



TRUE LIGHT

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

November 19, 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***

THE SECRET REASON FOR THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, sneaking in under the radar. Has its uniqueness been co-opted or compromised by our economic rush toward Christmas?

"Yes!"

From the beginning, this American holiday was not about food and football, as much as it was about reserving a day to celebrate the spirit of thankfulness. It was, and still is, a national reminder to be grateful, and, yes, a calling to reconnect with grace.

If you haven't really accepted God's grace, especially grace wrapped in your pain, then you will have trouble really enjoying this holiday.

Although defined by many as an emotion, I believe thankfulness is a choice - a life choice. Followers of Jesus choose gratitude because they have experienced an undeserved and unexpected outpouring

of grace. The Bible reveals Paul's often overlooked teaching *All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God* (2 Corinthians 4:15 NIV).

In short, choose thanksgiving, whether you deserve it or not. It's a God thing.

When grace reaches people, lives change. That personal, undeserved and unmerited gift changes everything. The overwhelming response is gratitude. So, here's the nugget of truth: If you haven't really accepted God's grace, especially grace wrapped in your pain, then you will have trouble really enjoying this holiday.

God turns pain into the kicker:

- God blesses us with tears for moments of pain, so that we will reach out in grace and touch the hurt.
- God blesses us with anger and rage at the craziness around us, so we will work for justice and mercy and compassion.
- God blesses us in spite of bad choices, so we grow and learn and work miracles when others least expect it.
- God gives us mystery, so we will enjoy the wonder and stand amazed.

When our world is rocked with the unexplainable, God steps in, not with explanations, but with closeness and comfort. He leaves fingerprints on our hearts and healing in our future. In the middle of heartache, He provides, because He wants to. His giving grace makes our thanksgiving a celebration of HIS fingerprints.

Look beyond the marketplace. Don't reduce Thanksgiving Day to turkey, football, and a nap.

She was fully alive and focused; there were mountains to climb and children to save. Dreams, big dreams, overflowed in her vision for the future. It was her life-plan to be part of a team providing clean drinking water to underdeveloped countries around the world. Anabel Reid, 19, was only a sophomore at Abilene Christian University, majoring in environmental science, but she was wise beyond her years. Her future seemed filled with green lights and favorable winds, until Friday afternoon, November 4, 2011.

Anabel was one of the 14 members of a mission group headed to Medina Children's Home in Medina, Texas. The service project had been planned and tasks assigned. This project was just the beginning of bigger and grander times. Then, sudden shock! The driver lost control, the bus careened off the road, hit a concrete culvert and overturned on US 83 between Ballinger and Paint Rock. The top of the bus was sheared off and passengers thrown clear. Everyone was hurt; most were taken to nearby hospitals, but Anabel wasn't taken to a hospital; she died there on that lonely Texas road. But, she didn't die alone.

The news of her death spread like a shockwave across the ACU campus. Hurt and pain and loss were undeniable, but grief was not the only spirit on that campus. On Monday, the students gathered in their daily chapel service and were joined by Anabel's family, her boyfriend Alex Wan, and other close friends. It was solemn, but punctuated with gentle smiles.

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BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

November 19 - Zack Tanner
 November 23 - David Terrill
 November 25 - Karla Jacques
 November 26 - Waynetta Rodgers



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 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

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh
 Prayer.....Jacob Clayton
 Dismissal.....Alex Garner

November 26, 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

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During the service, University President Bill Shubert spoke of his initial meeting with the Reid family shortly after they received the news of Anabel's death. He was amazed at the gracious spirit in the room. Shelly Reid, Anabel's mother, had one very intentional request, "I want to meet with the driver. He must be feeling unbearable heartache. I want him to know this wasn't his fault."

Mrs. Reid was unwrapping the gift of grace in the middle of grief. Her faith in the middle of pain became a light shining in the darkness.

And in an interview with the Abilene Reporter News, Alex said, "We will have moments where little things remind us of her, but I think that sadness will be peaceful. In the midst of this great shock, we're finding strong comfort. I think we've had more smiles than we anticipated."

The fingerprints of God bring smiles out of impossible moments. It's a God thing.

Muse a moment or two this week. Take a walk and thank God for His grace. Think about the gifts God has given you in spite of, and in the midst of, your pain and grief, your frustrations and failures, and your mess-ups and bad choices. Your impossible times are more than enough reason for the Thanksgiving season.

Thank HIM for growth and change and understanding that has come through watching others show grace and faith in the middle of adversity. Thank God for the good you have experienced, especially the good you didn't earn or deserve. Look for His fingerprints in the strangest places and share the spirit of thanksgiving with at least one other person. Do something that encourages others to be grateful. It's infectious.

Ron Rose, www.heartlight.com

Attendance for November 12: 98

Contribution for November 12: \$5099

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jess Lecroy will have a stent put in November 28 * **Rodney Williams** has been sick this past week * **Faye Dockins** diagnosed with macular degeneration in one eye * **Becky Johnson** (Janie Burleson's sister) not doing well and in the hospital * **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 sinus cancer that has spread to his neck. He will be having radiation and chemo treatments * **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 January 22 * **Pat Cooper** has been a little under the weather recently * **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 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 * 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

November 21: Our Wednesday evening Bible study will be held Tuesday, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Additionally, there will not be a fellowship meal this week.

December 1: Due date for applesauce cups (need 200 total) for the Dexter Nutrition Center. Our count Friday was 66.

December 3: First Sunday Potluck/early evening service. Make plans to attend.

December 11: Ladies Lunch Out at 12:30 at Hickory Log. Please note this is a Monday AND a later time than we normally go due to availability. If you want to go, you MUST sign up as we have to have a reservation for this month.

December 14: Ladies Holiday Brunch at 10 a.m. at the home of Amy Thomason. Please bring your favorite dish to share (ham will be provided), and an optional, wrapped gift valued at \$20 or less. Bring a donation of non perishable food items for the children's home to be entered into a drawing for a door prize.

December 18: Ladies ornament/sock exchange followed by reindeer games at 6 p.m. in the fellowship room. Bring a wrapped ornament or fun pair of socks and something yummy to eat.

December 25: Christmas Dinner will be served in the fellowship room at noon. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

It's a BOY! Congratulations to Mike and Judy Duley on the birth of their third great-grandchild. Karter David Douglas was born November 15 at 8:02 a.m. Karter is the son of Kalynn and Kolton Douglas. Congratulations to all!