



# THE COURIER

A Monthly Publication of Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**LOVING** God.  
**LIVING** for Christ.  
**LISTENING** to God's  
*Spirit.*

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## Arnold's Applications

Like many of you, I have felt some considerable concern about this upcoming presidential election and the associated elections for everything from the United States Senate to the Mayor of El Paso. With the nation more bitterly polarized than in most of the rest of American history, those of us on one side or the other can only imagine disaster if the opposing side triumphs in November. Certainly, two quite different visions of America and two vastly different theories of what will lead to a prosperous, free, and just land contend against each other. Seemingly, all of this consternation promises to come to a head on November 3rd, when the dye will be cast for America's future.

However, if we have the patience to wait until November 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have a strong reminder that Christians answer to a higher government than the one that will be elected on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. On that later date, we will begin to celebrate the season of Advent, the celebration

of the coming of the one whom scripture calls, (1 Timothy 6:15), "God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords." Revelation 17:14 reminds us, "With him will be his called chosen and faithful followers." Then Revelation 11:15 reminds us, "He shall reign forever and ever."

No one can pretend that the upcoming elections have no significance and do not matter. They will affect the secular world around us significantly. However, those of us who follow Christ, will be forever blessed to have only one Ruler from this time forth and forevermore. Whatever happens in the secular world around us, we will keep obeying and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that ultimately the future belongs to Him and to those who belong to him. We will focus on Christ and what he asks of us now, then, for four years afterwards, and for an infinite number of years after that. Whoever holds the title of President, we know who holds the position of Lord.

As unbelievable as it seems from our polarized partisan perspectives, not all of us will be voting for the same persons come November 3<sup>rd</sup>. However, in the election that ultimately matters, in the choice for the Lordship and the direction of our lives, we will all be voting for Jesus Christ. So, let us pray that whoever wins in November will be a true servant of Christ and will make it possible for us to serve Christ in peace. Yet, let us take comfort in knowing that the election will not change our ultimate destiny nor will it change the one who ultimately rules all things.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob

### **All Saints' Day**

On **Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**, we will have our annual service to honor those dear to us who have passed from this life. Of course, with the Pandemic, we cannot have everyone come forward and light a candle of remembrance as usual. However, if you will call the church office and request that a candle be lit during the service for your loved one, we will see that it happens, one candle for each request. We will also put a complete list of the names we have received in the bulletin for that Sunday.



### **Congregational Meeting**

The annual congregation meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 18** after the morning worship service. We will be voting on the nominees for church officers for 2021; the rewritten Constitution and the budget for 2021.

### **Possible On-line Prayer Group**

We are exploring to see if interest exists in an online prayer opportunity. This could be done through mutual sharing on



Zoom led by Pastor Bob, or we could use a format where Pastor Bob posts a weekly prayer for people to view at their leisure. If you are interested in such an opportunity, please notify Samantha in the church office. You can indicate which format you prefer and what timing you would like for it. This is still in the exploratory phase, so get in on the ground floor, so to speak.

### **Thank You**

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you to all of you for your birthday cards and wishes. They have been greatly appreciated and cherished.

In Christ,

Pastor Bob

### **October's Worship Leaders**

October 4th- Sandra Blystone  
 October 11th -Wayne Salguero  
 October 19th- Giovanna Arnold  
 October 26th- Giovanna Arnold

## Sunday Prayers

The following prayer was given by Nadia Bolz-Weber, a Lutheran minister. It is very meaningful to me and represents my feelings in our current situation. Perhaps it will speak to some of you also. Jerry De Frank  
Heavenly Father,

A lot of us feel less safe than we did a few days ago and a few days ago we weren't feeling that secure to begin with. Help us draw upon you, our Divine Source, when what we have just isn't enough to get through the day.

A lot of us are grieving. Actually, *all* of us are grieving: lost friends, lost kin, lost homes, lost income, lost connection to others, lost health. Help us not also lose hope. We can lose a lot and still survive, but not that.

A lot of us are so angry. Angry that our inherent worth and dignity seems up for debate by those who have never had their worth and dignity questioned in courts of law. Angry that love of power seems to trump love of neighbor. Repurpose our anger into righteous action, Lord.

Personal note: My fear is turning to anger and I am afraid that my anger can turn so easily to hate and hate is the thing I say I am against. Turn me away from hate. My heart can't take that kind of brittleness because I need it to give and to receive love. Remind me that my heart is spoken for.)

A lot of us are ashamed of how numb we feel, but honestly we've run out of emotional

bandwidth and the system needs to re-boot before it comes back on-line. Give us rest and self-compassion.

A lot of us are joyous and feel like we have to shield that joy from others, lest it seem like we are callous toward those who are hurting. Help us see and celebrate what good there is in our lives and the lives of those around us.

I don't think you created us to be able to metabolize such a constant stream of bad news everyday, Lord. But I do know that you created us to metabolize cookies. And for that I give you thanks and praise. They are helping. But they are not enough.

So if you could show up right now, that would be great. And if you are already showing up, give us new eyes to notice you. Amen

## Thank You

We would like to thank Karla Bowland for donating books from her mother's collection. These books will be part of Bethany's library. If anyone would like to borrow any books please call the church office to make arrangements.





## I John 2:12-17 (Read)

Knowing and Loving God we do not love the world or the things in the world. Loving the things of the world is the opposite of loving God. John 3:16 For God so loved the world... John tells us “do not love the world” The difference is how John used the “world”. The context clarifies this for us. So while we’re to love the people of the world even as Jesus does (John 13:34) we’re not to love the evil and sinful things that surround us.

Love of God is reflected in our attitude toward our possessions. Instead of being consumed with materialism, we can sacrifice our possessions for the sake of others. By giving we think of tangible ways we can help someone in need. Find ways to use our resources (possessions) for the benefit of others. Remember... *“and my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:19)

Growing in our spiritual journey is to be filled with the Holy Spirit, meaning to be controlled and empowered by Him... this is not a onetime event, the verb suggests “continuous” action, or to *“go on being filled”*

Ephesians 5:19-21 “speaking to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music *“with your heart to the LORD”*, *giving thanks always* for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the love of Christ ( Gk. Dealing respectfully & reverently with others)

By allowing the Holy Spirit to help guide your decisions, speech and actions, helps influence

your life and others. We as Christ’s followers are called to live wisely and living wisely includes discovering and obeying God’s will for our lives.

And by trusting the Holy Spirit helps us to a fuller life. By yielding to the Holy Spirit, we draw closer to God... and that produces the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal 5:22-23a)

**LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULLNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL**

In these uncertain times, yielding to the Holy Spirit and trusting Him to guide our lives, will lead help us to find God’s peace and joy.

In Christ,



10/01	Betty Peck
10/02	Virginia Moore
10/03	Donna L'heureux
10/08	Bonnie Baldwin
10/11	Jason L'heureux
10/14	Dolores Conner
10/25	Linda Phillips
10/26	Dottie Widmer
10/31	Carolyn Fogg