

THE BETHEL CONNECTION

September 1, 2021

Lead Pastor: Don Whipple; whip1030@gmail.com; 765.404.6070
Associate Pastor: Matthew Dodd; mattcdodd@gmail.com ; 419.572.6842
Director of Kid's Ministries: Kelly Hines; bethelbiblekids@gmail.com; 765.210.1206
Ministry Assistant: Melody Perez; bbcwinamac@gmail.com; 574.225.0288
Bethel Bible Church 6966 West SR 14 Winamac, IN 46996

Family Night begins next Wednesday, September 8!



We truly have something for everyone! We will provide nursery care for the little ones, classes for youth through high school, combined adult studies and a ladies study. Hope to see you next week!

Please be in prayer for Josh Hileman. Josh has been down for almost 2 weeks with Covid. Dee took him to the hospital in Lafayette yesterday where he was admitted with pneumonia. Pray for the medicines to work on his body, strength for the family during this time.

Please pray for Loretta Disinger. She fell earlier this week and broke her hip. They were able to do surgery Tuesday evening. The doctors are pleased with how well the surgery went. Her neurologist will be doing another CT scan to determine how to treat the slow bleed that she has on her brain. Pray for the family as they care for Loretta.

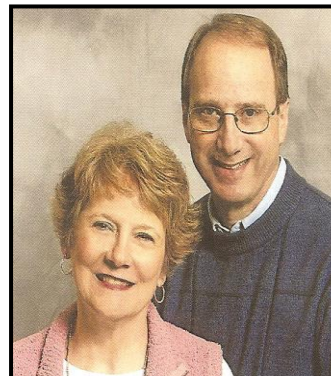
Thanks for your continued prayers for Carrie Fritz. As most of you know, Carrie fell last week and broke her hip. She had surgery at Winamac and is still in the hospital. They are planning on keeping Carrie in the hospital for at least another week to help her gain strength through all of the physical therapy that she is taking. Pray for Carrie as she is still in considerable pain. Pray for her and Bob as they navigate these waters together.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS



Sunday, September 26
Justin & Sarah Hutts will be joining us! Justin will be preaching in the morning and then will be giving an update on their ministry during the Sunday School Hour.

Sunday, October 3 we will be hosting Sarah Menefee, International Student Missionary at Purdue (on the same team as Lee Hargitt) will be sharing her testimony/ministry with us.



Sunday, October 3
Jim & Karen Getz will be giving us an update on their ministry at Michigan State University during the Sunday School Hour.

Please be in prayer for these upcoming weekends on Missions! It is a great opportunity to connect with some of our Missionaries as well as learn about new opportunities available and close to us!

They Will Know . . .

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

So reads the first of 9 'we wills' in the Bethel Bible Membership Covenant. The unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace are vital values among the Bethel membership as it is mentioned first and identified as something we will both work and pray for. The distinct togetherness that the Holy Spirit produces, and which binds us together in Christ is be protected, pursued and enjoyed. An identifying mark of the presence of Christ in his church is our mutual love for one another.

This shared experience of living in harmony with one another is under severe attack. We know and feel the tension of increasing polarization in our world. Many issues have created divisions of sharply contrasting opinions and beliefs. These differences and divisions are often supported and expressed in overly confident, belligerent, and aggressive ways. It is how the conversation of our world takes place. We should be aware of the potential impact that a sharply divided culture could have on our church.

What are the issues that we wrestle with today that may impact our distinctive unity? What generates strong opinions, disagreements and concerns today? Most would agree that a list of potentially divisive issues would include race related issues such as critical race theory and police shootings, COVID virus issues such as mask wearing and vaccinations, and political issues such as allegiance to a president and influence of politics on religion. These issues have become defining issues among churches that believe the gospel and preach the Bible. My point and warning is not that we have to come to the biblically correct position on all of these because in many cases that is not clear.

My point and warning is that we must continue to keep first things first or we lose the distinction of being gospel change agents in a world that desperately needs the hope that only Christ can provide. Our membership covenant is drawn from Ephesians 4:3. The prior verse tells us exactly how to both protect our church togetherness and show the community around us the love of Christ. Three crucial attitudes that we must cultivate are humility, gentleness, and patience.

These days of colliding opinions and aggressive agendas call for followers of Jesus to . . .

1. Distinguish themselves as humble, gentle, and patient people – just like Jesus – regardless of our preferred positions and opinions.
2. Distinguish themselves as listeners to humble, gentle and patient people – like Jesus – choosing to guard our hearts carefully.

I thank God for our Bethel family and the significant efforts to keep our union in Christ the most important thing through our mutual submission to Christ. Let's keep working and praying for this together.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:34-35

Pastor Don

Happening this week:

Wednesday, August 31:
Youth Group from 5:30 –
7:30 pm

Sunday, September 5:
Sunday morning Worship
service @ 9:15 am; Sunday
School Hour @ 10:30 am

