



TRUE LIGHT

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

July 9, 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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"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**

AFTER THE DECLARATION

This post is being released after Independence Day passed [last week]. That date is very important for America and it is always encouraging to see people celebrate it by hanging a flag or posting something patriotic on social media.

However, July 4 was not the end of the Revolutionary War. While it is a very important date, the battles in that war continued to be fought for quite some time. It would not be for a long while until the British finally surrendered and America truly had her freedom. They could not just *declare* that they were independent, they had to fight for it.

It is also true that, in the decades since, we have had to continue to fight to stay free. Threats have come - the War of 1812 maybe being the clearest example - and will continue to. If we do not continue to work to hold on to our freedom, our nation will collapse.

If we decide to lose battles on purpose, or just leave the battlefield altogether, our freedom will be taken away.

But this is a Christian blog. What does this have to do with our Christian lives?

A very similar thing is true about our Christianity. When one is baptized, his sins are washed away and he is free (Acts 2:38). At that point, he is free from the chains of bondage that come with a life of sin. It is a moment that is not only life-changing, but that marks the beginning of a new life.

However, the battles are not over. The enemy, the devil, will return and seek to bring that person back into the bondage of sin again. Temptations will abound.

There are many who teach that a person simply cannot be lost again. That person, once saved, is "always saved." If that is true, then much of the New Testament is irrelevant, because it continually warns Christians about falling into sin, turning back, and falling from grace.

We must continue to fight to stay free. While God's grace and the blood of Jesus will cover us, that is only true if we continue to walk in the light (1 John 1:7). If we decide to lose battles on purpose, or just leave the battlefield altogether, our freedom will be taken away.

Keep fighting!

Adam Faugh, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

Watching Out for One Another

Jose, a seventy-seven-year-old substitute teacher, had been living out of his car for eight years. Every night, the elderly man bunked down in his 1997 Ford Thunderbird LX, carefully monitoring the car battery as it powered his computer for his evening's work. Instead of using the money earmarked for rent, Jose sent it to numerous family members in Mexico who needed it more. Early every morning, one of the teacher's former students saw Jose rummaging through his trunk. "I just felt like I needed to do something about it," the man said. So, he launched a fundraiser and weeks later handed Jose a check to help him pay for a place to live.

Though Scripture repeatedly instructs us to watch out for one another, it's sometimes difficult to see past our own concerns. The prophet Zechariah rebuked Israel who, rather than worshiping God or serving others, were *feasting for [them]selves* (Zechariah 7:6). Ignoring their shared communal life, they disregarded their neighbors' need. Zechariah made God's instructions clear: the people were to *administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another ... [and] not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor* (vv 9-10).

While it's easy to be consumed with our own needs, faithfulness calls us to tend to the needs of others. In the divine economy, there's plenty for all. And God, in His mercy, chooses to use us to give some of that plenty to others.

Winn Collier

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

July 9 - Louella Akers
Chloe Collier



July 12 - Josh Young

July 13 - Jerry Collier

July 14 - Meg Simmons

July 15 - Jason McGowan

July 16 - Rick and Ginger Beard (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

WILLING TO SERVE

July 9, 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 Carson
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

Attendance for July 2: 99

Contribution for July 2: \$3941

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Janie Burleson hasn't been feeling well * **Louella Layton** is now at Cypress Point recovering from a badly broken leg * **Luke Tanner** struggling with some stomach issues * **Mike Duley** will see the gastroenterologist in St. Louis Friday * **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 * **Nikki Lawrence** having tests for some health issues *

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 * 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

Session 3 of BYC begins today. They are still in need of kitchen help and some pies and cobblers for July 12. If you can transport the pies, please let Stan know.

Our Summer Series speaker this week will be Johnny Hester. There is a list of speakers on the table in the foyer.

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

July 18 - Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at the Malden Country Club. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer.

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!

July 24 - Children's home grocery run. Let's get the cart filled up.

July 31 - Summer Youth Series at Bernie.

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

August 14 - Summer Youth Series at Dexter.

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.

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....David Carson
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

July 16, 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

MONSTRO THE GOLDFISH

Lacey Scott was at her local pet store when a sad fish at the bottom of the tank caught her eye. His scales had turned black and lesions had formed on his body. Lacey rescued the ten-year-old fish, named him "Monstro" after the whale in the fairy tale "Pinocchio," and placed him in a "hospital" tank, changing his water daily. Slowly, Monstro improved, began to swim, and grew in size. His black scales transformed to gold. Through Lacey's committed care, Monstro was made new!

In Luke 10, Jesus tells the story of a traveler who was beaten, robbed, and left for dead. Both a priest and a Levite passed by, ignoring the man's suffering. But a Samaritan - a member of a despised people group - took care of him, even paying for his needs (Luke 10:33-35). Pronouncing the Samaritan as the true "neighbor" in the story, Jesus encouraged His listeners to do the same.

What Lacey did for a dying goldfish, we can do for people in need around us. Homeless, unemployed, disabled, and lonely "neighbors" lie in our path. Let us allow their sadness to catch our eyes and draw us to respond with neighborly care. A kind greeting. A shared meal. A few dollars slipped from palm to palm. How might God use us to offer His love to others, a love which can make all things new?

Elisa Morgan

Rest is not idleness, and to sometimes lie on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time.

John Lubbock