



The Bethel Weekly News

Week of May 10th, 2020

Message of the Week . . .

Matthew 11: 1-20

Jesus and John the Baptist After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: “‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others: “‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

Most of us have been on lockdown now for a very long time. In times of solitude we may be questioning our faith and asking where our help is. The Lord our God has his own timetable and has a purpose behind all of this, so we must not give up. For John even questioned these things while in prison and denied who he was. Confinement can put a lot of doubt and stress in our minds. This passage was extremely hard for me to understand as I discovered it was for many during my study and research. But in my interpretation, it fits this week’s message.

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Jesus performed a lot of miracles, yet people still doubted him. He ate and drank with all walks of people, sinners, tax collectors, and these were people that weren't well revered, to show that all people are welcome in the kingdom of God if you accept it (the gift of the love of God).

There is always evil at work trying to destroy the kingdom prepared for us. This pandemic is another attempt from the devil to do so, he wants us to turn on one another in disbelief and doubt. I believe there is a hidden message of love bringing us together in ways that will make us stronger in faith and the return of fellowship will be a greater experience for all. Perhaps this will be a great awakening to bring more people to Christ. If my thoughts and prayers are correct and answered, we can't become complacent with the outcome. We will need to continue to grow and be evangelistic to keep the new and old believers. This will require change, just as John preached repentance and Jesus proclaimed love and forgiveness conquers all. Our kingdom awaits us, what more can we ask for that God does not already provide us with.

The song of Jesus is playing, so let us act as children that are happy and dance in the streets with belief and trust in him without any doubt, learn to accept the good and the bad, and remember it's his time schedule we live on. His music is always sweet to the ears, just listen.

With love and prayers,
Brian Lee, 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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Elder-on Call May 2020

If you have pastoral need during the month of May please contact Tammy Barbour.

(540) 471-0450 (call or text)
barbour.tamara@yahoo.com



Church Office News & Notes . . .

- ◇ Please have all announcements to Adrienne for the Bethel Weekly News by Wednesday, at 9:00 am.
- ◇ Printed copies of the current “Bethel Weekly News” are always 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 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).
- ◇ We are hoping to return the Church Office to a regular schedule starting Monday, May 18th but please check the announcements in case circumstances change.

PRAYER LIST

New Additions

Lee & Katie Simon (car accident - neighbors of Billy & Margaret Wade)

Congregation Members

Jarod Davis & Family

Dan Gano	Bobby Goodson
Karen Koogler	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	Bernice English
Joe Fleming	Paul Harper
Matt Koogler	David Law
Cecil Layman	John Michael
Roy Pilson	Jamie Pirkey
Van Pirkey	Gwen Stevenson
Linda True	Walter Wade

Sympathies & Condolences

Family & Friends of Sara Ann Lamb

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

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Personnel Committee News & Notes . . .



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. Deacons and Elders are checking the property daily. Eli will be leaving us in August to continue his study of voice. We are actively searching for an organist/choir director. If you have suggestions, contact Bill Brubeck, Dale Thompson or Jill Webb.

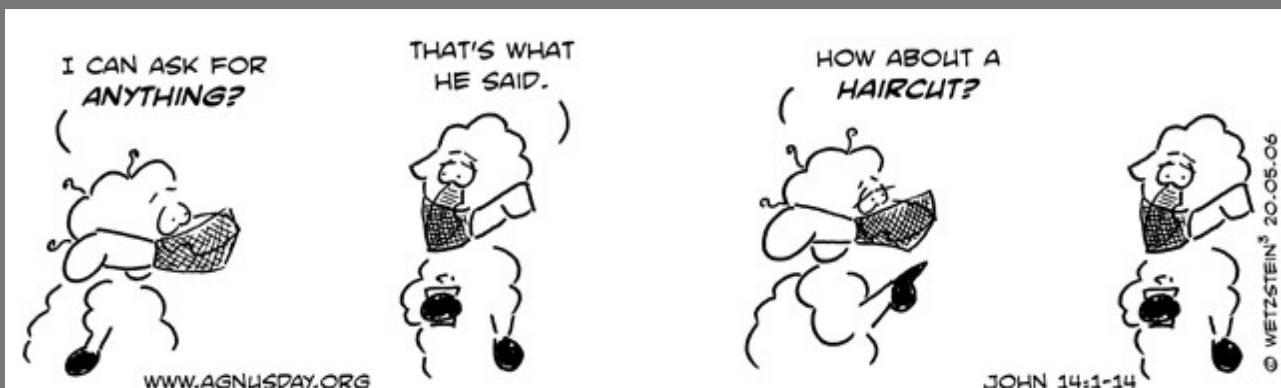
Stewardship & Finance News & Notes . . .

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



Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org

. . . I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

- John 14:13-14 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)