

TRUE LIGHT

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

November 29, 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

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."

Psalm 118:24

We Welcome You To All Of Our Services

REPORT CARD DAY

I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. (John 12:47)

Today's report card day. I'm a little nervous.

It's report card day at Josh's school. His first one. Today the verdict comes in on the first couple of months of his school career. Truth be told, I'm not even sure what a kindergarten report card looks like. I'm not sure what to expect. Oh, I don't anticipate any big problems. But whenever evaluation is the subject, there's a little bit of apprehension involved. And depending on how important the evaluation is, there might very well be more than a little bit of apprehension!

Here's the thing, though. I know Josh's teacher. More importantly, his teacher knows him. She knows what he's capable of accomplishing. She's taught kindergarten for twenty-five years; she knows what she can expect and what she shouldn't expect. She has his best interests at heart. She isn't looking to find fault with Josh. Criticism isn't on her agenda.

I imagine she could find a few failures if she wanted to be critical (yes, even in MY kid!). She could have been keeping records of times when Josh talked out of turn, was out of his seat, or wasn't paying attention. She could criticize his writing for not being perfect and come down hard on his interpersonal skills. I imagine she could have a 3-inch-thick file on him by now, but I'm not really worried about that. Her evaluation will be colored by her understanding of Josh's strengths and weaknesses. If there is criticism, I'm confident it will be mild and helpful – motivated by her interest in helping Josh improve.

Unfortunately, I don't think a lot of us have the same confidence in God. I know people who live in constant fear of his judgment. I know people who have borne the weight of His imagined disapproval all their lives. Some finally turn their backs on Him completely, convinced they can't measure up and are no longer willing to try. Others simply slog through their lives without joy, confidence, or hope for the future. They become bitter, angry, and tired, usually reflecting on those around them the disapproval they're sure God has for them. Christianity becomes a treadmill. Even if they manage to keep the pace for now, they picture God turning the speed up to the next level to push them to be better.

Is that the image you have of God? A frowning, disapproving deity who loves to find fault, to take issue with your every choice, word, thought, action, or belief? I know where we get that image. We get it from preachers who, alarmed by the state of morality found even in God's children, use God's disapproval to scare people into doing right. We also get it from popular culture, where God is pictured as the puritanical prude who quashes everyone's fun. We even get it from Scripture, which certainly does have a lot to say about God's judgment.

But, listen to Jesus!

I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. That sentence is right there in the same Bible with fire and brimstone, Sodom and Gomorrah, and Hophni and Phinehas. When God chose to come to human beings in Jesus Christ, when He encountered us in the most intimate and personal way He ever could, He did not come in judgment. That should tell you something about God's priorities. Oh, He had certainly rained judgment upon the world. Fire had fallen to consume the wicked. But when Jesus came, He came as a Savior, not a judge. He came bearing gifts of love, not weapons of war. He came to pour out grace, not wrath. He came bringing forgiveness, not punishment.

If God is first and foremost stern, vengeful, and wrathful, then why a baby in a manger and not a warrior on horseback. Why a carpenter and not a king? Why heal disease instead of bringing pestilence and plague? Why raise the dead instead of slaughtering the living? Why be the defendant in a trial instead of sitting on the bench? Why endure the lash instead of holding it in an upraised fist? Why a cross and not a throne?

The Old Testament writers used a stock phrase to describe God: *The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.* That phrase appears at least nine times in the Old Testament. Whatever else it might be correct to say about God, we have to start here. Does He get angry? Yes – He is furious with the disastrous results that sin and rebellion cause. Does He judge? When necessary, yes He does judge. Does He punish? Yes, He does. But, according to the Bible, we must begin by understanding God as *compassionate … gracious … slow to anger, abounding in love*. What else we might want to say about God, and we might want to say a lot, we have to see Him through this reality, this revelation, of Himself. He is the loving, compassionate, merciful God who sometimes judges; not a judgmental, wrathful, stern, disconnected God, who sometimes shows

Continued on back

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

November 30 – Houston Buck
Leslie Neely
December 1 - Stan Dauck
Jesse Shelton
December 2 - Beverly Karnes
December 5 - Curtis McClard

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Bottled Orange Juice * Saltine Crackers * Kool-Aid Mixes * Toilet Paper * Bathroom Cleaners * Laundry Detergent
Pick-up date November 30



Attendance November 22: 86 **Contribution November 22: $3453**

***this bulletin was printed in advance. Please listen to announcements for updates to our sick list**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Judy Flannery recovering at home following stent placement in her kidney * **Sue Jester** recovering at home and doing some better ***Marty Howard** is at Winchester Place for rehab * **Ruth Dauck** struggling with some health issues * **Mark Clayton** as he takes treatments for colon cancer * **Mike Duley** will be having pancreatic surgery February 24 * **Tim Flowers**, currently at MD Anderson for the second part of his chemo and doing well * **Cindy Williams** as she continues with treatments * **David Carson** continuing with tests * **James Bridges** recovering from extensive bypass surgery

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 * Nicole Garner * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * June Mothersbaugh * Bill and Beverly Pruitt * David and Jane Terrill * Woody and Janet Wood * Carol Young

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

TODAY: We will have a guest speaker for Sunday School from Gospel Chariot Missions.

Wednesday Fellowship Meal: Soups, hot dogs and chili. Desserts will be needed.

November 30: Children's Home grocery run. Let's get the cart filled up.

December 4-6: Gospel meeting at New Madrid with guest speaker Kason Lawrence. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the water fountain.

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 6: First Sunday potluck and early evening service. We will have a potluck meal following morning worship, with an afternoon service immediately following. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

December 8: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Hickory Log in Dexter. You MUST sign up if you wish to attend, as reservations are required.

December 11: Annual Ladies Ornament Exchange in the Fellowship Room at 6 p.m. Bring a wrapped ornament valued at $10 or less (optional) and a dish to share.

December 17: Annual Ladies Holiday Brunch at the home of Amy Thomason at 10 a.m. Bring a wrapped gift valued at $20 or less (optional) and a dish to share. Bring items to support a local animal shelter to be entered into a door prize drawing.

December 25: Christmas Dinner will be served in the fellowship meal for anyone who would like to attend.

WILLING TO SERVE

November 29, 2026

Morning Worship:

Song Leader……Chase Burch
Opening Prayer……Jon Neely
Scripture……Jorden Ross
Prayer……Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer……Jess LeCroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader……Rodney Williams
Prayer……Justin Allen
Scripture……Sam Garner
Dismissal……Ryan Carter

December 2, 2026

Song Leader……Jacob Clayton
Prayer……Justin Allen
Dismissal……Jerry Burleson

December 6, 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

Continued from front:

a little mercy. And that distinction makes all the difference.

There is judgment for those who won't listen to God and honor Him as God. Even so, their judgment is not what He wants. There is judgment for those who choose not to believe in Jesus, but judgment is not why He came. There is a day coming when He will come again, a day of evaluation … a day of judgment. In some way, we will be held accountable to God for our lives. Could He find fault with you? Sure! With me? Absolutely. He has plenty of justification, even on our best days, for tossing us into the fire. But, if we've made Jesus our Lord, and if our consistently-chosen lifestyle bears witness that He is indeed our Lord, then that day will not be a day of anxiety. We will stand before the God who so wants to bless us and pull us closer to Him through eternity - look at all He did to make it happen for us.

So let's serve Him out of gratitude, not fear. Let's give Him our best and trust that it makes Him smile in appreciation. Let's confess our sins, repent of them, struggle against them, and resist them, knowing that He doesn't hold them against us when we do. And when the time comes, we can stand before Him confidently – not confident in our own worthiness, but confident in the compassion, grace, and love of the One who came to save us, not to judge us.

Patrick Odum, www. heartlight.com