

## BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

6966 West SR 14

Winamac, IN 46996

Lead Pastor: Don Whipple

[whip1030@gmail.com](mailto:whip1030@gmail.com)

765.404.6070

Director of Kid's Ministries: Kelly Hines [bethelbiblekids@gmail.com](mailto:bethelbiblekids@gmail.com)

765.210.1206

Ministry Assistant: Melody Perez

[bbcwinamac@gmail.com](mailto:bbcwinamac@gmail.com)

574.225.0288

# THE BETHEL CONNECTION

October 21, 2020

## Pastoral Politics



Many are comfortable referring to this upcoming national election as the most important election in the history of our country. Whether you agree with that assessment or not, there is no denying our need for courageous, humble and righteous leadership at local, state and national levels. As followers of Christ, the current setting of division and hostility in the public square gives us significant opportunities to love and serve both God and our neighbor . . . as well as perhaps those who oppose us.

In our recent Christian and Politics class on Wednesday evenings, we summarized the Christians opportunity by appealing to 3 key passages of scripture. Here are some thoughts from those passages that may encourage you as you exercise your faith by participating in the political process. If you have already voted, there may be more you can do!

**Psalm 2** **Take refuge in Jesus.** This Psalm is a needed reminder of the big picture. We need this to keep us from unrealistic expectations of government leaders and from a sense of despair when things seem in a downward spiral. God is on the throne. He has appointed his King who will rule and reign in justice over all nations. Talk about how blessed you are to have Jesus as your Lord and King, that will raise some eyebrows in this tense climate.

**1Timothy 2:1-4** **Pray.** Pray that our government officials will lead in such a way that the governed will enjoy peaceful, quiet, righteous and dignified lives. Justice for the oppressed and punishment for the wrong doer is the essential role of human government (Romans 13:1-7; 1Peter 2:13-17). These verses command us to go one more step and pray fervently that those in government will do their job well so that the gospel can be heard and believed. Good government can set the stage so that Christians can get the word out and many will be saved. Check out Solomon's prayer for wisdom in 1Kings 3. Let your prayers for our leaders be shaped by verses 9 and 28. Organize some prayer times with other Bethel folks and friends. Pray specifically for God to use the political process to make his great name known, that our leaders would be able to discern between good and evil and that they would have wisdom from God to do justice. Our God hears and answers prayer.

**1Peter 2:11-17** **Do good.** In these verses, believers are admonished to be submissive and respectful to those in authority over us. One of the key directives that is stated 2 times in these few verses is to engage in the political realm through our good deeds. We are to behave in such a way that those who oppose us will see our good deeds and glorify God (12). How do you stop the arguing and foolish posturing going on all around us? Do good. That is the will of God for us politically (15). What good deeds can we do that will silence the foolish talk that surrounds the issues of abortion, vulnerable children, the poor, the immigrant, redefining marriage and family, the trafficked, the abused and on and on? As important as a good vote is, God tells us to get involved with our conduct and deeds as well.

*Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.*

1Peter 2:17

Don Whipple



We have the opportunity each year to share gifts in shoe boxes with children around the world. Gifts are great--many children have never received any gift--but more exciting is that each child also individually receives the clear Gospel of Jesus and is presented the opportunity for even further study. The Greatest Gift of all!

We are looking for volunteers! We would love to have you come and help in this amazing ministry! **The drop-off week is November 16-23.** We will be set up as normal but also providing a drop-off area this year, for folks who are not comfortable coming in the building. Sign up to help for one afternoon or sign up to help all week! Look for the sign-up sheet by the OCC bulletin board to claim your spot!

### Bethel Prayer Concerns

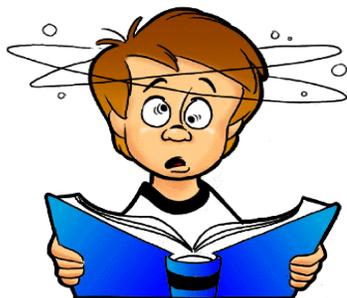
- Please pray for Thomas & Jordan Best. Their grandfather, Robert Siphkema, went home to be with the Lord. Pray for God's peace to surround them at this time.
- Please continue in prayer for Brad Garling. Brad is home after having a tumor surgically removed. Pray for his recovery from the surgery and also for upcoming decisions concerning any needed treatments.
- Ask God to bless our church with the spiritual fruit of conversions and growth. We are seeing good attendance at our children and teen ministries on Family night. Pray for our teachers, workers and young people that God would bless the ministry of his word.
- Pray for our Associate Pastor search 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.
- Pray for our Sunday meetings that God would be pleased to refresh and renew us as a church. This Sunday we begin a new sermon series in the book of 1 Peter. On Sunday November 1st we will hear from the local Gideons ministry and celebrate around the Lord's Table.

### HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- **Sunday, October 25, worship service @ 9:15 am, Junior Church & Nursery will be available**
- **Sunday, October 25, worship service @ 11:15 am; Nursery will be available**
- **Drive-in option will be available at BOTH services**

### BBC Announcements

- Leadership of the church has come to the difficult decision to cancel our regular Trunk or Treat event.
- The next Simple Supper/Family Night will be held October 28.
- **Youth Group News & Information:** October 21 we will meet at the Bungers home. Their new address is 2216 South 400 East, Francesville.



### Basic Bible Study Skills

Our next Wednesday Family Night class for adults will be focused on how to study our Bibles. The Bible is clear and understandable. Too often we think of Bible study as a book or video of someone teaching us what the Bible says rather than finding out on our own what the Bible says. This class will teach bible study skills and practice these skills together in class. If you would like to grow in your use and understanding of your Bible, this class will help you do that