



TRUE LIGHT

WHEN EASTER FEELS MESSY

March 31, 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
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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***



This morning, she was flipping through her art book and she paused at a brilliant page. She thoughtfully examined her creation.

Her art captivates me. It's always so vibrant and free. Arms are outstretched. Carefree stick figures usually wearing long dresses for dancing, feet clad in clompy high heels, and ears dangling with dramatic earrings. The colors, the movement, the air that swirls around her happy people - they all tell the story of who we are created to be.

"You know what this is?" she asked. "No, tell me," I said. "It's the cross. With a crown on top for Jesus ... they killed Him 'cause they thought He did something bad. But He didn't!"

It's all around us. The story of creation, the fall of man, the devastating consequences of sin, and separation from our Maker. And then right across the page, the Light shines into darkness and brings hope, life, and joy. Color splashes across the darkness, feet are released from chains, and now swirl in intoxicating joy.

We didn't get an Easter photo. We didn't even serve up a special meal around the dining table. In fact, I showed up to church a few minutes late, feeling rushed and ruffled. I was exhausted after a morning involved milking out an infected quarter on the cow and coaching a child through cleaning up shards of glass all over the kitchen counter. I had fried six pounds of sausage for our church fellowship meal while I directed five little people to get dressed, get hair done, and haul all their necessary belongings to the car. I glanced at day-old coffee in the Chemex and decided I didn't have time to microwave a mug. My perfume was lost under the smell of sausage.

As we pulled into the church parking lot, I glanced in my rearview mirror. I notice my littlest girlie's hair was still wild and undone. The rest dashed inside while I stood there and quickly twisted her hair back, and then joined my brood next to their daddy on the pew - he had to be there early for worship.

Life is just messy sometimes.

I glanced at the beautiful people sitting all around me, all put together and peaceful. I gulped against the chaos of my morning. Worship swirled and lulled me as I struggled to disconnect from the glass shards, sausage grease, and straining fresh milk. Life is so messy, yet somehow coming into the presence of the Lord isn't in denial of that. He is not fazed by our dirty fingernails or fly-away hair.

Jesus burst from His grave bringing hope to the messiest of us. The first one He met was Mary, whose story swept the gutters of filth and hopelessness. He chose to meet her first, to meet her in her tear-smudged devastation. And when she couldn't get through her grief, He called her name.

"Mary." And then her blurred world focused.

"My Lord!" she whispered.

Maybe your Easter was picture perfect and everything you hoped it would be. Or, maybe you found yourself too far away to hear anything clearly. Maybe you felt like short little Zacchaeus, who couldn't see above the crowd and needed to climb a scrubby tree to even get a glimpse of the Savior. Sometimes, even on the most monumental days, you find yourself lost on the backside of a crowd.

Jesus' resurrection power came to all of us. He is there as your toddler falls apart. He is there as you catch a glimpse of yourself in the mirror and freeze. He is there. Jesus didn't come to add perfection to an already put-together life. He came to meet our desperate need. He came to be the physician for our incurable sickness.



The dark lines in the drawing point our eyes to the light. The very hopelessness of our lives before redemption makes the dance floor that much more stunning. Listen. The risen Lord is calling your name. Let your eyes focus. Let the music pull you in, the melody drawing you into the intoxicating dance of freedom.

He is risen, even for the messiest of us.

Melissa Troyer, www.heartlight.com

**BIRTHDAYS/
ANNIVERSARIES**

April 1 - Cassie Summers
April 3 - Ron & Gaye Miller (A)



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Salsa/Picante Sauce * Coffee * Cereal *
Tissues * Velveeta Cheese *
Chocolate Chips
Pick up date: May 20

WILLING TO SERVE

March 31, 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.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Derek Mays
Dismissal.....David Burleson

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....David Carson
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

April 7, 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.....Brandon Chesser
Prayer.....tba
Scripture.....tba
Dismissal.....tba

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

Jaroslav Pelikan, longtime Yale professor considered one of "his generation's preeminent authorities on Christian history," was renowned for his extensive academic career. He published more than thirty books and won the esteemed Kluge Prize as a lifetime award for his voluminous writing. One of his students, however, recounted what he considered his teacher's most important words, spoken from his deathbed: "If Christ is risen, nothing else matters. And if Christ is not - nothing else matters."

Pelikan echoed Paul's conviction: *If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith* (1 Corinthians 15:14). The apostle made such a bold statement because he knew that the resurrection was not merely a one-off miracle but rather the pinnacle of God's redeeming work in human history. The promise of resurrection wasn't only His assurance that Jesus would rise from the dead but His bold affirmation that other dead and ruined things (lives, neighborhoods, relationships) would also one day be brought back to life through Christ. If there's no resurrection, however, Paul knew that we're in deep trouble. If there's no resurrection, then death and destruction win.

But, of course, *Christ has indeed been raised from the dead* (v 20). Destroyed by the Victor, death loses. And Jesus is the "first fruits" of all the life that will follow. He conquered evil and death so that we could live bold and free. This changes everything. Winn Collier

Attendance for March 24: 105

Contribution for March 24: \$ 3355

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Helen McGowan will have surgery April 11 to remove her non-viable kidney * **Cody Boyt** will be having surgery soon to remove two stage 1 cancerous tumors in her stomach * **Donna McKuin** will be having an echocardiogram and stress test soon * **Trish Baldwin** doing better after suffering a recent fall * **Becky Johnson** will be having additional surgery in a few months * **Roxanne Carson and Joe Vincent** currently undergoing treatments for cancer * **Sue Flowers** continuing to decline but has had a few good days recently * **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 * Alan Woodward

Other health issues (non-congregational):

We are updating our sick list. If you have someone you'd like added to the list, please let Amy know.

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson



Looking Ahead

TODAY - Easter dinner in the fellowship room following morning worship. Please feel free to stay and eat with us.

Wednesday Fellowship Meal: Fried chicken and the fixins'. Desserts will be needed.

April 7-10 - Our Gospel Meeting with Brent Newton. The theme is "The Love of God." Fliers are available on the table in the foyer. Be praying now for a successful meeting. Please also check the sign up sheet to see what we need for the meal following evening worship April 7.

April 16 - Ladies Lunch Out at Wings Etc. in Dexter at 11:30. Note this is one week later than usual due to our Gospel Meeting.

In Sympathy.

Sympathy is extended to the family of our brother Ken Durham in the loss of his sister, Mary Lou Giddings, who passed away March 26. No services have been planned at this time.

Our Spring has come at last with the soft laughter of April suns and shadow of April showers.

Byron Caldwell Smith

BIBLE TRIVIA:

What was the name of Abraham's servant? * How many chapters are there in the entire Bible? * Who was the father of Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, and Kinnereth? * How many chapters are there in the Old Testament? * What Bible character was beheaded, cremated, and then buried? * In what book of the Bible do we find mention of "mufflers"?

Answers: Eliezer of Damascus (Genesis 15:2,3) * No one. They were fortified cities (Joshua 19:35) * King Saul (1 Samuel 31:8-13) * Isaiah (3:19)