

12.24.2023

Merry Christmas to you and your family! We are glad you've joined us this morning. Extra seating for the service is available in the fellowship hall and nursery (up the stairs, first door on the left)

Adult Ed and Sunday School classes are on break until January 7. Linger Longers will resume on January 7.

Birthday Party -- The congregation is invited to a 90th birthday party for Sarah Jane Fair on Saturday, December 30 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. at the church.

2024 Night to Shine -- Volunteer training will be on Sunday, January 14 at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and Monday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m. All training sessions will be at Hope Church, 200 North Fremont in Coldwater. See Amy Lonczowski or Jennie deAraujo with any questions.

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. Please remember those with mobility issues and leave the parking spaces closest to the entry doors open.

Branch County Men of Integrity's 27th Annual Steak Out: Saturday, January 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the Dearth Center in Coldwater. See Pastor Jim for tickets (\$25.00 each)

Branch County Canopy of Prayer: 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 -- c contact the office.

PASTOR JIM ERWIN

pastorjim@bethelgilead.org

517.756.8001

ASSOCIATE PASTOR DAVID MINARD

pastor.david@bethelgilead.org

517.756.8000

CHURCH OFFICE

office@bethelgilead.org

517.369.1588



*A Season of Hope
Love, Joy, Peace,
Found in CHRIST*

12.24.23



Bethel Gilead Community Church

Call to Worship: O What a Glorious Night
Announcements and Opening Prayer
Opening Worship: Joy to the World/Unspeakable Joy
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
O Come O Come Emmanuel
A Hallelujah Christmas

Children's Nativity Message

From Darkness to Light

(Isaiah 9:2)

Christmas : The Season of Light!

I. Dark Times in Eighth Century BC

- *Israel on the brink ([Isaiah 8:21-22](#))
- *Light is coming ([Isaiah 9:1-2](#))
- *A child/king will reign forever ([Isaiah 9:6-7](#))

II. Darkness in First Century AD

- *Israel under Roman rule ([Luke 2:1-3](#))
- *The child/king is born ([Luke 2:4-7](#))
- *The light shines forth ([John 1:4-5](#))
- *Jesus the light of the world ([John 8:12](#))

III. 21st Century Darkness

Definition: Darkness = The absence of light

- *Last days predictions ([2 Timothy 3:1-5](#))
(Spiritual idolatry, moral depravity, falsehood, the abuse of power, violence)
- *The promise of light ([Matthew 5:16](#), [1 John 1:5-7](#), [Ephesians 5:8](#))
Do not be overcome by evil. Overcome evil with good. ([Romans 12:21](#))

Application

"The darker the night, the brighter the light!"

1. Come into the light
2. Live in the light
3. Shine forth in the darkness

Closing Song: Silent Night

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
Gary Olbeter - Covid
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