



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**December 10, 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**

## IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GROCERIES

Recently, I saw the following "online headline": *A grocery store is removing self-checkout after realizing executives hate it as much as customers do: 'We like to talk to people' - Steve Mollman - Fortune - 11/10/23.*

The grocery chain which is the subject of the headline and following article is located in England. However, I've recently seen and read information about various businesses in the United States doing the same thing. Some are not totally removing the self-checkout lanes, but are significantly reducing the number of them. Even corporations such as Costco, WalMart, and others are studying and/or implementing this.

To be fair, every source of information I've checked includes a variety of factors behind the reason(s) to diminish the number of self-checkout lanes. Some of these include glitches in the systems, difficulty of use, and some other factors.



While all of that is true, there is a common theme in every source I've seen. It may be worded somewhat differently, but that theme always boils down to *the importance of the personal touch.*

I am more than grateful for modern technology and I appreciate it more than I can express. That is true even though I am way behind most people (especially young people) in knowing how to use it. At the risk of upsetting some people, though, I will suggest that personal interaction has much more to do with people obeying the gospel and remaining faithful to Jesus than anything electronic.

Two significant instances in which people became followers of Jesus (Christians) come to mind. The first of these is a man known first as Saul of Tarsus and later as an apostle by the name of Paul. Even though he interacted with Jesus on the road to Damascus, it took a *man* by the name of Ananias to tell him what to do (cf. Acts 9:1-19; 22:6-16).

The other instance I am thinking about has to do with a very good Gentile man. Although Cornelius is described in very positive terms, had been praying, and had what appears to be a heavenly messenger speaking to him, it took a *man* by the name of Peter to tell him the words by which [Cornelius] and all of [Cornelius'] household will be saved (Acts 11:14 NKJV).

I don't intend to "start chasing rabbits" at this point, but I believe a point needs to be considered here. In neither of these accounts in the New Testament or in any other account of people becoming Christians is there any mention of a "sinner's prayer," "asking Jesus into your heart," or "praying through." Instead, what we find as we read the New Testament is that the process of becoming a Christian involves baptism (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1ff; Gal. 3:26-27; etc.). To state the obvious, that necessitates *the human touch* in a very personal and significant way.

Not only is the personal touch important in leading others to Jesus, the New Testament is full of both examples and instruction concerning how the Lord's people are to personally interact with each other. In fact, there are passages that show that there is more than [just] examples and instructions. Emotions are also involved.

Consider these from the pens of two apostles, Paul and John:

*I desire to be with you now... (Galatians 4:20 KJV) \* I had much to write to you but I would rather not write with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face (3 John 14-14 ESV).*

It is impossible for a text, a post, or a lot of other "electronic interactions" to replace a smile, a hug, a pat on the back, a spoken kind word, and so many other "old fashioned" but very *human* things.

Jim Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

## ***BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES***

December 10 - Lana Shipman  
Ryleigh Foster  
December 13 - Jennifer Hampton  
December 15 - Nick Harris  
December 17 - Zack & Beckie Tanner (A)



**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**

### **December 10, 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, December 13, 2023**

Song Leader.....Derek Mays  
Prayer.....Ron Garner  
Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

### **December 17, 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

## **RESCUED FROM POWERFUL ENEMIES**

In 2010, at the age of ninety-four, George Vujnovich was awarded the bronze star for organizing what the New York Times called "one of the greatest rescue efforts of World War II." Vujnovich, son of Serbian immigrants to the US, had joined the US Army. When word arrived that downed American airmen were being protected by rebels in Yugoslavia, Vujnovich returned to his family's homeland, parachuting into the forest to locate the pilots. Dividing the soldiers into small groups, he taught them how to blend in with the Serbs (wearing Serbian clothes and eating Serbian food). Then, over months, he walked each small group one at a time to C-47 transport planes waiting at a landing strip they'd cut out of the woods. Vujnovich rescued 512 elated, joyful men.

David describes the elation of being rescued by God from enemies who'd hemmed him in with no escape. God *reached down from on high and took hold of me*, David said, *he drew me out of deep waters* (2 Samuel 22:17). King Saul, enraged with jealousy, hounded David, ruthlessly seeking blood. But God had other plans. *He rescued me from my powerful enemy*, David recounted, *from my foes, who were too strong for me* (v 18).

God rescued David from Saul. He rescued Israel from Egypt. And in Jesus, God came to rescue all of us. Jesus rescues us from sin, evil, and death. He's greater than every powerful enemy.'

Winn Collier



**Attendance for December 3: 103**

**Contribution for December 3: \$3783**

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Roxanne Carson** experiencing additional health issues \* **Joy Greer** home from the hospital following COVID-related pneumonia, and waiting on test results from a thyroid biopsy \* **Helen Robinson** (Jeanie Robinson's mother in law) recently hospitalized \* **Becky Johnson** (Janie Burleson's sister) is a little better \* **Larry Summers** as he continues cancer treatments \* **Rodney Britt** as he continues treatments \* **Joe Vincent** (Amy Townsend Vincent's husband) undergoing treatments for sinus cancer \* **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 \*

**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**

Tomorrow: Ladies Lunch out at 12:30 at Hickory Log. If you want to go, there is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer.

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Our fellowship meal this week will be BBQ, coleslaw, baked potatoes and baked beans. Desserts will be needed.

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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.

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The High School Christmas party scheduled for December 15 has been postponed due to conflicting schedules.

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December 16: Youth Christmas party in the fellowship room at 2 p.m.

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December 17: Holiday meal following evening services honoring Stan and Millie for 35 years of service to our congregation. Ribs and the sides will be served. Please plan to attend.

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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.

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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.

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December 31: New Year's Eve get together following evening worship in the fellowship room. Bring snacks or finger foods and games to play.