

## BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

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# THE BETHEL CONNECTION

November 25, 2020

## HOLIDAY BRUNCH!

You should have already received your letter for our holiday gathering, detailing our Stewardship Giving for this year (if you have not, please let Melody know). Let's talk about the brunch! We are excited to be able to offer a time for fellowship after our service on December 6! In the letter from the church, you should have gotten an "RSVP" card. Please fill that out and turn that back to Melody by this Sunday! We are making plans and want to be sure that we have enough goodies for you all! Again, the church will be providing the brunch, so plan on joining us!

*rsvp*



## HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- **Saturday, November 28, Deacons Meeting @ 7 am**
- **Sunday, November 29, worship service @ 9:15 am, Junior Church & Nursery will be available**
- **We will still be accepting items for the BCH Foodshower through this Sunday, November 29.**

## COVID Guidelines @ Bethel – Elder Update

This is intended to follow up on and further clarify what Chris Krohn shared Sunday 11/22 in the morning service.

We have in recent days heard much about the increasing impact of the COVID pandemic. So much has changed just in recent weeks. Most in our church family now know someone who has tested positive, is under quarantine, has been quite sick, or perhaps has even died from this virus. Bethel leadership believes COVID is a God given opportunity to strengthen our faith and hope in Christ while living our unity in joyful expectation that God is in control working out his good purposes in our lives and church.

Having said that, we do have a responsibility to shepherd well through these challenging times. Given the strain on the healthcare system and the need to slow down the infection rate we do see the possibility in the future of adjusting our plan guidelines. We do not want the day to come when we wish we had done more. So, we are announcing that we are currently comfortable with our guidelines as we have been practicing for several months and simply ask everyone to please continue to follow them carefully. However, the day may come that our values may lead us to such measures as keeping masks on even when seated, suspending singing (a known source of spreading), enforcing the mask in/mask out rule for every attendee or not having services for a few Sundays.

We have heard from several who would appreciate stricter guidelines as we have heard from several who disagree with current guidelines. As Chris expressed so well on Sunday, thank you. Thank you for your patience and support. Please continue to pray that God will be glorified in his church and world through these times. We will communicate as clearly as we can if and when the guidelines need to be changed.

## Exercising Thanksgiving

Pastor Don

Here's an idea to chew on this week for Thanksgiving. Exercise.

I'm not thinking of taking a few laps around the table after a huge meal as appropriate as that may be. I'm thinking more of following the example of the Apostle Paul in many of his letters in the Bible, he thanks God for people.

I thank God for you! What a great way to express our humble gratitude to God and people for the enormous grace that is poured into our lives from God through people. So let's exercise together and add this expression to our thanksgiving toolbox.

Read and review 1Thessalonians 1:2-3; 2:13 and 3:6-9.

In 1:2-3 you find, 'I thank God for you because I see the hope of Jesus in you.'

In 2:13 you find, 'I thank God for you and your hunger for the scriptures.'

In 3:6-9 you find, 'I thank God for you because you remembered us kindly in hard times.'

Next, consider who do you thank God for? Do they fit any of those descriptions from 1Thessalonians? What other characteristics or actions are you grateful for in others close to you? Fill in the blanks, '\_\_\_\_\_, I thank God for you, because \_\_\_\_\_.'

Finally, tell someone (or more) that you thank God for them. God will give you opportunity to show your gratitude to him for the incredible people he has brought into your life by telling them – 'I thank God for you!'

Also remember, this is a great exercise given our lives and world right now. How do I know? Something else Paul writes as he concludes his letter to the Thessalonians.

*... give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

On behalf of the elders, deacons and staff . . . we thank God for you!

## Bethel Prayer Concerns

- Please be in prayer for the family of Howard Leman. Dan Leman and Mike Leman are his brothers. Howard went home to be with his Savior early this week. Pray for the family during this time.
- Continue in prayer for Chris Shell as he struggles with his Lyme disease.
- Dorothy Hagen is home from the hospital. Continue to pray for her strength to return.
- Matthew Scott is still deployed with the National Guard. Please keep him and the family in your prayers.
- Brad Garling has begun treatments. Pray for good health; pray that God would guard his mind.
- Continue in prayer for the Associate Pastor process. The McKays, Hines, Bungers and Whipples are serving as a search committee. There is a conversation that started recently with an individual. Ask God to direct our paths as we gather resumes, get to know possible candidates and discern what He would have us do in this important process.



As we cautiously & optimistically look forward to resuming our ABF/Sunday School hour, we will need volunteers to make this happen! Please use this time as an opportunity to pray about volunteering! If you are willing to help with Nursery or Sunday School, please contact Kelly Hines.

If you are willing to help with ushering in the coming months, please contact Melody Perez.