

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH**6966 West SR 14****Winamac, IN 46996**

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THE BETHEL CONNECTION

October 7, 2020

A Word of Encouragement from Mike McKay, Bethel Elder & Council Chairman

By nature, I am not a person who avoids danger. For example, I ride a motorcycle, and few things can match the buzz of twisting the throttle wide open and shifting rapidly up through the gears. People often ask me, "Aren't you afraid of hitting a deer?" My typical response is some version of, "I recognize the risk and constantly scan for deer and other menaces, but I don't let that prevent me from riding. I just do what I can to mitigate the risk." Within that potentially dangerous pursuit I exercise due caution for several reasons: first, there are legal requirements; and second, my wife loves me and wants me to be safe. I wear a helmet, gloves, and heavy shoes 95% of the time. On the rare occasions when I don't, I feel guilty and exposed.

In these days, exposure abounds. We find ourselves 9+ months into this COVID-19 pandemic, and it's becoming more difficult to encourage people to follow recommended guidelines. There is a weariness about the guidelines that may be uncomfortable, throw us out of our rhythm, and may even infringe on personal freedoms. Even so, I appeal to you, beloved brothers and sisters, to continue following Governor Holcomb's health order.

Of particular concern is following guidelines during Simple Supper on Wednesday nights. It's fairly easy to come to worship service on Sunday morning per the guidelines, the more difficult thing is to safely serve food to a group. Our Simple Supper and Family Night are off to a great start, it is absolutely essential that each of us follow the recommended guidelines, particularly while going through the chow line. Mandated protocols are to wear a mask that fully covers your nose and mouth, wash your hands often, socially distance within your normal bubble, and stay home if you don't feel well.

I took the liberty of using myself as an example and want to do so again as part of my appeal. Research is showing that roughly 40% of people who contract the coronavirus are completely asymptomatic. For many more it will be expressed much as the common flu bug. For people with preexisting conditions, however, the virus can be extremely serious, even deadly. As a recently diagnosed Type II diabetic, I count myself among those at risk. My appeal to you is to recognize that the risk is real for quite a few among our beloved Bethel Church family. As we gather for worship and ministry, let's continue to love in such a way we set aside personal preferences in order to demonstrate care and concern. 1 Corinthians 13:5 says, "[Love] does not insist on its own way." Philippians 2:3-4 says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." COVID is real, and it is here.

The Elders and I believe that God is up to something extraordinary in our church for our good and his glory. Please, beloved brothers and sisters, let us continue to set aside personal preferences and demonstrate such love for one another that our community will marvel at the goodness of Jesus Christ and his people!



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14.

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!

Please be encouraged to give a shoe box gift this season.

Watch for more information in the coming weeks...many volunteers needed!

Randy

Bethel Prayer Concerns:

- 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.
- Pray for the closed circuit TV installation to go well so that we will be able to gather soon in one service.

Please continue to remember those who have ongoing physical challenges:

Sue Baker
Connie Davis
Carrie Fritz
Phyllis Fritz
Judy Luckey

Virginia Barr
Faye Fagner
Clifford Fritz
Paulette Krulik
Linda McNabney

Pandemic Prayer

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you . . . 2Thessalonians 3:1

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1Timothy 2:1-2

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
- Online giving through the website
- Offering box is available at the back of the sanctuary.

While we are waiting on the chance to be able to gather for one service, we will continue to provide two services (9:15 and 11:15) on Sunday mornings. Over the past several weeks of gathering, the first service has been practically full while the second service has had plenty of room left for more worshippers! If you are wanting to worship in the sanctuary, and still wishing to have some extra space, please consider joining us for the second service!

Wednesday October 7, Family Night

Simple Supper @ 5:30 pm.

- Pulled Pork Sandwich (plain or BBQ), Corn, Lettuce Salad & Bottled water

Classes begin @ 6:00 pm

Nursery—0-2 years old
WIRED—Pre-school through 5th grade
IMPACT—6th grade through 12th grade
Ladies Bible Study—Discerning the Voice of God by Pricilla Shirer, led by Amy Miller & Melody Perez
Pastor's class—The Christian & Politics

***Ladies Bible Study on Saturday morning October 10. Class starts at 9 am.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

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