



TRUE LIGHT

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

April 16, 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
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573-276-5567
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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**

THE LORD IS NEAR

Let our gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near (Philippians 4:5).

Bertie had never married. As she had grown old, she had outlived most of her family. Her heart was failing. She knew that she would be "graduating to meet Jesus" very soon. And, to be quite honest, she was scared.

"Phil," she said, summoning all her courage, "I am afraid and don't want to die alone!"

I was twenty-four years old. I wasn't quite sure what to do to help her. So, I prayed with her asking for Jesus to show himself to Bertie. "Lord," I prayed out loud with her, "please show yourself to Bertie in an unmistakable way so that she knows that she is not alone as she dies. Amen."

Bertie was tired of being alone. She desperately wanted reassurance that the Savior she had trusted through life would accompany her through her death. I didn't know what else to ask, so I asked for her to be able to experience Jesus' presence as she died.

After my prayer, I began to turn to different passages of scripture and read them aloud to her. Somewhere during the ninety minutes of Bible reading she slipped into a peaceful sleep. Eventually, her failing heart quit. There was no struggle. There wasn't even a whimper. Somewhere along our journey through God's promises, the eternal part of Bertie left her body to be with Jesus and await the great reunion at his return (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). She died with a sweet smile on her face; all fear was gone.

I'm not sure what led me to begin saying that prayer - the straightforward asking that the person dying, along with his or her loved ones, be able to experience Jesus' presence. All I know is that it became part of my care for those in the closing time of life. I wasn't taught to pray for such a thing. In some ways, the audacious request was outside the accepted theology on which I had been raised. However, I know that my simple prayer has been answered more times than I can count.

The touches of the Lord's presence have sometimes been experienced in small, almost unnoticeable ways - the timing of certain events, the words of the music playing when a person drew his last breath, or the unexpected card or visit from her old friend. Sometimes the touches of the Lord's presence have felt much grander - the look on her face right before her body failed, the final words he shared before his passing, her reaching upward as if to take a reassuring hand to cross from this life to the next, or the words of a nurse or doctor that seemed a direct answer to a prayer.

That doesn't mean the passing of most of these people was as sweet and peaceful as Bertie's. Many, if I am honest, have been much harder, some even gut-wrenching. But, I am convinced, most families and most of those dying knew they were not abandoned by their Lord in their time of loss and grief.

Over the years, I have grown more and more passionate about my simple, but bold prayer: Lord Jesus, please make your gracious presence known to this precious person and his or her family during this hard time! We need to experience the nearness of your presence. Amen.

For me, this simple prayer makes the promises of two of my favorite passages in the time of death even more reassuring:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever (Psalm 23: 1-6 NKJV).

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels or demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

My prayer for you, my prayer for me, is that when our time comes - no matter how alone or terrifying or unfair or ill-timed our death may be - we experience the hand of our Shepherd and know that we are not alone as we walk through the dark valley of shadows and into the presence of Jesus!

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

April 17 - Jon Neely
 April 20 - Nicole Garner
 Lanie Hays
 April 21 - James & Janet Wood
 April 23 - Jeff & Karen McGowan



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Tape (Scotch/Masking) * Paper
 Napkins * Paper Plates & Cups *
 Spaghetti O's * Liquid Fabric
 Softener * Ketchup
 Pick up date: **TOMORROW**

WILLING TO SERVE

April 16, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh
 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

Attendance for April 9: 113

Contribution for April 9: \$4339

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Marty Watson released from the hospital following a bout with pneumonia and doing better * **Darlene McGowan** recently took a fall and is recovering slowly * **Judy Flannery** recovering from outpatient surgery * **Marietta Reams** doing better following surgery on her wrist * **Jerel Jester** will be having a melanoma removed from his neck * **Sonja Mays** is not doing well at all * **Louella Akers** is not doing well * **Janet Wood** is home recovering from knee replacement surgery * **Fern Botsch** on hospice care * **Karen Forkum** struggling with many health issues * **Don Jackson** still struggling with issues related to his knee and leg * Jerry Burleson's brother-in-law, **Glen**, diagnosed with congestive heart failure

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
 Prayer.....Cameron Traw
 Dismissal.....Mike Duley

April 23, 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.....David Carson
 Prayer.....Wayne Reams
 Scripture.....David Burleson
 Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

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 * 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

LOVE IS WORTH THE RISK

After a friend ended our decade-long friendship without explanation, I began slipping back into my old habit of keeping people at arms' length. While processing my grief, I pulled a tattered copy of *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis off my shelf. Lewis makes a powerful observation about love requiring vulnerability. He states there's "no safe investment" when a person risks loving. He suggests that loving "anything [will lead to] your heart being wrung and possibly broken." Reading those words changed how I read the account of the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection (John 21:1-14), after Peter had betrayed Him not once but three times (18:15-27).

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 *

Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" (21:15).

Our Shut Ins

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

After experiencing the sting of betrayal and rejection, Jesus spoke to Peter with courage not fear, strength not weakness, selflessness not desperation. He displayed mercy not wrath by confirming His willingness to love.

Looking Ahead

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

There will not be a Wednesday Fellowship meal this week due to a lack of volunteers to prepare it.

Our Senior Sunday will be May 7, following MORNING services. Our senior this year is Kalyn Traw, who graduated from Dexter High School mid-term. Please plan to stay for our potluck and help us honor Kalyn on this accomplishment. We will have our usual, early evening service following.

Ladies' Lunch Out Tuesday, May 9, at 11:30 at Broosters in Dexter. A sign up sheet will be available soon.

There will be a free marriage seminar May 20 at Central church of Christ in Paducah. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

Scripture reveals that *Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" (v 17).* But when Jesus asked Peter to prove his love by loving others (vv 15-17) and following Him (v 19), He invited all His disciples to risk loving unconditionally. Each of us will have to answer when Jesus asks, "Do you love me?" Our answer will impact how we love others.
 Kochitl Dixon

Bible Trivia:

How long did Ezekiel lie on his right side for the sins of Judah? * What book of the Bible talks about "five gold tumors and five gold rats"? * The bronze snake that Moses made was broken into pieces by what king?

Answers: Forty Days (Ezekiel 4:6) * 1 Samuel (6:4) * Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:1-4)