance for April 18: 106**  
**Contribution for April 18: \$3952**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

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

**Remember:** Mike Duley had foot surgery in St. Louis Wednesday and will be returning for a follow up in about a week. More surgery is likely\* Judy Flannery has been having issues with UTI and kidney stones. She will be having a procedure May 3.

**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 \* Luke Ethan Mason \* 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

**Attention 2021 seniors/parents: It's time to start compiling pictures for our senior appreciation day, scheduled for May 23. Please submit 30 to 50 photos via hard copy or flash drive/email to the church by May 14. Thank you!**

**Word Search List:**

Genesis \* Exodus \* Leviticus \* Numbers \* Deuteronomy \* Joshua \* Judges \* Ruth \* First Samuel \* Second Samuel \* First Kings \* Second Kings

Books of the Bible Crossword #1												
H	J	D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y
G	K	G	E	W	A	S	D	F	H	U	I	O
U	M	J	U	K	M	B	V	F	D	E	S	P
H	J	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	I	F	E	X
J	H	S	A	S	D	G	H	J	K	C	C	F
S	T	O	H	J	U	K	I	O	L	D	O	X
G	R	O	S	E	C	O	N	D	K	I	N	G
N	D	H	H	U	D	F	G	H	G	Y	D	E
I	S	F	N	O	C	F	G	J	B	H	S	N
K	E	V	M	P	H	I	H	O	N	G	A	E
T	R	B	S	E	F	G	T	I	M	F	M	S
S	T	F	E	E	R	F	G	I	K	D	U	I
R	Y	J	O	S	H	U	A	L	V	K	E	S
I	H	K	L	K	I	K	L	O	P	E	L	R
F	F	I	R	S	T	S	A	M	U	E	L	L

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God pursued us through Christ. Christ gave himself up to be sacrificed for our sins when we were powerless to do anything about it. That's some powerful, sacrificial, and awesome love.

Another way we can understand love is to pray for our love to increase. I know that asking our Father for our love for others to increase is one petition he longs to answer (Romans 5:5). We can also pray for others to grow in love. Paul prays for those he is leading to be growing in love: *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight...*(Philippians 1:9).

When was the last time you prayed for your own growth in love? Have you ever unselfishly prayed for another's growth in love?

When bad events happen in this world, I wonder to myself, "Did anyone give the perpetrator of this horrible crime an example of true love?" Our love can make a huge difference in the lives of others. Sure, some people can't be reached by our love, but so many others can have their hearts changed by someone willing to truly love them. Yes, sometimes we can love others and get hurt by them. But, if we retreat and shrink our example to our community of safe friends who already love us, then we limit our example and do not follow the way of love demonstrated by God and Jesus.

Jesus reminded his closest followers of the absolute importance of loving others: *A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another* (John 13:34-35).

First, Jesus commands us to love each other. Second, our love for each other must be demonstrated just as his love for us was demonstrated. Third, the world will know us by our example of loving each other. We are his *Light on the hill* displaying his love for us in our love for one another. Our love should be a bright example to others of Jesus' love. It should be what differentiates Christians, Jesus' disciples, from other faiths and from the darkness of our world reflected in the headlines.

People today have their personal definition for the concept of "love." Some define it as a passing human emotion. Others define it as a set of reactions to the chemicals in our bodies and our brains. Others see love as little more than a strong attraction that will soon fail. Our definition as followers of Christ should be so MUCH different. We need to study, grow, pray and exercise our love as much as we can. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminded us: *You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your line shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven* (Matthew 5:14-16).

So, let's let our "love light" shine for all to see: at home, at work, at play, in the marketplace, and on the road.