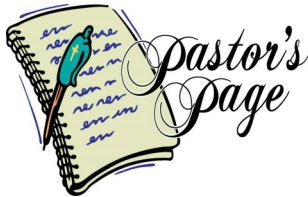




BPC REVIEW

Bethel Presbyterian Church Newsletter

November 2020



There is a story in the bible of a woman caught in the act of adultery who was about to be stoned by the people of her community. The religious elite and the whole community challenge Jesus with the law, which indeed supported her execution. Jesus response was measured, concise, and full of wisdom as he turns to the gathered crowd and challenges those without sin to cast the first stone.

He then showed the woman God's grace and love in asking here where her accusers were. When she stated that they were gone he too refused to condemn her and then forgave her sin and encouraged her to repent and turn from her sin. How hard it is for us at times to follow Christ's example.

The idea of judging another individual has such a heavy and powerful connotation to it. One of the most liberating things about the gospel is that it is based on grace and mercy, not judgment and condemnation. It is a Constant to which we are all called.

This is important to remember, despite the emphasis some place on judgment, while ignoring true forgiveness, Jesus' message to his disciples, repeated throughout the rest of the New Testament, points us to the truth that grace is at the heart of the Christian belief structure. It is solely by God's grace and through God's gift of faith that we are saved.

In short, Christ's love compels us to love others, even those who hold us in contempt. The scripture also very clearly warns us away from holding anybody in contempt even when we feel we may have good reason. When We Judge Others, We Limit God. Scripture clearly tells us that God is at work in our lives and the lives of others. God's Spirit and re-creating power are alive and at work in human life, redeeming, reconciling, and making new.

We do not give God room to be at work in life when we judge others. Human beings were not meant to be categorized, boxed, or limited in any way since change is a constant of life. Imposing our prejudice, or our own personal standards on others, is sinful and therefore impairs our relationship with them and with God. If each has sinned and fallen short of God's glory, then only human conceit would measure others' lives by our own standard.

If Jesus loves others enough to die for them it is spiritually inappropriate for us not to forgive others when we feel wronged by them or to judge others by our own standards when final judgment of anyone, as it should be, belongs to God alone. The Lord's Prayer is clear in that true understanding of forgiveness and grace is somehow linked to our willingness to forgive others as we pray together each week "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

Food for Thought ... Pastor Todd

Daylight Savings



Don't forget to turn your
clocks
BACK
1-Hour on
November 1st

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NOVEMBER Birthdays



Carmie Messenger ~ 11/02

Christian Sachs ~ 11/02

Margie Fielder ~ 11/03

Colbee Mattheiss ~ 11/03

Bryce Mattheiss ~ 11/04

Dennis Kirkwood ~ 11/05

Gail Lowe ~ 11/11

Joseph Comaty ~ 11/12

Thomas Mason ~ 11/13

Dan Scott ~ 11/13

Malcolm Daughton ~ 11/14

Sean Dietz ~ 11/14

Debbie Calary ~ 11/20

Laura Fielder ~ 11/20

Dave Kirshner ~ 11/24

Dylan Sambor ~ 11/27

Betty Rogers ~ 11/28

Albert Troyer ~ 11/28



Brian & Lisa Calary
November 5th

Allen & Ginny Eberwein
November 8th

Nelson & Nancy Berigtold
November 11th

Jack & Barbara Shaul
November 24th

Mo & Ruth Howard
November 25th



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DEACON'S UPDATE

We uphold the following members, relatives and friends in our prayers and pray God's healing upon them:

Prayer Concerns

Billy Gross, Dorothy Goldstein, George Reeves, Jerry Wiley, Carolyn Mattheiss, Allen Henderson, Beverly Schmidt, Joe Bradford, George Cowman, and Betty Rogers.

Dan Kelleher, brother-in-law of Jack and Betty Rogers.

Howard Eisner, brother-in-law of Carol Morrow.

Gail Kimble, niece of Tom & MaryLee Swift.

Hazel Liff, friend of Andi & Ron Holmes.

Jean Mattheiss, sister of Bruce Mattheiss.

Leah Ridenour, friend of Gail Thomas.

John Dorn, friend of John & Rita Cairnes.

Mary Borrell, aunt of Gail Lowe.

Frank Clement, friend of Sam and Marsha Brooks.

Becky Hoffman, niece of Sam & Marsha Brooks.

Dorothy Ornadoff, friend of Sandy Hughes.

Ruth Anne Poole, sister of Gail Thomas.

The Rode Family, family of Melissa Dick.

Patricia Garcia, aunt of Melissa Dick.

Gail Lowe will be updating the Prayer Concerns. If you would like to add someone or you feel someone can be removed from the list, please call Gail at 443-567-0150 or email her at gggalowe@aol.com



Dear Bethel Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation for the purchase of food for our food pantry. We will be organizing our Thanksgiving Giving Boxes volunteer event a little differently this year due to COVID-19. We ask that you visit our website for more details.

Thank you for your continued support.

In Christ's Service,
The Giving Boxes 2020 Committee
Christ Our King Presbyterian Church
www.christourking.net



On behalf of the members of Bethel, we are so grateful to Shirlee Nystrom and Ruth Walker for all their hard work in designing and sewing our new Banner. It is absolutely beautiful! We are truly blessed to have such talented, caring, dedicated members at Bethel.



Our featured Bethel Member for November to receive our *Shower of Cards* of support, love, encouragement, and laughter will be ...

Betty Rogers
3747 Salem Church Road
Jarrettsville, MD 21084

I'm sure she would love to receive a note letting her know that you are thinking of her and are wishing her well or even a birthday wish (11/28).

Church Events

All Saints' Day Worship Service

Please join us for the **All Saints' Day Worship Service** honoring all those who have entered into the Church Triumphant on ...

Sunday ~ November 1st

The following individuals will be acknowledged during our Service:

Gretchen Shanklin

May 1, 2020

Hannah Jane Turner

October 6, 2020

We hope you are able to attend this service acknowledging the family and the life of their loved one.



Trustees Clean-Up Event

The Board of Trustees & Boy Scouts will be having a Clean-Up Day on

Saturday ~ November 14th

Rain Date will be November 21st

If you are able to volunteer to help our Trustee Members and Boy Scouts clean up around the church, please contact Dave Hinkley, President of the Board of Trustees, at comtech@lycos.com



Church Events

The Giving Boxes

Christ Our King Presbyterian Church will be packing boxes for Thanksgiving meals for families in need in our community. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, a limited number of volunteers will be allowed. If you are interested in being part of this service to our community, please go to their website for more details.



**Saturday ~ November 21st
9:00 a.m.**



With your help, the 1,100 boxes will be filled with food and loaded on to trucks, ready for distribution to families throughout Maryland.

Christ Our King Presbyterian Church
10 Lexington Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
christourking.net



Harvest Home Sunday

Bethel Sunday School Students will be collecting non-perishable food items for a local food bank. Please bring in your donation by ...

Sunday ~ November 15th

If you are unable to attend Worship Service on Harvest Home Sunday, we will be glad to accept your food donation on

Saturday ~ November 14th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
in the Foyer of the CE Building.



Please consider helping those in need during this most difficult time. We all can do our part in making our world a better place. Let's be disciples of Jesus and share our love with others.



Bethel Family Life ...



Ever wonder how that mouse gets in the videos during our Worship Service? Our camera man — Kirk Jones is the culprit.

Thanks for making our videos fun to the very end ❤️

Sunday School fun by our new trees. We can't wait to see how the trees and these students grow together and one day have their children standing beneath this tree for our annual photo.



Trunk—or—Treat with The Smiths ... what cool costumes Douglas & Sophia !



WOW ! How creative are these pumpkins
Amazing job Chrissie & Carolina !!





Who knew Marsha Brooks was such a talented seashell artist ! What a beautiful way to display nature and preserve it's beauty. So fun to see how you are enjoying your Quarantine Life 😊



How exciting to see Laura Fielder in the field and making new friends !! The Disney Princesses have nothing on you !! Look at that gorgeous smile. Way to go Laura ❤️



Ahhh ... a grandmother's love ... always beautiful
Janet Henderson



Christmas ? In November ?
Pastor Todd has a jump on the holidays !!

