



# TRUE LIGHT

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

January 30, 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  
573-276-5567  
Stan Dauck  
573-293-5594

### 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**

## DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING

The new community of Jesus' followers in Jerusalem quickly multiplied and faced a series of potentially crippling crises. One of these crises involved widows, especially widows who didn't speak the local language - Aramaic or Hebrew (Acts 6:1). The early believers from Pentecost had come from many different lands (Acts 2:5-11), and some had not returned home. Among those non-Jewish speaking folks were hungry widows, neglected by their fellow believers in the regular food distribution. People who didn't speak the local language were upset. More than a few were angry. Many people in the predominant church culture hadn't even noticed the problem because they spoke the "correct" language, and "their" widows were not being overlooked.

Prejudice and neglect threatened the fabric of a fellowship known for sharing life (Acts 2:44, 47, 4:32) and not having a needy person among them (Acts 2:45; 4:32-35). This failure could thwart their witness as followers of Jesus while their neglecting widows, the fatherless, and the foreigner among them was direct disobedience to the will and teaching of God (Deuteronomy 10:18-19; Isaiah 1:23; Psalm 68:5, 82:3). Women worthy of respect and needing care were forgotten and hungry. The neglect of these needy women undermined the disciples' claim to live in harmony with a heart for the things of God (James 1:27; Deuteronomy 27:19).

What did the apostles, Jesus' hand-elected leaders for his new church, do in response to this crisis?

They continued to devote themselves to a higher priority, *the word of God and prayer* (Acts 6:4).

What? You read it correctly. Before doing something, the apostles reminded the people of their highest priorities as leaders: kneeling in prayer and sharing the good news of Jesus. In the face of a fellowship-threatening crisis, they prayed!

More than three decades ago, as a young minister, I answered the knock on the door of the church leadership's meeting room. When I stepped outside, I discovered a red-faced, angry, long-time friend of my parents - he knew them before I was born. He verbally pressed me to let him into that meeting. As firmly, but also with as much calm as I could muster under attack from a long-time family friend and someone twice my age, I refused. "It's prayer night," I reminded him. "The elders and ministry team are gathered for prayer. That is our only agenda. Our prayer time will take several hours. There is no other plan tonight other than prayer. No intrusions are allowed except in the direst of emergencies."

"I wish I had time just to sit around and pray," my friend said impatiently. "This was an important matter about our missions program that I needed to get approved. Tonight!" He stormed away in an angry huff.

Several weeks later, in one of his mission meetings, a fellow mission committee member quoted this frustrated brother's hero when my friend recounted what he considered a waste of time by the church leadership. What was that significant quote my friend needed to hear? "I only get done what I pray for!"

Over time, this friend mellowed. He became a man of prayer. Our congregation raised up seventeen long-term missionaries that we supported in world missions, and over 600 of our members went on international mission trips. His zeal for mission work never dimmed, but he also learned that many mission missteps could have been prevented through prayer and waiting on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He experienced the power of prayer, the leading of the Holy Spirit, and a clear sense of our specific call to world missions, which were essential. He realized he needed a new commitment to guide his life: "Don't just do something; kneel and pray!"

Today, too many Christians fret, complain, post on social media, and stomp around, worried about what is happening in the world, their churches, and the dominant culture. They sense a decline in faith and righteous living. Most of all, they worry about the decrease in the number of people at their church services. These worried churchgoers press their church leaders to "do something" to fix the problems. They want something done immediately!

"Don't just sit there, do something!" they demand.

All too often, desperate leaders respond in one of two ways: they either "just sit there" frozen and fearful or they "do something" to try to make things better. Those who "just do something" start trying all sorts of things they've heard about in other congregations. They reach for the latest fad. They push the newest quick-fix. They copy other churches or follow the advice of the latest "how to" article from a so-call expert.

After several decades of oscillating between doing nothing ("just sit there") and trying quick fixes ("do something"), most Christian groups find themselves in worse shape than when they started. Their churches have a much-higher percentage of gray hair than ever and less patience for the slower-paced transformation based on a commitment to prayer and a focus on living on mission rather than trying new things for the sake of doing something.

"Don't just sit there, do something!" is not the answer. It wasn't the answer to the problem of the neglected widows in the early days of the growing new Jesus movement. It certainly is not the answer to today's congregation with genuine challenges. But, just sitting there while things continue to fall apart is not an answer.

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## **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

January 30 - Ginger Beaird  
February 1 - Jerry & Pam Collier (A)  
February 3 - Jon David Barnett  
February 4 - Zachary Tanner



## **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 30, 2022**

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Cameron Traw  
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers  
Prayer.....Zack Tanner  
Closing Prayer.....Wayne Reams

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
Prayer.....Darrin Shipman  
Scripture.....Justin Allen  
Dismissal.....Joe Watson

### **Wednesday, February 2, 2022**

Song Leader.....Wayne Reams  
Prayer.....Jacob Clayton  
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

### **February 6, 2022**

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson  
Opening Prayer.....Ron Garner  
Scripture.....Jason Karnes  
Prayer.....Jonathan Simmons  
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Wayne Reams  
Prayer.....David Carson  
Scripture.....Sam Garner  
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

**Attendance for January 23: 96**  
**Contribution for January 23: \$3198**

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Remember: Trish Baldwin** is in room 3103 at St Francis for rehab, following hip surgery due to a fall \* **Louella Akers** was recently hospitalized but is home now and some better \* **Sonja Mays** is back at Winchester following a hospitalization \* **Dana Jo Jackson** is in the hospital at Cape with infection in her blood. Doctors have said there's nothing they can do \* **Sonny Ingle**, struggling with Parkinson's and dementia. Please no visits at this time \* **David Carson** will undergo esophageal surgery in late February or early March \* **Ellie Graham**, student of Nicole Garner, has been pretty sick with COVID \* **Carolyn Buckley**, Robin Mays' mother, is on a ventilator at Cape \* **Pam Claeys** continues to decline but still appreciates visits and meals once or twice a week

**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 Beaird \* 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 Beaird \* 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 \* 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 Claeys \* Travis Cooper \* Sue Flowers \* Don Jackson \* Shirley Johnson \* Sonja Mays \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson \* Joy Watson

### **Looking Ahead**

Wednesday Fellowship Meal this week to be announced  
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Ladies Lunch Out February 8 at 11:30 at La Cascada in Bernie. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you would like to attend.  
\*\*\*

Valentine's Day Social Sunday, February 13, following evening services. Please plan to stay and fellowship with us.  
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Challenge Youth Conference February 25-27 in Pigeon Forge.  
\*\*\*

Inspiration 2022 March 11 and 12 at the Dexter church of Christ with guest speaker Joe Wells.  
\*\*\*

Make plans now to attend our Gospel Meeting with Jim Faughn March 13-16.  
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Ignite Youth Rally at Jackson (rescheduled) March 26 and 27. The theme is "Your Purpose 2022" with speaker Spencer Furby. Cost is \$12 and includes a t shirt. More information is posted on the bulleting board by the nursery.

### **Continued from front:**

In reality, our problems today don't approach the challenges of those first-century believers. Their politics were more brutal. Their culture was more extreme. Their travel, communication, and opposition were all much more problematic. Opposition and persecution were more pervasive. But, the commitment of their leaders was different. They chose to live by the value, "Don't just do something; kneel and pray!"

In the crisis with the neglected Greek-speaking widows, the apostles dedicated themselves to prayer and the message of Jesus (Acts 6:2,4) just as they had from the beginning (Acts 1:14; 3:42). They asked the larger fellowship of believers for their help in finding wise, spirit-filled, servant-hearted men to attend to the widows. They then gave these newly-chosen servant leaders authority to do the work assigned to them, with the freedom to decide how best to do it (Acts 6:3-6). The result was a sizeable increase in believers when the problem was solved, which ended up reaching some people that they had not been able to reach fully, before their crises:

*So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7).*

The apostles' actions developed new leaders while the apostles continued their primary task - devotion to prayer and the message of Jesus.

"Don't just do something; kneel and pray!" "I only get done what I pray for!"

Hmmm, don't you think it is about time...

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com