



TRUE LIGHT

February 18, 2024

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

OFFICE: 573-293-5620
Bernie Church of Christ
P.O. Box 366
Bernie, MO 63822

EMAIL:
berniechurchofchrist@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
www.berniechurchofchrist.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
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**

WHEN THE NEIGHBOR KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG

I am writing these words on the day I was asked to participate in the funeral of a very special Christian lady. Some of what I am about to type could probably be written after any number of funerals. I am afraid, though, that not all of it could.

Funeral services have a way of reminding us about things that are vitally important. A story I heard from a family member is, at least to me, a great example of this.

Many of us have had the heartbreaking experience of trying to help a loved one as the aging process takes a terrible toll on that loved one. At some point during the process, you'll start hearing or saying things that communicate the message that the person is no longer really the person everybody remembers him or her being. Our dear sister was one of those people. As time went on, that fact became increasingly apparent. What I found interesting was how that fact became apparent to a neighbor. I do not know the neighbor, but, from what I understand, he is a good person and was a good neighbor to the lady who had just passed away.

...He is not surprised by what He sees [because] He already knows our hearts. If we don't have room in our schedules for Him, I believe it is highly unlikely for Him to find room in heaven for us.

While that and many more good things could be said about the neighbor, he did not share with our departed sister one thing. I was told that he does not see the necessity of assembling with others in order to worship God. (I kind of prefer that wording better than "going to church," but that's just me.) Our sister, on the other hand, was one of those people you've probably heard described as "being there every time the doors were open."

On one particular Sunday, when some family members went to take the lady to a worship service, they received an unpleasant surprise. She was not dressed in her normal "Sunday best." Some of this probably had to do with her mental condition. There had already been times when a family member had gone by during the week to visit with her and help her only to find her dressed for worship. I think that there may have been other times when she had forgotten that it was Sunday and they had to help her get ready.

This particular Sunday was a first though. It was the first time that she had told her family that she was tired and had decided not to go. Admittedly, she may have been trying to "cover" her mental decline, but the family was surprised (shocked might not be too strong of a word) at her decision.

When the neighbor learned about this, he knew for sure that something was wrong with the lady he had known for quite a while. I'm sure that he had seen other signs, but for him this one was the one that was unmistakable.

I am the first to admit that there is more - **much more** - to being a Christian than merely showing up at a church building. However, one special lady left a special legacy for her family, her friends, and even a neighbor. They (we) know that, before the aging process began to take her away from us, she would be with her brothers and sisters in the Lord when they met to worship and study God's Word.

You probably have no trouble figuring out where I'm going with this. I'm wondering how many people believe that "skipping" an opportunity to worship is no big deal. All too often, it seems to me, time set aside to worship and/or study God's Word takes a back seat to travel plans, a sporting event, a day on the lake or in the woods, "just chilling out," or any number of other things. After all, the reasoning goes, after a week filled with all kinds of activities, "Sunday is **my** day to do whatever I want to do."

There are at least a couple of things wrong with that "reasoning." First, Sunday does not follow other days of the week. Sunday is *the first day of the week*.

Continued on back

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

February 18 - Bill & Beverly Pruitt (A)
 February 20 - Gabe Smith
 February 24 - Linda (Jones) Lecroy
 Wayne Reams
 February 25 - Kendra Summers



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

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



WILLING TO SERVE

February 18, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays
 Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
 Scripture.....Jason Karnes
 Prayer.....Sam Garner
 Closing Prayer.....David Carson

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
 Prayer.....David Carson
 Scripture.....Derek Mays
 Dismissal.....David Burleson

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh
 Prayer.....Jacob Clayton
 Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

February 25, 2024

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

WE ARE ONE

In a small farming community, news travels fast. Several years after the bank sold the farm David's family had owned for decades, he learned the property would be available for sale. After much sacrifice and saving, David arrived at the auction and joined a crowd of nearly two hundred local farmers. Would David's meager bid be enough? He placed the first bid, taking deep breaths as the auctioneer called for higher bids. The crowd remained silent until they heard the slam of the gavel. The fellow farmers placed the needs of David and his family above their own for financial advancement.

This story about the farmers' sacrificial act of kindness demonstrates the way the apostle Paul urges followers of Christ to live. Paul warns us not to conform to the *pattern of this world* (Romans 12:2), by placing our selfish desires before the needs of others and scrambling for self-preservation. Instead, we can trust God to meet our needs as we serve others. As the Holy Spirit renews our minds, we can respond to situations with God-honoring love and motives. Placing others first can help us avoid thinking too highly of ourselves as God reminds us that we're a part of something bigger - the church (vv 3-4).

The Holy Spirit helps believers understand and obey the Scriptures. He empowers us to give selflessly and love generously, so we can thrive together as one.
 Xochitl Dixon

Attendance for February 11: 89

Contribution for February 11: \$3323

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Larry Summers remains at Mercy Hospital in Cape and may be slightly improved * Marty Watson recently fell and broke two ribs * Donna Layton was sick last week but is feeling better * Marty Howard as he recovers from a broken bone in his leg * Brian Thomason has a consultation tomorrow with a neurosurgeon for carotid artery surgery * Becky Johnson * Sue Flowers remains on hospice care and is continuing to decline * Maura Thomason will be having a fluoroscopy and a steroid epidural on her spine April 11 *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * David Carson * 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 * Rodney Britt * 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 * Joe Vincent * 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

TOMORROW - Children's Home grocery pickup. Let's get the cart filled up.

Wednesday fellowship meal will be fried chicken and the fixins. Desserts will be needed.

March 8 & 9 - Inspiration 2024 at Dexter with guest speaker Eric Lyons. The theme is "Creation Makes Sense." More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

April 7-10 - Our Gospel Meeting with Brent Newton.

Continued from front:

Secondly, the first day of the week is not *my* day. It is **the Lord's Day**. It is the day during which we find people in the first century demonstrating their love and devotion to Jesus by assembling to worship. It seems more than just reasonable to assume that people who love and are devoted to the Lord in the twenty-first century would also be doing that. To use a quote that may have been more fashionable a few years ago than it is now - "If not, why not?"

Would your absence cause any concern or would those who know you also know that "this is the way it's always been" with you? As kindly as I can and as grammatically suspect as this is, I suggest that your answer to that question could be a **much bigger deal than you think**.

People who love us are watching. Neighbors and friends are watching. People we may not know could be watching. Without a doubt, **the Lord** is watching. Unlike the others, He is not surprised by what He sees [because] He already knows our hearts. If we don't have room in our schedules for Him, I believe that it is highly unlikely for Him to find room in heaven for us.
 Jim Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post