



TRUE LIGHT

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

January 16, 2022

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
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DEACONS

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Joe Watson
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*"This is the day the Lord
has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad in it."*

Psalms 118:24

*no Sunday evening/
Wednesday Bible study this
week

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

HOPE: MORE THAN WISHING, IT'S EXPECTING!

...and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us (Romans 5:5 NRSV).

Mo is at Black Rifle Coffee, Beyond Black is in the cup, silence is on the playlist, and our God is in the room and has placed hope on a buffet platter right here, right now. [He tells me the following]:

"Don't call the doctor," she said. "I want to fall asleep peacefully, with your hand in mine." And so, he did as she asked and told her about the past, how they met, their first kiss.

They didn't cry. They smiled as they looked into each other's faces and deep into one another's eyes, remembering the life they had shared, and were still sharing even now. Then, she said softly, "I love you forever!"

**Faith is living like hope
has already happened.**

He repeated the same words back to her and gave her a soft kiss on the forehead, a kiss that was going to have to last a long time. Then, she closed her eyes and fell asleep peacefully with her hand in his.

She died, and he whispered, "See you later, my love."

That's hope!

Hope is more than looking on the bright side - hoping for the best. And, hope is deeper and wider than a wish or desire.

Hope is living with the expectation that things will somehow get better ... that life after death is real, that we will find good no matter what.

"Ah," I said to Steve, "but it's not just optimism, it's more. It's usually more focused on something like ... 'I hope my friend in the hospital gets better,' or, 'I hope I get that job,' or, 'I hope I will see her again.' "

Hayden hopes Brayston gets out of ICU alive. He asked people to pray about it. He talks to Brayston's nurse every day, and he talks to Brayston more than once a day. He is personally invested in Brayston's health, now and the future... In Hayden's mind, Brayston is already walking out of the hospital celebrating life. To Hayden, that's truth ... that's the kind of hope that defines faith.

Faith is living like hope has already happened.

He will see her again... his hope lives on ... because of his faith in Jesus. He sees her young and alive and wrapped in life... that makes him smile in the middle of death.

When people show us hope, confidence fills the room, God is there even when we can't see Him, and we know He knows our names and loves us. And, when we live like hope is real, well, it just makes smiles come alive.

Thank You that our hope is more than wishing; it is expecting and trusting because You know us and love us. Thank you Abba ... thank you!

Ron Rose, www.heartlight.com

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

January 17 - Sue Jester
Larry Layton
January 18 - Mike Duley
Jerel and Sue Jester (A)
January 20 - Sawyer Mayberry
Campbell Neely

Belated wishes to: Janie Burleson and Phyllis Howard, who celebrated birthdays January 12, Jeff & Waynetta Rodgers (A), January 12; and Jason Karnes who celebrated January 13.

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

January 16, 2022

Morning Worship:

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

January 23, 2022

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Opening Prayer.....Ron Garner
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Cameron Traw
Closing Prayer.....Jerry Burleson

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Wayne Reams
Prayer.....David Burleson
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

Attendance for January 9: 50

Contribution for January 9: \$2168

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Remember: all of our members and their families who have recently had COVID or are still battling it, including: Luke and Zachary Tanner, Bayleigh Suiter, Wes Hayes, Judy Flannery, Jacob Clayton, Stan Dauck, Ginger Beard, Justin Allen, Brian and Amy Thomason, Beth Williams, Cindy Williams, Amelia Garner and Loretta Carson * David Carson will undergo esophageal surgery in late February or early March * Reba Owens has been transferred to Cypress Point * Marty Watson has been moved back to Central Gardens *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Pam Claey's * 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-Noe (not doing well) * 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 Claey's * Jerry Grimes * Katie Hicks * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Shug Lee * Jerry Don McGowan * Paul Maddox * Linda Morgan * 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 Claey's * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Shirley Johnson * Sonja Mays * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Joy Watson

Looking Ahead

There will be no Wednesday Fellowship Meal this week.

BRAVE YOUR STORM

It was the evening of April 3, 1968, and a fierce thunderstorm was lashing through Memphis, Tennessee. Weary and feeling ill, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hadn't intended to give his planned speech in support of the striking sanitation workers at a church hall. But he was surprised by an urgent phone call saying a large crowd had braved the weather to hear him. So he went to the hall and spoke for forty minutes, delivering what some say was his greatest speech, "I've Been to the Mountain-top."

The next day, King was killed by an assassin's bullet, but his speech still inspires oppressed people with the hope of "the promised land." Likewise, early followers of Jesus were uplifted by a stirring message. The book of Hebrews, written to encourage Jewish believers facing threats for their faith in Christ, offers firm spiritual encouragement to not lose hope. As it urges, *strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees* (12:12). As Jews, they would recognize that appeal as originally coming from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 35:3).

But now, as Christ's disciples, we're called to *run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith* (Hebrews 12:1-2). When we do so, *we will not grow weary and lose heart* (v 3).

Certainly, squalls and storms await us in this life. But in Jesus, we outlast life's tempests by standing in Him. Patricia Rayson

UNAPOLOGETIC TEARS

"I'm sorry," Karen said, apologizing for her flowing tears. After the death of her husband, she stretched herself to care for her teenage kids. When men from church provided a weekend camping excursion to entertain them and give her a break, Karen wept with gratitude, apologizing over and over for her tears.

Why do so many of us apologize for our tears? Simon, a Pharisee, invited Jesus to dinner. In the middle of the meal, as Jesus reclined at the table, a woman who had lived a sinful life brought an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind [Jesus] at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them (Luke 7:38). Unapologetically, this woman freely expressed her love and then unwound her hair to dry Jesus' feet. Overflowing with gratitude and love for Jesus, she topped off her tears with perfumed kisses - actions that contrasted with those of the proper but cold-hearted host.

Jesus' response? He praised her exuberant expression of love and proclaimed her *forgiven* (vv. 44-48).

We may be tempted to squelch tears of gratitude when they threaten to overflow. But God made us emotional human beings, and we can use our feelings to honor Him. Like the woman in Luke's gospel, let's unapologetically express our love for our good God who provides for our needs and freely receives our thankful response. Elisa Morgan