



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**August 15, 2021**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

Sunday School :

9:30 a.m.

Worship:

10:15 a.m.

6:00 p.m.

### 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

**OFFICE: 573-293-5620**  
**Bernie Church of Christ**  
**P.O. Box 366**  
**Bernie, MO 63822**

**EMAIL:**  
berniechurchofchrist  
@gmail.com

**WEBSITE:**  
www.berniechurchofchrist.com

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK:**  
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**

## MY BROTHERS?

Few commitments are more challenging to keep than genuinely forgiving someone who has wronged us deeply. Anytime I share a post, an article, or a devotional about forgiveness, people send me very personal emails about the deep wounds they have endured and their struggle to forgive those who have wounded them. These deep wounds range from forgiving the person who killed a family member during a time of genocide to forgiving an unfaithful spouse to forgiving a dishonest business partner to forgiving a trusted relative who abused them to a mother trying to forgive the person who murdered her daughter. These are deep, grievous, and lasting wounds. They are evil released into the lives of often innocent people.

So, forgiveness is a hard grace for those wronged, yet Jesus taught and demonstrated that forgiveness is necessary! Forgiveness frees both the forgiven and the forgiver!

The hard part of forgiveness is that it is a commitment. Forgiveness is not a one-time gift: it is a lifetime of generosity toward someone who has hurt us deeply. We find the courage and offer genuine forgiveness for an offense. Then, the wound often gets opened again with an anniversary, a birthday that can't be celebrated, horrible dreams at night, another installment on a loan to pay, or a host of other things, making true forgiveness a hard and open-ended commitment.

So, let's look at how Jesus forgave a group of close friends who had wronged him.

Notice what the resurrected Jesus calls his disciples when he reveals himself to Mary Magdalene and *the other Mary* (Matthew 28:1):

*Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me" (Matthew 28:10).*

Notice what the Lord calls his *eleven disciples* (Matthew 28:16) - even the number eleven is a reminder of how these closest friends of the Lord let Him down when He needed them most. Jesus calls these eleven failures, "*My brothers.*" I'm sure it wouldn't take you long to think of other names for these guys. Remember how they failed Him:

- Jesus' closest friends in the group couldn't stay awake and pray with Jesus for an hour when His soul was in deep agony
- Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver
- Peter, after saying he would die for Jesus, denied Him three times even after being warned that he would do so
- All of them forsook Jesus and deserted Him when the soldiers arrested the Lord

And don't think Jesus' resurrection immediately fixed everything in their character and weak faith. Even after Jesus rose from death, some doubted He was raised from the dead. Some still doubted even after He had shown them the scars in His hands, feet, and side, twice! They hid in a locked room even after the resurrected Jesus had revealed Himself to them and eaten fish in front of them to show that He was really alive and not a ghost.

Jesus claims this bunch of loose lug nuts, knuckleheads, and failures - or whatever term you want to call them - with the loving description, "*my brothers.*" Jesus isn't using an empty title, a flippant description, or a sarcastic put down with this phrase. "*My brothers*" speaks to Jesus' love for them and His confidence in them to fulfill the mission He is about to give them (Matthew 28: 18-20).

"*My brothers.*" Jesus told us what this title means to him earlier in His ministry:

*"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:48-50).*

When Jesus referred to *the eleven* as *my brothers*, He was speaking forgiveness and offering His empowering grace to His deeply flawed followers. This is the Lord, speaking about who *the eleven* will become when they have fully yielded their heart to Him. In doing this for His first disciples, Jesus is also doing two things for us!

First, Jesus reminds us that our lives can begin again, fresh and new (2 Cor. 5:17). Even after our failures, we can be empowered by His grace to become someone vital to the Kingdom and important to God (Titus 3:3-8). The Lord can take the faithless, the failures and the fearful and use them to change the world! We know it's true because He has already done it with *the eleven* whom He called *my brothers* when they didn't deserve it!

Second, Jesus is challenging us to forgive those who have let us down and wronged us. He wants us to enable God's work to be accomplished in those who have hurt us. Since Jesus forgave His *eleven brothers* for letting Him down so completely, how can we not forgive those who have wounded us? This is especially true when we realize how much the Lord has forgiven us - remember Jesus' parable about the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:21-35)! How can we withhold forgiveness and love from someone who is a *brother or sister for whom Christ died?* (Romans 14:15; 1 Corinthians 8:11).

**Continued on back**

## BIRTHDAYS

August 15 - Hannah Compton  
 Sonja Mays  
 Reba Owens

August 19 - DeeDee Burch

\*belated birthday wishes to  
 Jess Lacro, who celebrated  
 August 8th!



## CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Velveeta Cheese \* Disinfectant Spray  
 (i.e. Lysol) \* Light Bulbs \* Nuts \* Toilet  
 Tissue \* Spaghetti Sauce

**PICK UP DATE TOMORROW!**

## FOOD PANTRY

Currently operating on an "as needed" basis.  
 Monetary contributions always welcome.

## WILLING TO SERVE

### August 15, 2021

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Wes Howard  
 Opening Prayer.....Jess LeCroy  
 Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers  
 Prayer.....Jonathan Simmons  
 Closing Prayer.....Jerry Burleson

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
 Prayer.....Justin Allen  
 Scripture.....David Burleson  
 Dismissal.....Ron Garner

### Wednesday, August 18

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
 Prayer.....David Burleson  
 Dismissal.....Darrin Shipman

### August 22, 2021

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson  
 Opening Prayer.....Wayne Reams  
 Scripture.....Justin Allen  
 Prayer.....Sam Garner  
 Closing Prayer.....Rodney Williams

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson  
 Prayer.....Darrin Shipman  
 Scripture.....Jacob Clayton  
 Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

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### Continued from front:

The great power of God in Jesus' resurrection didn't end when Jesus' dead and lifeless body rose from the grave. No, this was just the beginning of the power of the resurrection, and few things are more powerful in the life of someone than forgiveness. When the commitment to forgive occurs, the power of the resurrection is demonstrated in everyday life. The reality of the Kingdom of God is experienced!

Jesus said: *This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

*For if you forgive others when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you (Matthew 6:9-14).*

The following questions are for your personal reflection and use in small group Bible study:

- Why is forgiveness hard for you?
- How is forgiveness liberating to the person forgiven?
- How is forgiveness liberating to the person who does the forgiving?
- Why do you believe Jesus is so adamant that His followers be forgiving people?
- The apostle Paul called us to forgive like we have been forgiven (Eph. 4:32-5:1). How are we like God when we forgive?
- How can we help each other become more forgiving?
- Why are confrontation of sin and confessional of sin so important to creating an environment of forgiveness? (Matt 5:23-24; 18:15-20; James 5:16)

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

**Attendance for August 8: 78**  
**Contribution for August 8: \$3531**

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

**Remember: Loretta Carson** at home recovering from surgery \* **David and LaRhonda Billingsley and their sons** at home with COVID \* **Donna Layton**, at home with COVID \* **Jeff and Karen Martin**, and family members, battling COVID. Jeff and his parents have been hospitalized but are improving \* **Judy Flannery's** granddaughter, **Brynlee**, recovering from colinitis \* **Jenny Mullins**, Jérel and Sue Jester's daughter and Amy Thomason's sister, diagnosed with non-invasive breast cancer

**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 \* Curtis McClard \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Kevin Mickey \* Reba Owens \* Ida Roberts \* Gayle Rodgers \* Waynetta Rodgers \* Jane Smith \* Leon Smith \* David Terrill \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson \* Sharlette Watson

### Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Chastity Beard \* Cathy Bennett \* Gina Bogle \* Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Randy Cravens \* Bill Fitzpatrick \* Jo Carolyn Flowers \* Kim Goins \* Ronnie Goins \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Mike James \* Pam Jerald \* Holly Johnson \* Connie Lemmons \* Ponna Mahan \* Paula Mason \* Betty Nicholson \* Keagan Owens \* Tammy Telker \* Bobby Thornton \* Paula Walls

### Other health issues (non-congregational):

Mark Beard \* DeeDee Burch \* Mary Burke \* Jodi Claeys \* Jerry Grimes \* TJ Hester \* Lem Hubbard \* Dana Jo Jackson \* Clyde Jacques \* Lola Johnson \* Beckie King \* Nikki Lawrence \* Jerry Don McGowan \* Paul Maddox \* Norma Pyle \* 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 \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson \* Joy Watson

### Looking Ahead

Children's Homes grocery run tomorrow! Let's get the cart filled up

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Summer Youth Series tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Dexter.

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Our Summer Series Speaker this week will be Spencer Furby

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Ladies Day September 11 at the Mountain Home church of Christ. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery

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Ladies Day September 11 at the Arnold church of Christ. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery

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Ladies Lunch Out September 14 at 11:30 at Dexter BBQ

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Crossroads Youth Rally October 23-24 at Shady Acres with keynote speaker Lonnie Jones

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Gospel Meeting October 24-28 at Bernie with guest speaker Brian McAllister.