



# TRUE LIGHT

December 22, 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

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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*



## THE INFLATABLE CHRISTMAS

One of the holiday decorations that has literally popped up on the lawns of neighborhoods throughout our community, and I suspect around the nation, is the inflatable. These inflatables declare with unmistakable fashion the coming of Christmas.

In close proximity of our home, one can see an inflatable Santa, an inflated Rudolph, an inflatable Frosty the Snowman that stands fifteen feet tall and bounces in the breeze, and an inflated Merry Mickey Christmas. Some of these decorations have lights and some do not. Some even have fake snow falling and swirling. On one lawn, a passerby can see Joseph, Mary, the baby Jesus and at least one of the Magi safely enclosed in a colorful plastic bubble that lights up at night.

It's inflatable Christmas. Hmmm. An interesting concept.

The inflatable Christmas is full of air. There is not much to it, at least not much of substance. It's decorative and is totally dependent on air to make it appear as anything more than a piece of trash on the lawn. Pull the plug, and these inflatables collapse.

**The inflatable Christmas can be a reminder of a more serious condition: the inflatable Christian.**

The inflatable Christmas is for show. Drive through these neighborhoods in the daylight hours and these same displays usually lay flat and lifeless on the ground. Empty. Deflated.

The inflatable Christmas is temporary. Like most Christmas decorations, the inflatable Christmas is seasonal. Some displays will come down on Christmas Day. Some will be packed away the day after Christmas. Some will remain intact for a week or so through New Year's Day. Most, however, are completely out of sight by mid-January - except for those whose masters choose to leave their lights up all year, but only plug them in around Christmas, but surely even their inflatables will have to be put away when the lawn mower comes out.

The inflatable Christmas can be a reminder of a more serious condition: the inflatable Christian.

The inflatable Christian is full of air. Not much content. Not much on the inside. Not much real conviction and very little substance. No depth. On the surface, they look good. Bright. Cheerful. Exciting. Colorful. However, they are filled by what is light and air.

The inflatable Christian is only about the show. Just look at and admire them. Praise them for what appears to be really nice, but don't look on the inside. Appreciate them from distance, but don't get too close or you may be surprised, disappointed, or discouraged.

The inflatable Christian is temporary. They only appear on special occasions. They are not around during the dark days of winter or the dry days of summer. During those times, they're busy with what the surrounding world says are the important things. However, when the season is right and the message is pleasing, they show up ... dressed up, smiling, and looking good for the occasion.

The real Christmas and the real follower of Christ are not made of plastic and can not be deflated by simply pulling a plug. The original Christmas has meaning and a real Christian is consistent in their commitment in public and in private.

Jesus may have had inflatable Christmas and inflatable Christians in mind when He described the religious people of his day - the inflated religious folks - with terms like, *Everything they do is for others to see ... hypocrites ... blind guides ... whitewashed tombs* (Matthew 23).

We have a choice of what kind of Christian we will be and what kind of Christmas we will have. Let's enjoy the season to the fullest. Let's remember the true meaning. Let's celebrate the story. Let's share the joy. Even more, let's live the life ... the real life, not the inflated one.

Tom Norvell, www.heartlight.com

### BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

December 22 - Rosemary McCoy  
December 23 - Alexis Northern  
Stan & Millie Dauck (A)  
December 28 - Kylie Allen



### CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Muffin Mixes \* Instant Rice \* Dish-  
washing Detergent \* Pasta (Bow Tie,  
Penne, Rotini) \* HE Laundry Detergent  
\* Stick Deodorant  
Pick up date April 25, 2024

### WILLING TO SERVE



#### December 22, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....  
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
Scripture.....Steve Jones  
Prayer.....Jason Karnes  
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays  
Prayer.....Justin Allen  
Scripture.....Ron Garner  
Dismissal.....David Burleson

#### Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Song Leader.....n/a  
Prayer.....n/a  
Dismissal.....n/a

#### December 29, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays  
Opening Prayer.....David Carson  
Scripture.....Steve Jones  
Prayer.....Zack Tanner  
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
Prayer.....Wayne Reams  
Scripture.....Sam Garner  
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

### TIMELY RESOLUTION

The unresolved hurt between Simon and Geoffrey had persisted for years, and Simon's attempts to reenter the relationship had been resisted. Upon hearing the news of the death of Geoffrey's mother, Simon traveled "up country" in Kenya to attend her funeral service. Simon reflected on their encounter: "I had no expectations at all in terms of how the whole thing would turn out, [but] after the service, we opened up and had a fruitful talk. We hugged, shared the moment, prayed together, and planned to meet again." If only Simon and Geoffrey had been able to reconcile earlier, so much ongoing pain could have been avoided.

The words of Jesus in Matthew 5:21-26 help to put unresolved relational tensions in perspective. The anger that can lead to such rifts is a serious matter (v 22). Furthermore, getting things in order relationally is a fitting prelude to worshiping God (vv 23-24). The wise words of Jesus to *settle matters quickly with your adversary* (v 25) remind us that the sooner we do what we can to work toward reconciliation the better for all.

Relationships are risky; they demand work - in our families, in the workplace, in educational settings, and among people who share our faith in Christ. But as those who represent Him, the *Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6), may we find ourselves going out of our way to extend our hearts and hands to those with whom we have unresolved conflict.

Arthur Jackson



Attendance for December 15: 114



Contribution for December 15: \$3580

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**Janie Burleson** it's believed issues with her medication is the cause of her recent illnesses \* **Geraldine Sturges** has been in the hospital at Poplar Bluff with fluid build up and high blood pressure \* **Cameron Traw** suffered a debilitating stroke and spent a week in the hospital. He has major vision loss on the left side, balance issues, very short term memory, and has to use a walker \* **Judy Snyder** recovering from a broken wrist \* **June Mothersbaugh** has been struggling with her hearing and ear pain \* **Janet Woods** scheduled for some tests prior to a stent procedure January 9 \* **Ida Roberts** has been placed on palliative care \* **David Burleson** psa levels dropped significantly after treatment \* **Cathy Provance** struggling with knee and hip pain \* **Jerry Collier** still having some issues with double vision and has begun therapy \*

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** Janie Burleson \* David Carson \* Pat Cooper \* Sue Flowers \* Karen Forkum \* Patsy (Hardy) Gregg \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Donna McKuinn \* Gloria Moore \* Ida Roberts \* Waynetta Rodgers \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson \* Woody Wood

### Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :



Melinda Akers \* Chastity Beard \* Cathy Bennett \* Rodney Britt \* Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Tammy Clark \* Randy Cravens \* Barbara Denson \* Bill Fitzpatrick \* Audrey Galloway \* Emily Garner \* Patricia Greninger \* Stan Goodman \* Renee Goodman \* Nolan Hollowell \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jerald \* Holly Johnson \* Kristin Meadows \* Connie Lemmons \* Ponna Mahan \* Mike Napier \* Betty Nicholson \* Keagan Owens \* Nikki Reif \* Bobby Thornton \* Mindy Tomah \* Joe Vincent \* Alan Woodward

### Our Shut Ins



Pat Cooper \* Sue Flowers \* Ida Roberts \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson

### Looking Ahead

December 25: Christmas dinner at noon in the fellowship room. If you would like to attend, please sign the sheet on the table in the foyer.  
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December 25: There will be no Wednesday evening Bible study due to the Christmas holiday.  
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December 31: New Year's Eve get-together at 7 p.m. Bring snacks and games to play and help us welcome in 2025!  
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January 1: We will have a mid week service at 7. There will NOT be a fellowship meal. Meals are scheduled to resume January 8.  
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January 5: Friends and Family Day with guest speaker Kayson Lawrence. We will have a potluck meal following morning service and a 5 p.m. worship service with a youth emphasis, followed by a light meal. Make plans to be here and invite your friends and family! There are some flyers on the table in the foyer.  
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January 11: Bridal shower for Jacob Clayton and Raysha Adams at 2 p.m. in the fellowship room. They are registered at Wal Mart, and found under "Kentucky" for the state. They would also appreciate gift cards for home improvement stores. For more information or to contribute to a group gift, please see Millie or Cindy Williams.

### BIBLE TRIVIA

What Bible character talks about beautiful feet? \* In what book of the Bible does it say *Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine*? \* In what book of the Bible do we find the famous verse, *At Parbar westward, four at the causeway, and two at Parbar*?

Answers: Isaiah 52:7 \* Lamentations 5:10 \* 1 Chronicles 26:18

