

12.17.2023

Welcome to our worship service. We are glad you are joining us today! The service can also be viewed in our fellowship hall and nursery. Kindly silence your phone before service.

Christmas Linger Longer -- Join us for birthday cake for Jesus and a hot cocoa bar after service today.

Christmas carolling will start at 4:00 p.m. today -- pick up a schedule in the lobby or for an online version click on the link [online caroling plan](#). Join us as you can at any location.

Christmas Eve Service -- next Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m. Invite a friend!

Adult Ed and Sunday School classes on are break until January 7.

Branch County Men of Integrity's 27th Annual Steak Out: Saturday, January 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the Dearth Center in Coldwater. Featured speaker is former NFL player, David Akers. See Scott Carpenter for tickets (\$25.00 each)

Branch County Canopy of Prayer: Join Christians in the county as we pray. Our day is the first Thursday of each month, anytime between 7:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m. Prayer focus sheets are available in the lobby. *Our next day of prayer is January 4.*



Peace-today.com-- an online resource for podcasts, books, research and testimonials on some of the topics from this summer's sermon series. Scan the QR code to the left or pick up a flier in the lobby.



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).

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*A Season of Hope
Love, JOY, Peace,
Found in Christ*

12.17.23



Bethel Gilead Community Church
876 Block Rd. Bronson MI. 49028

Announcements and Opening Prayer

Opening Worship:

(Verse one of each)
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear -- Hymn 128
Away in a Manger -- Hymn 157
The First Noel -- Hymn 136

Tijuana Team Presentation
Children's Nativity Message

A Firm Foundation

Therefore whoever hears these words of mine and puts them into practice.....
([Matthew 7:24-25](#))

I. The Practical Teaching of Jesus Christ

- *Life Principles ([John 7:63](#))
- *Sermon on the Mount Samples
([Matthew 5:9, 16, 44; 6:20, 33; 7:1, 7, 12](#))

II. Practicing Your Faith ([James 1:22](#))

- *Practice makes perfect
- *Practice makes permanent
*"Practice solidifies specific actions, it creates habit patterns
and forms character through concentrated effort and repetition."*

III. Four Holy Habits

1. A daily walk with God
(devotional life)
 2. Weekly worship
(corporate worship, formal instruction)
 3. A small group connection
(spiritual nurture, accountability)
 4. Gifted service
- *Honorable mention: Winsome Witness!

Application

1. Do you practice what you preach?
2. Does your lifestyle reflect Jesus' life principles?
3. Which of the Four Focuses are presently missing from your
Christian life experience?

Closing Song: *Take My Life/Fully Alive*

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

Brian Debolt - Covid
Wanda Debolt - in hospice care
Flo Cabrera's brother, Lalo -- stage 4 stomach cancer
Nikki Maertin -- recovering from gallbladder surgery
Jesse Albright -- recovering from hernia surgery
Sue Craft -- death of grandson, Adam
Verna Miller -- in rehab following hip surgery
Bonnie Miller -- recuperating from surgery
The family of Tom Schoenherr
The family of Norita Skinner
Dale Davis -- recovering from broken leg at home
Sharon Shyrigh -- healing from surgery

Praises

Andrew and Jennifer Labadie's new son, Hudson Ray.
Melvin and Barbara Stutzman's new daughter, Olivia Rose.

Continue to Remember Those in Need

Jim Wickey -- lower back pain
The Carpenter Family
Lisa Franks -- pain management

Remember Our Homebound/Shut In Members

Betty Carpenter -- Laurels
Don Rubley -- at home

Pray for our nation and the world during these uncertain days