

07.23.2023

Thank you for joining us for worship today! Please remember to silence your electronic devices before service starts. **Extra Seating** for worship is available in the fellowship hall.

Save the Date: August 7 at 7:00 p.m. Walt Williams Jr. will be performing at *Music at the Market* in Bronson. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy some gospel music!

“The Chosen -- Part 3” -- Episode 3: “*Physician, Heal Yourself*” this Wednesday, July 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Bring a snack to share.

Women’s Fellowship still has some items from the Blanketmakers available for donation to their scholarship fund in the fellowship hall. There are envelopes available for your donation.

Blooming Faith -- Saturday morning devotional times at Little Hands Garden this summer. Pick up the schedule in the lobby or go to www.little-handsgarden.com/events.

Factoryville Christian Church is looking for a new School Administrator/ Associate Pastor. Contact the school at factoryvillechristianschool.com or (269) 729-4203 for more information.

Church Directory -- The “summer edition” of the directory is available in the lobby. If you need to make changes or want to be included, please complete a “Connect” card and drop in the offering plate.

For the parents of our little ones -- Please feel free to use the nursery (up the stairs and first door on the left). The service is available to view in there. Young children will be dismissed for *Children’s Church* during morning worship if they wish to attend.



Ways to Give: Offering plates are in the lobby. Donations can be made online by going to bethelgilead.org (Donate tab), or by scanning the QR code to the left and using PayPal. You can authorize a monthly debit from your bank account by completing a form (contact the office).

876 Block Road Bronson MI 49028

PASTOR JIM ERWIN

ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID MINARD

CHURCH OFFICE

pastorjim@bethelgilead.org

pastor.david@bethelgilead.org

office@bethelgilead.org

517.756.8001

517.756.8000

517.369.1588



So Very Thankful
Incredibly Grateful
Unbelievably Blessed

07.23.23



Bethel Gilead Community Church

876 Block Road Bronson MI 49028

Announcements and Opening Prayer

Opening Worship: Jewish Medley

The Sufficiency of Faith

"The Problem of Pain"

I. If God is good, why does evil exist?

- *Evil = Anything that negatively impacts people (abuse, injustice, crime, war, natural disaster, tragedies, sickness, death)
- *Why do bad things happen to good people?
- *Suffering challenges our faith in the nature of God (God is good and God is great)

II. A Parallel Problem for Atheists and Nonbelievers

- *Why do good things happen to bad people?
- *"The problem of pleasure": (truth, moral goodness, social justice and beauty?)
- *The law of the jungle doesn't fit the human longing for justice!

III. Sufficient Faith = Based on the truth of God

- *Free will and "Original Sin" ([Genesis 3:1-11](#))
- *The devil prompts and promotes sin
- *Sin produces and propagates suffering
The wages of sin is death ([Romans 6:23](#))

IV. The Broader Character of God -- Justice and Mercy

- *Alvin Plantinga -- University of Notre Dame
- *Justice: The judgement of evil ([Romans 6:23a](#))
- *Mercy: The salvation of humanity ([Romans 6:23b](#))
- *A future fulfillment -- The new creation ([Revelation 21:1-4](#))

V. Reality Orientation -- Living life in a fallen world

- *The eye is the lamp of the body ([Matthew 6:22](#))
- *Be wise as snakes but innocent as doves ([Matthew 10:16](#))
- *Overcome evil with good ([Romans 12:21](#))

Application

1. Cultivate a theology of "good and evil"
2. Identify with the needs and sufferings of others
3. Find a cause and do something about it!

Closing Song: Job's Song

Next Week: "Self Forgiveness"

Our Mission

"WE HONOR GOD THROUGH REGULARLY ASSEMBLING TOGETHER TO WORSHIP HIM AS LORD, STUDY AND OBEY HIS WORD, AND ATTEND TO THE NEEDS OF HIS PEOPLE. WHEN WE LEAVE, WE GO OUT COMMISSIONED AS CHRIST'S REPRESENTATIVES TO A NEEDY WORLD"

Prayer Concerns

Recent additions

Sally Davis -- kidney issues
Infant Charli Anae Dules -- difficulty nursing
Jill and Russ Siler -- loss of Jill's brother
Family of Jonas Rigg
Family of Marvin Lindsey
Flo Cabrera -- recovery from shoulder surgery
Angelina James -- treatment for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
Kathy Reger and Family -- loss of her mother
Family of Gary Lake -- Jeff Lake's father
Marcia Lane -- heart concerns
Nikki Maartin -- strength and recovery after mild stroke

Continue to Remember Those in Need

Tim McKinley -- treatment for digestive issues
de Araujo family -- special needs grandson, Luke
The Carpenter Family
Dale Davis -- dialysis and gall bladder issues
Lisa Franks -- pain management

Remember Our Homebound/Shut In Members

Betty Carpenter -- Laurels
Norita Skinner -- Maple Lawn
Don Rubley -- at home

Pray for our nation and the world during these uncertain days