



Covenant Partner News

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Volume 4

Issue 7

Message From Evangelistic Outreach

*((Excerpt from EVANTELL Pause & Ponder Blog
by R. Larry Moyer, January 25, 2024))*

New Year: Same Gospel

As the New Year unfolds, I am as distressed as anybody about what is happening in our society today. But I grieve over the fact that Christians in general are overlooking the fact that THE answer to today's problems is the GOSPEL. People need to hear: "Christ died for your sins and rose from the dead." There has to be a change on the inside before there can be a change on the outside. Regeneration has to precede reformation. So, start the New Year by asking God to grant you opportunities to share the gospel, to grant you the wisdom to recognize those opportunities, and to grant you the boldness to step into those opportunities.

How will you begin to work these requests into your life?

BETHESDA ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11, 2024		
Sunday School	Prayer Meeting	Bible Study
Men (7 avg.)	Tuesday (33)	Tuesday (29)
Women (18 avg.)	1) Pray for continued unity among BBC church members. 2) Pray for the leadership of BBC and their families. 3) Pray for Trustee Mary Armstead to our Trustee Board and Assistant Chair of Trustee Board William Brown that God will give them what they need to carry out their duties. 4) Pray for insight, wisdom, and strength for Pastor Mike as he shepherd and cares for the BBC flock. 5) Pray that the funds necessary to repair BBC's roof as well as other building repairs will come. 6) Ask God to help us to follow Jesus' command to love one another as You have loved us, John 13:34. 7) Please pray for our forthcoming "Leadership Training" on Saturday, March 2nd. 8) Pray for Bethesda's sick & shut-in and those asking for prayers and other expressions of compassion and comfort.	Thursday (20)
Phone (10 avg.)		
Children (2)		

On Prayer by James Banks

(A Pastor and Writer for the Daily Bread)

Now sometimes we might mistakenly think that prayer has something to do with skill. Sometimes you hear someone who is very well meaning say “I don’t have the Spiritual gift of prayer.” But did you know that of all the spiritual gifts listed in Scripture, prayer is not among them? And there’s an excellent reason for that. Prayer is meant for all of us. “Why Pray?” “Because you prayed!” “Bend down, O LORD, and listen!” Isaiah 36 and 37. That doesn’t mean things will go our way every time we pray, but if we learn to pray proactively---making prayer our “first resort” and not “a last resort” ---we will or may see God do breathtaking things. He wants us to help us lift our eyes above our circumstances so that we can catch a glimpse of His goodness and love. He wants us to pray so that we will get to know Him---and that really is the best part about prayer. True prayer is about so much more than just request or answers---it’s about a relationship with the One who will love and sustain us even when the answers don’t seem to come.

ODBU.org/SF120 is worth reading on prayer. Listen to his lecture on “Why Pray” by James Banks.

- Why Pray
- Why Not Ask?
- When You Don’t know What to Say
- Obstacles to Prayer
- Praying for Others
- Prayer and Fasting
- What about “Unanswered” Prayer
- Persevering in Prayer
- Living a Prayer-Filled Life
(Course Completion)

RECURRING EVENTS

Hour of Power & Bible Study

Each Tuesday at 6:00pm followed by
Bible Study at 7:00pm via *ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83096366206?pwd=J7wZ8bwAcBA1snP5SgRuYhW4E2DsU.1>

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206

Passcode: 199366

To use your cell phone or land line, *please dial: 1. 301. 715. 8592

Meeting ID: 830 9636 6206#; Passcode: 199366#

We encourage all members to submit prayer requests as the Holy Spirit leads by 12:00 Noon on Monday.

Open Praise Forum & Bible Study

Every Tuesday leading up to Communion Sunday at 6:00pm followed by
Bible Study at 7:00pm via ZOOM and on conference line referenced above. *

Men's Prayer Hour

Each Wednesday at 10:00pm via conference call:
1.717.908.1972; Access 875378#

Women's Prayer Hour

Each 4th Saturday at 9:00am via conference call:
1.605.313.5143; Access code 654522#

Questions and Answers-

Held each 4th Sunday at 6:00pm via conference call:
1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

Please submit your questions *today* by email to: SoulCare@Bethesdaweb.org or in Q&A box located on the table outside of the church office.

Bible Study

Each Thursday at 12:00 Noon via conference call:
1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

THIS WEEK EVENTS

In observance of President's Day holiday, the church office will be closed on Monday, February 19th and will reopen on Tuesday.

Monday, February 19

6:30pm EOU Ministry Meeting via conference call:
1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#

Wednesday, February 21

11:00am Seniors' Ministry Presentation -Dementia Man (in-person)

Friday, February 23

6:00am – 6:00pm Corporate Day of Prayer and Fasting
6:00pm Good News Club, Rooms 118 and 120

Saturday, February 24

9:00am Girl Scouts Troop 44006 Meeting, Fellowship Hall
11:00am Flower Guild Meeting via conference call:
1.717.908.1972; Access code 875378#
11:30am Combined Choir Rehearsal, Room 120

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIRL SCOUTS COOKIES

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time! Troop 44006 will be taking orders for your favorite cookies. Please give your **initial order** to Sis. LaVerne Brown today. Your cookies will be delivered after Sunday School on February 18. The prices are the same as last year! The troop will be accepting orders until March 3rd. But don't wait until March 3rd because cookies disappear fast!! Thanks for your support.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Membership Contribution Statements for 2023 are available for pick-up in the boardroom beginning Sunday, January 28, 2024, through February 18, 2024, after worship service and after Sunday School. They can also be picked up on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays between 9:30am and 4pm. Should you have any discrepancies regarding your statement, please submit in writing to Financial Secretary Deborah Dickerson by email trustee1@bethesdaweb.org or by mail at Bethesda Baptist Church, 1808 Capitol Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Please be prepared to provide any related documentation of the discrepancy. Thank you for your cooperation.

COORDINATING COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The meeting of the Coordinating Community Outreach Committee scheduled for January 29, 2024, is cancelled. We will hold our next planning session on Monday, February 26, 2024. The agenda and specific action steps will be sent in advance of the meeting. If there are questions, contact Sister Jennie Sanders at 301.404.2227 or via email: drjenniesanders@yahoo.com

MEMBERS BROCHURE ON FASTING

"Members please pick up a brochure on fasting, on the table outside the church office. It has helpful information, and it will help us all participate in private and corporate fasting."

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

HONORING THE LORD THROUGH OUR ARTISTIC TALENTS

*The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims his handwork.
Psalm 19:1*

The national theme for African American History Month is “African Americans and the Arts”. Join us as we **HONOR THE LORD THROUGH OUR ARTISTIC TALENTS** on Sunday, February 25, 2024, immediately following Morning Worship. Join us as we discover how God has blessed Bethesda artists and historic figures in the visual and fiber arts. Bethesda artists will share how their artistic talents are used to honor the Lord and share the gospel with persons of all ages.

Exodus 35:35 He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and as weavers--as artistic designers of every kind of craft.

OPPOSE END-OF-LIFE OPTION ACT SB0443/ HB 0403 (THE HONORABLE ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS AND THE HONORABLE SHANE E. PENDERGRASS ACT)

If you are a Maryland resident, we want you to be aware of a proposed bill in Annapolis called "The End-of-Life Option Act SB0443/HB 0403 (i.e., Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act). Every Christian should oppose this bill because it is an attempt to play God and permit doctors to prescribe lethal drugs for a patient provided that the patient was terminally ill. Physician-assisted suicide sends the message that some lives are not worth living. From an ethical standpoint, physical assisted suicide raises profound questions about the value of human life and the responsibilities of healthcare professionals. Allowing individuals to seek assistance in ending their lives challenges the fundamental principle of preserving life and promoting the well-being of patients. It also introduces the potential for coercion and abuse, particularly among vulnerable populations such as the elderly or those with disabilities. Furthermore, the role of medical professionals is fundamentally rooted in providing care and healing, not in facilitating death.

We are encouraging Bethesda members who are Maryland residents to write a letter to your legislator to oppose the End-of-Life Option Act (The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings and the Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Act) and we will furnish a sample letter along with the name of your representative so this can be done. The letter will be on the table outside the church office on Sunday and will also be emailed to you. Blessings!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

VBS is quickly approaching. We need volunteers to serve. Pray how the Lord can use you in this outreach effort. The first introductory training session will be held on Saturday, March 9th at 9:00 am. The volunteer form is on the table near the church office.

MINISTRY ACTION PLAN

Ministry Leaders, this is a reminder to complete the Ministry Action Plan Special Event Form for any major events six (6) months in advance of the planned activity for approval. The objective of this process is to help ministries of our church plan activities prior to committing resources to them. Please see the church office if you are in need of a form. The pastor will meet with each leader to review the proposed activity. Thank you.

REVITALIZE OUR TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

Bethesda Family, we are attempting to revitalize our Transportation Ministry. In addition to using the church vans, we believe that carpooling among members may be a way to increase in-person attendance at Worship Service and other activities at the church. To accomplish a carpooling effort and to provide van transportation, we need potential riders, drivers, and chaperones to sign up on one of the sheets on the table in front of the Church Office. **You may also call the Church Office (202-635-2883) and advise the Office Staff of what you wish to sign up for.** Once there is enough information, we will advise on the next steps. Please pray that the Lord will bless this endeavor.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

When inclement weather is forecast, you can find out the status of the church building by using one or both of the following methods:

- Listen to the recording at the church office and punch in 004 right away.
- Watch Channels 4 or 7 news and read the ticker file at the bottom of the screen.

MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministry Leaders – Please check your ministry mailboxes for the 2024 calendar thank you.

ADMINISTRATIVE CORNER

ROOF REPLACEMENT FUND

We have established a goal of raising \$62,000 over the next 12- months for replacement of the church's roof Section M. How will we do this? By God's grace, starting in July we are asking each member to give an extra \$62 per month or \$15.50 per week to the church's Building Maintenance Fund. If 100 members do this on a regular monthly basis over the course of 1-year, we will raise the \$62,000 necessary to finance the first phase of roof repairs. Please use the special "Roof Replacement" envelopes for this purpose. These envelopes are available on the table outside of the church office and Sanctuary vestibule. Please note, you can also give online via PayPal thru our secured website, <http://www.bethesdaweb.org>. Just click on "giving" then click the drop-down arrow to where it says, "building offering." As a reminder, this offering should be in addition and not in lieu of your regular tithes and offerings. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving, Bethesda!

*"With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."
Mark 10:27*

IT SUPPORT MINISTRY

Dear Ministry Leaders,

As we continue to promote our church events, we want to make sure that we are doing so in the most effective and efficient way possible. To help us achieve this, we are introducing a new form that will allow you to upload flyers for your events and have them posted on our social media platforms. Please use the following form to submit your promotional materials:

<https://form.jotform.com/bbcitsupport/ministry-submit-form>

Please ensure that you submit any promotional flyers at least one week in advance of your event to allow enough time for us to post them.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us spread the word about our events. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Sincerely,

BBC IT Support Ministry

MINISTRY LEADERS

If you would like to hold your ministry meetings or events on Zoom, please contact Sister Bobbie Taylor at 202.635.2883 or submit your request by email: btaylor@bethesdaweb.org

MINISTRY MAILBOX

All ministry heads or secretaries, please remember to check your mailbox.