

# THE Tower

JULY 2023

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## NEW BEGINNINGS

New beginnings, starting over, a different path, do a 180, letting go, the metaphor can go on and on. This is also called change and change is a word or topic that can make you smile, make you cringe, cause you anxiety, even anger, but change is a fresh start. Every person in this beautiful life we live will endure change. Whether the change is small, such as simply taking your next breath, or deciding what's for dinner, to the extreme choices that not only alter your life but that of others as well, change is permanent. Change is a new beginning.

So why is change so difficult if it's a new beginning? Several things come to my mind. Fear of something different - complacency - something unknown. Change may cause you to have to give up something or cause you to have to do something that you don't want to do. There have been several tower articles about change. You might be thinking, is there not another topic to write or talk about? Well maybe you are right. Then again, have you truly embraced change as a new beginning? If you are starting something new and you are still bringing up the past, bringing the baggage with you, old memories,

then you have not truly started anything new. The only thing you've done is start a new opportunity, and brought with you the baggage and the pain that you choose to start with. History repeats itself when you can't let go and truly start anew. Jesus commands us to love your neighbor as you love yourself, this requires forgiveness.

MATTHEW 22:39

***39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself***

2 COR 5:17

***17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!***

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

***3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.***

Forgiveness is a new beginning. Let the baggage go, stop rehashing the things that made you make the choice to change in the first place. This is the reason I think change is so hard, you want the future to be better, while totting the past with you. How can you begin to forgive, when you don't forget? Offering forgive-

## AS THIS ELDER SEES IT

ness requires change, but if you keep what you forgave in a memory bank, all you're doing is providing chin music. This is lying to yourself and God. For example, all you are doing is changing where you have dinner, but you kept the same shirt on with the stain on the collar that won't wash out. The stains of the past followed. Changing venues doesn't create a better environment, unless the bones of contention are removed. The scars may remain, but a scar is a wound that has healed, a reminder of what not to do again.

Although some wounds look healed on the outside the infection is hiding, allowing the healing to be slow or presenting a façade of being restored anew. The pain is there but not on the surface. Which denies forgiveness all together.

ISAIAH 43:18-19

***18 Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.***

Now let us do a 180 degree turn-around - not all change is uncomfortable. Which brings me to why I choose new beginnings as a topic in the first place.

My family is going through a metamorphosis. Penny and I are going to be what most would call extended family. Allow me to explain that statement, our oldest child is getting married, and our second eldest is engaged to be married. The new beginning here is one of God's great gifts - marriage, our children are changing their dynamics of

family. They are now changing the venue of life, changing priorities, changing their thought process, and changing who's first in the family tree that they/we were accustomed to.

As I said before, change affects more than you. This is more than a change for all parties involved, it's a renovation of God's will for them and us through a permanent covenant between them and God. This is the trinity of marriage, which forms a triangle consisting of God, man, and woman. Therefore, Penny and I are the extension of a new beginning, a new family, in-laws and are outside the triangle. This is not a bad thing, but certainly a different way we must look at our creation granted to us through God's amazing blessings. A change which is glorified. A new beginning that comes with growth and understanding of God's plan. God's plan is always a new beginning and can never be changed. A new beginning comes with a blessing from God in his time. Forced change is going against his will and surely will fail in some aspect.

**JEREMIAH 29:11**

*11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

In order to accept what God has in store for us requires communication with him through prayer. His change for us will encompass hope, love, and joy which are the true new beginnings in life. The three things that change is built upon. The hope of the choice you made brings peace of mind and

heart. The joy of having comfort that the Lord our God is with us, and the love that surrounds us through God and Family. The common denominator with a new beginning is a constant that will not change, the purpose of our faith, Jesus Christ.

**MALACHI 3:6**

*6 "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed*

**HEBREWS 13:8**

*8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

Through all the changes we've had in our lives, our conviction in our Lord keeps us grounded and on the right path. It is our prayer that we materialize our child in the way of the Lord, establishing the cornerstone of life, creating the passageway of faith to be passed on through the generations.

**PROVERBS 22:6**

*6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

In conclusion, a new beginning is God's plan we can't change. Therefore, we should embrace what God gives us, and be glad in it. Stop denying what is inevitable, as long as it's in the realm of our belief and God's word, Change is a new beginning. New beginnings for God are established and created with you and me.

This is how this elder sees it.  
Elder Brian Lee

## August BIRTHDAYS

James Williams	-----	2
Stephanie Rivers	-----	9
Ginny Gano	-----	12
Sally Williams	-----	12
Cole Leonard	-----	22
John Howell	-----	28
Meg Haislip	-----	29
Keedie Leonard	-----	31

## August ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Penny Lee	-----	August 1, 2009
Dale & Libby Smith	-----	August 3, 1963
Bob & Laura Barmore	-----	August 12, 1977

# Prayer

## REQUESTS OR CHANGES

If you have any changes,  
additions or updates  
to the Prayer List  
please contact:

**Tammy Barbour**

@ 540-471-0450 or

**Ellen Fitzgerald**

@ 540-292-2914

To keep the Prayer List  
as up to date as possible,  
names will be removed  
from the list after eight weeks  
unless Tammy, Ellen  
or the Office has been  
notified otherwise.

## BETHEL SESSION MEETING JUNE 25, 2023

### — Notes of Importance for the Congregation —

The Bethel Session met with all members present on Sunday, July 23, 2023. The meeting was held at the Pavilion in the Woods in beautiful weather. The meeting was moderated by Derek Almarode.

#### General Business:

The meeting was opened with prayer. The Session discussed several matters of business.

- We will welcome supply pastors from ECO on Sundays August 6th and August 13th to give Derek a well deserved break. Make sure to attend church and support our guest speakers.
- The Scholarship Committee presented two members for approval of Bethel Scholarships. They were James Schooley and Lydia Lee. Congratulations to them both.
- Christian Education Committee announced the beginning of a new bible study in August. The study is called **Not a Fan**.
- The Outreach Committee is planning a big meal in October, details to come.
- 5¢ a Meal offering was approved to continue for the rest of the year.
- Joyce Miller was approved to continue to lead the BERF Committee.
- Meeting was closed with Prayer by Derek Almarode. Thanks to him for his service!



Respectfully,  
David Schooley  
Elder David Schooley  
Clerk of Session

# thank you

Thank you to everyone that called, sent cards, text and emailed me when I got my new hip. Your prayers and love were and are so appreciated! Love you all, Penny Lee

# HOMECOMING SUNDAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

*thank you*

So much appreciation, where do we start!! First of all, thank you to the clean up girls that have been convening weekly at the church for the last year. You all have gone through every nook and cranny of the church, purging things that should have been cleaned out years and years ago. Phyllis Cash - Mo Kyle - Beth Miller - Julie Turner - You ladies are amazing!

Thank you to everyone that met downstairs in the Sunday School building last Saturday to load all of the trash and carry out all the heavy items that had been piled in corners of the building that had been forgotten. Thank you to Wade Cash for heading up the large crew that assembled. Thank you to everyone that showed up to help, your hard work is appreciated!



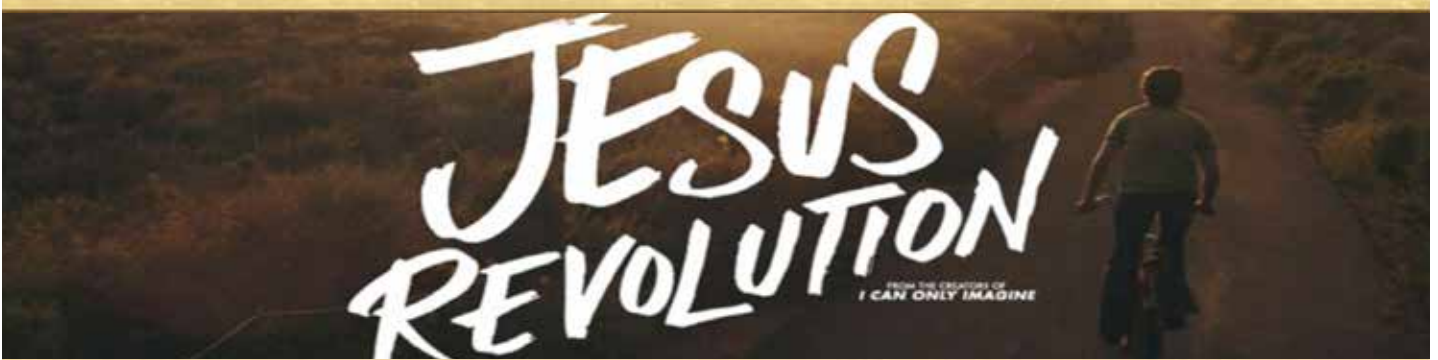
THIS TRAILER WAS LOADED TO THE BRIM AND THEN SOME BY THE TIME THE DAY WAS DONE!



*praying over the  
5¢ a meal offering  
the kids collected*



*Liam ringing  
the bell*



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

Bethel Presbyterian Ladies are hosting a luncheon!

**Sunday, September 17th @ 1:00 • Cost is \$12 per person • All women are invited!**

**Meal catered by Middlebrook Mercantile**

**Menu: Quiche, Soup, Salad, Bread & Dessert**

*Guest speaker will be from New Directions, "a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support and advocacy to those affected by violence, serial assault, and human trafficking".*

Invite your friends and neighbors to this special event!

Contact Stephanie Rivers (540-849-9839) or Beth Miller (540-255-1940) to make reservations and transportation.

**Reservations are due by August 27, 2023**

THE CIRCLE MEETING IS THE 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 12:30

## SERVING CHRIST AT BETHEL WILL BENEFIT YOU!!

Each of us have our own individual needs and reasons for participating in church life. Even though we may not know you personally, we believe that God knows you and loves you. He can direct your life as you draw nearer to Him. One way to grow closer to Him is attending Bethel.

*Here are a few benefits of worshipping with us:*

- Maybe you're struggling with a specific question or need some direction in your life. Maybe you just need to feel God's love and know that He is here. We assure you that God is here and we promise that you can find him here as you experience His presence.
- Jesus commanded, "This is my body broken for you, take, eat, do this in remembrance of me". Here at Bethel, we take part in the Lords table and so can you.
- What we learn at church gives us guidance on how to follow God, improves our spirituality, and live better lives. You can be uplifted here at Bethel by fellow believers and by the opportunity to serve and worship our Savior.
- Church is a community where we can socialize and support each other. You can make friends, feel a sense of belonging, and build a support network that you can rely on. Here at Bethel we are family, welcome home!
- Bethel is home to many! We worship Christ daily in our actions and our deeds. Christ leads us to find those lost to His word. We believe we are called to serve Him in all that we do. Bethel and the family here serve as the foundation to our spiritual life. In Hebrews 10:24-25 we learn the following, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and do good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."



## ELDERS

Class of 2023  
BOB OLSON  
DAVE SCHOOLEY  
TIM TURNER

Class of 2024  
TAMMY BARBOUR  
BRIAN LEE  
DALE THOMPSON  
JILL WEBB

Class of 2025  
CINDY ALMARODE  
DEREK ALMARODE  
WADE CASH  
PENNY LEE

Clerk of Session  
DAVE SCHOOLEY

## DEACONS

Class of 2023  
ELLEN FITZGERALD  
CHARLIE JOHNSON

Class of 2024  
MITCH LATHROP  
D.W. MILLER

Class of 2025  
HARLEIGH LEE  
KATIE MCELVEEN

## TRUSTEES

Class of 2023  
BILL BRUBECK  
JAMES WILLIAMS

Class of 2024  
GUY D. BROOKS

Class of 2025  
CHARLIE JOHNSON  
BILLY WADE

## CHURCH STAFF

JoAnn Pendley  
PIANIST, ORGANIST  
BELL CHOIR AND CHOIR

Lois Stogdale  
DISBURSING TREASURER

Kay Thompson  
RECEIVING TREASURER

John & Donna Bush  
CUSTODIANS

Carol & Puggie Sprouse  
CUSTODIANS



# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING OUR COMMUNITY  
FAMILY OF FAITH

**Sunday, August 6th**

WORSHIP INSIDE

GUEST PASTOR - SCOTT DOVE

**Sunday, August 13th**

WORSHIP INSIDE

GUEST PASTOR - PAUL SEDDON

**Sunday, August 27th - Homecoming**

**MAKE PLANS TO COME!!**

**Sunday, September 3rd**

WORSHIP INSIDE

**Sunday, September 24th -**

**Last Sunday in Outside Worship**

**Sunday, October 1st**

**Back to Inside Worship**

**Every Thursday - 6:30**

BIBLE STUDY AT BETHEL

NEW STUDY BOOK - *NOT A FAN*

**YOUTH COMMITTEE**

Meets the last Sunday  
of each month.

**SECURITY COMMITTEE**

Meets the 3rd Sunday  
of each month.

welcome  
HOME