



The Bethel Weekly News

Week of March 22nd, 2020

From the Bethel Session . . .

The Session met Sunday evening, March 15th, with 10 members present, and the Moderator Rev. Patrick Pettit. Observing the recommended social distancing, the meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall. The Session made the very difficult decision to suspend all activities at Bethel until further notice. Every attempt will be made to keep you informed during this period through social media and email. The Session also encourages you to continue praying for friends, family, church, country and the world.

Please remember to take all necessary precautions and follow the recommended guidelines during this time, in addition to using common sense in taking care of yourselves, your family, and others. Check on each other whether by phone calls, cards, text messages or emails if possible.

But most importantly remember to TRUST IN GOD.

Be safe and God bless,
David Schooley, Clerk of Session

Message of the Week . . .

For I hold you by your right hand I, the Lord your God. And I say to you, don't be afraid. I am here to help you.

- Isaiah 41:13 New Living Translation (NLT)

I'm not sure about you, but I believe we all have fears. Some of us don't want to admit them and we may even be embarrassed by them. But fear surfaces, almost instantaneously, given our current situation in these unprecedented times. When it surfaces, the immediate remedy is prayer and trust. When we pray to God and we trust the reality of God's presence, power, protection, and provision for our lives, only then can we share in the joy God intends for us.

The people of God should not be a fearful people! The phrase "Fear not" or "Be not afraid" is found 365 times in the Bible. In 1933, our newly elected president Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed a tattered nation that was still reeling from the Great Depression. Hoping to ignite a more optimistic outlook regarding that economic crisis, he declared, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself!"

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When we begin to believe that God is absent, or doubt whether or not He is with us, when we are anxious and frightened, we need to stop, as the Psalmist tells us in **Psalm 46:10** “**Be still and know that I am God**”. We need to do the same. Be still, and know that God is God and He promises to be with us. With that in our spirit, heart and mind we can hold fast and be confident in the fact God is with us. If God is with us, if we really believe that, then we can stand on the foundation that we will not be overwhelmed by life.

There was a rich couple whose bedroom was on the second floor of their Manhattan townhouse. Almost every other day the wife, after getting into bed, would tell the husband to go and check downstairs, reassure the doors were locked because there were certainly thieves around. The husband eventually found out that the noises they were hearing were being made by the neighboring cats at their front gate leading into their townhouse. As a routine he would go whenever his wife would ask him to check, always searching for her perceived thieves. This went on for 30 years of marriage. One day as usual the wife sent him down to check for the thieves. When the husband went down, sure enough there was a thief who pointed a gun at him. The thief said, “Do not make a sound; just give me your valuables.” He went and got the valuables and gave them to the thief. The thief turned around and was about to run off and the man said, “Hey there, wait a minute, you cannot leave yet, you’ve got to come upstairs and meet my wife.” The thief said, “What, Why?” The husband said, “Well, frankly she has been expecting you for the last 30 years.”

Friends, all through the day we have the choice to believe that either God is in control and good things are in store for us or we can go around worried, negative, and expecting the worst. I hear people say, “I am afraid”! “I am afraid about the future of my children. I am afraid for my nation. I am afraid of these times”! What they do not realize is that they are surrounded by fear instead of faith and very soon that fear will become reality.

We all face fear from time-to-time. So, we need to know how to face it. Currently, along with the rest of the world, we are living in unprecedented times . Again, our current situation has instilled fear in many. However, in spite of all this, God’s people are not to live in fear. Do you have a reason to hold on to your fear when God said do not fear? How can you say that, you might ask. Well, it’s simple, God knows all! Is there anything about you that God does not know? Can he handle it? Does he know you? Then give it to him.

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There always will be something in your life that you cannot change, do not fear. He said I am going to uphold you with my righteous right hand. He did not say I am going to remove you. That means when the storm blows you have an anchor that is absolute, it will not move or break because that anchor is almighty God.

In Christ,
Derek Almarode, Bethel Elder

Committee News & Notes . . .

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 April 15th, 2020. Completed applications may be left in the Church Office or given to Derek, Bill, or David.



Mission Committee

In 2019 Bethel gave \$750, from our benevolence budget, to help support the Kingsway Help Center. There were also donations of clothing, household items and food as well as Bethel congregation members who volunteered.

Because of support from individuals, area clubs, churches and schools, Kingsway distributed 153,478 pounds of food in 2019, which is an average of 12,790 pounds per month. There was an average of 146 families served per month and a total of 424 individuals.

Thank you for your continued support of Bethel's mission projects! You are making a difference in our community!



- Bethel Mission
Committee



Personnel Committee

During this time of suspended activities Adrienne will be working in the office and at times from home. Please call before stopping by the Church Office. Phone messages will be checked daily and emails will be returned as soon as possible. The custodians will use this time to do a room by room thorough cleaning and disinfection of the church. Several Deacons and Elders will also be stopping by and checking the property throughout the day.

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Committee News & Notes . . .

Worship Committee

Username, password, and Facebook are all familiar words to our kids and grandkids but only words of frustration for most of at Bethel. The thought that this would be our link to the outside world seemed years away, but here it is! Many of our area churches streamed their Sunday service using Facebook and their website this past Sunday. Bethel has both a Facebook page and a website, but we cannot live stream our services until we update our CCLI license. I would encourage you to use social media, Facebook or Internet, to view and listen to other churches Sunday's message. Please remember that not all members have access to the Internet. When possible share with your neighbors.

Elder-on Call March 2020

If you have pastoral need during the month of March please contact Kathy Swisher.

(540) 885-7397 (call or text)
kswisher@gmail.com

PRAYER LIST

New Additions

Matt Koogler (cancer returned)

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 |
| David Law | John Michael |
| Sarah Palmer | Roy Pilson |
| Jamie Pirkey | Van Pirkey |
| Gwen Stevenson | Walter Wade |

Sympathy & Condolences

Family & Friends of Erle Potter

Family & Friends of Richard Whitesell

Community, Country, & World

All Military Leaders & Personnel
Police, Firemen, and EMS workers
& volunteers

Michael & Rachel Weller,
Missionaries in Ethiopia

"HIS EYE IS
ON THE
SPARROW"
ISN'T THAT
A SONG?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YEAH --
THAT LINE
CAME FROM A
WOMAN* WHO WAS
CHRONICALLY ILL.



IT SEEMS TO ME
THAT WE'RE OFTEN
MOST AWARE OF GOD'S
CARE WHEN WE'RE
MOST VULNERABLE.



*MRS. POOLITTLE VIA CIVILLA MARTIN

I WAS HOPING
IT WOULDN'T
COME TO THAT.



MATTHEW 6:24-34

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