

12.18.2022

Adult Ed and Sunday School classes are on break until January 8. Small groups will resume after the holidays.

Christmas Carolling: Join us in spreading holiday cheer today. We will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. or join us at one of the planned stops in Bronson and Coldwater. The schedule and songs are in the lobby and you can get the songs on the church website www.bethelgilead.org

Thank you to Sharon Shyrigh for the bookmarks included in your bulletin today.

Blanketmakers will not meet this month and will meet again in January.

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.

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).



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

12.18.22



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

Call to Worship: *Little Drummer Boy*

Announcements and Opening Prayer

Opening Worship: *Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)*
What a Glorious Night
Hymn of Joy
Adore

Advent Wreath -- "Joy" *The Albright Family*

CONTEND FOR THE FAITH

([Luke 3](#))

Introduction

Holiday Traditions!

I. Controversy over Christmas

The Prediction of Simeon ([Luke 2:34-35](#))

II. Secularizing the Sacred

*The Big Three: Christmas, Easter and All Saints Day

*Worldview Wars

*The Freedom from Religion Foundation

III. Offensive Christmas Concepts ([Luke 2:8-14](#))

(v. 9) The supernatural realm

(v. 10) The universality of the gospel

(v. 11) Salvation from sin ([John 10:33](#))

(v. 11) The diety of Christ

(v. 12) The offense of the manger ([1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#), [Philippians 2:5-8](#))

(v. 14) The call to worship God

(v. 14) The true road to peace?

IV. The polarization of light and darkness

The light shines in the darkness but the darkness has not understood it.

([John 1:5](#), [John 8:12](#))

Let your light so shine before men ([Matthew 5:16](#))

*Charles Shultz -- A Charlie Brown Christmas

Application

1. How do you feel about the secularization of Christmas?
2. Do you understand why people take offense at Christ?
3. Are you ready to "love 'em anyway"?

Birthday Party for Jesus

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
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."*