



# TRUE LIGHT

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE...

December 28, 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."*

Psalms 118:24

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

The song says that this is the season to be jolly, but it is not that way for everybody. It is definitely not, in the words of another song, "the most wonderful time of the year" - the "happiest season of all" for a lot of people. I was one of those people twenty-five years ago.

On December 16, 2000 Donna and I watched my father breathe for the last time. The temperature was somewhere in the teens during the day of his funeral service. I don't remember ever being any colder than I was that day at the cemetery during the committal portion of the service.

A few days later, while many families were doing what they normally do on Christmas, our family was attempting to have something that in some way would resemble a normal Christmas. Unfortunately, that was not the way things turned out. Instead, we received the news that one of my father's sisters had passed away.

To state the obvious, the experience of attending two funerals for people whom you love in such a short time doesn't exactly qualify as holiday festivities. What had been in the past our normal holiday activities kind of got lost in the shuffle.

During that same time, Donna and I were trying to transition into a new phase of our own lives. On January 1, 2001, I was to begin serving as the preacher for the Central church of Christ in Paducah. We were in the middle of trying to sell a house and get another house that had largely been unused for a number of years ready for us to occupy. Even with the help of some very good people, much of this had to be put on hold until after the first of the year.

In short, there was not much about the events of December 2000 that contributed to an atmosphere that would even resemble something that could be described as "holly jolly." Instead, words like "loss," "grief," "stress," and "exhaustion" are the ones that come to mind.

Thankfully, one word that does not come to mind is "loneliness." Although we were not yet officially a part of the Central family, the good people there treated us as though we were. They, along with others, rallied around us in so many ways. During a time that was very difficult for us, the fact that people demonstrated care and concern was invaluable to us.

Some recent events that made both local and national headlines have reminded me that the Christmas season in 2025 is no different than the one twenty-five years ago. In fact, it is no different than any holiday season.

There are people who are hurting. There are, in the words of another song, "people who need people." There are also people who need Jesus.

While I am writing this in conjunction with the holiday season, the message is not intended to be seasonal. It is my opinion that it is just as wrong to limit our thoughts about Jesus to one season of the year as it is to think of Him existing only as a baby in a manger.

If I wear the name of Christ, I should be attempting to ...follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21) during every "season" of the year and of my life. I need to remember that there are people who are hurting at every hour of every day. Maybe, as we make those resolutions in a few days, one of them might need to be not to allow these people to suffer in isolation.

We have neither the wisdom nor the power of Jesus, but we can all resolve to use our time following the example of the One who went about doing good (Acts 10:38).

'Tis always the season for that!

Jim Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)*



## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

December 28 - Kylie Allen  
Glen Ward

January 1 - Regina Halterman  
January 2 - David Carson  
January 4 - Janet Wood



## CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Muffin Mixes \* Mac and Cheese \*  
Kool-Aid \* Vanilla Wafers \* Honey \*  
Crackers (Club, Cheez-its, etc)  
Pick-up Date April 13, 2026

## WILLING TO SERVE December 28, 2025

### Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Titus Dauck  
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
Scripture.....Jordan Ross  
Prayer.....Jason Karnes  
Closing Prayer.....Jess LeCroy

### Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
Prayer.....David Carson  
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman  
Dismissal.....Jerry Bureson

### December 31, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
Prayer.....Chase Burch  
Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

### January 4, 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 Bureson  
Scripture.....Sam Garner  
Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

Attendance for December 21: 120

Contribution for December 21: \$5876

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Carol Young has been diagnosed with cancer, and will have a port put in to begin treatments \* Janet Wood is scheduled for an MRI tomorrow \* June Mothersbaugh hasn't been feeling well \* Steve Jones will meet with his doctor January 8 \* Faye Dockins is at home and having some in-home physical therapy. She would welcome visitors \*

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Cody Boyt \* Jerry Bureson \* David Bureson \* 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 Bureson \* 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 \* Anthony Tate \* Bobby Thornton \* Mindy Tomah \* Joyce Walker \* Christina Whitaker \* Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins: Pat Cooper \* Faye Dockins \* David Terrill

## Looking Ahead:

TODAY: Austin Ketchum will be our guest speaker for both morning and evening services.

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December 31: New Year's Eve get together in the fellowship room following Bible Study. Bring games and finger foods and help us ring in 2026!

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January 4: Friends and Family Day with guest speaker Kason Lawrence. We will have a potluck following morning services and a youth emphasis night for evening worship. Flyers are available on the table in the foyer. We will need help providing desserts and snacks for the light meal following evening worship. Check the sign up sheet on the table in the foyer to see where you can help.

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January 11: Congregational Potluck/Baby Shower following morning worship for Matt & Shyann Ward. This will be a diapers and wipes shower; or if you'd like to contribute to a money tree for baby Ward, please see Millie.

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January 13: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Dexter BBQ.

### WELCOMING THE DAWN OF A NEW YEAR

"I'm not really sure I'm up to this \* I just don't know if I can do the work \* Maybe I'll do it next year \* I'm not sure I have time to do it right now \* I just don't want to mess anything up."

These are the words of thousands, even millions of us who look at the new year and worry if we're really up to the changes we say we want to make.

Fear about change, uncertainty about opportunities, and worry about the future steal more from us than thieves ever will. There's just something in our human natures that makes us afraid. We don't want to lose what we have, so we pull back from anything that might threaten it - even "things" that might be a whole lot better. We fear the consequences of our possible changes. So most of our new year changes are short-lived and mere window-dressing.

As Christians, however, we have the power to change without fear. We can reach out and embrace new opportunities with expectation. We can welcome the future with excitement. You see, God has promised his power to help us change. That power is the Holy Spirit (Eph. 3:14-21). This is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead (Eph. 1:17-19). This is power to not only change, but to be transformed (2 Cor. 3:18).

While we change, God's grace assures us that the important things in our lives will not be lost. As our hearts seek after Jesus as Lord, we can welcome changes and seize opportunities knowing that nothing can separate us from his love for us (Romans 8:31-39). Jesus' love and presence will not change or leave us (Hebrews 13:5b-6, 8). While some may fear the dawn of a new year because of the changes it MIGHT bring, we can welcome the dawn of a new year with anticipation. In this new year, our Lord Jesus will be working to change us to be more like himself and to be more of a blessing to those around us. His work in us WILL happen. The real question is this: Are we going to let fear rob Jesus of his goal in us, or will we seize the opportunities and seek the changes that bring him glory?

Let's welcome the dawn of a new year with anticipation and courage, remembering the apostle John's promise: *Perfect love drives out fear!* And the reassuring words of Jesus to his storm-fossed disciples, *Fear not. I am!*

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

## CHOOSE JOY

Keith was feeling down as he trudged through the produce aisle. His hands trembled from the first signs of Parkinson's disease. *How long before his quality of life began to slide? What would this mean for his wife and children?* Keith's gloom was shattered by laughter. Over by the potatoes, a man pushed a giggling boy in a wheelchair. The man leaned over and whispered to his son, who couldn't stop grinning. He was noticeably worse off than Keith, yet he and his dad were finding joy where they could.

Writing from prison or under house arrest as he awaited the outcome of his trial, the apostle Paul seemingly had no right to be joyful (Philippians 1:12-13). The emperor was Nero, a wicked man who had a growing reputation for violence and cruelty, so Paul had reason to be concerned. He also knew there were preachers who were taking advantage of his absence to gain glory for themselves. They thought they could "stir up trouble" for the apostle while he was imprisoned (v 17).

Yet Paul chose to rejoice (vv 18-21) and he told the Philippians to follow his example. *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it a0gain: Rejoice!* (4:4). Our situation might seem bleak, yet Jesus is with us now, and He's guaranteed our glorious future. Christ, who walked out of His tomb, will return to raise His followers to live with Him. As we [prepare to] begin this new year, may we rejoice!

Mike Witt-