



TRUE LIGHT

FATHER FORGIVE THEM!

April 5, 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
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ELDERS

David Burleson
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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**

[Jesus said] *This, then, is how you should pray:*

*Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed by your name, your kingdom come,
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our debts,
As we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us
not into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glo-
ry forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13)*



The familiar words of the Lord's Prayer have been inspiring and instructive for Jesus' followers for centuries. Yet what is gently implied in one line of the Lord's Prayer - "forgive us... as we have also forgiven..." strikes us like a thunderbolt in the verses that follow:

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins (Matthew 6:14-15).

This is a shattering truth! We will be forgiven only to the extent we are willing to forgive! We can dry up the grace flowing to our hearts by being graceless toward others! But, how can this be? How can our forgiveness be conditional on anything? Doesn't the Father realize how badly these people have hurt us? Why does Jesus place such a high value on us forgiving those who have wounded and wronged us? Doesn't he know what they've done to us - betrayed, abandoned, cheated, ridiculed, mocked, and rejected us? Maybe we misunderstood the message from Jesus? Maybe with some high-sounding theological gyrations we can work ourselves around the sharp realities of Jesus' words.

However, when we listen to Jesus' teaching, he makes clear he is serious about our being a people of radical forgiveness. Jesus told a story about an unmerciful servant who had been forgiven a huge debt he could never repay, yet this servant was unwilling to forgive a large - but repayable - debt owed him by a co-servant (Matthew 18:21-35). Jesus' words are chilling as he makes clear the meaning of his story:

Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart (Matthew 18:32-35).

Jesus wants us to know that God is serious about forgiveness! When we examine other passages in the New Testament, we hear this same recurring theme. The apostle Paul challenged Christians to use the example of God and the sacrifice of Jesus as their models of forgiveness.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 4:30-52).

A great example of this kind of radical forgiveness is Stephen, who was stoned to death by his religious enemies. His words, uttered shortly before his death

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BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

April 5 - Jacob & Raysha Clayton (A)
April 9 - Reed Burleson
April 11 - Levi Shipman
April 12 - Maura Thomason
Maddie Ward



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Muffin Mixes * Mac and Cheese *
Kool-Aid * Vanilla Wafers * Honey *
Crackers (Club, Cheez-its, etc)
Pick-up Date April 20, 2026

Attendance for March 29: 124

Contribution for March 29: \$5544

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

David Burleson continues to feel good and is waiting to find out his next treatment date * Judy Duley has been struggling with a lot of back pain * June Mothersbaugh will have surgery on her foot in the next week or so * Janet Woods scheduled for back surgery April 15 * Dale Swain recovering from knee replacement surgery * Mindy Pruitt was released from driving restrictions * Johnny Hester got good news about his heart condition * Marilyn Sullivan (Millie's sister) doing well following surgery to remove a mass * Trish Swain is still in Cypress Point but is allowed some outings.

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 Beard * 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 Jerald * 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:

- TODAY: Easter dinner will be served in the fellowship room following morning worship for ANYONE who would like to attend. We will have our usual 5 p.m. evening service.
- Our Wednesday fellowship meal will be breakfast for supper. Desserts will be needed.
- April 14: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 a.m. at Granny Lou's in Bernie. There's a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.
- April 15: Jeff Abrams will be here to share about the work in Ukraine.
- April 20: Children's Home grocery run. Let's get the cart filled up.
- April 26: Austin Holiman will be our guest speaker.

BIBLE TRIVIA:

What Old Testament character wore a "coat of mail"? * Name the twelve apostles * What was the name of the witch that Saul visited? * The word "coffin" is used only once in the entire Bible. Do you know who was buried in this coffin? * The Bible warns men to beware of a woman's eyes. In what book of the Bible do you find this warning?

Answers: Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4,5) * Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew (Nathaniel), Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas Iscariot (Matthew 10:1-4) * The witch of Endor (1 Samuel 28:7) * Joseph (Genesis 50:26) * Proverbs (6:25)

Preacher to the congregation:

"We have good news and bad news. The bad news is the roof needs repairing. The good news is that we have the money to pay for it." (appreciative murmurs all around)

Preacher: "The extra bad news is that it's still in your pockets."



WILLING TO SERVE

April 5, 2026

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Steve Jones
Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer.....Jess LeCroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

April 8, 2026

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

April 12, 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.....David Carson
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Scripture.....Rodney Williams
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

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as vicious attackers pounded the life out of him with large stones, are both powerful and convicting:

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep (Acts 7:59).

These words are a powerful reminder of the high calling Jesus' followers have: we are to forgive as generously as Jesus forgave... not just us, but even those who were responsible for his torturous death. Stephen's words echo the Lord's words at the crucifixion. Jesus was arrested and beaten. He was unfairly tried and scourged. He was mocked by the religious authorities, the crowd, soldiers, and one of the criminals crucified next to him (Luke 23:32-39). Yet in the middle of humanity's worst moments, we see one of heaven's greatest gifts. Jesus simply, yet amazingly, said: *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing* (Luke 23:34).

While many truths have been derived from this saying, two seem most clear:

* God is willing to forgive you and me! If he so freely forgave his tormentors at the cross - those who mocked him, beat him, scourged him, gambled for his clothing, ridiculed him, and watched as those in power sought to humiliate and degrade him through the public spectacle of crucifixion - he can forgive us if we will come to him and receive this grace (Romans 5:6-11).

* God is calling us to be a radical community... a Kingdom of God community... a community of radical forgiveness and grace... just like our hero and Savior was Lord of forgiveness and grace. We don't remember the cross of Jesus as casual spectators or a bunch of rubberneckers who have paused to watch another gory enactment of human blood lust. No, we remember the cross as the place of grace and we hear the call to be gracious. To be unforgiving to others is to forfeit Jesus' words for us and stop up the redeeming conduit of grace that is supposed to flow from God, through us, to others.

"Father, forgive them..." Jesus said it. Stephen repeated it. How can we not ask God to do the same with those who have wronged us?

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com