



TRUE LIGHT

A CHARCOAL FIRE AND THE SMELL OF REDEMPTION

October 12, 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
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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
Services**

"I've just got to have some steak!" I surprised myself when I said this out loud while sweeping my back porch. But my stomach was growling, and I couldn't think of anything else but a charcoal-grilled steak to fix that growing ache in my belly. So I went inside and told my wife, "I've got to have some steak!" After a pause, I continued, "I don't care if we go to Outback, Beehive, or even if I grill it myself, but I've got to have some steak."

Donna laughed and said, "And you know why you're wanting steak?" "Not really," I replied. "You're smelling our neighbors grilling outside, and now you want what they're cooking!" BINGO! She was right. I opened the back door, and our yard was filled with the aroma and smoke of someone nearby grilling steak. That aroma had awakened something deep inside me that triggered my "I've got to have some steak!" response.

Two significant events in Jesus' preparation of the apostles occurred around the smell of a charcoal fire. The term "charcoal fire" (in Greek, *anthrakia*) occurs in the New Testament in two places, both in the gospel of John. The first involves Peter's three denials of the Lord (John 18:15-27; esp. John 18:18 ESV). The second involves Jesus' restoration of Peter to ministry after a miraculous catch of fish (John 21:1-22; esp. John 21:9 ESV).

This little detail of personal memory is rooted in the sensory experience of the distinct aroma of a charcoal fire. It links these two events both in terms of a visceral response for both John and Peter as well as functions as a key connection between the two events in John's gospel. In cornbread English, John is telling us that the smell of a charcoal fire evoked the memory of Peter's three denials until it was supplanted by the memory of Peter's restoration by the Lord in front of a charcoal fire. The bottom line: At a charcoal fire, Peter had betrayed the Lord! At a charcoal fire, the Lord restored Peter!

At the post-resurrection appearance of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus does the important work of calling Peter back to ministry and then restoring Peter to his leadership position among the apostles (John 21:1-22). Jesus does this in a situation that echoes Peter's original call to follow the Lord (Luke 5:1-11). Interestingly and importantly, Jesus does not let Peter off the hook. Jesus didn't look the other way and simply ignore Peter's sinful failures. Peter hadn't just denied the Lord that night, but he did so after claiming superiority to his fellow apostles. Peter had shown a desire to be first before he failed miserably at being faithful. Both sins would have sabotaged his leadership in the early church and among the apostles.

When Jesus had originally warned Peter of his impending denials, it was in the context of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. At first, Peter did not want the Lord to wash his feet, even though the Lord washed the feet of the other disciples. Then after the Lord's rebuke, in typical Peter fashion, Peter wanted to be washed all over (John 13:1-11). Jesus then warned his apostles that one would betray him, and all the rest would abandon him. The Lord specifically warned Peter that he would deny him three times that very night.

Still not recognizing his own vulnerability, Peter claimed that no matter what others did, he would remain faithful even if it meant dying for the Lord (John 13:21-38). Peter failed despite his brash promises. Peter failed despite claiming to love the Lord more than the others and being more faithful to the Lord than his fellow disciples. Peter's denial of the Lord was a complete failure of Peter to live up to his word and his brash promises. Peter's denial of the Lord was the complete failure of Peter to be loyal to the Lord he claimed to love.

After the Lord's resurrection, Peter still had influence as a natural leader. *I'm going out to fish*, Peter said to some of his apostle buddies. Despite Peter's failures and arrogance, the other apostles followed Peter into the boat and went fishing (John 21:1-3).

Peter may have still been a brash natural leader, but Jesus didn't want a natural leader. The Lord wanted a restored spiritual leader. Jesus wanted Peter to be a leader with integrity and who knew his own vulnerabilities. Failure wasn't the issue. Every human leader will fail at some point. The issue for Jesus was that Peter had to own his failures. Peter needed to humble himself before the Lord and before those he let down with his arrogance and denials. Only then could the Lord raise Peter back from failure and restore him to leadership. Only after Peter could acknowledge his failure - an admission that had to come from his heart - would he be ready for leadership.

In our experience with leaders who sin today, we often toss them into one ditch of destruction or the other. We either gloat over, gossip about or pour shame out on leaders who sin publicly. We're used to doing this because of the popularity of gossip magazines and TV shows about entertainers. So we jump in and do the same thing to those among us who fail in our Christian family. We perpetuate and spread the gangrenous poison of one sin through our own sin. Or on the other hand, we try to be nice and say we don't want to judge them too harshly; so we end up ignoring their sin. Sometimes this means allowing a leader to continue without ever repenting. Other times we quietly ostracize that person by simply ignoring them and putting them on the back shelf of irrelevance and disassociation. Either way, the leader - our Christian brother or sister - is not restored to life and ministry in the Lord. So let's look at a few principles Jesus demonstrated with Peter and see if we can learn to focus on being redemptive when those we love and those who lead are caught in sinful failure.

So what does Jesus do with Peter to restore him?

- First, he challenged Peter's claims of superior strength and faithfulness in front of the very apostles that he made the brash statements:
When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" (John 21:15).
- Next, Jesus challenged Peter on his failure to love and his faithfulness. He kept asking Peter if he loved him until Peter "got it." It took three times - just like Peter denied the Lord three times - before Peter heard the rooster crow again:
The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" (John 21:16-17).
- Next, notice that Jesus restored him to ministry three times:
Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."...Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."...Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:15-17)
- Even after all the grace that Jesus had shown Peter and even after Peter was cut to the heart about his denial of the Lord three times, the Lord still needed to deal with Peter's sinful heart that lay behind the failure. Peter had one more go at the sin of being most important, not wanting any of Jesus' apostles to be more important than he was (John 21:18-22). Jesus, however, didn't back away from Peter and let this arrogance issue go. Instead, Jesus told Peter to quit comparing importance, and then told him:
If I want him to remain until I return, what is that to you? You must follow Me! (John 21:22).



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BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

October 12 - Kinley Fields
October 15 - Beth Gresham
October 17 - Darrin Shipman
October 18 - Shyann Ward



Attendance for October 5: 123

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Rick Beard will have surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff after suffering a fall last week * **Jack McGowan** dealing with bronchitis * **Sharon Durham** recovering from back surgery * **Steve Jones** diagnosed with stage 2 prostate cancer and will see his doctor soon * **Mindy Pruitt**, who recently suffered a seizure * **Alyson Mickey**, still having some issues from a recent seizure * **Faye Dockins** as she undergoes chemotherapy * **Cathy Provance's** surgery postponed for the near future * **Woody Wood** having hip issues * **Janet Wood** recovering from a fall * **Ronnie Lyons** (Judy Snyder's neighbor) will have a procedure Oct. 16 as a new form of cancer treatment.

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Cody Boyt * Jerry Burleson * David Burleson * David Carson * Pat Cooper * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer/other illness (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beard * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Jeanie Buck * Scott Burleson * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Tammy Clark * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Misty (Owens) Franklin * Audrey Galloway * Emily Garner * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * Renee Goodman * Christy Heskett * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Kristin Meadows * Jerry Mickey * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Nikki Reif * Joe Richardson * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins: Pat Cooper * David Terrill

Looking Ahead:

TODAY: Derek Mays will be our guest speaker.***

October 14: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Grecian Steakhouse in Sikeston. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.***

October 15: Our Wednesday night fellowship meal will be baked spaghetti, garlic bread and garden salad. Desserts will be needed. We are still looking for volunteers to help prepare meals.

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

TO BE ANNOUNCED



Contribution for October 5: \$4735

WILLING TO SERVE

October 12, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Opening Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Scripture.....Steve Jones
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....David Burleson
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Matt Ward

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

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

October 19, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jordan Ross
Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman
Dismissal.....David Burleson

Upcoming Gospel Meetings:

- October 12-14 at Matthews with guest speaker Jared Skaggs.
- October 19-22 our Gospel Meeting with Brent Newton
- October 19-22 at Central church of Christ in Paducah with Kevin Hahn
- There will also be a ladies day at Corning church of Christ October 18.
- There will also be a ladies day at Doniphan October 25.

Information for all these events can be found on the bulletin board by the nursery.



Congratulations to Haley Beasley, who put on Christ in baptism last Sunday following morning worship. If you haven't met her yet, please take time to do so. Haley is a friend of Kylie Allen.

Angels in heaven are rejoicing and we are also with the news that our sister Sandra Moore has asked to be restored to the church.

Sandra is in poor health and on oxygen full time so is unable to attend worship right now, but is hoping to do so in the future.



Continued from front:

For me, there are two crucial elements I need to notice and then put into practice as one who claims to follow Jesus. Here's the first: People can fail miserably and be restored. The goal is not just to get them forgiven. The goal in dealing with those who have sinfully failed is not just to get them cleansed. The goal is to get the sinful brother or sister restored - restored to place, restored to acceptance, and restored to ministry. Restored means they are put back into the place they were before as someone healed. In Peter's case, Jesus had to help Peter reach the point where he was genuinely convicted of his sin. Peter had to admit he was broken, and that he needed to be reset, cleansed, stabilized, rehabbed, and restored. Those he had let down, those to whom he had claimed to be superior had to be part of the process so he could be restored to the team and restored to leadership and ministry.

Here's the second crucial element: We can move past our own sinful failure and be restored to ministry. If you are like me, you find it easy not to face past failures. We don't smell redemption when we face our next "charcoal fire" - we smell failure. Jesus worked to re-route the smell of charcoal in Peter from failure to restoration, from sin to grace, and from unfaithfulness to called back to ministry. Who is the primary one who declared that Jesus is both Lord and Christ at Pentecost? It is Peter. Peter takes the lead in Jerusalem and the early church because the Lord changed the smell of his "charcoal fire" from denial to restoration.

While we all need help to overcome our sinful failures, thankfully the Lord is faithful to us even when we have not been faithful to him. That is why we must band together and be the people of Jesus and move those who have sinfully failed to those who have been restored to faithful ministry. Anything less and we are not the people of the Lord! For your own admission of sinful failure, David's psalm of contrition, confession, and forgiveness is waiting for you to put your heart behind his words and receive the Father's grace. The Lord Jesus longs to restore and heal us from our past and return us to life, health, and ministry!