



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**February 26, 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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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**

## Breathtaking!

I slipped into the hospital room quietly. I didn't want to wake my friend, Tubby, if he was sleeping. He was in the latter stages of cancer. Tubby had lived a rich and full life, living all over the world with his precious wife, Versie. As I entered, he greeted me with a smile. I slipped out of my jacket and into a comfortable chair, then scooted it closer to his bedside. After some small talk, I asked Tubby to tell me about some of the exotic places they had lived. Working for an oil company, they took a lot of the more difficult or distant locations because they never had children.

"Well, you know, Phil, we've lived in a lot of very unique and beautiful places, but after three months of living there, it was simply home. One place we lived in Africa was incredibly beautiful, breathtaking even. The back of our house looked out over the lush jungle with Mount Kilimanjaro rising in the background. But we forgot how beautiful it was until someone would visit and remind us of how breathtaking the world was just outside our back door!"

Tubby was right, wasn't he? We grow overly familiar with breathtaking things. Until we reawaken to them through the eyes of someone else, we forget how incredible they are. We can also do this with the story of Jesus. Recently, I began reading through Matthew one chapter at a time. After reading the first two chapters, I felt as if the Holy Spirit thumped me on my noggin to reawaken my heart to the breathtaking reality of God coming to earth in Jesus.

Matthew tells us that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the son of David, the son of Abraham, the Son of God, the one who took away the sin of his people, and Immanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:1, 16-18, 21, 23). Matthew tells us about Jesus' divine identity as the long-awaited coming of the Jewish Messiah and Savior. We sing songs of praise about Jesus' greatness. Proper confession of Jesus' identity is central to the faith necessary for salvation. But does Jesus stir our hearts and take our breath away?

While recognizing Jesus' divine identity is important, the breathtaking reality for me comes in the second chapter of Matthew's gospel. After Matthew reminds us that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) and King of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-4), he drove home the reality of Jesus' vulnerability as Immanuel with one word: "*child*"! Matthew repeated this simple word for "*child*" (*pais, paidi'on*) nine times (Matthew 2:8, 9, 10, 13 [2X], 14, 16, 20 [2X]). The Messiah, the Son of God, Immanuel God incarnate, came to us as a child. Such truth should capture our hearts.

The word Matthew chose was a simple word for "child" - not a word of privilege or importance, "just a child." Of course, there is no such thing as "just a child"! In the eyes of God, who personally created each of us in the womb, we are unique and precious. From conception, God had a plan and purpose for our lives even before our mothers recognized us as a flutter in her womb (Psalm 139:13-16).

In Jesus' day, however, children were not counted among the men at the feeding of the 5,000 or the 4,000 (Matthew 14:21, 15:38). Their testimony and questions were not considered important (Matthew 11:16-17). Jesus rebuked his disciples for forbidding people to bring their children to him to be blessed (Matthew 19:13). In Greek society, a child was not considered a legitimate son or daughter unless they were wanted and named after they were born. Otherwise, they were "exposed" - left to die at the garbage dump or some wild place.

The reality of being "just a child" in the ancient world, the world of Jesus, was harsh and fraught with vulnerabilities. Yet God chose to enter our world as such a child! The safety of the Messiah, the Son of God, depended upon a man who adopted Jesus as his son and a handful of stargazers from the East, doing what Israel's God told them to do. Why? Because Jesus, God with us, came to us as a child in a dangerous world. Breathtaking. For God so loved us that he came into our world as a child. All those titles for Jesus lead us to Immanuel, God with us, the child!

For me, there are at least three powerful truths I must carry with me from reawakening to the breathtaking reality that almighty God came to us as a child:

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## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

February 26 - Henry Howard  
 February 27 - Titus Dauck  
                   Beverly Pruitt  
 March 2 - Mark Clayton



## CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Tape (Scotch/Masking) \* Paper  
 Napkins \* Paper Plates & Cups \*  
 Spaghetti O's \* Liquid Fabric  
 Softener \* Ketchup  
 Pickup Date April 17, 2023

## WILLING TO SERVE

### February 26, 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, March 1, 2023

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
 Prayer.....Sam Garner  
 Dismissal.....Jacob Clayton

### March 5, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson  
 Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
 Scripture.....Jason Karnes  
 Prayer.....Sam Garner  
 Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

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

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1. Each child is precious because we don't know God's plans for him or her (Psalm 139: 13-16). No one knew who was in the "baby bump" of Mary, except God, and what inkling of the impossible they had in the hearts of Mary and Joseph. We must view each child as a person of value to God.
2. Our goal as Jesus' disciples must not be to be recognized as powerful and important, but to be humble and serve others with our lives as our Lord did.
3. The Creator of all we know in this vast universe (Colossians 1:15-20), gave up all his status, protection, and power (Philippians 2:6-11), and entered our world as a child. He did it out of love to save us (John 3:16-17). How can we not be touched by such love and grace? As Paul said it, *Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!* (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Our God, coming to us as Jesus, "the child," is breathtaking!

Phil Ware, [www.heartlight.com](http://www.heartlight.com)

Attendance for February 19: 86 \*\*\* Contribution for February 19: \$3529

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

David Burleson, at home with COVID \* Judy Snyder also at home with COVID \* David Carson's recovering from sinus surgery \* Sonja Mays is back at Winchester Place but not doing well at all \* Marty Howard recovering from back surgery \* Louella Akers' cancer has spread and she is on hospice care \* Pat Ingle is back home; no visitors at this time please \* Janet Wood is home recovering from knee replacement surgery \* Fern Botsch on hospice care \* Kathy Caudle has been very sick, and weak \* Gloria Moore has been having a lot of health issues \*

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers \* 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 \* 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 \* Ronnie Goins \* Patricia Greninger \* Nolan Hollowell \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jeralds \* Holly Johnson Kristin Meadows \* Connie Lemmons \* Ponna Mahan \* Linda Morgan \* Paula Mason \* Mike Napier \* 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

Wednesday night fellowship meal will be smoked turkey, ham and the fixins. Desserts will be needed.

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Our Spring Gospel Meeting with Bryan McAlister begins next Sunday, March 5-8. We will have a potluck meal following morning worship, and our usual evening service at 5 this month. Be praying now for a successful meeting, and plan to attend every night.

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Inspiration 2023 March 10 & 11 at Dexter with guest speaker Lonnie Jones. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

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Ladies Lunch Out will be Tuesday, March 14, at 11:30 at Samurai X Hibachi and Sushi in Dexter.

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE: In what book of the New Testament do we find the only two occurrences of the word rainbow? \* In what book of the Bible do we read the words, "Twisting the nose produces blood" (NIV)? \* What is the name of the Bible character who said, "I have escaped with only the skin of my teeth (NIV)? \* According to King Solomon, good news gives health to what part of our body?

Answers: Revelation (4:3; 10:1) \* Proverbs (30:33) \* Job (19:20) \* Bones (Proverbs 15:30)