

THE BETHEL CONNECTION

APRIL 29, 2020

Whose Side Are You On?

Once upon a time there was a church that met in a building surrounded by corn fields. This church was a 'Bible' church! They believed, taught and obeyed the Bible. Of all the things that made this church special, one was their love for each other. It was in fact a legendary kind of love. Some even went as far as to say it was a supernatural kind of love that was modeled after the love of Jesus Christ himself!

What did this love look like you ask?

Well, one time a global pandemic happened. Thousands of people were getting infected and many died. This was a serious threat to the health and well-being of everyone for which there was no cure. As you can imagine that kind of stress led to all kinds of opinions, theories, frustrations, fears, weariness and feelings. There were those who supported the governments leadership and some who did not. Some believed in conspiracy theories regarding the origin of the disease. Even doctors, scientists, mayors and preachers disagreed on how people should respond to this health threat.

Social media, while a source of information and comfort for the most part, sometimes exploded with unkind and unloving comments attacking and defending positions. Some identified with the 'open the economy' team while others stood strongly with the 'let's stay safe crowd.' While many insisted on masks, distancing and temperature taking, there were usually those nearby snickering about the only time they will wear a mask is Halloween or if they needed to rob a bank. The differences of perspective and opinions were as clear as the daily growth of the number of infected people and deaths.

But I digress. This church of the Bible's love, what did it look like?

It was focused on others. It seemed these people set aside their own needs, opinions and preferences to truly understand and serve others. It was more about Jesus than anything else.

It was forbearing. In the swirl of emotions, fear and confusion, people were patient, self-controlled and restrained. As a matter of fact, at times you could not tell which team they were on. They seemed content in resting in Jesus and pointing others to their Father in heaven.

It was hopeful. How refreshing to see the never mask people wear masks out of love for the mask people! It was inspiring to watch opinionated and well-educated people smilingly affirm the fearful rather than convince them in 3 languages how right and smart they are. And the prayer times, wow. On the phone, in the car, through texts, on Zoom . . . it floats your boat big time to see people turning to God in prayer together.

Their love reflected the beauty of Jesus as described in 1Corinthians 13:4-7. And, they made masks too.

Pastor Don

Guidance and Guidelines

What will it possibly look like when we begin meeting again as a church family? There will obviously be limitations and guidelines. This week for the services for Ann Fagner, we worked with the Frain Funeral Home to develop clear guidelines for the services to both love one another and protect each other as best as possible. Along with the newsletter today is a copy of those guidelines that serve us as an example of what guidelines might be necessary for when we do meet again. The leadership at Bethel wants to begin meeting again as soon as is wise. We also believe that there will be necessary guidelines to follow carefully. Please pray for wisdom and unity as we draw closer to being able to meet again in some manner.

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

**6966 West SR 14
Winamac, IN 46996
574.946.6229**

To access the directory on our website, go to www.bethelbiblechurch.org click on "About", then "Church Directory" and enter the password: **bbcwinamac**

Lead Pastor: Don Whipple
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What about the offering?

We encourage you to continue giving generously to the Lord's work here at Bethel. Here are some different options available:

- Mail
- Bank bill pay
- Drop off at the office
- Call & have an elder or deacon pick it up for you
- Online giving through the website

Office Hours:

We will mostly be working from our homes in the coming weeks. Please contact our cell phones or email us!

PRAYER

Pray for the family of Ann Fagner.

Pray for Sara Cowley at the passing of her mom this past week.

Pray for BBC Elders & Deacons. They continue to meet via Zoom meetings. Pray for guidance & endurance as they seek to minister to the BBC family.

Pray for us to love each other well during this time and to find ways to seek and serve our BBC family.

Pray for the staff as we look to being able to meet together again soon as a church family and what that will look like.

ZOOM MEETINGS THIS WEEK:

Wednesday @ 7 pm

Sunday @ 9 am

Sunday @ 11 am

Be sure to email the church office to be included in one of these meetings. You will then be sent a link via email.

- **As a reminder, the viewing for Ann Fagner is Wednesday, April 29 beginning at 4 pm. You will need to pre-register with Frain Mortuary at 946-3222. There will be a drive-in memorial service Thursday, April 30 at 11 am in the Bethel parking lot. Please refer to the attached sheet for guidelines for both services.**
- **Sara Cowley's mother passed away Friday, April 24. To send a note of encouragement to Sara: Dennis & Sara Cowley/320 Fiddlers Cove/Fort Wayne, IN 46825**
- **We are still wanting to hear from you concerning our high school/college graduates! Please let the church office know if you have a loved one graduating this year! We do not wish to miss anyone!**
- **We have had a lot of questions surrounding VBS. As of now, we are still wanting to hold VBS, but at a later date. We are looking into several possibilities and will keep you updated as we know more details.**
- **If you have any prayer requests or updates to for the newsletter, please feel free to email Melody @ bbcwinamac@gmail.com**

