



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**October 8, 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**

## JEOPARDY

Since the television game show *Jeopardy* is basically a televised trivia game, I thought that I would begin this with a little trivia. I'm old enough to remember that there was a host on the show before Alex Trebek. Art Fleming was the man's name. I remember seeing him on my parents' old black and white television. I also listened to him occasionally toward the end of his career as a broadcaster on KMOX radio in St. Louis.

About the only time I see the program now is when it is on in some waiting room, restaurant, hospital room in which I am visiting, etc. Since I'm not a regular viewer, I missed the show that recently made the news in some areas. It did, however, pop up on something I was reading online. The incident that made the news had to do with a quotation from the Bible. Here's the statement which was read by Mayim Bialik (one of the current hosts): "Matthew 6:9 says, *Our Father, which art in heaven, 'This' be thy name.*"

This question and the reaction that followed did not make the news because one of the contestants set some sort of record for the quickest response in the long history of the show. Neither did the reason have to do with some really "off the wall" response.

The three contestants obviously knew a lot of stuff about a lot of stuff. They would not have been on the show otherwise. In fact, according to what I read, one of them was on a five-game winning streak and ultimately won the game that night. The reason that this made the news is that not one of the three contestants even tried to guess. Not one of them knew that the "this" in that scripture was "hallowed."

I'm thinking the word "jeopardy" is much more than the name of a game show. It is even more than a word to describe certain situations in which we may find ourselves. I'm thinking that this could be one more of many indications that the time may be long past when citizens of the United States could accurately refer to our country as a "Christian nation."

One reason for that opinion should be obvious to those who are paying attention to some of the things which are going on around us. It is becoming more and more acceptable to promote and celebrate what the Bible condemns. That is especially true in the area of morality.

Another reason for that opinion is that it is apparently true that, along with the fact that people do not care what the Bible says, many do not **know** what it says. It only took a very few minutes of "online research" to come up with the following:

- This headline is from a study done by the Pew Research Center in October of 2019 (*before Covid had any impact*) "In US, Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace"
- According to other studies I've looked at online, the number of people who report that they attend any sort of religious service (including Buddhist, Hindu Islam, etc.) at least once a week is somewhere around 30 percent. One study reported that the number of people who identify themselves in any way as Christian was as low as 17 percent. Most of the studies I looked at reported that the percentage of people who never attend a religious service is equal to - or in some cases *greater than* the percentage that attend at least once a week.

A study in 2020 conducted by The Barna Group produced the following statistics about citizens of our nation and the frequency of their/our Bible reading:

Daily - 9 percent \* Four or more times a week - 3 percent \* Once a week - 9 percent \* Several times - 10 percent \* Once a month - 9 percent \* Once a year - 11 percent \* Three or four times a year - 8 percent \* Never - 34 percent.

There are some serious indications that we would do well to consider the following quote from our nation's second president, John Adams, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

I am not among those who seek to apply God's promises to the Jews during the time when the Old Testament was being written with how He views the United States today. With that being said, I do believe that an application could be made today concerning this statement from God: *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children* (Hosea 4:6).

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## **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

October 8 - Betty McGowan  
Ken & Sharon Durham (A)  
October 9 - Bentley Collier  
October 10 - Judy Duley  
Cason Karnes  
October 12 - Darlene McGowan  
October 15 - Beth Gresham



## **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 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

### **Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
Prayer.....Ron Garner  
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

### **October 15, 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

## **ENVISIONING A DIFFERENT FUTURE**

The three hundred middle and high school students in the small town of Neodesha, Kansas, filed into a surprise school assembly. They then sat in disbelief upon hearing that a couple with ties to their town had decided to pay college tuition for every Neodesha student for the next twenty-five years. The students were stunned, overjoyed, and tearful.

Neodesha had been hard hit economically, which meant many families worried about how to cover college expenses. The gift was a generational game-changer, and the donors hoped it would immediately impact current families but also incentivize others to move to Neodesha. They envision their generosity igniting new jobs, new vitality - an entirely different future for the town.

God desired His people to be generous by not only tending to their own acute needs but also by envisioning a new future for their struggling neighbors. God's directions were clear: *If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them* (Leviticus 25:35). The generosity wasn't only about meeting basic physical needs but also about considering what their future life together as a community would require. *Help them*, God said, *so they can continue to live among you.* (v 35).

The deepest forms of giving reimagine a different future. God's immense, creative generosity encourages us toward that day when we'll all live together in wholeness and plenty.  
Winn Collier

**Attendance for October 1: 84**

**Contribution for October 1: \$3116**

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**David Carson** recovering from COVID and dehydration \* **Wayne Reams** is in room 3007 at St Francis doing extensive rehab \* **Rodney Britt** battling prostate cancer \* **Zach Tanner** has been having some health issues \* **Sue Flowers** remains on hospice care \* **Tom Hobgood** has been under the weather \* **Roxanne Carson** has three new spots on her brain \* **Alan Woodward**, Jon Neely's brother-in-law, will have a bone marrow transplant in this month for leukemia treatment \* **Linda Morgan's** cancer treatments have stopped working and she has been placed on hospice care

**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 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 \* Ashley Smith \* Tammy Telker \* Bobby Thornton \* Mindy Tomah \*

## **Other health issues (non-congregational):**

Dixie Billingsley \* DeeDee Burch \* Mary Burke \* Brynlee Douglas \* 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**

Tonight: Youth Night at Sikeston at 5 pm with guest speaker TJ Kirk. A meal will be served afterward.

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Today through Wednesday: Gospel meeting at Matthews with guest speaker Jim Faughn. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

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Wednesday night fellowship meal will be breakfast for supper. Desserts needed.

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October 17: Ladies Lunch Out at Main Street Café in Bernie at 11:30. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

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October 20 & 21: Mens' Retreat at Bootheel Youth Camp with guest speaker Joe Wells. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

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

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November 4: Ladies Day at Dexter. The theme is "A Feast for the Soul." Pre-registration is requested. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

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"Jeopardy" is more than a game show. It can describe everything from the condition of an entire nation and/or civilization to our eternal souls. Some comedian observed years ago that the reason older people start reading the Bible more often is that they are "cramming" for their final exam. There could be some truth in that, but we don't need to delay our study of God's Word and being guided by it. If it is not already ongoing, it needs to start **today**.

Jim Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post