

Bethel
Sunday, November 12, 2017

WELCOME TO BETHEL

THE BLESSING OF GIVING THANKS

The poet Annie Johnson Flint composed a poem that gives remarkable insight into Christian gratitude. She wrote,

*“As we offer our small rejoicing
For the love that surrounds our days
All the wonderful works of Thy goodness
Open up before our gaze
And through gates of our thanksgiving
We shall enter Thy courts of praise.”*

Praise and thanksgiving to God do more than just make us feel good. They also increase our understanding and appreciation of God's goodness. And when that happens, we receive a greater capacity to enjoy Him and experience Him in our lives.

While many people spend a great deal of time enlarging their “prayer lists”, we should also spend time enlarging our “praise list”, counting the blessings of God and naming them one by one.

The Thanksgiving Month is about more than just turkey, pumpkins, and colorful foliage; it's about recognizing God's goodness in our lives – and being intentionally, deliberately grateful for it!

As you count your blessings this month, let that concept guide your thoughts. Stop and think about each of your blessings and give God praise for His goodness. If you do that, you will enjoy God – and life – so much more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

• MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

This Thursday, Nov. 15th – 7:45 PM
Classes for children, youth, & adults
(This Thursday will be the final TGIT class for children this year)

• BYG (YOUTH) THANKSGIVING

This Friday, Nov. 17th – 7:30 PM
In the Refuge
Followed by “BYG Got Talent”
(see box above right)

• CHOIR REHEARSALS

Christmas Choir – 9 AM
Sanctuary Choir – 10:45 AM

• “LAMB OF GOD” – Musical Drama

Seven Performances
Friday, Dec. 8th – 8 pm
Saturday, Dec. 9th – 8 pm
Sunday, Dec. 10th – 12 noon
Friday, Dec. 15th – 8 pm
Saturday, Dec. 16th – 8 pm
Sunday, Dec. 17th – 11 am
Sunday, Dec. 17th – 3 pm

Tickets Required For All Performances

Tickets available online now at:
www.BethelUPC.org
(See box at right)

• CARE GROUP MINISTRY

Cycle Ends This Week

• FRIENDSHIP BOX CAMPAIGN

Today through December 3rd
See Bulletin Insert for details

Church events are listed in the calendar at www.Bethelupc.org

BYG
Teen Scene

Friday, November 17,
7:30 p.m.
the Refuge

Bring a Thanksgiving Dinner dish to share.

Bring a gift card and/or small gift to send to a child at
Tupelo Children's Mansion.

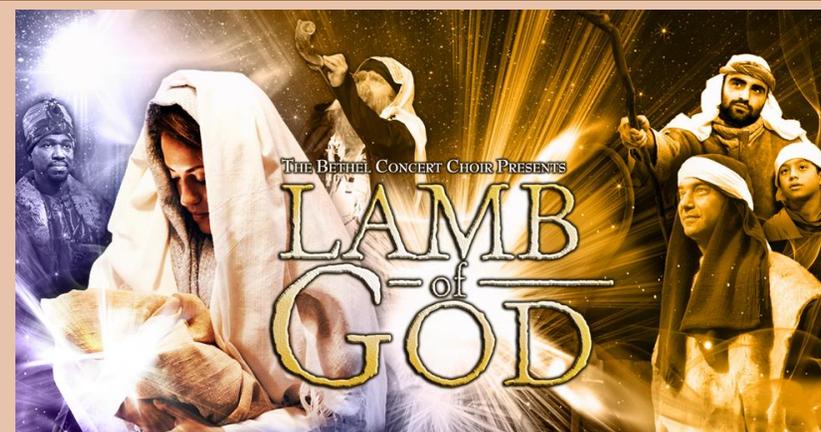


BYG GOT TALENT

Friday, November 17,
Immediately following BTS Thanksgiving Dinner.

Share your talent with the BYG.
Prizes for the “most talented”.

Sign up in the Refuge or online.
<https://goo.gl/forms/VcPOOVfxwLgkZiZRz>



The Bethel Choir and Drama Cast will be presenting **LAMB OF GOD** for seven performances in December. Tickets are free but are required for each performance as they will be scanned electronically at the door. Tickets may be reserved by going online to www.BethelUPC.org and clicking on the Lamb of God picture.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

It is anticipated that more than 6,000 persons will attend these performances resulting in all available tickets being reserved before December 8th. For this reason, Bethelites are encouraged to reserve their tickets as soon as possible.

**PLEASE DO NOT RESERVE MORE TICKETS
THAN WHAT YOU WILL ACTUALLY USE**

Friendship Boxes

Each year at this time, the children of Bethel learn firsthand about giving to others as they wrap over 100 Friendship Boxes for under-privileged children. We encourage you to join their efforts by helping them to create a Friendship Box.

Friendship Boxes are shoeboxes that are filled with small items that many of our own children probably take for granted. These boxes are distributed to children in neighboring towns who might not be as fortunate as we are.



The boxes can be filled with items such as really cool Band-Aids, sparkle toothpaste, fun shampoo, children's books, and even small games or toys such as a ball or yo-yo. Even if you are unable to fill a complete box, please donate whatever items you can and we will combine them together with other donated items to make a complete box.

Please do NOT include any type of food items, candy, or gum products to avoid allergic reactions. All items MUST fit in a shoebox so that the lid can be easily closed. We ask that you label each box for either a girl or a boy.

The BYG and KidsChurch children and additional staff will be wrapping all the boxes that are collected. Please do NOT gift wrap your shoebox - leave that for us!

Donations of giftwrap paper and clear tape are also appreciated. If you would like to donate

wrapping paper, please choose designs that reflect the spiritual meaning of Christmas instead of Santa or reindeer.

Friendship Boxes should be placed in the large container in the church lobby marked for this project. Donation deadline is Sunday, December 3rd.

We hope to teach our children how blessed they are and help them learn the principle that they have been blessed to be a blessing to others. If you have children, you may want to encourage them to use some of their own money or even earn some money through chores to enable them to purchase items for a Friendship Box.

The greatest gift we have received is Jesus Christ and we want to pass Him on to all those around us! Thank you in advance for your help and generosity! May you enjoy all the wonders of the season knowing you made a difference in the life of a child.

Yours In Christ,

Bethel Children's Ministries Staff