



TRUE LIGHT

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

October 11, 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
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573-281-6686
Stan Dauck
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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***

RIDERS IN THE STORM

For once, I was excited to go see my doctor. Headed into my yearly physical, I had dropped about 25 pounds from the year before and felt great. I couldn't wait to hear what my friend and doc had to say. At least I thought I couldn't wait!

My doc said, "Hey Phil, you look great. How did you lose the weight?" I explained and we shared some chitchat. Then, while looking at my neck and feeling my lymph nodes, he said, "So what is that?" About that time he punched around at the bottom of my neck in the little soft spot and I flinched as a twinge of pain shot through me. Then he said, "Oh wow, there are three of them!"

This is not what I had expected to hear! I had three small masses that he could see and touch. I could feel a twinge when he poked on each of them. I went from feeling proud and great, to feeling startled and worried, in a matter of minutes. To be honest, I don't remember anything else about the results of that physical except for the end.

My doc said, "These feel perfectly round, so I'm hopeful they are simply cysts."

Then I asked the dumb question, "So if they are not cysts, what else could they be?" Not a good question and certainly not one he could answer. The sky was the limit on "What else could they be?" We both knew what I was really asking. I was a public speaker. The cysts were near my vocal cords and at the base of my thyroid. For anyone, this would be a scare, but for someone who spoke as his primary livelihood, well, let's just say everything was up for grabs in my heart!

The doc's answer was evasive, but better than if he had given me the long list of possibilities for "what else could they be?" "Let's not speculate at this point. I am going to schedule you for an ultrasound and also a thyroid nuclear x-ray. These cysts are small and feel perfectly round, so I'm not all that worried about them; I think they might even go away on their own."

While the doc's words were good, this is what I heard, "Oh wow ... three of them ... ultrasound ... nuclear ... worried ... probably ... might?" I trusted my friend. I believed that he was probably right, but I couldn't help but hear the echo of these fearful words in my heart as I tossed and turned several nights before I took the tests and received the results.

There have been many storms in my life since that doctor's visit, and nearly all of them have turned out well when I've finished riding out the storm and come to the calm waters on the other side of the storm.

All of us who find ourselves as mortal bags of bones, blood, and skin have to be riders in the storm at different moments in our lives. The real issue in those moments is what we allow our focus to become during the storm. What sounds do we hear and what sights capture our gaze? What do we do when fear overwhelms us and we've grown tired of fighting the storm? How do we know if Jesus is with us when we can't see Him and it appears He is far from us?

The early followers of Jesus faced storms like we do – theirs may have even been worse than most of us have faced. For them, an event in the life of Jesus was told and re-told to help them find comfort and keep faith in their storms.

Immediately, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it is you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you in the water."

"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:22-23 TNIV).

What made this story so powerful to Jesus' early followers was that Jesus had just demonstrated in the feeding of the 5,000 that if his followers would bring him their limited resources and their inability to deal with big problems, then he would make them more than sufficient to face the challenge (Matthew 14:13-21). But like us, they could quickly forget and lose their focus and faith. Like us, they could listen more to the wind and watch the rolling waves, quickly forgetting the loving concern of their friend, Jesus, who had the power to come to them during the storm and then bring them to safety out of the storm.

At some point in each of our lives, we are all going to find ourselves as riders in the storm. How are we going to handle them? My prayer for you is that this story from Jesus' life will become more than just a story for you. I pray it will become a truth that shapes your future as you face your storms and seek to follow Jesus!

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

October 12 – Kinley Fields
October 15 – Beth Grisham
October 17 – Darrin Shipman
October 18 – Shyann Ward



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Bottled Orange Juice * Saltine Crackers
* Kool-Aid Mixes * Toilet Paper *
Bathroom Cleaners * Laundry Detergent
Pick-up date November 3



WILLING TO SERVE

October 11, 2026

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Opening Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Matt Ward

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....David Burleson

October 14, 2026

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

October 18, 2026

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jordan Ross
Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer.....Jess LeCroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....David Carson

SLOW, PATIENT GROWTH IN GOD

A saguaro cactus is never in a hurry to grow. Flourishing amid some of the most barren desert climates in the world, the plant slowly takes root over a lifetime of steady, plodding growth. Over its first decade, a Saguaro may grow as little as 1.5 inches. It may take thirty-five years to flower, and its arms can take fifty years to form. The cactus, however, can live up to two hundred years, reach forty-five feet high, and weigh up to two tons. Over a lifetime, it yields a remarkable forty million seeds. A Saguaro's growth is slow, but resilient.

Jesus used agricultural imagery to describe how His believers grow in the kingdom of God. Telling a parable of seeds sowed among various types of soil, He concluded with a description of how the final seeds *fell on good soil ... and are yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown* (Luke 8:8). Christ explained how those seeds "in the good soil" are ones who [hear] *the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience* (v 15 ESV). There's a strong yield, abundant growth – but it only comes when we receive the wisdom of God and then patiently allow the Holy Spirit to produce growth in us.

This is how spiritual growth typically works. We may have explosive spurts, but our progress will typically be slow, as we receive God's wisdom, follow His ways, and watch the Spirit work.

Winn Collier

BIBLE TRIVIA: Who was the first Bible character mentioned as living in a tent? * What is the name of the Bible character who ran faster than a chariot? * What three colors were using in sewing the tabernacle curtains?

A: Jabel (Genesis 4:2) * Elijah (1 Kings 18:45,46) * Blue, purple and scarlet (Exodus 26:1)

Attendance October 4: 116

Contribution October 4: \$4420

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Debbie Hobgood underwent surgery on her lung Friday. She was still in surgery at press time. * **Mark Clayton** has been diagnosed with colon and liver cancer. He is waiting on a treatment plan. * **Mike Duley** will have a scope Thursday to determine treatment for the mass on his pancreas * **Tim Flowers**, currently at MD Anderson for several weeks of aggressive chemotherapy * **Nicole Garner** who is undergoing testing for headache issues * **Woody Woods** and **Waynetta Rodgers**, recovering from hip replacement surgery * **Cindy Williams** has started on additional treatments due to blood clots * **Linda LeCroy** is doing better * **David Carson** continuing with tests *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Cody Boyt * Jerry Burleson * David Burleson * David Carson * Pat Cooper * Faye Dockins * Mike and Judy Duley * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McQuin * June Mothersbaugh * Bill and Beverly Pruitt * David and Jane Terrill * 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 * Joseph Dauck * 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 * Nikki Reif * Joe Richardson * Angie Smothers * Anthony Tate * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Joyce Walker * Christina Whitaker * Alan Woodward

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

TONIGHT: Sandwiches and cake will be served in the fellowship room following evening worship in honor of Minister Appreciation Day. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

October 13: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Main Street Restaurant in Bernie. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

Our Wednesday night fellowship meal will be BBQ, baked potatoes, coleslaw and baked beans. Desserts will be needed.

October 17 & 18: Healthy Heart and Mind: Raising Faithful and Resilient kids in the Digital Age with guest speaker Dr. Jeff Cline at Slicer Street church of Christ. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

December 5: Second annual youth rally at Green Forest church of Christ with guest speaker Chase Almond. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

December 11: Annual Ladies Ornament Exchange in the Fellowship Room at 6 p.m. More details to follow.

December 17: Annual Ladies Holiday Brunch at the home of Amy Thomason at 10 a.m. More details to follow.