



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**July 30, 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**

## TAKING AWAY THEIR HUMANITY

It is one of the most haunting things I have read in a long time. It is also the polar opposite of what our culture tells us is the truth. I'll share what it is in a minute.

As we come to the end of so-called "Pride Month," we are exhausted by the unceasing messaging of all the sins that are being promoted. We are tired of seeing rainbows (with an ever-expanding array of colors) everywhere and we are ready for something else to dominate the news.

But we cannot ever leave this issue until it is shown to be what it is: sin.

Today, though, I want to share with you something I read during this month that opened my eyes even more, not just to the sinfulness of the "T" in LGBTQ+, but of the true danger of it.

For a few years now, and with ever-increasing speed, parents and other adults are being told

*Male and female He created them (Genesis 1:27)*

that they need to affirm the transgender identity of their child. They are told that they need to go ahead and let their child express their "true self" through dress and through things like puberty blockers. Parents are told that there are a few risks, but they are worth it. Parents are regularly fed the line that they would rather have a living daughter than a dead son (or vice versa). So they need to just go along and let the child take some blockers and live his/her life.

But what are the risks of those puberty blockers? There are actually many, but one of them goes 180 degrees against the "there are a few risks but none worth worrying about" line that says that these help you to "affirm the humanity" of your child.

The following paragraph was written by a doctor who wanted to remain anonymous, but who shares the truth about these procedures. It is lengthy, but please take the time to read it carefully. The physician stated, "This medication [the puberty blocker often given to children, ADF] is called a 'gonadotropin releasing hormone agonist' and it comes in the form of monthly injections or an implant. And because it stimulates the activity of this hormone, it shuts down the activity of the hypothalamus. The hypothalamus is this almond-sized structure in your brain, it's one of the most primal structures we have, and it controls all the other hormonal structures in your body - your sexual development, your emotions, your fight-or-flight response, everything. But it shouldn't be described in such cold physiological terms because your hypothalamus is not just a hormone factory. It's this system that allows you to stand in awe of the beauty of a sunset, or to hear the sounds of orchestral music and to stop whatever you're doing and want to listen. And I always think that if someone were to ask me, Where is it that you would look for the divine spark in each individual? I would say that it would be somewhere 'beneath the inner chamber,' which is the Greek derivation of the term hypothalamus. To shut down that system is to shut down what makes us human."

So, in other words, to "affirm" the humanity of these children, we are allowing them to take a medicine that is shutting down their humanity. (Also, did you realize that it is estimated that about 4 out of every 10 people who identify as transgender will attempt suicide ... **after** they "transition"? So, the entire line of argument is flawed and a lie.)

Are there people who struggle with their sexuality? Of course, there are. It seems that there have been some who struggled in these ways for eons. But to not only affirm their confusion, but then also to do something that takes away their humanity? We are being cruel.

Further, though, we are removing them from a relationship with God. How can I say that? Because part of what it means to be drawn to God is to be in wonder and awe of His creation and His splendor. But if we are taking away (or greatly reducing) that capacity in people, then they will be unable (or greatly hindered) from being able to be in wonder and awe of Him. So why would they ever want a relationship with Him?

The more I research and study this issue, it is not that I get more angry (although I do sometimes). It is that I get sadder. We are doing things that are tragic in the lives of people who are struggling. We are sterilizing them. We are affirming a delusion so they live this life without a grasp on reality. And we are taking away some of the great joys of being human: wonder and awe.

It has to stop, and not just for children. It all has to stop. Adam Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

## **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

August 2 - Matt Mayberry  
August 4 - Ronnie & Gloria Moore (A)  
August 5 - Rodney & Lisa Britt (A)  
Jon & Leslie Neely (A)  
August 6 - Isaiah Collier



## **CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS**

Brown Sugar \* Brownie Mix \* Butter Flavored Shortening \* Canned Chicken \* Cheddar Cheese Soup \* Vienna Sausage  
Pick Up Date November 6



## **WILLING TO SERVE**

**July 30, 2023**

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
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

**Wednesday, August 2, 2023**

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
Prayer.....Jerry Burleson  
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

**August 6, 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.....Ron Garner  
Prayer.....David Burleson  
Scripture.....Justin Allen  
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

## **GOD OF THE GARDEN**

Many years ago, Joni Mitchell wrote a song called "Woodstock" in which she saw the human race trapped in a "bargain" with the devil. Urging her listeners to seek a simpler, more peaceful existence, she sang of a return to "the garden." Mitchell spoke for a generation longing for purpose and meaning.

Mitchell's poetical "garden" is Eden, of course. Eden was the paradise God created for us back in the beginning. In this garden, Adam and Eve met with God on a regular basis - until the day they made their bargain with the devil (see Genesis 3:6-7). That day was different. *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden (v 8).*

When God asked what they'd done, Adam and Eve engaged in a lot of blame-shifting. Despite their denial, God didn't leave them there. He *made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them (v 21)*, a sacrifice that hinted at the death Jesus would endure to cover our sins.

God didn't give us a way back to Eden. He gave us a way forward into a restored relationship with Him. We can't return to the garden. But we can return to the God of the garden.

Tim Gustafson

**Attendance for July 23: 99**

**Contribution for July 23: \$3426**

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Sue Flowers** is not doing well at all \* **David Burleson** waiting on test results \* **Mike Duley** \* **Donna McQuin** has been struggling with health issues for a few months now \* **Jerel Jester** taking immunotherapy treatments. \* **Louella Akers** is not doing well \* **Karen Forkum and Gloria Moore** struggling with many health issues \* **Travis Cooper** is not doing well \* **Ruth Dauck** recovering at home from a broken shoulder \*

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** Louella Akers \* David Burleson \* 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 Beard \* 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

## **Other health issues (non-congregational):**

Dixie Billingsley \* DeeDee Burch \* Mary Burke \* Shirley Grimes \* Katie Hicks \* Grant Howard \* Clyde Jacques \* Lola Johnson \* Beckie King \* Eva Latham \* Nikki Lawrence \* Louella Layton \* Tim Lecroy \* Shug Lee \* Jerry Don McGowan \* Brenda Robinson \* Kevin Steed \* Traci Suiter \* Heather Whitehead \*

## **Our Shut Ins**

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

## **Looking Ahead**

Today-Aug. 1 - Gospel Meeting at the Central church of Christ in Caruthersville. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

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July 31 - Summer Youth Series at Bernie at 7 p.m. We need lots of help providing brownies, cookies and chips. Please check the list on the table in the foyer. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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August 2 - Our Wednesday Summer Series Speaker will be Brian Mitchell from the Jackson congregation.

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August 7 - Summer Youth Series at 7 p.m. at Shady Acres, Sikeston.

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August 14 - Summer Youth Series at 7 p.m. at Dexter.

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August 15 - Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 a.m. at Huddle House in Dexter. Note this a change from our planned location due to hours open.

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August 22 - Ladies' supper and devotional at 6 p.m. at the home of Amy Thomason. You will need your Bible and something to write with.

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September 9 - Ladies Day at Mountain Home church of Christ with guest speaker Linda Hayes. The theme is "New Every Morning." More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

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September 30 - Children's Homes Homecoming and Open house from 11-3. There is a poster on the bulletin board with more information.