



TRUE LIGHT

December 31, 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**

LEADING IN HOPE

I like the notion of "fresh starts" and "second chances." How about you? Did your fall semester in college or graduate school end on a low note? The spring semester that starts in a few days is a fresh start for you.

New Year 2024 is God's mercy to you. With his presence a reality and in one-day-at-a-time surrender to him, creative new things will come out of the waste-and-void chaos of the past.

Was last year a tough one at work? Did you lose a job? Have to move your family from a place everybody really liked to a new location? One way to cope is to think of what you can gain rather than what you've lost. Focus on what to learn from the experience to help you move forward. Make some new friends.

Is an important relationship in trouble? Did someone you love die? Are you worried about the bad-attitude friends your child has made? Maybe you need to look at these things through fresh eyes and with hope.

A sense of brokenness is often the mandatory first step to renewal and healing. So it isn't a bad thing to lament our losses. But, it is a bad thing to spend the rest of your life looking over a shoulder to the past instead of lifting your eyes to the future. It can be fatal to the human spirit.

As you might expect in light of all this, I see the turning of the calendar to a new year as a big deal. Doesn't the idea of a clean slate appeal to you, too? Doesn't the chance to start over sound great? But I'm not necessarily suggesting that you make a long list of New Year's Resolutions. In fact, I would advise against it.

Long lists are intimidating and frustrating. Most resolutions are too vague - reduce stress, save more money, be more helpful at home. And the notion of pledging to do something for 365 days is tough on people who are honest about just how often failure visits them. Perhaps there is a better way.

Remember the advice Jesus gave about just taking care of today and not biting off tomorrow's troubles? *Each day has challenges enough of its own!* He said (Matthew 6:34). Think about it, and you will realize that your own experience confirms it. In the context of that statement, Jesus gave this counsel: *Strive above all else for the reign of God in your life, and the things that have been worrying you will resolve!* (Matthew 6:33 MSG). God's reign requires conscious surrender. Not of the entire year but of today's trouble, this stress, or a particular loss. Not of the other person but of my attitude toward her. Not of yesterday's failures so much as today's opportunity.

New Year [2024] is God's mercy to you. With his presence a reality and in one-day-at-a-time surrender to him, creative new things will come out of the waste-and-void chaos of the past. And life will become fresh every morning.

Rubel Shelly, via www.heartlight.com

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Father, Give us a new year. Not just a new number, but a truly new year. Give us a year full of new things, new adventures, new attitudes, and visions. Lord, give us a new year full of new ideas and refresh some of our old ideas. Give us new relationships and renew old relationships, and restore relationships that have broken.

Father, give us a new year. Give us a new song. Give us a new memory. Give us a new image of Your Son, and help us to show His image of those who are new to You. Give us new thoughts, new friends, and new things that replace the old worn-out things.

Father, give us a new year. The year that has just ended was difficult for some of us. There were struggles and frustrations and disappointments that we did not handle so well. Give us a better mentality and better spiritual insight that will help us deal with the struggles, frustrations and disappointments that will come in this New Year.

Father, give us a new year.

Continued on back

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

January 2 - David Carson
January 4 - Brenda Wheeler
 Janet Wood
January 7 - Matt & Katie Mayberry (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 31, 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, January 3, 2024

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....David Burleson

January 7, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....to be announced
Prayer.....n/a
Scripture.....n/a
Dismissal.....n/a

Continued from front:

Give us a year filled with new ministries, new opportunities, new voices, and new messages. Help us hold on to the old things that are worth holding, and help us let go of the old things that have served their purpose.

Father, give us a new year. Give us a year that is not controlled by fear. A year in which we are not afraid of people who are different. A year when we are not afraid of ideas that are new, of plans that are new, and places that are new.

Father, give us a new year. Give us a year filled with new love. A new love for You. A new love for each other. A new love for Your Kingdom. A new love for strangers. A new love for the helpless. A new love for the needy. A new love for poor. A new love for rich. A new love for all people.

Father, give us a new year. Help us put the old one to bed. Help us to leave the things of the year in the past. Help us look forward. Help us look beyond what we can see to what You have planned for us that we cannot see. Help us move forward with confidence and courage and humility and gentleness.

Father, give us a new year. Help us, in this New Year to completely surrender to You and what You have planned for us in this year filled with new things.

Tom Norvell, www.heartlight.com

Attendance for December 24: n/a

Contribution for December 24: \$2628

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Marietta Reams has been sick * **Roxanne Carson** * **Bill Pruitt** is doing a lot better * **Judy Duley** hasn't been feeling well * **Becky Johnson** (Janie Burleson's sister) will have surgery Jan 4 and it will be a much more serious surgery than the previous one * **Larry Summers** has a chemo treatment Jan. 5 * **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 * 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 * 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 * Brenda Robinson * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Heather Whitehead *

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

TONIGHT: New Year's Eve get together following evening worship in the fellowship room. Bring snacks or finger foods and games to play and help us welcome in 2024. ***

Our Wednesday night fellowship meal will be hot dogs, soups and chili. Desserts will be needed. ***

January 4-7: Truth Conference with guest speaker Aaron Gallagher at Arnold. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery. ***

January 7: Friends and Family Day 2024 with guest speaker Kason Lawrence! We will have a potluck following morning services and a light meal following evening services. We need help with desserts and supplies for the evening meal. Please check the list in the foyer and make plans to attend both services. ***

January 9 - Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Dexter BBQ in Dexter. ***

January 20-21 - "Ignite Your Light" youth event at Jackson church of Christ with keynote speaker Spencer Furby. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

Our devotional books for 2024 are in and can be picked up in the foyer. Additionally, digital copies of this book, "Meeting God's People," are available. Please see Stan if you would like to download a copy.

PLANNING FOR 2024:
If you would like to use the fellowship room in 2024 and know the date, please let us know ASAP so we can get it on our calendar.

Bible Trivia: Ahab's 70 sons had their heads cut off and sent in baskets to what man?

(1-7) 2 Kings 10:1-7