



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**January 1, 2023**

## 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

**OFFICE: 573-293-5620**  
**Bernie Church of Christ**  
**P.O. Box 366**  
**Bernie, MO 63822**

**EMAIL:**  
berniechurchofchrist  
@gmail.com

**WEBSITE:**  
www.berniechurchofchrist.com

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK:**  
Bernie church of Christ

*"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**

## INTERESTING, BUT SAD

I was listening to a podcast recently that, in part, was explaining some of the differences between the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. During the relatively short podcast, I learned some things I did not know - starting with the fact that I had no idea that these two groups even existed. Among other things, I also learned that each group has its own "Patriarch" - one in Moscow, Russia and one in Kiev, Ukraine.

At the same time, I was saddened to learn of their existence. These two groups are merely representative of something that directly contradicts the wishes of Jesus that He expressed in His prayer to His Father shortly before going through the trials that led to His crucifixion. You may remember that prayer. It can be found in John 17. In the last portion of the prayer, our Lord prayed for "...those who would believe in me through their [the apostles'] word' (v. 20). That would include all who claim to follow Christ today.

As the prayer continued, the Lord expressed this desire for His followers: *that they all may be one, just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me (v. 21).*

According to a couple of websites I've consulted, there are over 40,000 different "Christian denominations" in the world. You read that correctly. I did *not* add any zeroes. There are over *forty thousand* "Christian denominations" in the world today.

That's a far cry from the days during which the New Testament was being written. After informing those who read the book of Ephesians that the church is the body of Christ (1:22-23), Paul then informs us that *There is one body... (4:4).*

We live in a time in which truth is seen by many as being subjective. We hear phrases like "my truth," "your truth," "their truth," "our truth." We seldom hear about **the** truth. In fact, that idea is often the object of ridicule. In addition to that, it is popular today to believe that, even if there is such a thing as absolute truth, it is not possible to know or understand it.

Those ideas also fly in the face of the wishes of Jesus as expressed in His prayer. In John 17:17, Jesus used the phrase "*the truth,*" and then added, ... *Your (His Father's) word is truth.* Along with that, it was Jesus who said in another place, ...*you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32).*

So, according to the One who is *the truth* (John 14:6), consider the following:

- There is such a thing as absolute, objective truth.
- Truth can be known.
- Truth unites (A corollary to this would be that anything other than truth divides).

If you and I read a passage of scripture and come away with two conflicting and contradictory understandings of what it teaches, there is the possibility that we could both be wrong. However, I don't see any possibility that both of us could be correct in our understanding and application of the scripture when our views are totally opposite.

There is another possibility. I am somewhat hesitant to suggest it. The reason for that hesitancy is that, in today's "I'm ok, you're ok" world, it is not popular. As shocking as it may sound to some, it could be that one of us understands the scripture correctly while the other does not.

Until a few days ago, I had no idea that two difference churches with very similar names, but very significant differences existed in Ukraine. I still have no idea about the exact number of "Christian denominations" that exist throughout the world. Apparently nobody knows that number because, as the host of the podcast to which I was listening said, all it really takes to start a new church today is a mailing address or a website.

What I do know is that I can still read the Lord's desire for unity in that prayer shortly before He died because of His love for all mankind. Sadly, I can also read in the New Testament about the fact that the ugliness of religious division was already a problem not long after His sacrifice.

When Paul addressed the issue of religious division in 1 Corinthians, he made an appeal that, it seems to me, should be the appeal of all who truly love the Lord today. That appeal was ...*that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment (1 Cor. 1:10, ESV).*

Some of us are old enough to remember when the slogan for Burger King was "Have it your way." I guess that's fine when it comes to the "fixings" on a hamburger. However, when it comes to pleasing the One who died for me and Who will determine my eternal destiny, I'd rather "have it His way."

Jim Faugh, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

January 2 - David Carson  
 January 4 - Brenda Wheeler  
                   Janet Wood  
 January 7 - Matt & Katie Mayberry



## 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

### January 1, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Cameron Traw  
 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

### Wednesday, January 4, 2022

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
 Prayer.....Ron Garner  
 Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

### January 8, 2023

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

## SPEAKING TO ENCOURAGE

Abraham Lincoln tops the polls as the most popular US president of all time. His troubled presidency came at the culmination of a life-long struggle with depression, a nervous breakdown, and neighbors who were known to set suicide watches over him in his youth.

So how did he do it? The night he was assassinated, Lincoln's pockets were stuffed with newspaper clippings that praised him, his leadership, and the positive impact he was having.

We all need encouragement. The author of Hebrews says in 10:23-25, *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Ephesians 4:29 says, *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.* Imagine what could happen if we were able to live up to that in our homes, churches, and communities?

Don't go it alone. Hebrews 10:25 warns us not to give up meeting together. Jesus didn't go it alone. He gathered a group of people to share life and ministry with, and He asked his closest friends to watch and pray with Him when He needed it most. If Jesus sought out that kind of support, we should as well!

Let's be intentional about encouraging one another as we walk this journey together, so no one has to go it alone.

Excerpted from "Words Matter" by Jenny Rae Armstrong

Attendance for December 25: 109 \*\*\* Contribution for Dec. 25: \$3401

\*this bulletin was printed in advance. Please listen to announcements for updates to our sick list

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**Don Jackson** had fluid drained from his knee and will have a follow up visit with his doctor Wednesday \* **Sharon Durham** had back surgery Thursday\* **John David Barnett** was still in the hospital in St. Louis at press time \* **Pat Ingle** as she continues with her chemo treatments \* **Marty Howard** is scheduled for back surgery February 3 \* **Mike Duley** scheduled for foot surgery Wednesday \* **Reba Owens** recovering from toe amputation \* **Janet Wood** is home recovering from knee replacement surgery \* **June Mothersbaugh** still struggling with back issues

**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

Today: First Sunday of the month potluck and early evening service. We will eat following morning services, followed by a 1 p.m. evening service. Everyone is encouraged to stay for the meal.

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Wednesday night fellowship meal will be breakfast for supper. Desserts will be needed.

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Friends and Family Day 2023 will be next Sunday, January 8, with Gordon Hogan. Fliers are available on the table in the foyer. We will need some help providing desserts and other items for the evening meal.

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Ladies Lunch Out Tuesday, January 10, at 11:30 at LaCascada in Bernie. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

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Ignite! Youth Rally at Jackson will be January 14-15 with guest speaker Spencer Furby. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

## In Sympathy:

*Sympathy is extended to the Foster family and Jerry and Rosemary McCoy in the loss of their son-in-law, Jason Foster, who passed away unexpectedly December 26. Arrangements were not known at press time.*