




The Bethel Weekly News

Week of September 13th, 2020

CALENDAR OF EVENTS


Today, Sunday, September 13th

Elder Brian Lee, Guest Speaker

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel
in the Woods
 *(if it's raining, please
meet in the Sanctuary)*

7:00 pm Session Meeting
(at Bethel)

Monday, September 14th
(Sanctuary Reserved)

7:00 pm Boy Scouts 

Tuesday, September 15th

12:00 pm Bulletin & Weekly
News deadline for the
20th

Thursday, September 17th

Constitution Day & Citizenship Day

Friday, September 18th


Wedding Rehearsal 

Saturday, September 19th

4:00 pm Wedding

Next Sunday, September 20th

Elder Derek Almarode,
Guest Speaker

10:00 am Worship at the Chapel
in the Woods
 *(if it's raining, please
meet in the Sanctuary)*

*If possible please print out a copy of the
Order of Worship & bring the copy with you on Sunday.
It will be needed for the unison Prayer of Confession.
Thank you for your cooperation!*

MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

The Blame Game: Trials & Temptations

"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed."

- James 1:13-14 (NIV)

James began this letter by commanding Christians to see trials in our lives as meaningful and ultimately beneficial things. Struggles during our earthly lives are opportunities to trust God at a deeper level. They can also be traps—excuses used to justify a decision to stop trusting Him and turn away. The temptation attached to trials is to trust God less. We might decide He is not strong enough to provide for us, not faithful to meet our needs, not compassionate about our pain and heartbreak. Is God good? Is He loving? Is He powerful?

James is talking about how we choose to answer those questions about God on our worst days. If we decide to tell ourselves God is not faithful, we may declare our independence from Him by choosing not to obey. If we decide He is trustworthy, we will move closer to Him looking for more help, more connection.

In verse 13 James makes clear that blaming God for tempting us to reject Him, by allowing trials into our lives, is not a valid response. God never orchestrates the events of our lives with an intent to lure us away from Himself. He always roots for us to move closer. That's who He is. The purpose of trials is not to drive us away from God, but to draw us closer to Him.

(continued)

Church Attendance
September 6th: 43

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(continued)

Christians are never guaranteed an easier life than nonbelievers. Quite the opposite: being a friend to God means being an enemy to the fallen world (John 16:1–4). So, trials will come (John 15:18–20). The trials will test our faith. But the temptation to be unfaithful to God during hardship is not from Him. He is, by definition, good. He can't be tempted by evil; He tempts no person with evil.

So where does temptation come from? Verse 14 explains where the lure to reject God actually comes from.

In verse 14, James made it clear that God is not responsible for tempting us to move away from Him. Even when He allows great ordeals to come into our lives, we should never say He means to provoke us to disobey Him. God does not tempt anyone to do evil. Rather, He intends those struggles as opportunities to deepen our trust in Him.

There is no doubt that the temptation to despair exists. Especially in the midst of hard times, we feel the pull to disobey God, to be unfaithful, to move away from Him. Where does that temptation come from? Here James reveals the answer: The call is coming from inside our own house! In other words, we are lured away from God in the midst of trials by our own desires. On one level, we simply want to sin. Christians have been freed from slavery to sin (See Romans 6), but we haven't completely lost the taste for sin. The desire remains.

James tells us to own up to that desire to sin. We need to hold ourselves responsible. He wants to warn us that, on this side of eternity, our "old self" (Ephesians 4:22) is looking for an excuse to move back into sinfulness. Sometimes, we will use trials as that excuse to disobey God instead of to trust Him at a deeper level.

Are you going to continue to deepen your trust in God or make excuses and disobey?

In Christ,
Brian Lee, Elder

**Information obtained from "What does James 1:13 Mean" and
"What does James 1:14 mean" Bibleref.com: www.bibleref.com*

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS:
DEREK ALMARODE & BRIAN LEE

ALL SEPTEMBER WORSHIP
SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM

The flowers in the Sanctuary today
are given in loving memory of
Mr. & Mrs. W.W. Sproul, Jr.
and Mr. & Mrs. H.M. Sisson
and Miles Sisson
by Alex & Lucy Sproul.

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GUEST MINISTER - SEPTEMBER 13TH

Bethel welcomes our very own Bethel Elder, Brian Lee as the Guest Speaker today (September 13th).

Brian is married to the lovely one of a kind Penny and they have 5 kids: 3 beautiful daughters, Harleigh 20, Bayleigh 18, and Lydia 17, and 2 all boy sons - Moose, 20 and Trevor 8. Brian has served as a deacon at Bethel and is currently serving as an Elder on the Session. He graduated from Riverheads High School in 1991. He served in the United States Marine Corps in Signals Intel/Morse Code and has worked for United Parcel Service 27 years.

Many thanks to Brian for speaking and giving the sermon for today!

Upcoming Supply Ministers & Speakers

September 13th	Brian Lee
September 20th	Derek Almarode
September 27th	Derek Almarode
October 5th	Rev. Nancy Yao (Communion)

ELDER-ON-CALL SEPTEMBER 2020

If you have a pastoral need during the month of September, please contact Derek Almarode.

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

Church Office News & Notes

Please have all announcements for the Bethel Weekly News for September 20th to the Church Office by this Tuesday (September 15th), at noon. Thanks for your cooperation!

- Adrienne Barker, Office Manager

PRAYER LIST

(updated 9/9/20)

Congregation Members

Jarod Davis & Family

Dan Gano	Bobby Goodson
Karen Koogler	Evelyn LaPorte
Kenneth LaPorte	Sam Leonard
Margaret Liptrap	John Pilson
Allen Quick	Doris True
Alice Wooddell	

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Sarah Brownlee	Joe Fleming
Matt Koogler	David Law
Mattie Marsh	Roy Pilson
Jamie Pirkey	Van Pirkey
Rob Schnurr	Barbara Shaner
Beth Shaw	Walter Wade
Lee & Katie Simonds	
Dennis & Sarah Russell & Family	

Sympathies & Condolences

Family & Friends of Bobbye D'Orsi
Family of Mark Sawyer

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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Church Office News & Notes (continued)

The October Tower Newsletter Deadline will be Monday, September 21st, at noon.

You may leave articles and announcements for the Tower in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com. We welcome and appreciate early submissions before the 21st! All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why?.

Personnel Committee

Organist/Music Director Needed

At this time we are actively searching for an organist/choir director. If you have any suggestions, please contact Bill Brubeck, Dale Thompson or Jill Webb.



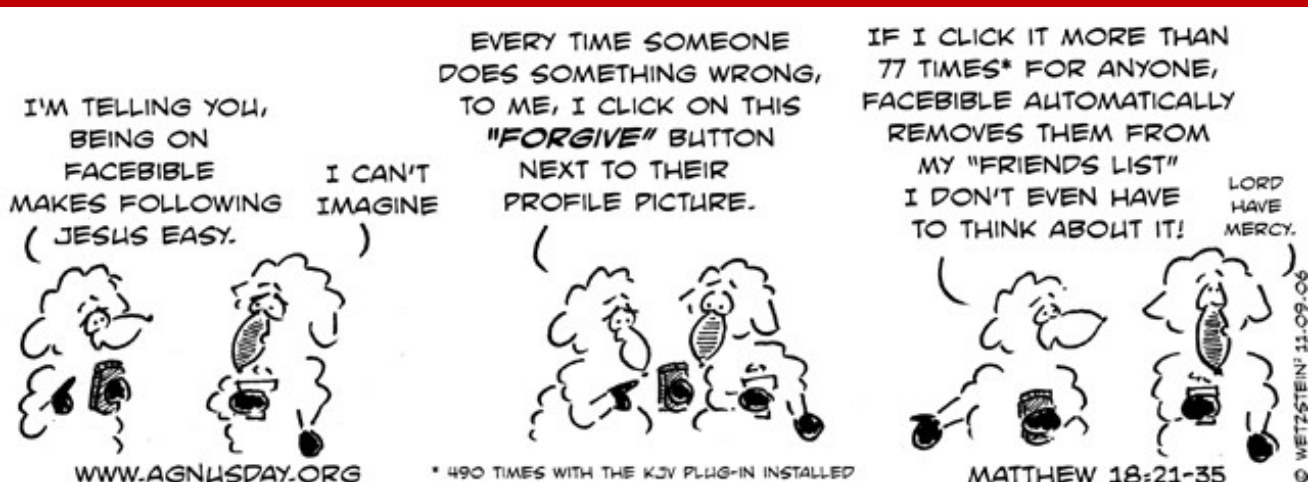
If you know of anyone who might be interested in the position, please tell the person that information can be obtained by checking indeed.com: search "Choir Director" and "Virginia".

Stewardship & Finance Committee

Weekly Financial Report

August Financial Report

Estimated Weekly Budget:	\$4,317.00	Estimated Expenses for August	\$18,702.00
Offerings Received September 6th:	\$2,075.00	Total August Offerings Received	\$9,773.00



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