
Bethel Prayer Concerns

Sunday, December 25, 2022



PRAYER REQUESTS

Vernon Law; Anneke Oonk

EVERYWHERE AND ALWAYS

Right here.

That's where God is.

In the sun that turns our bedroom gold,
in the creaks of this old house, and in birthday candles on the cake;
in clean sheets, sock feet, and porch-sitting;
in pancakes for breakfast and pancakes for dinner;
in the swell of a lit candle, in fireplace conversations;
in your grandmother's carrot cake, and the smell of evergreen.

God is in the seed-starters on the porch,
and the space between my bones;

in garlic butter, early mornings, and twinkle lights.

Certainly in dancing and laughing, in cups of coffee,
in the art hung on the fridge, snail mail, long phone calls,
and *oh how I love yous*. God is right here.

God pulled up a seat. God has traveled all the way to the heart.

Tell the next generation.

Bethel Presbyterian Church Announcements

Childcare for infants and preschool age children is offered from 9:30 a.m. until noon in the nursery.

The Quiet Room is available during worship.

REFLECTIONS

The Word became flesh and swelled among us filled with grace and truth. The astonishing mystery of the Incarnation—of God dwelling in bodily form—shows that God loves and blesses us in frail and limited bodies with power to speak love. Where will you embody God's love made known to us in Christ this day?



There will be no Children's Sunday School classes on Jan 1.

FROM THE FINANCE TEAM

As we approach the end of the year, please know that we are grateful for the support you have given the church throughout the year. If you are planning to make additional charitable gifts before the year's end, please note that all contributions to the church for 2022 tax purposes must be received by the church in 2022 or be postmarked by 12/31/2022 if mailed to the church. Thank you for your faithful support of Bethel and its missions.

HOME FOOD COLLECTION

For the month of January our focus foods are **Canned Pasta (Spaghetti-O's, Chef Boyardee, etc.)**. These and other non-perishable food items can be brought in through-out the month and placed in the yellow collection boxes in the Gathering Area. Thank you for supporting our local food pantry efforts to help needy families in our community.

THESE DAYS

a daily devotional, for Jan. Feb. & March

is available on the table in the Gathering Area. Be sure to pick one up today. *“To nurture the daily practice of prayer and the reading of Scripture, there is solid help in the pages of These Days. The devotions wrestle faithfully with the doubts, joys, and challenges of the Christian life.”*

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

In the church calendar we have now entered the Season of Christmas. The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day - the birth of Jesus, and the Epiphany (Jan. 6th) - the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world. In celebration of the season our Christmas decorations remain displayed through Epiphany.

FEAR NOT!

On that first Christmas night, the angel said to the shepherds: “Do not be afraid” (Luke 2:10). What is there to fear from a baby? A baby is powerless, with no guile, no anger and no judgment, only needing from us without fearing we will not provide: simply trusting, and content to be resting in our arms. This is how God came. This is Christmas. This one child, and for a time, perhaps too brief, our fears are taken over by our love for this child, and he is able to change our hearts. ...

In Jesus, we are free to live life as fully and as joyfully as we will allow ourselves. For it is only we who hold ourselves back. God does not. For God has forgiven us in this baby and will not restrain us from living with sheer abandon, trusting in this gentle and gracious God, who keeps telling us: “Do not be afraid.”

—Gary Westgard, *At Break of Day*



Bethel Presbyterian Church Calendar

December 25 – January 1



Sun. 25	CHRISTMAS DAY No Sunday School 11:00 Worship (S)
Mon. 26	10:00 Bethel Art Ministry (BAM) (2 nd Fl) 7:00 Boy Scouts (FH)
Tues. 27	10-Noon Rug Hooking 6:00-7:00 Tai Chi (FH)
Wed. 28	6:00 Choir Practice (C)
Thurs. 29	OFFICE CLOSED
Fri. 30	OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 Tai Chi (FH)
Sat. 31	
Sun. 1	



11:00 Worship (S)

*C=Choir Room, S =Sanctuary, L=Library,
RR=Reading Room, FH=Fellowship Hall, GA=Gathering Area*

MERRY CHRISTMAS