



TRUE LIGHT

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

August 27, 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**

WHERE THE LINES BLUR

*If I go up to heaven, you are there;
if I go down to the grave, *you are there.*

*If I ride the wings of the morning,
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,
even there your hand will guide me,
and your strength will support me.*

*I could ask the darkness to hide me
and the light around me to become night—
but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.*

*To you the night shines as bright as day.
Darkness and light are the same to you (Psalm 139:8-12).*

The ribbon of road stretched ahead of us, slipping from gray to blue and then into the fuzzy distance. Above the disappearing road yawned a wide and open sky, suddenly throbbing in vibrant pinks and purples. What before was just a normal blue was now pulsing with intoxicating gold.

Daniel spied a small and seemingly forgotten rest stop and quickly pulled the minivan into the rough exit. The kids crawled out from the abyss of the van, their feet crunching on forgotten snacks. I looked the other way, preferring not to see the now-littered insides of the recently cleaned vehicle.

The kids stretched tired legs and filled their lungs with fresh air. I lugged a heavy cooler to a concrete picnic table and started to make sandwiches until I couldn't. "Come look, honey!" Daniel pulled me toward the rugged landscape just beyond the pavilion.

Scrubby grass gave way to tumbleweed snagged in barbed wire, and just beyond wire, gently sloping land loped into mesas and old Indian land begging to be explored. The symphony of colors serenaded me, the sunset transforming the jagged cactus into golden fuzz, making everything look soft and welcoming. I knew in the midday heat this place could blister scorching hot and dangerous.

The hot West Texas air was my native language - this was my land. I belonged in this harsh wind-blown place. I was part of this staggering beauty. On a sudden rest stop in who-knows-where west Texas, something deep inside stirred, stretched, and woke. I was home.

It was more than just a dusty, forgotten pull-off. I was struck with the reality that in the most hostile place, the most brutal season, God is painting gold on the very things that can cause pain. A desert is hostile environment, to say the least, and can easily snatch the life of someone not prepared for the engulfing heat.

But here in the place where lines blur, between land and sky, that small fold between day and night, the very place where great danger lies, it is here where we experience God's presence like never before.

I will never forget another place where the wild winds blew through my bare soul, a river rock turned headstone. Or the moment when my labor took a sinister turn, and my baby was wedged impossibly tight between womb and world. Flipping through the pages of my memories, I don't especially remember the easy moments, but the hard ones where God's breath alone was what sustained me.

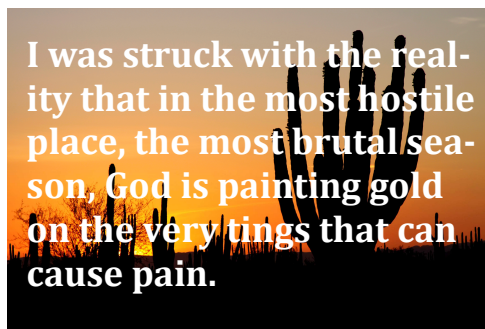
Mary carried a sword in her heart. Hagar met an angel and said, "God is the one who sees me." Jael slew Sisera in her own tent, the most unlikely war hero of her day. Moses' mother gave her baby up only to watch him follow God into the desert and then back to Egypt to lead her people to freedom.

History is written on these pages of hard and heavenly smashed up hard together. We need the scorching desert moments so they can host the golden illumination of His nearness in our desperation. That rest stop carved deep lines in my soul, an awareness of always belonging. Always being held. Always being seen.

No matter where the road is taking us, even on a random and seemingly accidental pull-off, the warm evening light catches in my hair and fills my lungs with the sweetest confidence.

No matter where I am, I am with Him. With Him, I am home.

Melissa Troyer, www.heartlight.com



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

August 27 - Charlie Garner
Karen McGowan
August 30 - Larry Summers
August 31 - Leon Smith
September 1 - Ron & Julie Garner (A)
September 3 - Jeanie Robinson
Jane Smith



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

August 27, 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 23, 2023

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Dismissal.....David Carson

September 3, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Ralph Mullins (guest)
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

PLANS AND PROVIDENCE

In 2000, an upstart company operating on a movie-rental-by-mail system offered to sell their company for \$50 million to Blockbuster, the home movies and video game rentals king at that time. Netflix had roughly 300,000 subscribers, while Blockbuster had millions and millions of them. Blockbuster passed on the opportunity to purchase their little competitor. The result? Today Netflix has more than 180 million subscribers and is worth nearly \$200 billion. As for Blockbuster, well ... it went bust. None of us can predict the future.

We're tempted to believe that we're in control of our lives and that our plans for the future will succeed. But James says, *You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes* (4:14). Life is brief, quick, and more fragile than we often realize. Planning is necessary, but the sin of presumption is in the assumption that we're in control. That's why James warns us not to *boast in [our] arrogant schemes, for all such boasting is evil* (v. 16).

The way to avoid this sinful practice is through grateful participation with God. Gratitude reminds us that He's the source of every *good and perfect gift* (1:17). Then when we come to God, we ask Him not to simply bless our present and future plans but to help us join Him in what He's doing. This is what it means to pray, *If it is the Lord's will* (4:15). Glenn Packiam

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to Judy Snyder in the sudden loss of her good friend and neighbor, Susie Lyons, who passed away August 24.

Attendance for August 20: 90

Contribution for August 20: \$3672

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sue Flowers is on hospice care but is feeling some better * **David Burleson** as he begins cancer treatments * **Jerel Jester** was unable to have his immunotherapy last week due to low blood volume * **Louella Akers** is not doing well * **Karen Forkum and Gloria Moore** struggling with many health issues * **Travis Cooper** is not doing well * **Brynlee Douglas** (Mike and Judy Duly's great-granddaughter) has a growth in her leg and will have an MRI tomorrow * **Mike Duley** will see the foot doctor Tuesday * **Ruth Dauck** will have surgery on her shoulder Tuesday * **Bill Peck** (Marty & Phyllis Howard's brother-in-law) diagnosed with a brain tumor

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Carson * Mike Duley * Scott and Judy Flannery * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuIn * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beard * Cathy Bennett * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Patricia Greninger * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Kristin Meadows * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Linda Morgan * 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

Our Summer Series Speaker this week will be Josh Yates, pulpit minister at Fruitland. This will be our last speaker for the series.

September 2 - First Sunday potluck and early evening service. We will enjoy a meal following morning worship and an early, 1 p.m. evening service. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Our new quarter will also begin today, as well as class promotions.

September 8 - Bake Sale fundraiser for the Lunch Box in Dexter. We have been asked to provide a variety of homemade cookies. More information is on the table in the foyer.

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.

September 12 - Ladies' Lunch Out at Mongolian Grill in Sikeston.

September 16 - BYC Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction. If you would like to put together a basket to be auctioned off, please let Stan know.

September 19 - Ladies' supper and devotional at 6 p.m. at the home of Amy Thomason. You will need your Bible and something to write with. NOTE: This is rescheduled from the original August 22 date due to scheduling conflicts.

September 30 - Children's Homes Homecoming and Open house from 11-3. There is a poster on the bulletin board with more information. Let's get our Change for Children cans filled up.

October 22-25: Our Gospel meeting with Spencer Furby. Be praying now for a successful meeting and that many lives will be changed.