



TRUE LIGHT

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

September 24, 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***

A PICTURE THAT MADE ME ASHAMED

I doubt I'm in the minority of preachers when I say I don't really enjoy preaching on attendance. It would seem to be just about the most basic concept of the faith; after all, it's just showing up. However, it seems that it was an issue even in the First Century. After all, the "attendance verse" that everyone seems to know - Hebrews 10:25 - even says that, back then, "forsaking" was "the habit of some."

Still, even though I mention it in sermons at times, I don't enjoy feeling like I have to do so. It would seem that just being present should be a given for those who claim to love the Lord above all else.

Enter the picture that is to the right.



I had a basic concept of this article quite a long time ago, but I just could not think of a good "hook" to base it

on. Then, just a few days ago, my friend and brother in Christ Mark Posey posted that picture on Facebook. If you did not know the background, it could look like just any other group having a meeting; maybe even some type of civic organization or PTA.

But, as you might guess, it's a church. It is a church meeting, not in the United States and not on a Sunday.

It is a congregation meeting on Wednesday evening for midweek Bible study... in Ukraine.

Mark even mentioned that, as the congregation met, they could literally hear explosions in the background. Still, not only did they meet, they had the largest midweek attendance that they could ever remember.

You read that correctly: more met for Bible study as a war was going on than had ever met before.

And, when I read that, I felt ashamed at some of the "reasons" (read: excuses) I see people post on the same website - Facebook - for why they weren't present for worship or Bible study.

Too often, I will see Christians post pictures of themselves at concerts, ballgames, movies, or just resting on the front porch and the pictures are during worship time. At other times, I'll see pictures from "big" Saturday night events - maybe a trip to a ballgame or a school activity - and not see those same people in worship on Sunday. Why? "We got home late and were just tired."

Again, I don't like talking about attendance, but when you see Christians gathering for midweek Bible study in the middle of bombs going off, does it not cause you to feel just a bit ashamed when our people will miss for their own pleasure and amusement?

This article was released on a Wednesday. If your congregation has midweek Bible study, will you be there? And for sure, on Sunday, what excuse will you have not to attend?

Let's not forget what an honor it is to come before the Lord in worship just because it is easy for us.

Adam Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

September 26 - Jacob Clayton
September 27 - Pam Collier
September 28 - Sue Flowers



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

September 24, 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

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

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

October 1, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Ralph Mullins (guest)
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Garner
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....David Burleson
Scripture.....Justin Allen
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

Attendance for September 17: 95

Contribution for September 17: \$3926

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Wayne Reams is in Southeast Hospital following surgery Thursday for a brain bleed * **Rodney Britt** (Lisa Britt's husband) has been diagnosed with stage 4 prostate cancer that has spread to his bones * **Jodie Buckner** (Brian McGowan's daughter) has been in the hospital with dehydration and other medical issues * **Debbie Hobgood** recovering from COVID * **David Terrill** continuing to have some fluid build up and heart related issues * **Sue Flowers** is on hospice care but is feeling some better * **Mindy Tomah** (Cindy Williams' niece) diagnosed with a brain tumor but is doing better * **Brynlee Douglas** (Mike and Judy Duley's great granddaughter) diagnosed with a vascular malformation in her knee. Her parents are considering different treatment options *

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 McKuinn * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * 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 * 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 * 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: Austin Holiman will be our guest speaker.

Wednesday night fellowship meal will be baked spaghetti, garden salad, garlic bread. Desserts will be needed.

September 30 - Children's Homes Homecoming and Open house from 11-3. There is a poster on the bulletin board with more information. There are several empty cans on the table in the foyer if you need one. Let's get our Change for Children cans filled up.

October 1 - First Sunday potluck and early evening service.

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.

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to our brother Larry Layton in the passing of his mother, Luella Layton, September 18. Luella's funeral was held September 20 in Dexter.



"This week's sermon is about how we all need to simplify our lives. Unfortunately, I lost the whole thing when my computer crashed."

PEOPLE WHO NEED PEOPLE

In his hall-of-fame career as a sportswriter, Dave Kindred covered hundreds of major sporting events and championships and wrote a biography of Muhammad Ali. Growing bored in retirement, he started attending girls' basketball games at a local school. Soon, he began writing stories about each game and posting them online. And when Dave's mother and grandson died and his wife suffered a debilitating stroke, he realized the team he'd been covering provided him with a sense of community and purpose. He needed them as much as they needed him. Kindred said, "This team saved me. My life had turned dark ... [and] they were light."

How does a legendary journalist come to depend on a community of teenagers? The same way a legendary apostle leaned on the fellowship of those he met on his missionary journeys. Did you notice all the people Paul greeted as he closed his letters? (Romans 16:3-25). *Greet Andronicus and Junia, he wrote, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me (V 7). Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord (V 8).* He mentions more than twenty-five people in all, most of whom are not mentioned in Scripture again. But Paul needed them.

Who's in your community? The best place to begin is with your local [congregation]. Anyone there whose life has turned dark? As God leads, you can be a light that points them to Jesus. Someday they may return the favor.

Mike Wittmer