

## **BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH**

**6966 West SR 14**

**Winamac, IN 46996**

Lead Pastor: Don Whipple

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# **THE BETHEL CONNECTION**

**June 24, 2020**

## **Characterized by Love**

Since Pastor Don and Sue were enjoying a week of vacation, Drew McKay preached for us on Sunday from 1 John chapter 4 about what it means that God is love. Not just that God loves, but that God is love. It's His nature, His character, the very essence of who He is. In light of that fact, our church must also be characterized by love.

My great hope for our church is that we would indeed be a church characterized by selfless, "others-first" care, concern, and affection for one another. We often hear from visitors that Bethel is an extraordinarily friendly church; people almost always feel very welcomed. During our Every Family Visits early this year, we heard from several people who are relatively new to Bethel that there was a sense of friendship and concern for visitors. I hope it could also be said that they sensed a genuine affection for one another in our church.

The two things I think we could point to that demonstrate true love and affection in a church are first, a willingness to set aside personal preferences even when they are deeply held, and second, a body that suffers together and celebrates together. Philippians 2:3 says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." I once saw a quote from Brian Loritts, a pastor in California, that said, "It is almost impossible to offend a humble person." When we set aside personal preference and instead elevate the thoughts and preferences of others above our own, that humility then becomes infectious in the church.

Father God, let it please be said of Bethel that we are not only a church that is friendly, but also a church that is characterized by care and concern for one another, demonstrated by selfless compassion!

**Mike McKay**

- ❖ **If you have a group that has typically met at the church for non-church related activities, we are asking that you fill out a new Building Use form as we look to be able to open the facility back up in the coming months. Please contact Melody for a new form.**
- ❖ **We are looking to have a Baby Dedication on August 9, 2020. If you are interested in having your child dedicated, please talk to Kelly Hines.**

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

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- **Zoom Prayer Meeting Wednesday @ 7 pm**

Be sure to email the church office to be included in this meeting. You will then be sent a link via email.

### SERVICE TIMES AND PROCEDURES WILL REMAIN THE SAME FOR THIS WEEK.

- Sunday, June 28 service at 9:15 am, sign up with Kelly Hines
- Sunday, June 28 service at 11:15 am, sign up with Kelly Hines
- Sunday, June 28 Drive-in service @ 11:15 am
- Contact Kelly Hines...765-210-1206 or [bethelbiblekids@gmail.com](mailto:bethelbiblekids@gmail.com) to sign up for a service time. Please do so by noon Saturday.
- Sermon audio available on website by noon on Sunday.

Katie Allen

Sunday, June 28

2pm to 7pm

1780 North 1550 West

Medaryville, IN

Brenna McKay

Sunday, July 12

3pm to 6pm

Bethel Bible Church

Winamac, IN 46996

### JUSTIN & SARAH HUTTS.....BEARING WITH BISHARA

Bishara has felt the weight of each of tremendous burdens just this week. He has battled the threats and pursuits because his dad deceived and falsely accused him of joining a cult and practicing witchcraft (when it was actually his father who was toying with spirits of darkness). His father blamed him for the death of his mother and brother, even though he wasn't living in the same country. So his father recruited clan leaders and placed a bounty on Bishara's head. He spent most of the past week bouncing from safe places and reeling from the reality of his present danger.

Although the past week has been heavy, we've heard how the new believers around the city praying in large numbers, even risking their lives to shelter Bishara. We've heard how God has protected Bishara in miraculous ways by blinding bounty hunters, blowing roofs off other hunter's houses, and another getting in a critical motorcycle accident. Then over the course of the week, we heard reports from Bishara's siblings that his dad went into a coma and died.

Pray for Justin & his colleagues as they continue to bear the burdens of those to whom they are serving. Bringing good news to the people of Chad also means walking with many through suffering for the name of Christ.

Be sure to subscribe to Justin & Sarah's newsletter at [www.africanhutt.com](http://www.africanhutt.com) to continue to learn more about the place where they are serving!

## PRAYER

Please continue in prayer for those who have had surgeries recently: Mike Schultz, Paulette Krulik, Connie Davis, Erika Bunger

Pray for the unrest that is facing much of our country. Pray that God, in His infinite wisdom, would use each of us as a beacon of His light!

Pray for the upcoming BBC Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday, July 15.