



The Bethel Weekly News

Week of April 19th, 2020

Message of the Week . . .

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing to the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

Dear Friends,

We find ourselves in very different place right now in our lives, likely a place none of us would have ever envisioned. Unfortunately, I am afraid that anxiety has consumed us. These emotional feelings leave us much more pessimistic than we should be. We all recognize the seriousness of our world today and how our current situation has impacted us and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Unbelievable times, no school, no social gatherings, no proms, no graduations, no dining out, limited recreation, and above all no worship! What can one say or how can one feel? I understand and am empathetic to the pessimistic outlook given these circumstances. But in these times we must remain strong, confident and optimistic. Never forget God's promises. He never has let us down or broken any of those promises.

Pessimism will lead to panic and fear and fear will cloud our judgement. Optimism will lead to certainty; certainty will lead to clear and concise action that is grounded on optimism.

In the spirit of optimism let me share a bit of levity with you today.

"This joke concerns twin boys of five or six. Worried that the boys had developed extreme personalities – one was a total pessimist, the other a total optimist – their parents took them to a psychiatrist."

"First the psychiatrist treated the pessimist. Trying to brighten his outlook, the psychiatrist took him to a room piled to the ceiling with brand-new toys. But instead of yelping with delight, the little boy burst into tears. 'What's the matter?' the psychiatrist asked, baffled. 'Don't you want to play with any of the toys?' 'Yes,' the little boy bawled, 'but if I did I'd only break them.'"

"Next the psychiatrist treated the optimist. Trying to dampen his outlook, the psychiatrist took him to a room piled to the ceiling with horse manure. But instead of wrinkling his nose in disgust, the optimist emitted just the yelp of delight the psychiatrist had been hoping to hear from his brother, the pessimist. Then he clambered to the top of the pile, dropped to his knees, and began gleefully digging out scoop after scoop with his bare hands. 'What do you think you're doing?' the psychiatrist asked, just as baffled by the optimist as he had been by the pessimist. 'With all this manure,' the little boy replied, beaming, 'there must be a pony in here somewhere!'" - President Ronald Reagan

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Our world seems to be a mess, but as Christians what are we to make of it? We can see the mess and add to it. Or we can see the mess and thank God. He has given us the Holy Spirit, so we do not have to face the mess alone. Our faith is strong but only as strong as our trust in the Lord. As Christians we should be like the young boy in President Reagan's joke. When life leaves us at the top of the pile, we should always seek to find the pony and not focus on the remnants. As Christians we are blessed to live in America, so we should never find ourselves on the side of pessimism. Our history as Americans walking in faith supports complete optimism.

"No Christian can be a pessimist, for Christianity is a system of radical optimism."
- William Inge

As these days come and pass make sure you rest yourselves in the promises of our Lord. Remember our faith grounds us and directs us in the light of optimism. We all believe in a better tomorrow. This is because of the sacrifices made yesterday by all, especially our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:31

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us.

No better ending to this message than the scripture above! As the Bethel family we should pray often, along with taking care of ourselves and each other. Please reach out to the Elders if we can be of any assistance to you or your family.

In Christ,
Derek Almarode, Elder

If you need help, are feeling discouraged, or need someone to talk with please feel free to contact any of the Elders listed below.

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Derek Almarode | (540) 280-4940 <i>(call or text)</i> | almarodes@verizon.net |
| Tammy Barbour | (540) 471-0450 <i>(call or text)</i> | barbour.tamara@yahoo.com |
| Bill Brubeck | (540) 290-1172 <i>(call or text)</i> | brubeck@mgwnet.com |
| Brian Lee | (540) 649-3020 <i>(call or text)</i> | grumpybrian1972@gmail.com |
| David Schooley | (540) 255-6070 <i>(call or text)</i> | dschooley05@gmail.com |
| Kathy Swisher | (540) 885-7397 <i>(call or text)</i> | kswisher@gmail.com |
| Tim Turner | (540) 448-1431 <i>(call or text)</i> | timturner@lumos.net |
| Jill Webb | (540) 294-5770 <i>(call or text)</i> | jlwebb320@comcast.net |

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A Few Announcements & Notes . . .

- ◇ Printed copies of the current “Bethel Weekly News” and the April Tower are available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall.
- ◇ The “Daily Family Devotions” are left out each week in the vestibule and the hallway next to the Choir Room.
- ◇ The “These Days” devotionals for this quarter are available in the vestibule, Memorial Hall and the hallway next to the Choir Room.
- ◇ Please let Adrienne know if you would like to be added to the list to have a printed copy of the “Bethel Weekly News” mailed to you.
- ◇ *At this time*, Adrienne is *usually* in the office on Thursdays from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, if you have a need. (email: bethelpc@gmail.com; phone: (540) 886-6041)



The Massanetta Rocks Fundraiser through the Great Community Give has been re-scheduled for June 24th. More information will be published about this event soon!

From & Stewardship & Finance . . .

We so appreciate and are grateful for your continued giving, as it's more important now than ever. As time goes on with services and activities suspended, our bills continue to come in and must be paid. If you are able to continue to contribute to Bethel's budget in the coming weeks, please mail checks to:

*Bethel Presbyterian Church
Attn: Kay Thompson
563 Bethel Green Road
Staunton, VA 24401*

Please stay healthy!

- Bethel Stewardship & Finance Committee

Continuing Education Loan Fund

Reminder: *The deadline for the return of the completed Continuing Education Loan applications together with attachments is June 15th, 2020.* Applications are available by email through the Church Office. Please turn in all required documents to one of the Continuing Education Loan Fund Committee members:

Derek Almarode, Bill Brubeck or David Schooley. You may also contact any of the committee members if you have questions.



Committee News & Notes . . .

Mission Committee

Hope you are all well and practicing your social distancing. During this time the Mission Committee requests that you not put donations in the Kingsway closet, EXCEPT for canned food items. We are trying to continue to provide food to the clients at Kingsway. The Kingsway clients are currently not allowed inside to shop. This is to protect them and those of us who volunteer there. The clients, currently, receive their food by a drive through system.

Because of social distancing, we are not able to hold any activities to raise funds here at Bethel. We ask for your help in participating in Bethel's mission work, by checking on your neighbors, friends and church family through phone calls and texting. Since we can not be together at this time, we need to try to find new ways to help others. PRAY! Pray every day that this ends soon.



Kathy Swisher,
Mission Committee Chair

Personnel Committee

Adrienne continues to work in the office and at times from home. Please call before going to the office. Phone messages and emails will be returned ASAP. The custodians will be waxing the floors and doing additional cleaning in the coming weeks. Also, Margaret Wade has taken down the quilt to clean it and let it rest. Deacons and Elders are checking the property daily. Eli continues to upload hymns and meditations to our Facebook page. We look forward to more contributions.

PRAYER LIST

Congregation Members

Jarod Davis & Family
Dan Gano Bobby Goodson
Karen Koogler Sara Ann Lamb
Evelyn LaPorte Kenneth LaPorte
Sam Leonard Margaret Liptrap
John Pilson Allen Quick
Lucy Sproul Doris True
Alice Wooddell

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Sarah Brownlee John Cordle
Ann Ellinger Joe Fleming
Paul Harper Matt Koogler
David Law John Michael
Roy Pilson Jamie Pirkey
Van Pirkey Gwen Stevenson
Walter Wade

Community, Country, & World

Doctors, Nurses, & those in healthcare including volunteers who are working with COVID-19 patients
All Military Leaders & Personnel
Police, Firemen, and EMS workers
& volunteers
Michael & Rachel Weller,
Missionaries in Ethiopia

Elder-on Call April 2020

If you have pastoral need during the month of April please contact
Derek Almarode.

(540) 280-4940 (call or text)
almarodes@verizon.net