



TRUE LIGHT

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

August 14, 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 Burlison
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**

IS ANYTHING SACRED?

I played the position of catcher in Little League baseball. I played catcher in Pony League baseball. I was a catcher in high school baseball. In college, I played catcher on an intramural softball team. I spent a lot of time hunkered down behind home plate; hundreds of hours, thousands of innings, thousands upon thousands of pitches. During all of those games and practices, I noticed something.

The width of home plate never changed. It was always seventeen inches wide. Its dimensions were never up for discussion. We players could choose our uniforms, hats, shoes, and bats. But when it came to the plate, it was unchangeable and its size non-negotiable. When a pitcher couldn't throw the ball over the seventeen-inch wide mark, the umpire didn't offer to widen it. He never said, "Hey buddy, I'm going to get a new plate just for you. Would twenty-five inches help?"

The width of the plate was immutable.

We might even say that the width of the plate was "holy." That's a bit of a stretch, I know. Yet the idea of holiness in the Bible is, in many ways, like the home plate in baseball. Holiness describes something that is "set apart" and predetermined by God. Popular opinion cannot change it. Majority rule does not alter it. My preference does not affect it. The Supreme Court cannot change it. When God deems something as holy, it is holy. The width of home plate is sacred from Little League to the Majors, from the beginning of life to the end of life.



Would it not be wise, then, for us to take note of what God considers to be holy? What is holy to God? Why is it holy to God? It is holy to me? Search the Scripture for what God considers holy, and the list may surprise you.

You are holy. According to Peter, *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God* (1 Peter 2:9). If you are a Christ-follower, there is nothing hum-drum about you. By virtue of your union with Jesus, you participate in the life of God. He dwells in you, and you dwell in him. As such, in Christ, God's holiness is your holiness.

Human life is holy. God sanctifies human life. Every beating heart matters to God. Whether that life is in the womb of a mother, the cell of a prison, the hallway of a convalescent home, or the corner office of a Wall Street high rise, that life is holy to God. *For God so loved the world, he gave his one and only Son* (John 3:16).

Marriage is holy. When the wedding officiant speaks of holy matrimony, the term is accurate. Jesus described a marriage as something holy: *Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate* (Matthew 19:6). Marriage is unlike your friendship at the bridge club or your relationship with your siblings. It is "set apart" from business partnerships.

Sex is holy. Many people see sex as recreation, in the same league as golf or sailing. God sees sex as a unique portrayal of divine intimacy, something sacred. *Honor marriage, and guard the sacredness of sexual intimacy between wife and husband* (Hebrews 13:4 MESSAGE). God is not anti-sex. After all, he invented it! He regards it as a holy act, a portrayal of the relationship he desires with us.

The Sabbath is holy. Let six days be used for work and acquisition, but set one aside for spiritual and physical restoration. *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy* (Exodus 20:8). Under the old covenant, this day was Saturday. As [New Testament] Christians, we set aside Sunday. ...The message of the observance - God wants us to worship and rest. He designates the first day of every week as holy. He does the same with the first dime of every dollar.

The tithe is holy. *A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD* (Leviticus 27:30). The first ten percent of everything you earn is, in God's eyes, holy money. We never give it to God; we return what is already his. The tithe is holy.

The name of God is holy. Not using the name of GOD, your God, in curses or silly banter is essential for a believer. GOD won't put up with the irreverent use of his name (Exodus 20:7 MESSAGE). Satan never prompts us to say, "Satan-dammit" or "demon-damn you." Profanity is his way of rubbing the luster off the name of God. He has a simple ploy: dilute the divine name by making it common. For that reason, God-fearers revere the very name of God. It is holy.

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BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

August 14 - Marty & Phyllis Howard (A)

August 15 - Hannah Compton

Sonja Mays

Reba Owens

August 19 - DeeDee Burch



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Lasagna Noodles * Sweetened Condensed Milk * Sugar * Deodorant (non-aerosol) * Hair Gel/Mousse * Salad Dressings (Ranch, French etc)
Pick-up date: October 3, 2022

WILLING TO SERVE

August 14, 2022

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Cameron Traw
Opening Prayer.....David Burleson
Scripture.....Justin Allen
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Jeff Rodgers

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Wayne Reams
Scripture.....David Carson
Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....Sam Garner

August 21, 2022

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Jeff Rodgers
Closing Prayer.....Jerry Burleson

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Cameron Traw
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

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The list could go on and on, but perhaps we have enough to ask the question, are we messing with the width of home plate? There is much discussion these days about the deterioration of our country. The diagnosis points at a predictable list of culprits: the economy is too weak, the military is too fragile, the government is too corrupt. Yet, Scripture compels us to ask a more fundamental question. Do we agree with God's definition of holiness? As a society, as a country, are we submitting ourselves to heaven's view of the sacred?

How could the answer be anything but "no"? We disregard the value of life and abort thousands of babies each day. We make a mockery out of marriage by redefining it. Promiscuous sex is seen as a badge of honor and open-mindedness. We work first and rest later rather than worship so we can work better.

Is anything sacred? The mark of a deteriorating society is its disregard for the sacred.

What about us as individuals? Lest we be too quick to point the finger at society, do we each need to look in the mirror? Is God challenging us to seek what is sacred?

Let's be clear. We are saved by grace, not by being good. None of us are good enough to deserve the forgiveness of our King. We have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. We have fallen short. But Jesus Christ tilts the scale in our direction. We are evaluated according to his holiness, not ours. When His grace does its work, it creates a hunger for holiness; a desire to do what is right. Let grace do its work in you!

The width of home plate is not up for discussion, neither is God's call to holiness.

Max Lucado, www.heartlight.com

Attendance for August 7: 86 Contribution for August 7: \$4818

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Gayle Rodgers is in ICU at Sikeston * Don Jackson saw a doctor Friday for mobility issues * John David Barnett in the hospital at Poplar Bluff waiting to be transferred to St. Louis for surgery * Jodie Buckner is home and improving * Judy Flannery dealing with a recent knee injury * Marty Howard will begin therapy and shots for his back * Jack McGowan recovering at home following hip replacement surgery * Woody Wood, being treated for lung cancer * Janet Wood at home, waiting for knee replacement surgery * Tommy Jacques not doing well following surgery * Marty Watson has been transferred to the VA nursing home in Cape

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * 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 * Chris Daley * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers-Noe (not doing well) * Kim Goins * Ronnie Goins * Patricia Greninger * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson Kristin Meadows * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Linda Morgan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Nikki Reif * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

Dixie Billingsley * DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Jodi Claeys * Ruth Dauck * Jerry Grimes * Katie Hicks * Grant Howard * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Eva Latham * Nikki Lawrence * Shug Lee * Jerry Don McGowan * Brenda Robinson * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead *

Our Shut Ins

Louella Akers * Fern Botsch * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Sonja Mays * Reba Owens * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson *

Looking Ahead

Tomorrow: Summer Youth Series hosted by the Bernie Congregation at 7 p.m. Jeremy Pierce will be the speaker. A sign up sheet to help with refreshments is on the table in the foyer.

Summer Speaker Series speaker this week will be Gordon Hogan.

Ladies Supper and Devotional August 23 at 6 p.m. at the home of Amy Thomason. Bring your Bible and a pen or pencil.

First Sunday potluck and early evening worship September 4. Please plan to stay for the potluck followed by a 1 p.m. evening worship service.

Ladies Day at Mountain Home church of Christ September 10. The theme is "Let it Go."

Ladies Day at Arnold church of Christ September 10. The theme is "Recipe for Life" with guest speaker Julie Orr.

Ladies Lunch Out September 13 at Main Street Pizza in Bernie.

Children's Homes Homecoming September 24 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Let's get our change for children cans filled up!

In Sympathy: Sympathy is extended to Donna McKuin and family in the loss of her husband and our brother in Christ, Bud. Bud passed away August 12. His arrangements were not known at press time.