



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**November 5, 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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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***

## PLEASE, HELP ME LEARN TO PRAY

At least once per week, and quite frequently several times each week, I receive a request similar to this one: "Please! Help me learn to pray. I don't seem to have the right words to pray. When I do pray, my words aren't very good - they feel empty and ineffective. I feel like I am launching my prayers upward, as if I was shooting bbs toward heaven, only to have them hit a metal ceiling and fall at my feet, mocking me with their ineffectiveness! So, I've become discouraged and lost all interest in prayer. Yet, something inside me knows that I need to pray and must learn how to pray better. Please help me!"

So let's address this request with some teaching from Jesus and the Scriptures. Then, we will provide some practical strategies for you to use as you seek to grow in your prayer life.

Before looking at the teaching of Jesus on prayer, I want to thank you for having a heart that wants to honor God in prayer. God is looking for hearts that are seeking him, especially to speak with him through prayer. God is our Father who longs to be near his children. Wanting to deepen your prayer life brings joy to your Father in heaven!

The image of a tender Father who longs for us to speak with him is essential for us as we pray. As we pray, we can visualize that we are praying to a loving and tender Father who has given us everything to know that we are his children. God is our *Abba*, so we can speak with God and share what is on our hearts as we pray to our God, who is our tender, loving, and welcoming Father.

Jesus addressed God as "Abba Father" (Mark 14:36) - the word "Abba" was a young child's word for Father - like "papa" or "dada" in English today (Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7). The use of "Abba" suggests a relationship that is tender, dependent, respectful, and familiar. That is how Jesus prayed and taught us to pray - "Our Father," our "Abba"! God is our tender Father waiting to hear from his beloved children!

Now, let's focus on some specific teaching that Jesus gave us about how to pray and his beautifully simple model for prayer (Matthew 6:5-15). Jesus emphasized that genuine prayer is not about using the right words or religious phrases to be heard. Pious-sounding language does not make our prayers more powerful. Instead, prayer is about coming humbly as children, with open and honest hearts, knowing God will hear us because he is our "Abba," our loving father who already knows what we most need (Matthew 6:5-8).

The Lord demonstrated what kind of prayer God wants from us. His model prayer demonstrates several principles for us to follow when we pray (Matthew 6:9):

- We approach Almighty God as our Father - "*Our Father in heaven...*"
- We recognize God's holiness and majesty - "*...hallowed be your name.*"
- We long for God to reign in our world and our hearts, so we offer ourselves to him and his work in our world - "*Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*"
- We recognize our dependence upon God for our spiritual needs, especially our need for forgiveness - "*...and forgive us our debts...*"
- We recognize our need to forgive others as we have been forgiven by God - "*...as we also have forgiven our debtors.*"
- We recognize our dependence upon God for our spiritual protection - "*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*"

As we search the Bible for teaching on prayer, we find some additional insights on prayer. Paul repeatedly reminded early followers of Jesus that they always needed to be thankful when they prayed (Colossians 4:2; Philippians 4:6-7). Too often, I fear, many of our modern prayers are more of a "go do" list for God that we want him to provide for us or do for us. God is not the magic religious genie that we ask to serve us. Our prayers must always be full of praise and thanksgiving because God is worthy of our praise.

The early disciples of Jesus emphasized the importance of prayer and the mission Jesus left them to accomplish: reach the world with the good news of salvation (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

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## ***BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES***

November 6 - Jennifer Howard  
November 7 - Darrin & Lana Shipman (A)  
November 10 - James Wood  
November 11 - Owen Hays

\*belated anniversary wishes to Ted & Karla Jacques, who celebrated November 4.



**Attendance for October 29 : 104**

## **CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS**

Brown Sugar \* Brownie Mix \* Butter Flavored Shortening \* Canned Chicken \* Cheddar Cheese Soup \* Vienna Sausage  
Pick Up Date November 6



**Contribution for October 22: \$3830**

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Larry Summers** remains in Barnes hospital for treatment of a large brain tumor. He will begin treatments soon \* **Rodney Britt** got good news that his cancer is treatable \* **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 \* **Wayne Reams** improving following a brain bleed \* **Maura Thomason** will be having an MRI on her back/hips \* **Pat Cooper** has been a little under the weather recently \* **Linda Morgan** has been placed on hospice care and is rapidly declining \* **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 \* 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**

TODAY: First Sunday potluck and early evening service. We will have a potluck meal after morning worship, followed by a 1 p.m. evening service. Everyone is encouraged to stay for the potluck and evening service.  
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Tomorrow: Children's Home Grocery Pick Up. Let's get the cart filled up!  
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Wednesday night's fellowship meal will be taco salad. Desserts will be needed.  
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November 9: Vijay Kumar will be speaking at 10:30 a.m. at the Fisk community center about his work in India. Lunch will be served following, hosted by the Fisk congregation.  
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November 13: Ladies Lunch Out at Catch 22 in Dexter. NOTE: this is a Monday, and set to avoid conflicting dates with the Widow/ers luncheon November 14.  
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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.

## ***Rejoice!***

Larry, Kendra and Cassie Summers have all rededicated their lives to the Lord. Angels in heaven are rejoicing!

A man was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

## **WILLING TO SERVE**

### **November 5, 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, November 8, 2023**

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh  
Prayer.....David Burleson  
Dismissal.....Jacob Clayton

### **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

## **Continued from front:**

When authorities threatened early disciples with persecution, they prayed for boldness to speak the message of Jesus (Acts 4:23-31). Paul also often asked other believers to pray for his mission outreach and his courage to proclaim the message of Christ (Ephesians 6:18-20; Colossians 4:2-4).

The Scriptures also challenge us to be genuine and honest with God in prayer. We should bring to him whatever is in our hearts and speak honestly about where we are in our lives. We have the Bible collection of one-hundred-fifty prayers and songs - we know as the Psalms - to help us have the words to use in our prayer times. The Psalms give us language to speak to God about the challenges and complexities of our lives.

The Bible collection of psalms enables us to speak freely and frankly about where we are in our lives and do so with deep, honest, and emotional language. I encourage you to read the Psalms to see prayer in action. Find a psalm or a verse or two in a psalm that speaks to you. Look for words and phrases that convey your emotions honestly to God. Write those words down in a prayer journal to use in your prayer times.

Anyone who has given her or his life to Christ received the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39). The Spirit gave us new birth into God's family (John 3:3-7; Titus 3:3-7). Because of the Spirit's intercession when we pray, we can be confident that our prayer is acceptable to God (Romans 8:26-27).

So, once again, I encourage you to imagine that you are praying to a loving and tender Father who has given everything to you so you could be his child. Share what is on your heart with him. Why? Because God is your waiting "Abba" Father, longing to hear from you in prayer!  
Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com