



TRUE LIGHT

WORSHIP IN THE REAL WORLD

June 23, 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."*

Psalms 118:24

***We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services***

[Jesus said] "A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

[The Apostle Paul wrote] "Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is true worship" (Romans 12:1).

We don't like to stand in them, but despite all our protests, we really do like them ... in fact, much of what we do depends on them. I am talking about lines.

We have foul lines in baseball. We have sidelines and yard lines in football. We have sidelines, baselines, three-point lines, and free-throw lines in basketball. We have all sorts of lines in tennis. We have center lines and dashed lines and double yellow lines and double white lines and solid white lines and crosswalk lines for our highways and streets. We have lines to show us where to park and lines to guide us when we exit the freeway. We depend upon these lines for games, life, and safety.

So we shouldn't be surprised when we so easily draw a line between the secular and the sacred in church. Folks have been drawing this religious line far longer than we've had baseball, football, basketball, and motor vehicles. This line has been a huge struggle for those who claim to follow God in every generation.

Part of our eagerness to draw this line between the secular and the sacred is our convenience. If we can confine God to a religious box at a religious time, then we begin to feel like we can control God. God stuff doesn't intrude on our stuff - fun stuff, friend stuff, dating stuff, office stuff, political stuff, language stuff, driving stuff ... We can sing and say one thing on Sunday and live a different way Monday through Saturday.

We want to say this is not true, but our language betrays us. We "go to church" rather than "being the church." We have a "worship service" or "go to worship" so we can "enter to worship and leave to serve." There is a clear line. We want to claim that we are better than this, but our daily ethics betray us. A number of surveys over the last several decades reveal only a few percentage points difference in the ethical behavior of professing Christians and those who are not. "Bible-believing" Christians are often not much different from our unbelieving neighbors in their dating relationships, marriage behaviors, on-the-job ethics, and attitudes and actions in the grocery store, at our kids' games, or on the roadways.

We often find it easier to live the way we want as long as we can keep this line between secular and sacred in place. God stays on His side of the line and we go visit Him every now and then. We can get a taste of the sacred; then we can go back to doing what we want to do the rest of the week on the other side of the line. But, when we draw this line [it] eventually blurs, fades, degrades, and disappears. The values of the secular invade and rob the sacred of its authenticity and vitality, eroding any sense of the sacred. All of life becomes secular, leaving us with nothing more than a trip to the religious box.

God in human skin, the incarnation of God in Jesus of Nazareth, teaches us that this dividing line between the secular and the sacred is deeply flawed. Our loss of the sense of God's holiness and our loss of our role as God's holy people doesn't happen because the line between the secular and the sacred has become blurred. No, our loss of the holy happens when we draw a line God does not draw. We lose the essence of what holiness means in our day-to-day world and we forget our purpose as God's holy people.

Instead of seeing holiness as something powerful, invasive, and transformational, we draw a line and make our sense of the holy into a visit, an experience, a segmented piece of our fragmented lives. Instead of seeing holiness as daily, pervasive, and integrative, we choke the life out of daily faith and turn it into a "god-in-the-box" event.

The whole theme of worship in Scripture, and the intense focus of worship in New Testament, remind us that we are a holy people, a kingdom of priests (1 Peter 2:9-10) placed in the world to live out our holiness as salt and light in a world of darkness and decay (Matthew 5:13-16).

One of the clearest declarations of the continuity between our sacred worship and the sacred nature of our daily lives occurs at the end of the book of Hebrews (Hebrews 12:28-29); Hebrews 13:1-16). We often miss this point because of the chapter and verse divisions that mask the continuity of what is said. (Remember, the chapter and verse divisions of the Bible were added hundreds of years after the last book of the Bible was written!) The passage is framed by a call to worship God:

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:28-29).

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased (Hebrews 13:15-16).

Continued on back

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

June 24 - Maleah Clayton
 Josh & Jessica Young (A)
 June 25 - Jack McGowan
 Gloria Moore
 June 26 - David & Jane Terrill (A)
 June 27 - Jason & Celia McGowan (A)
 June 28 - David Burleson
 Jack & Helen McGowan (A)
 June 29 - Lynette Thomason



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Spaghetti Sauce * Pasta Noodles * Stick
 Deodorant * Sugar * Canned Drinks *
 Kitchen Tash Bags (13 Gallon)
 Pick up date: August 26



Attendance for June 16: 102
Contribution for June 16 : \$4897

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

David Burleson waiting on test results * **June Mothersbaugh** hasn't been feeling well * **Beverly Pruitt** at home and struggling with a lot of pain * **Janie Burleson** continuing to improve * **Pat Cooper** at Cypress Point and struggling with kidney failure issues * **Maura Thomason** will have a steroid epidural in her SI joint July 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 McKuinn * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beard * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Audrey Galloway * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * 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

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Ida Roberts * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

June 26: Our Summer Speaker this week is Chase Almond, minister at Grace Point church of Christ in Jonesboro, and former summer youth intern at Bernie. There is a list of speakers on the table in the foyer. ***

June 30 - July 2: Gospel Meeting at Central church of Christ in Caruthersville. The theme is "Restoring Our Faith." More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery. ***

July 7: First Sunday potluck and early evening service. We will have a meal immediately following morning worship followed by a 1 p.m. evening service. Everyone is encouraged to stay for both the potluck and afternoon service. ***

July 7: Session 2 of Bootheel Youth Camp begins. Applications are available on the table in the foyer, or you can fill out an online application. The deadline to save \$25 is June 23. Also, if you would like to help send a kid to camp this year, you can give Stan or Amy your donation. ***

July 16: Ladies Lunch Out at Mongolian Grill in Sikeston. Note this is a week later than usual due to camp. ***

July 21-24: Vacation Bible School at Bernie. Our theme this year is "God's Team: Stories of God's Power." We will need lots of help and lots of cookies!

Why can't I stop thinking about it? My emotions were a tangled mess of sadness, guilt, anger, and confusion. Years ago, I'd made the painful decision to cut ties with someone close to me, after attempts to address deeply hurtful behavior were merely met with dismissal and denial. Today, after hearing she was in town visiting, my thoughts had spiraled into hashing and re-hashing the past.

As I struggled to calm my thoughts, I heard a song playing on the radio. The song expressed not just the anguish of betrayal, but also a profound longing for change and healing in the person who'd caused harm. Tears filled my eyes as I soaked in the haunting ballad giving voice to my own deepest longings.

Love must be sincere, the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:9, a reminder that not all that passes for love is genuine. Yet our heart's deepest longing is to know real love - love that isn't self-serving or manipulative, but compassionate and self-giving. Love that's not a fear-driven need for control but a joyful commitment to each other's well-being (vv 10-13).

And that's the good news, the gospel. Because of Jesus, we can finally know and share a love we can trust - a love that will never cause us harm (13:10). To live in His love is to be free.

Monica La Rose

WILLING TO SERVE

June 23, 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.....Rodney Williams
 Prayer.....Derek Mays
 Scripture.....Ron Garner
 Dismissal.....David Burleson

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

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

June 30, 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.....Derek Mays
 Prayer.....Wayne Reams
 Scripture.....Sam Garner
 Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

Continued from front

These "bookends" that begin and end this thought on worshipping our holy God remind us that God is holy. We honor and celebrate this sacred holiness by doing good and sharing with others. These latter acts of kindness are not merely *service* offered to others in the secular world but are the invasion of the secular world through our everyday worship. Notice that both the praise of lips and the sharing and serving of others are described by the phrase, "*with such sacrifices God is pleased.*"

Even more powerful, between these section-framing calls to worship, we find a list of ways to "*worship God acceptably with reverence and awe*":

- Loving one another as brothers and sisters in Christ (Hebrews 13:1)
- Showing hospitality to strangers (Hebrews 13:2)
- Caring for those in prison (Hebrews 13:3)
- Keeping our marriage relationship healthy and holy (Hebrews 13:4)
- Not getting caught up in greed, but trusting in God's presence (Hebrews 13:5-6)
- Honoring our spiritual leaders (Hebrews 13:7-8)
- Not getting caught up in strange spiritual teachings, but remember our roles in the world following Jesus' example (Hebrews 13:9-14)

This is an everyday lifestyle of the sacred. This is a daily worship of God with reverence and awe. This is a keen awareness that while our home is not here, we have been placed here to honor God in every walk of life and in every day we are given that life. As children of God, we are called to erase the line between the secular and the sacred. We are God's holy temple, His sacred dwelling place (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Any place we go, we are honoring or dishonoring our holy God in worship as we live the liturgy of life. Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com