



TRUE LIGHT

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

November 12, 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
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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**

BITTERNESS

I am going to try to introduce this without giving away the situation, because, when you write about bitterness, you don't want to come across as ... bitter! Here goes.

A number of years ago, what was probably just randomness put me in a very difficult place, emotionally. For a stretch of time, due to those random circumstances (or, "perhaps," God's providence!), I had to be around a number of people who had truly caused me and my family pain. The pain had been emotional and, no doubt, had led to some spiritual struggles also.

Now, unbeknownst to any of us, we would have to be around some of those who caused those things for quite awhile. I was struck by how I felt. There was something deep inside that obviously had not healed, and it hit me as those hours and days passed that I was still bitter. I also knew that was wrong, and I had some serious "heart work" to do.

A little over a week later, I preached a sermon on the subject of bitterness. Very, very rarely do I preach anything on that short notice. I typically write sermons 2-3 months before I preach them. But this was something that came straight from the depths of my soul, because I knew in those moments what the Bible said about this subject and it was obvious that the "root of bitterness" (Hebrews 12:15) still had a hold on my heart and I needed to let it go.

Studying that subject and preaching that sermon was one of the most rewarding and spiritually helpful things I have ever done.

What was interesting, though, was how many people told me they had never heard a full sermon on that subject and how much it helped them because they needed to work on the same struggle.

Bitterness is so easy to let just sort of hang around. But the New Testament commands God's people to "put away" several things, and one of them is "bitterness" (Ephesians 4:31-32). We are commanded by God to put it away, especially as it pertains to any bitterness we might harbor toward a fellow Christian.

Is that easy? Of course not! I believe that's why it must be commanded for us to do it. For many (most?) people, it is far more natural to just let it hang around.

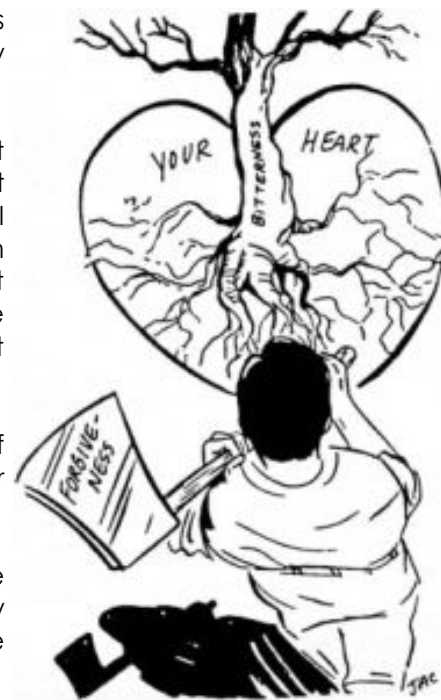
But when we do, we start to grasp why you have that picture of the "root" of bitterness. It clings to everything inside you, and it gets harder and harder to remove. And that is scary.

God will help you. Prayer will help you. Wise and godly counsel will help you. Spending time with Scripture will help you. But, in the end, removing or keeping bitterness around is your choice. If you will make the godly choice, you'll be amazed at the difference it makes in your entire life.

Adam Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4: 31-32



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

November 13 - Loretta Carson
 Karlie McQuin
 November 15 - Jase Foster
 November 17 - Mason Beard
 November 19 - Zack Tanner



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Hamburger Helper * Paper Towels
 * 13-Gallon Trash Bags * Cream of
 Chicken Soup * Shampoo or
 Conditioner * Vanilla Wafers
 Pick up Date: February 19



WILLING TO SERVE

November 12, 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, November 15, 2023

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
 Prayer.....Justin Allen
 Dismissal.....Mike Duley

November 19, 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

BOTH ARE TRUE

After three decades, Feng Lulu was reunited with her birth family. As a toddler, she was kidnapped while playing outside her house, but through the help of All-China Women's Federation, she was finally located. Because she was so young when she was abducted, Feng Lulu doesn't remember it. She grew up believing she'd been sold because her parents couldn't afford to keep her, so learning the truth surfaced many questions and emotions.

When Joseph was reunited with his brothers, it's likely he experienced some complex emotions. He'd been sold by his brothers into slavery in Egypt as a young man. Despite a series of painful twists and turns, God propelled Joseph to a position of authority. When his brothers came to Egypt to buy food during a famine, they - unwittingly - sought it from him.

Joseph acknowledged that God redeemed their wrongdoing, saying He used it to *save* [their] *lives by a great deliverance* (Genesis 45:7). Yet Joseph didn't redefine their hurtful actions toward him - he described them accurately as *selling* [him] (v 5).

We sometimes try to put an overly positive spin on difficult situations, focusing on the good God brings from them without acknowledging the emotional struggle. Let's take care not to redefine a wrong as being good simply because God redeemed it: we can look for Him to bring good from it while still recognizing the pain wrongdoing causes. Both are true.

Kirsten Holmberg

Attendance for November 5: 88

Contribution for November 5: \$2731

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Faye Dockins is having trouble with one of her eyes * **Becky Johnson** (Janie Burleson's sister) is still having trouble and will undergo another procedure * **Larry Summers** has started treatments at Siteman Cancer Center * **Rodney Britt** has started treatments * **Joe Vincent** (Amy Townsend Vincent's husband) has been diagnosed with mastasistic squamas cell carcinoma in his neck * **Linda Jones** will be having a malignancy removed from her face towards the end of this month * **Sue Flowers** remains on hospice care and has not been feeling well * **Maura Thomason** will be having an MRI on her back/hips * **Pat Cooper** has been a little under the weather recently * **Linda Morgan** is rapidly declining. The family has asked for no visitors * **Ruth Dauck** is slowly improving and will be moving to senior housing

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 McQuin * 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 * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Alan Woodward

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 * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Heather Whitehead *

Our Shut Ins

Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

TOMORROW: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Catch 22 in Dexter. NOTE: this is a Monday, and set to avoid conflicting dates with the Widow/ers luncheon Tuesday.

November 14: Widow/widowers luncheon at noon at the home of David and Loretta Carson. If you need a ride, please let David or Loretta know.

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

November 21: Our Wednesday evening Bible study will be held Tuesday, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Dexter Nutrition Center has asked us to provide 200 individual applesauce cups (any brand) for their emergency meal packages. A box will be in the foyer to put your donation in. Please have your applesauce here by Friday, December 1.



Praying for... YOU!

Our prayer basket is back, and can be found on the table in the foyer. Choose a name from the basket and pray for that person this week. Note: the names on colored paper are for those who no longer attend this congregation.