

THE BETHEL CONNECTION

MAY 6, 2020

Let's Begin to Start Meeting Again

The Bethel elders are happy to announce that we will begin to start meeting again for worship this coming Sunday the 10th. We indicated at the end of last week that we would not be meeting on the 10th but have changed our thinking since communicating with local medical and county leaders in the past few days. All along we have made decisions based on the guidelines established by State and local leadership. Our gathering for services plan fits well within those guidelines. Here are the details.

Service Schedule We are planning to have 2 one-hour services on Sunday morning. One at 9:15 and one at 11:15. Two repeated services allow us to keep the number of people at each service within the space necessary for social distancing. It also allows time between services to enter/exit properly as well as to clean appropriately before the second service. We are also planning to broadcast the 11:15 service over the FM radio transmitter to cars in our parking lot as we have at our past drive-in services. This allows those who are at risk or are uncomfortable going inside for the service to still come to church and listen to the service live over the car radio in the parking lot. One of the services will be recorded and posted online for viewing later as well.

Guidelines for Inside Services Here are the guidelines that will help us stay within the suggested best practices from our local/state leaders as well as help us care for each other.

- The recommendation is that those 65 years of age and above or who have an underlying at-risk health condition do not attend church inside the building (watch/listen at home at a later time or attend the drive-in option at 11:15)
- Do not attend if you are sick or have been around anyone who is sick
- Remain at least 6ft away from those not in your family group at all times
- Wear a face mask when entering and exiting the building and any time you leave your seat. Masks are not required while participating in the service at your seat or table.
- Stay at your designated seat/table the entire time if possible
- Use hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the building
- Follow posted signs and only go in designated areas of the church building
- Restrooms will be available for any attenders, inside or drive-in.

These guidelines are essentially based on 'love your neighbor as yourself.' Add to that 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind' and we will have a great time of worship together!

How to Sign Up Because we have space limitations for distancing, we need to have you sign up for a service. We plan to use what has come to be known as the 'bubble' concept for seating in the sanctuary. A 'bubble' is a grouping of family or friends that already have been safely spending time together. There are 9 round tables in the sanctuary that will serve as the focal point for groups of 5-6 family members or bubble individuals. There will be a learning curve on this so please sign up and our expert staff will assign you a comfortable seat in a safe place. If you have Bethel friends that you feel comfortable 'bubbling' with, contact them and sign up as a group. If you are the only one in your group we will have a great seat for you too! Contact **so and so at thus and thus** to register for attending one of our services this Sunday. It would be helpful for us to know if you plan to attend the drive-in service as well.

We will probably send out another reminder later this week as well as post this information on our website. There are ways for you to help if you would like to serve, see the listing of help needed in another spot in this newsletter.

An Additional thought, we completely understand if you for any reason are not able or comfortable to attend one of these church service options. These are unique circumstances for everyone. Please attend if you are able with the option that best fits for you. As lovingly as we can say as well, please do not attend if you are uncomfortable or placing yourself at risk. If you are a bit older, you may want to listen to and follow your family, friends or doctors advice.

Please pray for those planning our meetings as well as pray that God would bless our efforts in unusual ways to magnify our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Don

As we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to gather again soon, albeit with limitations and restrictions, I am reminded of Ephesians 2:19-20, which says, "...you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone." When our happy family reunion takes place there will be changes—it will be quite some time before things are "back to normal"—but the foundation of our church is utterly unshaken! With Christ as our cornerstone the structure is solid, and on that we stand. Our church, and our youth group in particular which is my current main focus, is an assemblage of people from different backgrounds with a diversity of viewpoints. The unity we have is in Christ because he is the foundation that our common faith is built upon, not because we are a bunch of mindless robots who all are compelled to think exactly alike. When we regather our fellowship will be sweet because we are fellow citizens in the house of God...BETH-EL!

Mike McKay

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
whip1030@gmail.com
765.404.6070

Director of Kid's Ministries: Kelly Hines
bethelbiblekids@gmail.com
765.210.1206

Ministry Assistant: Melody Perez
bbcwinamac@gmail.com
574.225.0288

ZOOM MEETINGS THIS WEEK:

Wednesday @ 7 pm

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

- **If you have any prayer requests or updates to for the newsletter, please feel free to email Melody @ bbcwinamac@gmail.com**

Ministry Opportunities

There are some items that we could sure use a little help with as we plan for the services this week and in the weeks to come. Here are some of the ways which you can serve:

- **We will need a few folks who are willing to do some cleaning after each service. We have the appropriate disinfectants available to use, but need those who are able and willing to clean.**
- **We are looking for someone to hand out order of service and song sheet to those who will be attending the drive-in service.**
- **If you would like to help but are not able to help this week, please contact Melody so that she can put you down for the coming weeks to serve.**

How do I sign up for a service?

Again, we will be offering 2 services this week, 9:15 am and 11:15 am. If you are interested in attending either of these services, please communicate that with Kelly Hines. We are trying to limit the number of folks for each service to 50 participants. You can email/text/call Kelly with the service you would like to attend. Please remember to indicate which time you would like to attend and how many will be in your "bubble", which simply put are those loved ones you have been able to be with over the past several weeks.

As you let us know which service you wish to attend, you are also agreeing to follow the guidelines set forth for this time.

Families: At this time, we will not offer any nursery, junior church, or children's classes. However, we would love to see you and your family worshiping together with us. We will provide some "busy bag" type activities at your table and designate a spot best suited for you and your kids. Please don't hesitate to contact Kelly with any questions, concerns, or ideas. We want to support our families and children as much as we can!