



# TRUE LIGHT

## THANKSGIVING

November 23, 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

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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**

Wilbur was a sweet man with a serious countenance - those who didn't know him would call him dour or crusty. But, his heart was good and generous and kind. His young grandson, who was four or five at the time, came to stay with his grandparents for a week. On weekdays, they had the typical southern breakfast - eggs, bacon, toast, orange juice, and coffee. On Saturday, however, Wilbur and Willie Maude usually had cereal and coffee or juice. They sat down at the breakfast table and Wilbur asked his young grandson to say the blessing. The little guy hesitated for a minute, and then prayed, "Dear God, we thank you for this breakfast ... even though it is small. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Wilbur cracked up with laughter.

We do have so many things for which we can be thankful. However, if we are not careful, the challenges of our moment in time can wile the joy right out of our Thanksgiving. Like many of you, I've lost 1/3 of my retirement over the last year. I know folks on fixed incomes who are seriously hurting now financially. I opened an email this morning from a friend who will have no job this week. A family that I love is deep in grief during what is supposed to be a special and blessed time of the year.

These concerns easily give way to fear. With the negative orientation our news and gossip magazine takes, our hearts can be seized with anxiety and dread. Our prayers soon become laundry lists of things for God to fix - listen to our words: "Give me!" "Help me!" "Heal me!" "Rescue me!"

Certainly we are to turn to God honestly and openly about the burdens of our hearts to *receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need* (Hebrews 4:16 TNIV). But with our cries for help, we must not forget the importance of being thankful for the incredible blessings we have in Jesus (Colossians 4:2).

God isn't asking us for false or forced Thanksgiving or some kind of simplistic relabeling of bad stuff. We are called back to the deep spiritual wells of grace we have in Jesus. From prison, Paul writes:

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ* (Ephesians 1:3).

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:4-7).

Because we have Jesus, and because he has us, our future is secure. Our relationships in Christ are eternal. All partings and every agony we face here are temporary. With this hope, we are to reframe all of life in a chorus song of Thanksgiving.

*Cultivate thankfulness ... Let every detail in your lives - words, actions, whatever - be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way* (Colossians 3:16-17 MSG).

In Jesus, the liturgy of our lives is thanksgiving - not just one day a year, but every day until we are lost in the thankful wonder of His presence, at home with Him forever. Yes, dear God, we do thank you for all the ways you have blessed us, for they are indeed NOT small!

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com



**BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

November 23 - David Terrill  
November 25 - Karla Jacques  
November 27 - Lisa Britt  
Jane Terrill  
November 30 - Leslie Neely  
Steve and DeeDee Burch (A)



**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 23, 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.....Rodney Williams  
Prayer.....David Burleson  
Scripture.....Sam Garner  
Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**

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

**November 30, 2025**

**Morning Worship:**

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman  
Prayer.....Jason Karnes  
Closing Prayer.....Jess LeCroy

**Evening Worship:**

Song Leader.....Chase Burch  
Prayer.....Rodney Williams  
Scripture.....Jordan Ross  
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

**Attendance for November 16: 112**

**Contribution for November 16: \$4746**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Terri Ward** doing well following gall bladder surgery Friday \***Rick Beaird** improving following heart surgery \* **Cathy Provance** continuing to recover from hip surgery at her sister's house \* **Gloria Moore** has been diagnosed with colon cancer \* **Steve Jones'** biopsies came back negative \* **Faye Dockins** is at home and having some in-home physical therapy. She would welcome visitors \* **Deborah Sturgess** has been struggling with knee issues \* **Jerry Burleson's** PSA levels have increased a little

**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 Beaird \* 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 25: We will have Bible study on Tuesday this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

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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.

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December 7: First Sunday potluck and early evening service. We will have a potluck lunch following morning worship followed by an early evening service. Everyone is encouraged to attend both the potluck and early evening service.

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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.

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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. Most needed items include: Bleach, dog treats, puppy pads, dust pan, disinfecting wipes, throws.

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December 25: Christmas Dinner will be served in the fellowship room at noon. A sign up sheet will be available soon if you'd like to attend.

**BIBLE TRIVIA:** Elisha cursed 42 children because they made fun of him and mocked him. What did they say? \* As a result, what happened to the 42 children? \* When God expelled Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, he placed Cherubim at the ? Of the Garden

A: "Go up, thou bald head" (2 Kings 2: 15, 23) \* Two she-bears came out of the woods and tore them apart (2 Kings 2: 21, 23-24) \* East (Genesis 3:24)

**A GREAT LIGHT**

In 2018, twelve Thai boys and their soccer coach descended into a mazelike cave, intending to enjoy an afternoon adventure. Due to unexpected rising water that forced them deeper and deeper into the cavern, it was two-and-a-half weeks before rescuers led them out. Dive teams, thwarted by rising water, attempted the rescue as the boys sat on a small rock shelf with only six flickering flashlights. They spent hours in darkness, hoping that somehow light - and help - would break through.

The prophet Isaiah described a world of brooding darkness, one overrun by violence and greed, shattered by rebellion and anguish (Isaiah 8:22). Nothing but ruin; hope's candle flickering and fading, sputtering before succumbing to dark nothingness. And yet, Isaiah insisted, this dim despair was not the end. Because of God's mercy, soon *there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress* (9:1). God would never abandon His people in shadowy ruin. The prophet announced hope for his people then and pointed to the time when Jesus would come to dispel the darkness sin has caused.

Jesus HAS come. And now we hear Isaiah's words with renewed meaning: *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light*, Isaiah says. *On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned* (v 2).

No matter how dark the night, no matter how despairing our circumstances, we're never forsaken in the dark. Jesus is here. A great Light shines.

Winn Collier

