



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**June 25, 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

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**

## THE WELL

At one level, this is a transformation story summarized by seven phrases: Scorching heat \* All alone \* Daily Grind \* Unexpected encounter \* Spiritual truth \* Abandoned jar \* Powerful influence.

On another level, these seven phrases only give us hints and brief glimpses of a life-altering encounter. We know intuitively as we read this story that something much deeper is happening. This encounter is much more than the well and the water jar at the center of the story. This story is too profound for mere words to fully capture: a truth we need lives in this story!

We meet a woman who had been put out by five husbands. She is living with a man who did not respect her enough to marry her. She had come to the well in the scorching heat of the day by herself. She had no friends for conversation. There was no banter to soften her hard life or lighten her load. The demand for water made her regular trips to the well necessary. The time when she went there always reminded her that she was unwanted. She wouldn't go when the "decent" women of the village were there to ridicule her or "politely" whispered behind her back just loud enough for her to hear.

Life for her was predictable at best: Thirsting \* Trudging \* Filling \* Returning \* Load-bearing \* Drinking \* Emptying.

Doing the predicable grind all over again.

Then one day, a divine interruption she never expected startled her out of her self-imposed emotional slumber. *Will you give me a drink?* (John 4:7) Jesus asked her. What seemed like a simple enough question was full of dangerously thorny issues:

- What was a Jew doing at this well - didn't they all go between Judea and Galilee by traveling along the Jordan?
- Why would a Jew ask a Samaritan for a drink - didn't Jews and Samaritans avoid conversations and certainly refused to share drinking and eating utensils?
- Why would a Jewish Rabbi, a man, talk to a woman in public?
- What was this Jewish Rabbi after - for why would a man pay attention to her if he wasn't after something?

Jesus' response was intriguing: *If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have giving you living water* (John 4:10).

"I doubt it," the woman told Jesus. Oh, you didn't see that exact phrase in the Bible text (John 4:1-30)? The unnamed woman asked a follow-up series of questions that made her doubt very clear. At the same time, her questions hinted to Jesus of her longing for something that her current life could not provide her.

Just as much as Nicodemus had needed a fresh start at life (John 3:3-7), so also did this woman. As opposite as the two were, their deepest need was the same. Both needed Jesus to help them start over with the help of God's Spirit - the living water only Jesus could provide (John 7:37-39).

There are all kinds of doubt. Angry doubt: God, why did you let this happen to me? Questioning doubt: God, where are you in all of this? Desperation beyond doubt: I'm not sure how much longer I can hold on - God, when are you coming to rescue me? Hopeless doubt: God, you probably don't want to do anything to help me, do you?

We all have doubts. Nearly all of us have doubts about God. While this woman had a very real question about how to worship God, her doubt kept her faith questions stuck on hold. Then Jesus showed up.

Unfortunately, many of us get stuck in this last kind of doubt - God, you probably don't want to do anything to help me, do you? Stuck in our doubt, we never notice Jesus at our "well." We never acknowledge his first efforts to reach out and connect with us.

We hear stuff about Jesus and his being near. We dismiss it by telling ourselves, "I doubt it!"

Continued on back

## **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

June 25 - Jack McGowan  
Gloria Moore  
June 26 - David & Jane Terrill (A)  
June 27 - Jason & Celia McGowan (A)  
June 28 - David Burlison  
Jack & Helen McGowan (A)  
June 29 - Lynette Thomason  
July 1 - Rodney & Cindy Williams (A)

## **CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS**

Velveeta Cheese \* Nuts \* Disinfectant Spray (i.e. Lysol) \* Bathroom Tissue Paper \* Light Bulbs \* Spaghetti Sauce  
  
Pick up date: July 24, 2023

**Attendance for June 18: 90**  
**Contribution for June 18: \$3822**

## **WILLING TO SERVE**

### **June 25, 2023**

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
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

### **Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
Prayer.....David Carson  
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

### **July 2, 2023**

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Cameron Traw  
Opening Prayer.....David Carson  
Scripture.....Ron Garner  
Prayer.....Zack Tanner  
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson  
Prayer.....Wayne Reams  
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers  
Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

### **Continued from front**

- I've been let down by God.
- I hate all this religious pretentiousness.
- These religious snobs look down on me.
- I'm sick of the hypocrisy.
- I'm sick of all the religious talk.
- I'm sick of even thinking about it!

What hope do we have of meeting Jesus right where we are? Will we pause and listen for his request to step into our lives? *Will you give me a drink?* Jesus asks us.

The question might not come packaged like a divine moment. It may well be in the middle of the daily grind of life in a place that is wearily familiar. After all, that is where we spend most of our time. Jesus' simple question may even feel like another demand placed on our already over-taxed emotions. It did for this woman at her well.

But underneath, there is the same promise Jesus made to her that he makes to us:

*Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life (John 4:13-14).*

So, before we say, "I doubt it!" again for the thousandth time, let's pause. Let's pause in the middle of our weary, lonely, scorching hot, brutally agonizing, thoroughly predictable and bone-wearying trip to do what is necessary for our daily grind. Let's pause and ask Jesus, "Please, give me some of this water of yours so I can quit this awful life of reruns stuck in futility. Please, give me some of your water so I can get rid of my loneliness, my feelings of rejection, and my monotonous trips through the same old routines without hope."

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

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Louella Layton** (Larry Layton's mother) at Memphis Trauma Center, following two surgeries for a badly broken leg. She is in a lot of pain \* **Ken Durham** home from the hospital after having blood clots in his lungs \* **Luke Tanner** struggling with some stomach issues \* **Mike Duley** will see the gastroenterologist in St. Louis July 14 \* **Jerel Jester** taking immunotherapy treatments. He will see pain management July 6 \* **Louella Akers** is not doing well \* **Karen Forkum and Gloria Moore** struggling with many health issues \* **Travis Cooper** is not doing well \* **Nikki Lawrence** having tests for some health issues \* **Emily Beaird** (McKenzie's mother) is having issues with abdominal pain \*

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** Louella Akers \* David Burlison \* David Carson \* Scott and Judy Flannery \* Sue Flowers \* Patsy (Hardy) Gregg \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Ida Roberts \* Waynetta Rodgers \* David Terrill \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson \* Woody Wood

## **Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :**

Melinda Akers \* Chastity Beaird \* Cathy Bennett \* Gina Bogle \* Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Randy Cravens \* Barbara Denson \* 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 \* 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 \* Brenda Robinson \* Kevin Steed \* Traci Suiter \* Paige Tanner \* Heather Whitehead \*

## **Our Shut Ins**

Louella Akers \* Travis Cooper \* Sue Flowers \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson

## **Looking Ahead**

Our Summer Series speaker this week will be Jay Lyles from the Slicer Street congregation in Kennett. There is a list of speakers on the table in the foyer.

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Mike Napier with Gospel Chariot Missions will be here July 2. He will be bringing a Gospel Chariot for us to see.

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Our first Sunday potluck and early evening service will be July 2. We will eat following morning service and have an early, 1 p.m. evening service. Please make plans to stay for the potluck.

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Session 3 of BYC will be July 9-14. There are some applications on the table in the foyer; early registration deadline to save \$25 is today.

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July 17 - Summer Youth Series at Green Forest church of Christ.

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July 18 - Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at the Malden Country Club.

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VBS is coming to Bernie July 23-26. Our theme this year will be "Noah's Ark Adventures." We will need lots of help - please see Ginger to let her know what you can do!

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July 31 - Summer Youth Series at Bernie.

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