



# TRUE LIGHT

March 16, 2025

## 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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*"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**

## LOVE THE FAMILY

Imagine a family... where being together isn't prioritized. Where other responsibilities - or maybe just a preference to spend time doing other things - crowd out family time. Imagine a family that trains its younger generation to put other things first as well.

...where cliques and factions become more important than the family as a whole, where the family name is brought into disrepute by all the squabbles, infighting, and division. A family that thinks its differences are more important than its shared bloodline, history and values as a family.

...that thinks success for one part means failure for another. One that thinks every member must hold all the same opinions and convictions and do everything in the same way to remain a part of the family.

... in which the vulnerable are preyed upon while the predators are protected.

...that crushes its members who are in pain under the weight of expectation, guilt, and judgment. Now imagine that same family celebrating the success of its most manipulative, deceitful, and abusive members.

...where there is no expectation that members will be a part of family life. A family in which family members only share in the life of the family when they're nagged, cajoled, and guilted into it.

...where a few people do everything. The other members of the family stop by now and then and enjoy the benefits of the others' work. One where the people who do most of the work simmer in resentment of the others who do little work, instead of encouraging and helping others to take responsibility as well.

...in which every person expects that everything in the family's life together will be done to his or her liking. One in which everyone considers him or herself an expert on every topic.

...where problems and disagreements are addressed, not by communication, but by avoidance. One where members choose not to be part of the family anymore rather than deal with those with whom they don't see eye-to-eye.

When Peter tells us to love *the family of believers*, he doesn't mean... that we should call each other "brother" and "sister" at church and then go about the rest of our weeks as if our brothers and sisters don't exist.

...that's segregated by race, ethnicity, and language. One in which those with money or education look down on those without and vice versa. Imagine a family in which differences provides line for division instead of opportunities for learning, understanding, and growth.

...in which there's no concern for the younger generation, the future of the family. Imagine that the children aren't taught the family's values or instructed in treasuring what the family calls essential. Imagine, if you can, a family that routinely stifles the passion and potential of young adulthood, that continually requires the up-and-comers to earn their place at the table through years of silent service to the agendas and whims of their elders.

...a family where there's no respect for ancestors. One where the younger generation demands that their voices be heard by denigrating and devaluing the experiences and earned wisdom of the older. A family in which those who are older are consigned to the trash heap because they aren't as hip, exciting, or energetic as they used to be. Imagine that they're mocked because they refuse to embrace the latest and the greatest. A family in which the younger generation demeans the hard work and sacrifice of those who have come before - the hard work and sacrifice that has built the family as they know it.

A family like the one I'm describing wouldn't remain viable very long. It wouldn't effectively provide safety and security for its members. Its younger members wouldn't learn the lessons they needed to thrive. Growing bitter, angry, and suspicious as they got older would be expected. Dysfunction, like I'm describing, would reproduce itself from generation to generation until it erased anything healthy, constructive, or life giving.

When Peter tells us to *love the family of believers*, he doesn't mean that the church ought to talk a lot about being a family. He doesn't mean that we should call each other "brother" and "sister" at church and then go about the rest of our weeks as if our sisters and brothers don't exist. Those words come shortly after he demands that we *live such good lives among the pagans that...they may see [our] good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us*. How we treat each other in the church is part of the kind of life that should build a bridge between this world and the world God is creating for us to enjoy with him forever. How we live together in the church, in short, ought to be a teaser for what life together will look like then, when Christ returns and abolishes everything that causes families to implode and collapse.

Too often, perhaps, it's just the opposite. Too often, the way the church has treated one another has done nothing to give "the pagans" hope for a different kind of world, a different type of life, a different sort of family. At times, we've even topped the pagans in family dysfunction.

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## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

March 17 - Brian Thomason  
March 22 - Cindy Burleson  
March 23 - Mark & Rita Clayton (A)



Attendance for March 9: 109

## 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 28, 2025

Contribution for March 9: \$4421

## WILLING TO SERVE

### March 16, 2025

Morning Worship:

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

Evening Worship:

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

### Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
Prayer.....Sam Garner  
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

### March 23, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Aiden Owens  
Opening Prayer.....David Carson  
Scripture.....Ryan Young  
Prayer.....Zack Tanner  
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

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

## HOSTING ROYALTY

After meeting the Queen of England at a ball in Scotland, Sylvia and her husband received a message that the royal family would like to visit them for tea. Sylvia started cleaning and prepping, nervous about hosting the royal guests. Before they were due to arrive, she went outside to pick some flowers for the table, her heart racing. Then she sensed God reminding her that He's the King of kings and that He's with her every day. Immediately she felt peaceful and thought, "After all, it's only the Queen!"

Sylvia is right. As the apostle Paul noted, God is the *King of kings and Lord of lords* (1 Timothy 6:15) and those who follow Him are *children of God* (Galatians 3:26). When we belong to Christ, we're heirs of Abraham (v 29). We no longer are bound by division - such as that of race, social class or gender - for we're *all one in Christ Jesus* (v 28). We're children of the King.

Although Sylvia and her husband had a marvelous meal with the Queen, I don't anticipate receiving an invitation from her anytime soon. But I love the reminder that the highest King of all is with me every moment. And that those who believe in Jesus wholeheartedly (v 27) can live in unity, knowing they're God's children.

How could holding onto this truth shape the way we live today?

Amy Boucher Pye

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

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

Melinda Akers \* Chastity Beaird \* 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 \* 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

TODAY: Derek Mays will be our guest speaker for a.m. services.  
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TONIGHT: 60th birthday party for Brian Thomason in the fellowship room following evening worship. Everyone is invited to attend - no gifts, please.  
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March 16-19: Gospel Meeting at Gideon with guest speaker Brent Newton. There will be a 1 p.m. service today, and meeting times are at 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday.  
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March 19: Wednesday fellowship meal to be announced.  
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March 22: Fish Fry and Silent Auction at 6 p.m. for Bootheel Youth Camp at Dexter church of Christ.  
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April 6-9: Our Gospel Meeting with Bryan McAlister. The theme will be "Won with Christ in a Romans One World." Be praying for a successful meeting.

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The good news is, your church can be different. The failings of the historical church don't have to be the failings of each local expression of the church. Your church can love one another. You can live together as the family that you ought to be. You can take care of each other. You can respect each other.

You can disagree without diminishing each other. You can solve the problems that come up in every family by working together and affirming what holds you together. You can see diversity in age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, and economics as a good thing that will better help you understand one another and the world in which we live. You can create a place of safety, joy, and peace. You can be a family in which every member does the work God has called them to do in the world, encouraged and equipped by every other member. Your church can be that kind of family, and it can begin with you being that kind of family member. You don't need your leaders' permission to love the family of believers. You can start right now.

Imagine what kind of family you can create.

Patrick Odum, [www.heartlight.com](http://www.heartlight.com)