



TRUE LIGHT

THE SADDEST NUMBER ON THE BOARD

November 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
573-281-6686
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."*

Psalm 118:24

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

Look somewhere in most church auditoriums or foyers and you'll see a board. At Central, it's on a front wall, but I've seen them in other places on side walls, back walls, and even as soon as you walk in the foyer.

The board usually has the attendance for this week, last week, and the current contribution. However, the vast majority also have another number that, to me, is typically the saddest one. What is it? The attendance for Bible school.

Let's say the congregation you attend has a Sunday morning attendance of 150. That's an above average, but not "large" congregation. What will the Bible class attendance be? I would venture to say that it would be rare for it to be over 120. Many times, it will be more like 100, and, in some cases, even lower.

That should make us truly sad.

Now, I can already hear through the keyboard the excuses. "But what about...???" And there are some. There are some elderly members in many places who struggle to sit for two straight hours. There might be someone who is caring for an aging parent and is doing all he or she can to get away for one hour of worship. I get that.

But let's just be candid: out of 150 people, how many have a legitimate reason (not excuse) why they literally *cannot* be in Bible class? I would venture to say that, in most places, you would struggle to come up with more than 5-10.

That's what makes the Bible school number sad.

Every "missing" number represents someone who is not prioritizing learning the Bible. One missing number is a little boy who is not learning about the Bible and, now, is behind the eight-ball in growing up to be a Bible class teacher himself or even a future elder. Another missing number is a young girl who is not being encouraged by her fellow students to face this next week with greater spiritual courage than last week. One missing number is a young dad who has now made the choice to show his children that the Bible is really not number one in his household. One missing number is an older lady who, though a Christian, has been slipping in her faith and, now, is not gaining new strength to keep going. Some missing numbers are whole families who have decided that this is boring, but last night's game was exciting, and they are showing their devotion with their attendance - and are already setting in motion for their children and grandchildren to not care at all about the Lord.

That number is so telling as to the health of a congregation because it reflects the spiritual devotion - or lack thereof - of those who worship in that place. They are either putting learning and fellowship with God's people as something they treasure or they are choosing to treasure something else.

What are you proving that you treasure by widening or closing the gap in those numbers on the board?



Adam Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

November 17 - Mason Beard
Lorene Ward
November 19 - Zack Tanner
November 23 - David Terrill



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Bottled fruit juice * Fruit cups * Pudding/gelatine cups * Snack cakes * Baked beans * Flour * Miracle whip * Alfredo sauce * Ramen noodles * Cereal * Pop tarts * Canned frosting * Vinegar
Pick-up Date December 15, 2025

WILLING TO SERVE

November 16, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman
Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer.....Jess LeCroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Jordan Ross
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

November 23, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Scripture.....Steve Jones
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Prayer.....David Burleson
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

GOD HEALS OUR BROKENNESS

Collin and his wife, Jordan, wandered through the craft store, looking for a picture to hang in their home. Collin thought he'd found just the right piece and called Jordan over to see it. On the right side of the ceramic artwork was the word *grace*. But the left side held two long cracks. "Well, it's broken!" Jordan said as she started looking for an unbroken one on the shelf. But then Collin said, "No. That's the point. We're broken and then grace comes in - *period*." They decided to purchase the one with the cracks. When they got to the checkout, the clerk exclaimed, "Oh, no, it's broken!" "Yes, so are we," Jordan whispered.

What does it mean to be a "broken" person? Someone defined it this way: A growing awareness that no matter how hard we try, our ability to make life work gets worse instead of better. It's a recognition of our need for God and His intervention in our lives.

The apostle Paul talked about our brokenness in terms of being *dead in [our] transgressions and sins* (Ephesians 2:1). The answer to our need to be forgiven and changed comes in verses 4 and 5: *Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive ... [it] is by grace [we] have been saved.*

God is willing to heal our brokenness with His grace when we admit, "I'm broken."

Anne Cetas

Attendance for November 9: 83

Contribution for November 9: \$3564

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Rick Beard recovering from heart surgery. He was expected to be released Thursday * **Cathy Provance** recovering from hip surgery at her sister's house * **Karen McGowan** recovering from COVID * **Beth Gresham** diagnosed with shingles * **Loretta Carson** hasn't been well for a few weeks now * **Terri Ward** will have gall bladder surgery November 21 * **Gloria Moore** has been diagnosed with colon cancer * **Steve Jones** had a biopsy Thursday * **Faye Dockins** is at home and having some in-home physical therapy. She would welcome visitors * **Deborah Sturgess** has been struggling with knee issues *

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 and Janet 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 * Lisa Clark * 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 * Joyce Walker * Christina Whitaker * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins: Pat Cooper * David Terrill

Looking Ahead:

November 19: Our Wednesday night fellowship meal will be breakfast for supper. Desserts will be needed.

November 26: No fellowship meal this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

December 5: Annual Ladies Ornament Exchange at 6 p.m. in the fellowship room. Bring a wrapped ornament (or fun pair of socks) and a dish to share. Feel free to invite a friend.

December 8: Ladies Lunch Out at Hickory Log in Dexter at 11:30. Note: lunch out will be on a MONDAY this month. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer; if you plan to attend PLEASE sign up as we have to have a reservation and this is by far our most popular ladies lunch out month.

December 18: Annual Ladies Holiday Brunch at the home of Amy Thomason. We will have an optional, \$20 gift exchange. Ham and rolls will be provided - bring your favorite dish to share. If you would like to be eligible for a door prize, bring an item or items to support a local animal shelter. A list of most needed items will be available soon.

BIBLE TRIVIA:

What is the name of the woman who slept at the feet of her future husband? * What type of food did the brothers of Joseph eat after they threw him into the pit? * A scarlet cord in a window saved someone and their family. Who was this person? * In the contest for good-looking men, four men won because they were

Answers: Ruth (3:7-9; 4:10) * Bread (Genesis 37:23-25) * Rahab (Joshua 2:1, 18) * Daniel, Hamanah, Mishael, and Azariah (Daniel 1:11-16)

In sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to Jess LeCroy in the loss of his brother, Herschel. A celebration of life was held in Illinois yesterday.

