



The Bethel Weekly News

Week of April 5th, 2020

Message of the Week . . .

When the storms of life come, the wicked are whirled away, but the godly have a lasting foundation.

- Proverbs 10:2 (NLT)

Friends,

We are still standing because we live by faith and stand on solid footing. If you don't believe me, go look in your full-length mirror behind your bathroom door. What do you see? With all that we face today how is it possible to stand upright and live by faith?

Answer: Because Christians stand on the solid foundation of God every day!

In the holy scriptures the elements below are clearly defined, and they make up the unbreakable and unmovable foundation of our spiritual bedrock.

Truth

God's Word is truth. God defines truth. God doesn't change and neither does truth.

Love

God is love. Because God lives in us, we can love with God's love. God can love through us. Love never fails.

Holy

God is holy. We are called to be holy. God continues to refine us.

Grace

God's plan is powered through grace. Our gifts from God are determined by grace. God's grace is always towards us. Obedience transforms grace into glory.

Abide

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. We pray and we praise. When we abide, we will dwell in the arms of the Lord. We must live a life of forgiveness so we may continue to abide.

Unity

We are one body in Christ Jesus. We must forgive quickly. We must be merciful. We speak only in truth and in love.

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(continued)

Sowing

We must share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. We share God's love through our words, our deeds and our actions. We look to be the answer, not wait for an answer.

Serve

We are at peace and we serve joyfully in His grace. We serve God by serving those He died for.

Faithful

Faith is a trusting relationship with God. Faithfulness is being trustworthy and dependable. We are faithful to God. We are faithful to family and friends.

Sacrifice

We are called to lay down our lives, pick up our cross and follow Him. We are selfless, not selfish. We live to be a blessing. We accept short term sacrifice for long term joy.

Stand

God makes us able to stand. When the storms of life blow, we stand our ground till the storms pass as they always do. We stand on the rock which is Christ Jesus.

Living by faith involves less action, less thinking, and less self-induced stress. It involves trusting in God's will. Believing that things will work out and that you will know the right thing to do at the right time. It's all about acceptance of the fact that not everything is supposed to go our way. I agree, in a way, it's counter-intuitive because we have been trained by our ancestors to be as busy as possible, to work as hard as possible and to fight for everything we get. Hard work is important and earning your way is also important, however, at the same time don't forget who you are truly working for.

Don't live by to-do lists, and calendars and voicemails to oneself to remind you to take care of something or someone. These things will make you feel busy, and productive, and important, but they are all life distractions.

Live by letting go of your inner task-maker. Living by faith doesn't mean doing nothing. It means focusing on the most important thing first. It's about being in the moment, taking life one step at a time, allowing things to fall into place. And taking action when you feel lead to do so not pressured to do so.

Friends, scripture says to "Trust in the Lord"! Scripture also promises to give you wisdom in the moment. Trust and Believe! It works!

In Christ,
Derek Almarode, Elder

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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>)	pennybrianfamilee@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

A Few Special Announcements . . .

We so appreciate 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

Announcement Regarding Easter Lilies & Donations Due to current circumstances there will not be any Easter Lilies ordered this year. If you have already paid for your lily, Adrienne will mail your payment back to you. We apologize for the inconvenience.

There will also not be any specific Easter donations to the Bethel Emergency Relief Fund (BERF) but you are still welcome to contribute as there have been several calls for assistance since the beginning of the year. Please make checks payable to BERF and send to: Bethel Emergency Relief Fund; c/o Bethel Presbyterian Church; 563 Bethel Green Road; Staunton, VA 24401. Thank you!

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Committee News & Notes & Elder-on-Call . . .

Continuing Education Loan Fund

The Bethel Presbyterian Church Continuing Education Loan Fund was established a number of years ago by the generosity of an anonymous donor to assist young people in furthering their education. Aid from this fund is available to church members for any post-high school education, including vocational schools, nursing, etc. Applications are available in the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Continuing Education Loan Fund Committee members: Derek Almarode, Bill Brubeck or David Schooley. *The deadline for the return of the completed application together with attachments is June 15th, 2020. (Please note the new date!)* Completed applications may be left in the Church Office or given to Derek, Bill, or David.



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

During this time of suspended activities Adrienne will be working in the office and at times from home. She continues to complete tasks for the Session including the Shepherding Lists and the Session Book for Presbytery. Please call before going to the office. Phone messages and emails will be returned ASAP. The custodians have finished cleaning the sanctuary and most of the main floor of the church. Several Deacons and Elders are checking the property daily. Eli uploaded a meditation to our Facebook page. We look forward to more contributions.

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



Happy Easter!

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More Committee News & Notes. . .

Palm Sunday April 5, 2020

They took Palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"

- John 12:13 NIV

Palm branches will be available tomorrow, Friday, April 3rd, Saturday, April 4th, and Sunday (Palm Sunday), April 5th, on the front steps of Bethel for you to pick up at your own discretion. The palms that are left will be burned and used for the 2021 Ash Wednesday service. We saw on Facebook a way to use palm branches during this "Stay at Home" order. Place the palms in windows or on doors as a show of solidarity during this coronavirus confinement and as Christians. Until we can worship together, our Session Moderator Patrick Pettit (Augusta Stone) will share a link to his sermons each Sunday on Bethel's Facebook page.

Depart in peace, Live in faith, And look up in hope!

- Worship Committee



PRAYER LIST

New Additions

Doris True

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	Alice Wooddell

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Sarah Brownlee	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

GOOD THING THAT
JESUS DOESN'T **NEED**
A CROWD TO SHOW UP!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YEAH. GOOD THING.



MATTHEW 21:1-11

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