



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**December 19, 2021**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

Sunday School :

9:30 a.m.

Worship:

10:15 a.m.

5:00 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

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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***

## OUR INTERSECTION WITH JOY

***In a world where life was hard, felt demeaned, often was stolen by hardship, God chose to bring hope with the birth of a baby, baby Jesus.***

Jesus' birth was the incarnation of God as Immanuel, Jesus the Christ and Son of God. The world was mired in a traffic jam of awful problems. The Christ was born at a time and in a place where political oppression, Jewish resentment, and unfair taxes collided. The Messiah's first bed was a place where animals fed and forgotten shepherds gathered around the unmarried woman who delivered him with the help of her promised husband. This young woman's baby, Jesus, would one day save people from their sins.

Messy, real world realities framed the events that surrounded the birth of Jesus. Those problems were the setting for the Son of God's arrival to earth. God's grace had always been at work on a grand scale to do things for all the world. And this set of circumstances became the intersection through which redemption, hope, and life arrived for a lost and hopeless world. In a world where life was hard, felt demeaned, often was stolen by hardship, God chose to bring hope with the birth of a baby, baby Jesus!

Luke emphasized Jesus was born into human time with all of its political realities. Herod was a tenant king over the Jews for Rome, and Roman power exercised dominion over God's people's affairs (Luke 1:4; 2:1-3). Simple, holy people named Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25), Joseph and Mary (Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7), and Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25-38) were all caught up in this story. So, too, were unnamed shepherds out in their fields with their flocks at night. But as real as each of these people was, they were only a part of the extraordinary story of grace. That story had begun with Adam's sin. God began to tell it with hope with his promise to Abraham. Down through the kings and prophets and the dark days of exile, that story moved toward a bright future. That future dawned with Joseph and Mary in their newborn child. Even though this child was the Son of God, they laid him in a feed trough because no one provided him a room (Luke 2:1-7; 3:23-38).

However, the circumstances of the moment could not erase the joy of the more important story! Despite the messy moment in which Jesus was born, the angels spoke about a bigger picture, God's eternal plan, and the great joy this child's coming brought to earth. Sin would be dealt a deadly blow. Political domination, religious scheming, racial hatred, social prejudices, family shame, and cultural bias may have ruled the moment, but genuine and lasting joy was born with Jesus. That joy could not be contained, re-routed, stopped, or co-opted. Jesus' birth became humanity's intersection with joy. It is our intersection with joy!

As the angel told the shepherds:

*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger (Luke 2:10-12).*

The world didn't know it yet, but from this moment on, people recalibrated time. Politics, skeptics, and critics have not been able to stop the good news of that night. Petty disagreements and deep-rooted hatred have not been able to derail the joy this news has brought through the centuries. Religious abuse, failure, and cynicism could not snuff out the light of hope born that night. Why? Because God's long story of grace intersected the mess of our world with Jesus' birth, the rest of Jesus' story is our good news of great joy. This story is also the good news that our world desperately needs today. Caught in the hard struggle with disease, famine, fires, droughts, and all sorts of violence, we need good news of great joy. And we have it, and it begins with a baby in a manger.

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

## **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

December 20 - Keri Williams  
December 22 - Rosemary McCoy  
Cameron & Reeda Traw (A)  
December 23 - Alexis Northern  
Stan & Millie Dauck (A)



## **CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS**

Chocolate Chips \* Instant Potatoes \*  
Mushrooms \* Powdered Sugar \* Snack  
Crackers \* Rotel  
Pick-up date: March 14, 2022

## **FOOD PANTRY**

Currently operating on an "as needed/  
as available" basis. Monetary donations  
are always appreciated.

## **WILLING TO SERVE**

### **December 19, 2021**

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Wes Howard  
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers  
Prayer.....Darrin Shipman  
Closing Prayer.....Rodney Williams

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Wayne Reams  
Prayer.....Ron Garner  
Scripture.....Jerry Burleson  
Dismissal.....David Carson

### **Wednesday, December 22, 2021**

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
Prayer.....Joe Watson  
Dismissal.....Sam Garner

### **December 26, 2021**

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson  
Opening Prayer.....Cameron Traw  
Scripture.....David Howard  
Prayer.....Jonathan Simmons  
Closing Prayer.....Jeff Rodgers

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Wayne Reams  
Prayer.....Justin Allen  
Scripture.....David Carson  
Dismissal.....Jacob Clayton

**Attendance for December 12: 125**  
**Contribution for December 12: \$3974**

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Remember:** **Marty Watson** recently fell and fractured his back. He remains at Southeast Hospital \* Faye Dockins' son, **Ricky**, diagnosed with skin cancer on his neck \* **David Burleson's** recent PSA scan was good \* **Sharlette Watson** will have a 3 month check-up Tuesday \* **David Carson** will see a specialist January 10 for his continuing sinus/congestion issues \* **Louella Akers'** got good news that her cancer has not progressed any \* **Woody Wood** has some upcoming tests \* **Vernon Allen** (Justin's dad) was recently hospitalized with dizziness \* **Dana Jo Jackson** recently had to have her heart shocked three times to bring her back \* **Shirley Grimes** (Ginger Beard's mom) is having some health issues \* **Linda Morgan** recovering in Columbia from major surgery Tuesday \*

**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 \* 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 \* Gunner Townsend \* Marty Watson \* Sharlette Watson \* Woody Wood

## **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 \* Patricia Greninger \* Neal Halford \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jeralds \* Holly Johnson \* Connie Lemmons \* Ponna Mahan \* Linda Morgan \* Paula Mason \* Jenny Mullins \* 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 \* Katie Hicks \* Lem Hubbard \* Dana Jo Jackson \* Clyde Jacques \* Lola Johnson \* Beckie King \* Nikki Lawrence \* Shug Lee \* Jerry Don McGowan \* Paul Maddox \* Baby Owen \* Brenda Robinson \* Gene Rowland \* Beth Schwendemann and family \* 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 \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson \* Joy Watson

## **Looking Ahead**

There will be no fellowship meals for the next two Wednesdays due to the holidays. Meals will resume January 5, 2022.

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There will be Christmas Day dinner at noon in the fellowship room. If you'd like to attend, please sign the sheet on the table in the foyer

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New Years Eve get-together at 7 p.m. in the fellowship room. Bring games and snacks or finger foods as we ring in 2022 together

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Friends and Family Day with Brent Newton January 2. The theme is, "God Looks at the Heart." We will have a potluck meal following morning services, and a special youth emphasis night Sunday evening with a light meal to follow. We will need help providing snacks and drinks for the evening meal. Please make plans to attend and start 2022 off right!

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"Ignite" Youth Rally at Jackson January 15-16 with keynote speaker Spencer Furby. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

## **BEAUTIFULLY BROKEN**

Our bus finally arrived at our much-anticipated destination - an archaeological dig in Israel where we would actually do some excavation work of our own. The site's director explained that anything we might unearth had been untouched for thousands of years. Digging up broken shards of pottery, we felt as though we were touching history. After an extended time, we were led to a workstation where those broken pieces - from huge vases shattered long, long ago - were being put back together.

The picture was crystal clear. Those artisans reconstructing centuries-old broken pottery were a beautiful representation of the God who loves to fix broken things. In Psalm 31:12, David wrote, *I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.* Though no occasion is given for the writing of this psalm, David's life difficulties often found voice in his laments - just like this one. The song describes him as being broken down by danger, enemies and despair.

So, where did he turn for help? In verse 16, David cried out to God, *Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.*

The God who was the object of David's trust is the same One who still fixes broken things today. All He asks is that we call out to Him and trust in His unfailing love. Bill Crowder

## ***In Sympathy:***

*Sympathy is extended to Trish Baldwin in the loss of her cousin, Glenn Cook, who passed away December 11. Glenn's funeral was December 14 in Tennessee.*