

12.11.2022

Christmas Decorations: Thank you to Greg and Nikki Maertin, Sharon Shy-righ, Pastor Dave and the youth group for decorating the sanctuary, narthex and entries and to Linda McDonald for the banner in the sound room.

Women's Fellowship will be going to Shipshewana this Tuesday, December 13. Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. to carpool for lunch and shopping.

Christmas Carolling: Join us in spreading holiday cheer next Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. More information coming soon.

Men's Steak Out is coming to Coldwater on Saturday, January 14. See Pastor Jim for tickets.

Connect! - If you are new or have made a change to your contact information, please fill out a "Connect" card and place it in the offering plate or hand it to one of the greeters. This is how we can text or email you with updates and important information during the week.

In Case of Inclement Weather -- Worship service will be available on Facebook or YouTube at 9:30 a.m. Pastors Jim and Dave will normally be at church for those who want to brave the weather and venture out.

For the parents of our little ones: There is a room behind the sanctuary for parents of restless toddlers. The **nursery** (up the stairs, first door on the left) is also open and the service is available to be viewed and listened to there. Kids through fifth grade will be dismissed for **Children's Church** during worship if they wish to participate.

Financial Update:

November giving (regular collections)	\$21,887.23
November average attendance (in house)	138
(online)	92

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 (on the information desk in the lobby or contact the office).



876 Block Road Bronson MI 49028

PASTOR JIM ERWIN

ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID MINARD

CHURCH OFFICE

pastorjim@bethelgilead.org

pastordavid@bethelgilead.org

office@bethelgilead.org

517.756.8001

517.756.8000

517.369.1588



Bethel Gilead Community Church

Announcements and Opening Prayer

Opening Worship:

Christmas Hymn Sing, hymns 120 - 162

Advent Wreath -- "Love"

The Smith Family

CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

([Jude 3](#))

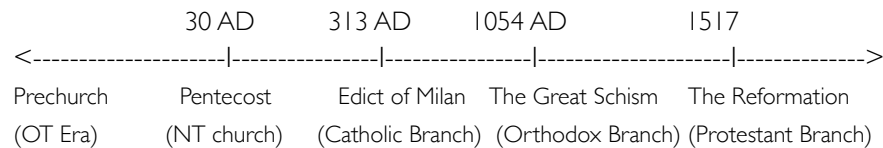
"The Faith" = Historic Christianity

(Theology -- Anthropology -- Ecclesiology)

I. What happens when churches fail at their mission?

*The Seven Churches of Asia Minor ([Revelation 2-3](#))

II. The Historic Trajectory of the Church



III. Prominent Denominational Divisions

1. Geography 2. Government 3. Doctrine 4. Traditions

*Orthodox Christianity: The Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed

*What about sects?

IV. The Modern Church Crisis: "Worldliness" ([2 Timothy 3:1-5](#), [1 John 2:15-17](#))

1. Liberalism = The nature of truth (Objective vs. Subjective)

2. Materialism = Secular vs. Sacred Values

3. Hedonism = The pursuit of pleasure

4. Sensualism = The craze for sex

V. The Law of Love

The greatest of these is love ([1 Corinthians 13:13](#))

What matters is faith expressing itself through love ([Galatians 5:6](#))

*The Greatest Commandment + The New Commandment

Application

1. Do you understand the history of the Christian church?
2. Can you explain the basic Christian doctrines?
3. Is your Christian faith characterized by godliness or worldliness?
4. How prominent a role does love play in your life?

Next Week: Contend for Christmas!

Closing Song: The Church's One Foundation -- Hymn 277

Live the Life with Prayer

Recent additions

Kim Paul -- stage 4 cancer
Tom Schoenherr - Physical decline
The family of Eloise Franke
The family of Christine Neesley
Russ Heckathorn -- chemotherapy
Al Miller - recurrence of cancer

Praises

Jo Mayer -- healing from broken arm
The birth of Gideon Carpenter
Bruce Kaufman -- recovering from surgery
Norm Carpenter -- recovering from surgery and cancer free
Numerous members recently recovered from Covid

Continue to Remember Those in Need

Lynn Mayer -- dealing with double vision, balance issues
Dawn Lane -- breast cancer
Don Rubley -- bladder cancer
The Carpenter Family
Dale Davis -- dialysis and gall bladder issues
Lisa Franks -- pain management

Remember Our Homebound/Shut In Members

Norita Skinner -- Maple Lawn
Neil Hannah -- at home on hospice
Betty Carpenter -- Laurels

Pray for our nation and the world during these uncertain days

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."