



TRUE LIGHT

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

January 15, 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

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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***

ONE OF SATAN'S MOST EFFECTIVE AND INSIDIOUS WEAPONS

Most of us have heard the old saying that informs us that "laughter is the best medicine."

A long time ago, a very wise man was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write these words: *A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones* (Proverbs 17:22).

Those who know me know that I love to laugh. I love to be around people who laugh. I love to make people laugh. Somebody like me needs to exercise caution. The reason is that, like everything else Satan touches, he can turn what could be a good thing into something not so good. In fact, laughter can be a very evil thing.

I started thinking about this when a portion of an old situation comedy "popped up" on my computer recently. I'm not sure that I had seen this particular episode, but I did sometimes watch the series itself "back in the day." For some reason, this relatively short clip caused me to do some thinking about what was presented as comedy. Of course, there was the "canned laughter" that was used to encourage laughter on the part of those watching.

I am not exaggerating when I say that God's standards for morality and decency, especially in the area of human sexuality, were being laughed at. Along with that, the character who made an admittedly poor attempt to defend those standards came across as the real buffoon and totally out of touch with reality. I certainly am not trying to be sacrilegious, but I wonder if there could be the possibility that, as the audience roared with laughter, the Lord could have been shedding a tear.

...in many circles what passes for entertainment does not merely ridicule God's standards or His people. We are way past that point. We are at the point where God, Himself, in the minds of many, is no longer our Creator... Instead, He is just another object of ridicule, sarcasm, and laughter.

What I do know is that what was the subject of "harmless laughter" in the 1970s is now not only accepted, but promoted. In fact, those who do not "get with the program" are the subjects of threats, intimidation, and, in some cases, violence. Some politicians have had to decide whether to remain true to the positions they once held or jettison those positions. Even some religious groups now openly accept, endorse, and promote what God's word clearly condemns.

Is anybody besides me old enough to remember when people laughed uproariously at things that did not contain four-letter words? Do you ever find yourself remembering comedians and comedy shows of days gone by and thinking or saying something like, "Why do people today think that a person has to be dirty to be funny?"

Have you ever seen laughter used to intimidate? Maybe it is the child at school who doesn't quite fit in or the adult who doesn't conform in some way. Maybe the person being intimidated doesn't dress like everybody else. Maybe it is an accent. Maybe the issue is skin color. It could be any number of things. Laughter has intimidated far too many people to conform to a particular belief, a lifestyle, and/or a philosophy that leads them toward eternal separation from God.

There is another type of laughter that is very closely associated with the type that is used to intimidate. In my mind, however, there is a slight difference. Laughter is often used to ridicule people. Again the laughter can be due to things like clothing, accent, skin color, or any number of other things. The result of this type of laughter could also be conformity. Another possibility, though, is that the person or people who are the objects of the laughter could choose isolation instead of conformity. That, in turn, could lead to some very, very dark places.

Sadly, in many circles what passes for "entertainment" does not merely ridicule God's standards or His people. We are way past that point. We are now at the point where God, Himself, in the minds of many, is no longer our Creator. He is certainly not to be obeyed and approached with reverence. Instead, He is just another object of ridicule, sarcasm, and laughter.

I am thankful for laughter. It can be a great blessing from God. At the same time, I need to be aware of the fact that laughter can be one of Satan's most insidious and effective tools - *and that is no joke.*

Jim Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

January 17 - Linda (Sue) Jester
Larry Layton
January 18 - Mike Duley
Jerel & Sue Jester (A - 65!)
January 20 - Sawyer Mayberry
Campbell Neely

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Sugar * Ravioli * Toothbrushes * Snack Size
Ziploc Bags * Tea Bags (Decaf) *
Corn Chips

Pick-up date: TOMORROW!

WILLING TO SERVE

January 15, 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 18, 2022

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....David Burleson
Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

January 22, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jerry Burleson

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

BE FILLED

The horrific assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. happened at the height of the American civil rights movement of the 1960s. But just four days later, his widow Coretta Scott King courageously took her husband's place in leading a peaceful protest march. Coretta had a deep passion for justice and was a fierce champion of many causes.

Jesus said, *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled* (Matthew 5:6). We know that someday God will come to deliver justice and right every wrong, but until that time, we have the opportunity to participate in making God's justice a reality on earth, just like Coretta did. Isaiah 58 paints a vivid picture of what God calls His people to do: loose the chains of injustice ... set the oppressed free ... share your food with the hungry ... provide the poor wanderer with shelter ... clothe (the naked) ... and (do not) turn away (from those who need help) (vv 6-7). Seeking justice for the oppressed and the marginalized is one way our lives point back to God. Isaiah writes that His people seeking justice is like the light of dawn and results in healing for them as well as for others (v 8).

Today, may God help us cultivate a hunger for His righteousness here on earth. As we seek justice His way and in His power, the Bible says we'll be satisfied. Karen Pimpo

Attendance for January 8: 111 * Contribution for January 8: \$4830**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

David Carson at home with pneumonia and bronchitis * **Don Jackson** will see his doctor Wednesday * **Sharon Durham** at home recovering from back surgery * **John David Barnett** will have a check up Thursday * **Pat Ingle** as she continues with her chemo treatments * **Marty Howard** is scheduled for back surgery February 3 * **Mike Duley** recovering from foot surgery * **Janet Wood** is home recovering from knee replacement surgery * **June Mothersbaugh** still struggling with back issues * **Tony Miller** (Judy Duley's brother) was expected to be released from the hospital Friday * **Louella Akers** hasn't been doing well * **Fern Botsch** on hospice care * **David Terrill** is having trouble with his sciatic nerve * **Mike Napier's** cancer has returned * **Mindy Pruitt** was sick last week

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Sonja Mays * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Gloria Moore * 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 * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson *

Looking Ahead

Children's Home grocery run tomorrow. Let's get the cart filled up!

Wednesday night fellowship meal will be taco salad. Desserts will be needed.

First Sunday potluck and early evening service will be February 5. We will have a meal following morning services with an early, 1 p.m. evening service.

Valentine's Banquet Sunday, February 12, following evening services. Plan now to attend for an evening of good food, fellowship and fun.
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Ladies Lunch out will be MONDAY, February 13, at 11:30. Location yet to be determined.

Inspiration 2023 March 10 & 11 at Dexter with guest speaker Lonnie Jones.

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to Ken Durham in the loss of his sister Geneva (Jenny) Parmley, who passed away January 10. Her funeral will be held tomorrow in St. Louis.

Sympathy is extended to the family of our sister Reba Owens who passed away January 11. Reba's funeral was held Saturday in Bernie.