



TRUE LIGHT

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

December 11, 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."*

Psalm 118:24

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

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

Just a month or so ago, I made what I thought was a profound statement.

"I hate the holidays!"

The comment slipped from my lips toward the general vicinity of Nancy, my beloved wife, during a discussion of all the things that needed to be done to make this a joyous season.

I could have said that even earlier than a month ago. I can remember the frustration I felt when Nancy asked me to carve our jack-o-lantern at Halloween this year. What a sticky, messy, smelly job! A job I thought was behind me when the boys grew up. I recall my reluctance in moving toward the kitchen table and strapping on the green, ballistic-vest-type apron that has served me well through pumpkins, briskets, and turkeys.

Oddly, what I can't recall right now is the stickiness, mess or smell that I so dreaded. Perhaps because all of that blurs next to the image of our four-year-old granddaughter standing next to me - encouraging me to make ol' Jack scarier - and the shadow of Nancy a few steps away, smiling and soaking in the moment of tradition.

My stomach tightened just before Thanksgiving. That's the day that Nancy's family gathers. For years, it was at the farm in Rising Star. The past several, it's been at our house. Not everyone can be there. But most are.

An occasion of such immense importance takes a lot of preparation. Nancy has polled the guests to make certain that favorite foods are on the table - even if it means having three kinds of potatoes instead of just two. And a dish of black olives and that cherry-cranberry salad that Nancy's mom made. But to spread such a table, many things must be done. Rooms must be cleaned, turkeys must be carved, silverware must be polished ... three days of preparation are necessary for a couple hours of eating.

My stomach relaxed pretty quickly into the process. I know my role in all of this. I love having family in our home - to see our kids and their families with aunts and uncles, nephews and nieces, is a warming experience. And my joy is magnified because, unlike a lot of my days throughout the year, my place is next to Nancy as she stirs and pours and mixes. And then again, as she sits and visits and loves on people like there's nothing else to do.

The Christmas season is another stressor. Not because I am so involved, but because Nancy is. She's the prime mover in getting things done. She's the one who arranges the schedule for our Christmas time - a sometimes complex task now that the boys are married and must be shared with other families. She worries about the Christmas card list and forces me to write an occasional Christmas letter. She's our decorator. Nancy keeps track of what people want for Christmas. And, more often than not, she's the one who finds those gifts and wraps them.

I remember grimacing when our local radio station began playing non-stop Christmas music on December 1. "How will we stand this?" I asked Nancy. She smiled and agreed it was a little too early. She tuned the radio to a different station - one she really doesn't like all that much. I'm sure she's still smiling about that.

On the way to work a little while ago, I had the radio on. "Angels We Have Heard on High" was playing lightly as I reached the corner of our block. Without thinking, my thumb went to the volume control on my steering wheel and I boosted that wondrous song to sonic blast proportions. At the top of my voice, I sang "Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!" When I reached the traffic light, the melody was fading, yet the memories were welling up.

Christmases * Thanksgivings * Halloweens (Nancy's birthday) * Fourths of July * New Years Days * Times with family

Warm moments when the only thing that really mattered was being with family and friends.

Wherever you find yourself, I pray that you're having warm moments - and storing them away for those times when you forget what it is that actually matters. Joey Cope, www.heartlight.com

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

December 13 - Jennifer Hampton

December 17 - Zack and Beckie Tanner (A)



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Sugar * Ravioli * Toothbrushes * Snack Size

Ziploc Bags * Tea Bags (Decaf) *

Corn Chips

Pick-up date: January 16, 2023

WILLING TO SERVE

December 11, 2022

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jerry Burleson

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....David Burleson
Dismissal.....Cameron Traw

December 18, 2022

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Prayer.....Wayne Reams
Scripture.....David Burleson
Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED

Elvis Summers answered the door to find Smokey, a frail woman who stopped by regularly to ask for empty cans to return for cash. This money was her primary source of income. Elvis got an idea. "Could you show me where you sleep?" he asked. Smokey led him to a narrow patch of dirt about two feet wide next to a house. Moved by compassion, Summers built her a "tiny house" - a simple shelter that provided space for her to sleep safely. Summers ran with the idea. He started a GoFundMe page and teamed up with local churches to provide land to build more shelters for others who were homeless.

Throughout the Bible, God's people are reminded to care for those in need. When God spoke through Moses to prepare the Israelites to enter the promised land, He encouraged them to *be openhearted and freely lend* [to the poor] *whatever they need* (Deuteronomy 15:8). This passage also noted that *there will always be poor people in the land* (v 11). We don't have to go far to see this is true. As God compassionately called the Israelites *to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites* (v 11), we too can find ways to help those in need.

Everyone needs food, shelter, and water. Even if we don't have much, may God guide us to use what we do have to help others. Whether it's sharing a sandwich or a warm winter coat, small things can make a big difference!

Julie Schwab

Attendance for December 4: 88 * Contribution for December 4: \$3541

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Don Jackson was scheduled to be released from the hospital Friday or Saturday following surgery for infection in his leg * **Reba Owens** recovering from toe amputation * **Trish Baldwin** is much better * **Pat Ingle** had her first chemo treatment and her bloodwork came back better than expected * **Sharon Durham** will have back surgery December 29 * **Gunner Townsend** has been sick with the flu * **John David Barnett** has one more week of IV infusion treatments and a scheduled CAT scan * **Judy Duley** was under the weather for several days last week * **Mike Duley** waiting on a surgery date for his foot * **Judy Snyder** has been out with COVID * **Marty Howard** continues to struggle with back pain * **Janet Wood** hoping to get a surgery date soon for knee replacement * **Dalton O'Neal** improving following a bad accident *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Don Jackson * Sonja Mays * Curtis McClard * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Gloria Moore * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Chris Daley * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers-Noe * 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 * Tim Lecroy * Shug Lee * Jerry Don McGowan * Mary Provance * 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

There will be a children's Christmas party today at 3:30 in the fellowship room for those in sixth grade and younger.

Ladies Lunch Out will be **tomorrow** at 11:30 at Hickory Log. Ladies, PLEASE sign the sign up sheet if you plan to attend as we have to have reservations for this event.

Our fellowship meal this week will be taco salad. Desserts will be needed.

Ladies Christmas brunch Thursday, December 15, at 10 a.m. at the home of Amy Thomason. Please bring your favorite dish to share (ham will be provided) and an optional, wrapped gift valued at \$20 or less. Check our Children's Home list and bring an item or two from it to be entered into a raffle for a door prize.

David Gibson will be our morning speaker December 18. He will be talking about his work in Romania and the Ukraine.

Katie Paige Williams will be getting married December 22. If you would like to contribute towards a gift for her wedding, please see Reeda Traw by today.

Christmas Day we will ONLY have one meeting time: morning worship service at 10:15 a.m.

Christmas Dinner will be served in the fellowship room following our worship service December 25. If you plan on attending, there is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer.