



TRUE LIGHT

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

August 6, 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**

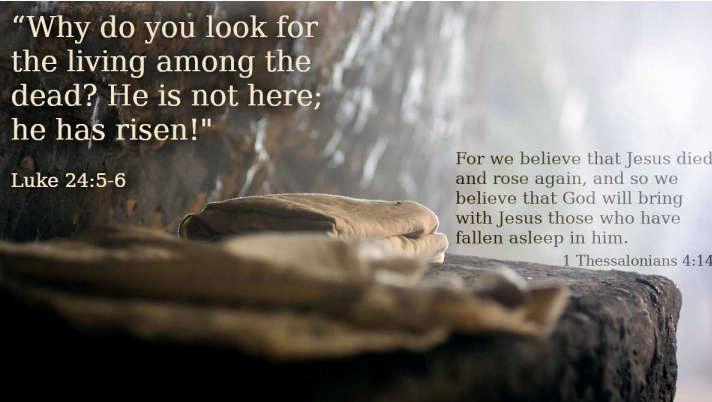
ETERNITY: BEYOND SEPARATION TO HOPE

The death of a loved one is a complete alteration of life, hope, and, oftentimes, faith. The separation death brings is overwhelming! When this life-altering grief and separation invade our worlds, we are left with many challenges; some seem insurmountable.

You've lost a precious loved one in death. What do you do? Where do you turn? What should you think? How do you gather your inner reserves, lean on your faith, and move forward in life without this precious one you love?

Without a doubt, you are hurting immensely. Thankfully, the Bible was written to help us face life's most challenging events practically and with great hope. Because of concerns and the surrounding confusion you are now facing, you can turn to the words of the apostle Paul. He told the believers in Thessalonica who were very close to their recently deceased loved ones that in Christ, they will share in a great reunion. Rather than a parting with someone precious for Eternity, they and their precious loved ones will spend Eternity together with Jesus!

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep (1 Thessalonians 4:13-15



Luke 24:5-6

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

ESV. See also what Jesus says to loved ones who have lost someone dear to them - Luke 8:49-56).

In fact, beloved believers in Christ who have died will be raised first. Notice Paul uses the image of going to sleep in Christ for death because their physical death is not their permanent or spiritual death. They will be raised first at Jesus' return, then those still alive when Jesus returns will meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Then, all those who have "fallen asleep" in Christ and those of us who are alive at His return will always be together with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Paul intended these words to be an encouragement, a source of comfort and fresh instruction for them as they faced their grief. And Paul challenged us to use these words to encourage each other in our grief, separation, and sense of loss!

When a loved one who belongs to God dies, our hearts are broken. Our lives are radically changed. Yet, in the middle of our confusion, pain, grief, anger, and sorrow, we have hope because of Jesus. This hope is rooted in a word from the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:15 ESV) and because of our faith in Him:

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep (1 Thessalonians 4:14

We believe in Jesus' victory over death, so we are confident that we will see our loved ones again! Those who have lost loved ones will be reunited when the Father decides the time is correct (Matthew 24:36).

As long as Christians live on Earth, we should remain faithful to Jesus' teaching and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us along our unique spiritual journey until the time of our own death (Philippians 2:12-13). Death is merely a physical separation from our earthly life and earth-bound struggles. When our loved one who is faithful dies, they are brought into the presence of Jesus (Philippians 1:19-23) and live a spiritual life unbridled by pain, disabilities, and other physical sufferings (Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 7:17, 21:4).

While those of us who are left behind when a loved one passes on to Jesus experience a deep sorrow and quite possibly a dramatic change in our daily lives, we can be assured that both the one who has passed on through death and those of us still waiting for Jesus, are never alone (Romans 8:32-39). We are bound together by the Holy Spirit and will be reunited in our heavenly home with Jesus and with each other!

Gene Vance, www.heartlight.com

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

August 6 - Isaiah Collier
August 8 - Paul Gresham
 Jess Lecroy
 Sam & Nicole Garner (A)
August 9 - Anna Williams
August 12 - Ida Roberts
 Jessica Young
 Larry & Kendra Summers (A)
August 13 - Rita Clayton
 Karen Forkum



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 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

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

August 13, 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

RELINQUISHING CONTROL TO GOD

Picture a mighty oak tree that's small enough to fit on a kitchen table. That's what a bonsai looks like - a beautiful ornamental tree that's a miniature version of what you find wild in nature. There's no genetic difference between a bonsai and its full-size counterpart. It's simply that a shallow pot, pruning, and root trimming restrict growth, so the plant remains small.

While bonsai trees make for wonderful decorative plants, they also illustrate the power of control. It's true that we can manipulate their growth as the trees respond to their environment, but God is ultimately the One who makes things grow.

God spoke to the prophet Ezekiel this way: *I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall* (Ezekiel 17:24). God was foreshadowing future events when he would "uproot" the nation of Israel by allowing the Babylonians to invade. In the future, however, God would plant a new tree in Israel that would bear fruit, with *birds of every kind* finding shelter in the shade of its branches (v 23). God said that no matter how much upcoming events seemed out of control, He was still in charge.

The world tells us to try to control our circumstances by manipulation and through our own hard work. But true peace and thriving are found by relinquishing control to the only One who can make the trees grow.

Karen Pimpo

Attendance for July 30: 91

Contribution for July 30: \$3191

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Wayne Reams is home following an automobile accident Wednesday * **Sue Flowers** is not doing well at all * **David Burleson** met with doctors Thursday to begin a treatment plan * **Mike Duley** * **Donna McKuin** 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 * **Ronnie Goins** (Donna McKuin's brother) struggling with breathing issues * **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 - First Sunday Potluck and early evening service. We will share a potluck meal following morning worship and a 1 p.m. evening service. Everyone is encouraged to stay for the potluck.

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

August 9 - Our Summer Series Speaker this Wednesday will be Jeremy Pierce.

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

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.

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.

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 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.