



# TRUE LIGHT

March 8, 2026

## 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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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**

\*Original publication date March 5, 2005

## WHAT WOULD YOU HEAR?

Thankfully, the world's response to the deaths and destruction from the recent tsunami was different than the responses evoked from news we receive about most other tragedies. Unless a disaster is a global catastrophe and seen on TV, we often resort to the most calloused and selfish forms of interest. For example, listen to the typical way an overseas airplane crash is given: "200 plus feared dead in flight 1547 tragedy - over 100 of the fatalities are Americans."

That is a typical radio or television teaser before they break for commercials. I remember hearing that kind of teaser, and there was something irritating about the phrasing that I couldn't quite place at first. It was what I sometimes call "Holy Spirit heartburn" - that "greasy feeling" we get in our stomachs when the Holy Spirit convicts us that something is wrong and that we might otherwise accept. Then it dawned on me what the irritation was.

The way U.S. news services often phrase disaster headlines is so self-serving and ethnocentric. Tragedies seldom get airtime if there are no United States citizens killed. If the injured or dead are not Americans, we often scrape away our concern for them as easily as we clean the bugs off our windshield. It's as if the quicker we get the mess out of our line of sight, the more easily we can slip back into our comfort zone and go about our daily routines.

I hate that attitude! I refuse to brush away the death of someone simply because he or she is not from my country, race, culture, or socioeconomic group. I know we can't let every human tragedy in our huge interconnected world emotionally devastate us, but to dismiss a tragedy because the people involved are not like "us" is sick.

When the Iran Hostage situation was raging 20 years ago, the leaders of the Northwest Church in Seattle gathered for prayer. While they prayed for the release of the hostages, they also asked God to open the door for them to minister and protect the Arab and Iranian students from misguided "vigilantes." Over the course of the crisis, American Christian students accompanied Arab and Iranian students to class to prevent trouble. Rather than get caught up in the ethnic hype and hate, they redeemed a horrible situation and even led some to Christ that they met and protected.

As the newspaper ran a story about how they approached this time of crisis differently than most in the U.S., they visited the church and were not only touched by their love for Arab and Persian students, but by their dedication to serving so many people with Cerebral Palsy. Even more doors opened to share the Gospel because they loved people regardless - regardless of race, culture, background, physical challenges ... regardless!

As Christians, our hearts yearn for people of all races, nationalities, languages, and cultures to come to Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 7:9-11). When disaster strikes and lives are lost, rather than listening for the number of casualties that are of our nationality or ethnicity, we remember that God made all of us brothers and sisters through Adam. With that in mind, let's realize there are some practical things we can do to be a blessing in these times of tragedy.

- Pray for the victims and their families in our personal prayer time, in our church assemblies, and in Bible study groups.
- Use that tragedy as a reminder to be more aware of people of other cultures around us and make an effort to warmly greet them and include them in our activities and fellowship.
- Pray for God to use us to share the love of Christ with those who don't know Him, especially those of different cultures, and especially to those in crisis.
- If we are given an opportunity to serve those grieving or injured, let's find ways to serve them lovingly and generously.
- Intervene and protect others of different cultures and races if they are caught in difficult situations in our presence.
- Encourage our church leaders to support missions to other races and cultures whether the communities are nearby or far away.
- Learn about at least one other culture and explore ways of effectively sharing the Gospel of Jesus with those cultures while respecting their heritage.

You see, God is concerned with each person - every soul - who perishes in a crashed airplane, massive earthquake, destructive tornado, overturned ferry ... He's heartbroken for everyone, not just the folks like us. The Father longs to comfort the hundreds of grieving relatives left behind by a horrible tragedy. Most importantly, God has put us here to be his means of comforting, blessing, and healing those who hurt because of tragedies.

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

March 8 - Joy Greer  
 March 13 - Deborah Sturgess  
 March 14 - Kim Flowers  
 March 15 - Beckie Tanner



## 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

Attendance for March 1: 118

Contribution for March 1: \$5722

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**Marietta Reams** had stent surgery above her kidney Thursday and everything went well. \* **David Burleson** as he begins radiation treatments \* **Cody Boyt's** tests were as expected \* **Walker Boyt's** tests came back fine. He will have to have them repeated every few years \* **Rodney Williams** will be having a chemical stress test Wednesday \* **Janet Woods** scheduled for back surgery April 15 \* **Scott Burleson** who is in gravely ill condition \* **Dale Swain** had to postpone knee replacement surgery a second time \* **Carol Young** as she undergoes chemotherapy and radiation \* **Marilyn Sullivan** (Millie's sister) will be having the mass on her ovaries removed in a few weeks

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** Cody Boyt \* Jerry Burleson \* David Burleson \* David Carson \* Faye Dockins \* Mike Duley \* Karen Forkum \* Patsy (Hardy) Gregg \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Donna McKuin \* Gloria Moore \* June Mothersbaugh \* Woody and Janet Wood

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

Melinda Akers \* Chastity Beaird \* Terry Bean family \* Cathy Bennett \* Rodney Britt \* Scott Burleson \* Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Randy Cravens \* Barbara Denson \* Bill Fitzpatrick \* 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 \* Cindy Miller \* 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:

- March 10: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at La Cascada in Bernie. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.
- Our Wednesday fellowship meal will be cajun shrimp boil and deli sandwiches. Desserts will be needed.
- March 13-14: Inspiration 2026 with Lonnie Jones at the Dexter church of Christ. More information can be found on the bulletin board by the nursery.
- March 21: Benefit Auction for BYC at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Dexter church of Christ. More information can be found on the bulletin board by the nursery.
- March 22-25: Gospel Meeting at Gideon with guest speaker Kason Lawrence.
- March 29: Our spring gospel meeting with Tim Wooldridge begins and runs through April 1. We will have a potluck meal following morning worship, and a youth emphasis night that evening. Be praying now for a successful meeting.

### **OPINION, PLEASE:**

Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday of the month this year. The elders would like to know if you prefer to keep our usual first Sunday, church, potluck, early evening service or revert to our normal Sunday schedule, with services held at 5 and no potluck. If we have it at 5, an Easter dinner will still be held for those who would like to participate. Please let one of the elders know if you have a preference.

### **BAPTISM!**

Congratulations to our new sister in Christ, Caris Tanner, who was baptized last month. If you haven't met Caris yet, please take time to do so. Welcome to the family, Caris!

## WILLING TO SERVE

**March 8, 2026**

### **Morning Worship:**

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
 Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
 Scripture.....David Burleson  
 Prayer.....Jason Karnes  
 Closing Prayer.....Jess LeCroy

### **Evening Worship:**

Song Leader.....David Carson  
 Prayer.....Ron Garner  
 Scripture.....Darrin Shipman  
 Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

**March 11, 2026**

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
 Prayer.....Justin Allen  
 Dismissal.....Mike Duley

**March 15, 2026**

### **Morning Worship:**

Song Leader.....Chase Burch  
 Opening Prayer.....Jason Karnes  
 Scripture.....Jordan Ross  
 Prayer.....Zack Tanner  
 Closing Prayer.....Matt Ward

### **Evening Worship:**

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
 Prayer.....David Burleson  
 Scripture.....Justin Allen  
 Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

## THE REASON FOR WRITING

"The Lord is my high tower ... We left the camp singing."

On September 7, 1943, Etty Hillesum wrote those words on a postcard and threw it from a train. Those were the final recorded words we would hear from her. On November 30, 1943, she was murdered at Auschwitz. Later, Hillesum's diaries of her experiences in a concentration camp were translated and published. They chronicled her perspectives on the horrors of Nazi occupation along with the beauty of God's world. Her diaries have been translated into sixty-seven languages - a gift to all who would read and believe the good as well as the bad.

The apostle John didn't sidestep the harsh realities of Jesus' life on earth; he wrote of both the good Jesus did and the challenges He faced. The final words from his gospel give insight into the purpose behind the book that bears his name. Jesus performed *many other signs .... which are not recorded* (20:3) by John. But these, he says, were *written that you may believe* (v 31). John's "diary" ends on the note of triumph: *Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God*. The gift of those gospel words allows us the opportunity to believe and *have life in his name*.

The gospels are diary accounts of God's love for us. They're words to read and believe and share, for they lead us to life. They lead us to Christ.

John Blase