

# Bethel Focus

Bethel Presbyterian Church, Organized 1764

## What Are You Meditating On?

*“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” Psalm 1:1-3 (ESV)*

I don't know if you've ever thought about the order of the Psalms, but it's actually intentional. The 150 Psalms weren't randomly placed; careful thought was given to the location of each Psalm within the Psalter. Psalm 1 is no exception. It isn't just the first Psalm; it's an introduction to all of the Psalms, setting the tone and theme of the whole book. And one of its key emphases is the contrast between two groups of people: the righteous and the wicked.

What's the difference between these groups? Verse 2 gives the answer- the righteous has “his delight in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.” Put simply, the righteous DELIGHTS in and MEDITATES on God and His word. That word



“meditate” literally means “chew” in Hebrew. To meditate upon something is to “chew” it with the “teeth” of our minds and our hearts. To ponder it, press it deeply into our feelings, examine it from different angles, and seek to get a better grasp of its significance. And then to shape one's life accordingly.

If you're like me, you've been doing exactly that--meditating--on lots of things recently. The latest news and updates. Governmental orders and instructions. Medical advice. Facts and data. Stimulus checks. The economy. New, necessary ways of living. And more. As we think about all these things (and we should!), it's so easy to forget to meditate upon God and His word. Friends, this should not be! Meditating upon God, fixing our minds up-

on Him, seeking after Him...that is the very thing we need MOST right now. It's precisely when life becomes full, stressful, or challenging that we need to be more diligent at working to fix our minds on God.

So...what are you meditating on?

Friends, spend time with God, especially in our current circumstances! Feed your minds on His words and digest them slowly, savoring the texture, enjoying the flavor of rich fare. “Here consecrated water flows to cleanse the guilt of sin; here the fair tree of knowledge grows, no danger dwells within.” It's more than worth it.

A great place to start is with Psalm 1. It's ultimately talking about Jesus. HE is the blessed man. He's the only one

May 2020

### Sermon Schedule

- 5/3 “Raised With Christ”  
Colossians 3:1-4
- 5/10 “Murder and New Clothes”  
Colossians 3:1-4
- 5/17 “The Peace of Christ”  
Colossians 3:15-17
- 5/24 “Life Together”  
Colossians 3:17-4:1
- 5/31 “Who Are We?”  
Timothy 3:14-16

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who never walked in the way of the wicked, though He did walk with them. He's the only one who always delighted in and followed the Father's will, even to death on a cross. And He is the only one who stands firm, providing shelter and comfort to His people, bringing forth life, sustaining and nourishing them. Meditate upon Him! “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.”

In Christ,  
Peter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01 <a href="#">Lindsey Hall</a> <a href="#">BSRT</a>	02
03 <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> <a href="#">Deacon's Fund Collection</a> <a href="#">Janice Currence</a>	04 <a href="#">Jordan Weatherby</a> <a href="#">Patsy Black</a>	05 <a href="#">Diaconate Meeting</a>	06 <a href="#">Anna Drechsler</a>	07	08 <a href="#">Nicholas Whitesides</a>	09 <a href="#">Cullie Mounts</a> <a href="#">Joy Payne</a>
10 <a href="#">Choir Practice</a>	11 <a href="#">Macie Hall</a>	12	13 <a href="#">Colleen Riddle Circle (FLC)</a>	14 <a href="#">Tommy Dixon</a> <a href="#">Sara Weatherby</a> <a href="#">Basketball</a>	15 <a href="#">Ella Riddle Forrest</a>	16
17 <a href="#">Choir Practice</a> <a href="#">Shirley Coker</a> <a href="#">Linda Johnson</a> <a href="#">FLC Rsv'd-Harper Family...</a> <a href="#">Session Meeting</a> <a href="#">Evangelism &amp; Outreach Team...</a>	18 <a href="#">Basketball</a>	19 <a href="#">Basketball</a>	20 <a href="#">Michelle Stowe</a> <a href="#">CHS Baccalaureate Service</a>	21 <a href="#">Basketball</a>	22	23 <a href="#">Harry Compton</a> <a href="#">Peggy Long</a> <a href="#">William Flanagan</a> <a href="#">Don McCarter</a>
24 <a href="#">Choir Practice</a>	25 <a href="#">Jim Jackson</a> <a href="#">Wayne Ensley</a> <a href="#">Calvin Reese</a> <a href="#">Basketball</a>	26 <a href="#">Bobby Meek</a> <a href="#">Todd Meek</a> <a href="#">Basketball</a>	27 <a href="#">Duree Burnett</a> <a href="#">Senior Citizens Luncheon</a>	28 <a href="#">Sarah Johnson</a> <a href="#">Ainsley Miller</a> <a href="#">Bill Johnson</a> <a href="#">Basketball</a>	29	30 <a href="#">Marcia Trevino</a> <a href="#">Virginia Johnson</a>
31 <a href="#">Choir Practice</a>	01	02	03	04	05	06

**Men of the Covenant:** Will not meet in May due to coronavirus concerns but will hopefully meet in June.

**Diaconate Meeting:** May 5, 7:00pm.  
**Session Meeting:** May 17, 2:00pm.

**Senior Citizens Luncheon:** May 27, 12:00pm, FLC.



## Session Minutes

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Thursday April 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM via video and conference call with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake for a called Session meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss updating our worship and activity schedule in light of the Coronavirus.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to cancel all church activities through April 15, 2020. We will continue to hold "virtual", not physical, corporate worship services for the next two Lord's Days April 5 and April 12, 2020 via Facebook Live. Our observance of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper scheduled for Sunday April 5 will be rescheduled for a later date. The church office will remain open.

Peter and James will continue to communicate, through the Bethel Member email loop, on how the congregation can participate in our "Virtual" worship.

Marcus also mentioned as information that Peter and James will engage our youth in various ways as well as reaching out to our families during this time.

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Thursday April 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM via video and conference call with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake for a called Session meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss updating our worship and activity schedule in light of the Coronavirus.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to cancel all church activities through April 30, 2020. We will continue to hold "virtual", not physical, corporate worship services for the next two Lord's Days April 19 and April 26, 2020 via Facebook Live. The Session will continue to meet via conference and video call. The church office will remain open.

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 2:00 PM via video and conference call with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake, for the regular monthly meeting.

The Session reviewed the Financial Report dated March 31, 2020, which is appended to the file copy of these Session minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the Financial Report.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to approve actions taken via email

on March 13, March 15 and March 16, 2020 regarding congregational communications, the minutes of the March 8, March 19, April 2, April 7 and April 16 Session meetings as written and emailed to the Session, as well as the April 2 Executive Session meeting minutes as written and emailed to the Session.

Marcus, in keeping with the plan to devote 20 minutes of each monthly meeting to an "Equipping" discussion, reviewed chapter 5 of the book *"The Shepherd Leader"*, by Timothy Z. Witmer.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to approve the 2020 Statistical report as prepared by Neil Allen and submitted online February 17, 2020.

Rev. Chris Hodge, pastor of King's Cross Church, joined the meeting at 3:05 PM and provided a report about Kings Cross Church and how they are doing spiritually and financially. Chris also answered questions from the Session during this time. Chris asked the Session to pray for Karen and their family as well as their fellowship group and for perseverance in all that they are doing. Chris was dismissed in prayer by Chris Wallace.

A motion was made seconded and approved to approve the report from Rev. Chris Hodge and King's Cross Church.

Bobby Love and Neil Allen provided an update on the Session directed building project. A lengthy discussion was held regarding additional information required from the sub-committee.

Ross Love provided an update from the personnel review committee regarding our additional assistant pastor search. The Session agreed to continue actively searching but with understanding we are not sure of the timing of this hire at this time due to the potential ongoing financial impact of the coronavirus.

Rev. Peter Scheidt provided the Session with an update on his work with Youth programs and other ministries. Peter also updated the status of our summer camps due to the coronavirus.

James Heard provided the Session with an update on his school and ministry as well as an update on Jillian. A motion was made, seconded and approved to approve the following vacation dates: Marcus - May 22, 24 and 26, 2020. Peter - April 23, 26 and May 4 thru 10, 2020.

Marcus offered the following as infor-

mation: Fellowship Presbytery scheduled for April 25 has been postponed. PCA General Assembly is cancelled for 2020. Gary Watanabe will preach Sunday (International Mission Sunday) April 26, 2020.

Our next regular Session meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2020.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Steve Linder.

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Tuesday April 28, 2020 at 6:30 PM via video and conference call with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Vlake for a called Session meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss updating our worship and activity schedule in light of the Coronavirus.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to cancel all church activities through May 12, 2020. We will continue to hold "virtual", not physical, corporate worship services for the next two Lord's days May 3 and May 10, 2020 via Facebook Live. The Session will continue to meet via conference and video call. The church office will remain open. Corporate worship at Bethel will resume, using a phased-in process, on the Lord's day May 17, 2020. Bethel's worship will continue to be live streamed via Facebook Live once we resume corporate worship.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to move Bethel's Homecoming Sunday to July 26, 2020 and to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's supper on that same day.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Chris Wallace.

Neil D. Allen, Clerk of Session

### Financial Update:

**MULTIPLY Building Fund**  
**Balance Mar 31:** \$1,095,507  
**March:** \$13,429  
**Tithes and Offerings**  
**2020 Budget:** \$671,274  
**YTD Mar 31:** \$119,333  
**March:** \$40,334

## International Missions Spotlight

### *Susan Sundeen-Durango, Mexico*

Susan Sundeen got her B.A. in Spanish and an M.S. in Library Science. She worked six years as a hospital librarian. When she moved to Chattanooga to help friends establish a chiropractic office, God got her attention. After surrendering to Christ, Susan dove into discipleship and earned a Certificate in Biblical Studies from Columbia International University (CIU.)

Susan joined the Watanabes in Monterrey, Mexico as a pioneer on the MTW team that mentored nationals for church planting. As a member of the MTW team, Susan facilitated many church's mission trips to Monterrey, Mx over the next ten years. Through that interaction the Susan Sundeen/ Bethel relationship was begun.

Susan moved to Durango, Mexico in 2012 to help establish a church-planting hub in western Mexico. Today, Susan calls Durango home. She has taken on leadership roles in the Women's ministry at both church plants in Durango. Susan also leads the elementary-aged kids Christian Education program where she teaches with the help of Misael, one of the young men on the leader-

ship team.

Susan has had her share of health challenges this past winter. Several respiratory infections complicated by asthma have plagued Susan. Please be in prayer for Susan's health to improve as the weather gets warmer. Susan is scheduled to return back to the states in Jan. of 2021 for her next HMA. Please be in prayer that the national church leaders in Durango are mature in Christ and have the talents to assume Susan's roles in the church as they work through a turnover process later this year.



### Prayer Requests:

- The Van Vlake family.
- Assistant Pastor Peter Scheidt and his wife Bekah.
- New Assistant Pastor search.
- Pastoral Intern James Heard and his wife Jillian.
- Elders and Deacons, WIC officers, Sunday School teachers, Bible Study leaders, Youth leaders/teachers, giving thanks for their faithfulness and willingness to serve.
- Local ministries such as God's Kitchen, Clover Area Assistance Center and Biblical Studies Released Time.
- Reformed University Fellowship.
- Our missionaries serving throughout the country and throughout the world.
- Our community and our country, especially for wisdom and safety in dealing with Covid-19.
- Please pray for the lost that don't know of or believe in Jesus. Pray as well for Bethel and other bible believing and gospel preaching churches to be blessed in our efforts to evangelize and make disciples locally and to the ends of the earth.
- Our college students.
- Expectant mothers and their unborn babies within the church family.
- Anna Bennett (breast cancer) and family, (friends of the Falls family), Rick Duke (cancer) and wife Judy (friends of C. Davis), Judy Ferguson (healing from surgery), Margaret Ann Ferguson, Kathy Forester (E. Moseley's sister, breast cancer), Matthew Hall, Miriam Hovis, Martha Kendrick, Jan Kombs (friend of J. LeMoyne, stroke), Herb LeMoyne (J. LeMoyne's brother, Parkinson's disease), Dana Massey (advanced brain cancer, friend of S. Burns), Annie Mae McDaniel (J. Ferguson's mother), Jim Pittman (V. Linder's brother, cancer) and Adam Stowe (leukemia).