



TRUE LIGHT

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

October 1, 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**

IN HIS IMAGE

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to the likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image,
In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them (Genesis 1:26-27 NRSV)

Her name was Doreen, and she is all I remember about Sierra Bible Camp in 1961. My friend Kathy introduced us, and from that point on, I was dazzled. On the last day of camp, she gave me her address and on the way down the mountain on the bus, I wrote my first letter. My mother would say I was smitten.

Doreen had a boyfriend at home, but I could write to her. She lived over an hour away, but that didn't matter ... I was 15 and enchanted. I didn't drive yet anyway. So, I wrote letters, not love letters, just weekly letters ... and practiced mailbox hovering until...

The voice on the phone said, "Doreen is dead. She was murdered by her boyfriend."

I dropped the phone: "WHAT?"

I stood, motionless, in shock: "NOOOO!"

Murder was unimaginable. The pain shot through every bone in my body; the hollowness was sudden and vicious; part of me had been ripped away.

Later I was told sometime on the morning of her death, her boyfriend, Dean, fell from a tree, hurting his head. With a pounding headache, he rode his bike to Doreen's to call his dad. But, within minutes, something snapped. Dean attacked her, knocked her out, beat her, stabbed her more than two dozen times, and tried to rape her. He closed those beautiful blue eyes for good. And I hated him.

Doreen and Dean and Kathy, along with a number of my camp friends, attended Pacific Christian Academy in Graton, California. That's where the funeral was held on the 17th of August 1961. I've forgotten who spoke or what was said, but I have never forgotten that song ... her favorite song. We stood in the back, about ten of us, and sang:

My God and I walk through the fields together,
We walk and talk as good friends should and do.
We clasp our hands, our voices ring with laughter...
("My God and I" by Austria August Wihto)

I wondered what God had to laugh about in this moment. Nothing seemed laughable at all.

In the weeks that followed, while the rest of us wrestled with grief, my friend Kathy was reaching out to Dean. She saw something in him worth her time ... it was a God thing. God gave her eyes to see pain and regret, and guilt. She wrote to him, talked with him, and visited him. She was Jesus to him. She was then, and always has been, an image bearer for the King, Himself.

She forgave Dean, but it cost her. Kathy's best friends turned against her, and others shunned and rejected her. Trapped by their hate, they didn't know how to forgive, nor did they want to; after all, it wasn't deserved or even asked for. But soft-spoken Kathy showed us all how to be Jesus in spite of the snubbing.

While serving his time, Dean found redemption ... and through the years, God infused Kathy with an oversized dose of quiet courage and helped unwrap the gift of compassion. Kathy sees as Jesus sees. Now, she is a lighthouse of hope for all who know her. Portland, beware!

Amazing things happen when we cannot see. God works miracles in our darkness. He turns everything upside down. Grief and rejection turn into God-things - times of walking and talking with the God who is in the room and working in our darkness. And in the end, our voices do ring with laughter.

Thank you, Abba, for still loving us and giving us your image to wear with honor, in spite of us.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

October 4 - Faye Dockins
 October 6 - McKenzie Beard
 Judy Snyder
 October 8 - Betty McGowan
 Ken & Sharon Durham (A)



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

October 1, 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

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
 Prayer.....David Burleson
 Dismissal.....Sam Garner

October 8, 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.....Rodney Williams
 Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
 Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

LOOK AT THE FRUIT

“Will the real [person’s name] please stand up?”

That’s the familiar line at the end of the game show “To Tell the Truth.” A panel of four celebrities asks questions of three individuals claiming to be the same person. Of course, two are imposters, and it’s up to the panel to discern the actual person. In one episode, the celebrities tried to guess “the real Johnny Marks,” who wrote the lyrics to “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.” The celebrities found out how difficult it was to figure out who’s who, even when asking good questions. Imposters finagled the truth, which made for entertaining television.

Discerning who’s who when it comes to false teachers is a far cry from television game show antics, but it can be equally as challenging and is infinitely more important. The *ferocious wolves* often come to us in *sheep’s clothing*, and Jesus warns even the wise among us to *watch out* (Matthew 7:15). The best test is not so much good questions, but good eyes. Look at their fruit, for that’s how you’ll recognize them (V 16-20).

Scripture gives us assistance in seeing good and bad fruit. The good fruit looks like *love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control* (Galatians 5:22-23). We’ve got to pay close attention, for wolves play by deception. But as believers, who are filled with the Spirit, we serve the real Good Shepherd, *full of grace and truth* (John 1:14).

John Blase

Attendance for September 24: 95

Contribution for September 24: \$4909

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Wayne Reams is in room 3007 at St Francis doing extensive rehab * **Ted Jacques** is at home and resting comfortably after an overnight stay at Southeast Wednesday * **Rodney Britt** (Lisa Britt’s husband) has been diagnosed with stage 4 prostate cancer that has spread to his bones * **Helen McGowan** recently injured her back and hasn’t been feeling well * **Jodie Buckner** (Brian McGowan’s daughter) is out of the hospital and improving * **David Terrill** continuing to have some fluid build up and heart related issues * **Sue Flowers** is on hospice care but is feeling some better * **Brynlee Douglas** (Mike and Judy Duley’s great granddaughter) will undergo laser treatment for the mass in her knee. * **Roxanne Carson** has three new spots on her brain * **Alan Woodward**, Jon Neely’s brother-in-law, will have a bone marrow transplant in October for leukemia treatment

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * David Carson * Travis Cooper * Mike Duley * Scott and Judy Flannery * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * 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 * Bill Peck * Nikki Reif * Ashley Smith * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah *

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 * Tim Lecroy * Shug Lee * Jerry Don McGowan * Brenda Robinson * Journey Rose * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Heather Whitehead *

Our Shut Ins

Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

Today - First Sunday potluck and early evening service. Everyone is encouraged to stay for the meal following morning service and the afternoon service following.

Wednesday night fellowship meal will be hot dogs, soups and chili. Desserts will be needed.

October 8: Youth night at 5 p.m. at Sikeston with guest speaker TJ Kirk.

October 17 - Ladies Lunch Out at Main Street Café in Bernie.

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

November 4: Ladies Day at Dexter. The theme is “A Feast for the Soul.” More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

Caught Ya!

A shout out to Cooper and Cason Karnes, who have been collecting forgotten communion cups from the pews following worship services each Sunday. Thank you, boys, for showing a servant’s heart!

*In October,
 A maple tree before your window
 lights up your room
 like a great lamp.
 Even on cloudy days,
 its presence helps to dispel the gloom.*

John Burroughs

