

# THE BETHEL BANNER



## Bethel Happenings...

- **August 4th - Prayer Service, 5:00 PM.**
  - What a beautiful opportunity we have to intercede before the throne on each other's behalf.
- **August 4th - Promotion Sunday.**
  - Our children and students will be moving up from their classes! Pray for them as they transition to new classroom, new teachers, and walk into a new season of life.
- **August 5th - Trustee Meeting, 6:00 PM.**
- **August 7th - Bethel Kid's Back to School Bash, 6:30 PM.** Come play Gaga ball, slide in a Water Slide, Eat some Shaved Ice, and fellowship as we prepare for the school year!
- **August 16-17th - A Praying Life Seminar,**
  - Friday - 6:00-9:00 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM -12:30 PM. Join Bethel and the harvest Association as we host a nationally respected organization. Come and Learn about Patterning our prayer life after Jesus, gain practical tools and skills to improve your prayer life. Register by clicking the link [here](#).
- **August 28th - Senior Adult Luncheon, 11:30 AM.** The Senior Adults will take their monthly Luncheon. Please come and fellowship with us!
- **September 1st - Prayer Service, 5:00 PM.**

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DIG IN. GROW UP. BRANCH OUT.



## Pastor Brandon Pugh: A Praying Life

Most of you have heard the news that I am somewhat cleared to preach again. I sent an email out last week updating you all. And in that email, I wrote this: *to have no voice and long to be able to praise God and proclaim his glory is a hard, frustrating, and discouraging thing. To have a voice and **not** long to do so is a terrible tragedy. Don't waste your voice!*

**And I think that includes prayer.** Obviously, you can pray silently. But if you look at the Psalms in particular, you see that the folks there didn't have "quiet times." They had **loud times**. Much of their praying was "crying out" to God. And you see that all through the Bible. Having said that, my mind is on prayer, especially because of our "**A Praying Life**" event that is coming up on August 16-17th .

Here's the blurb for the seminar from their website:

*This seminar is not for victorious Christians, but Christians defeated in the trenches, asking ... How do I focus when I'm distracted with so much to do? How do I pray longer than five minutes? How do I ask when I've tried it before, and it doesn't work?*

*Delving into our frustrations, we look at Jesus' powerful yet simple teachings on prayer. We practice becoming child-like, patterning after Jesus' own teaching and style of praying. We learn to ask our Father anything - with eyes wide open to the story he is creating in our lives. Further practical tools and helps are explained and demonstrated. Throughout the sessions people have time to pray, making real what they learned.*

Look at our world! Look at your church! Look at your life! And then look at the promises of God regarding prayer. How can we not then pray? What would keep us from praying? One answer to that is simply the practical "how-to's" of prayer. And this seminar is designed to **inspire and instruct** on how to have a daily praying life.

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Did you notice that title? **A Praying Life.** *Praying* ... not "a prayer" but praying. On-going. *Life* ... not "event" or "moment" or "season" or "hour," but *life*. Life. How do I have an on-going, continual life saturated by prayer, in prayer, in the midst of changing diapers and commutes and ballgames and grandkids and bills. If you are an earnest believer, you should want that. Do you? What's keeping you from it? Why not get some help? Why not come to this seminar. You are only a click away. And if you need us to register you because you can't do the online thing, let us know. Register soon – today.

Brothers and sisters, all too often when it comes to church, we are focused on the lesser things, like organization and programs and production, rather than the simple things Jesus told his church to do. We should have practiced the former, without neglecting the weightier, latter things ... like prayer.

Praying With You and For You,  
Pastor Brandon

## Pastor KC Rader

Slow Down and rest.



We measure ourselves on efficiency and productivity. We tend to value ourselves on our contribution as producers or consumers. Don't tie your self-worth to work and instead unity your worth to the cross, and consider what God does for you. As you come to God on Sunday Morning for worship or your kitchen table for quiet time, come to God with analogies that Scripture uses to explain his relationship with you.

Your relationship with God is one where he is the Shephard that walks with you in the fields as you feed on blades of grass that he created for you (Psalm 23). He is the potter and you are the clay. He is molding you into a beautiful reflection of Himself (Isaiah 64). He is the bread of life! Not an object you to consume, but an object whose sweet aroma is enough to sustain your breath of life (John 6). The Lord is an unmovable rock, reliable and sure. This rock is so large that it shields you from danger (Psalm 18). God sits with you and waits for you to meet him.

This is the wonderful power of the blood of the lamb; you are not measured by your efficiency or productivity. You are not valued by God based on anything that you do and are valued by God for what he has done for you. He made you. He knows you. He wants you to sit in his presence each and every day. He wants you to enjoy his presence.

I want to invite you to read John 1 out loud to yourself. Do that every day. Don't rush it and instead find rest in it because we never graduate from the gospel.

Love you all,  
KC

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# NEW MEMBERS



Ricky and Sheila Parrish



Joyce Mooneyhan

What a blessing that the Lord is growing our church family! God called them here to Bethel, and we are excited for their partnership with us in the Christian life! Life in community is integral for Christian flourishing, and we are all excited to see how God grows them, nourishes them, and equips them to be the hands and feet of Jesus! Would you join me in lifting them up in prayer this week!

Thanks be to God.



Elaine Pugh

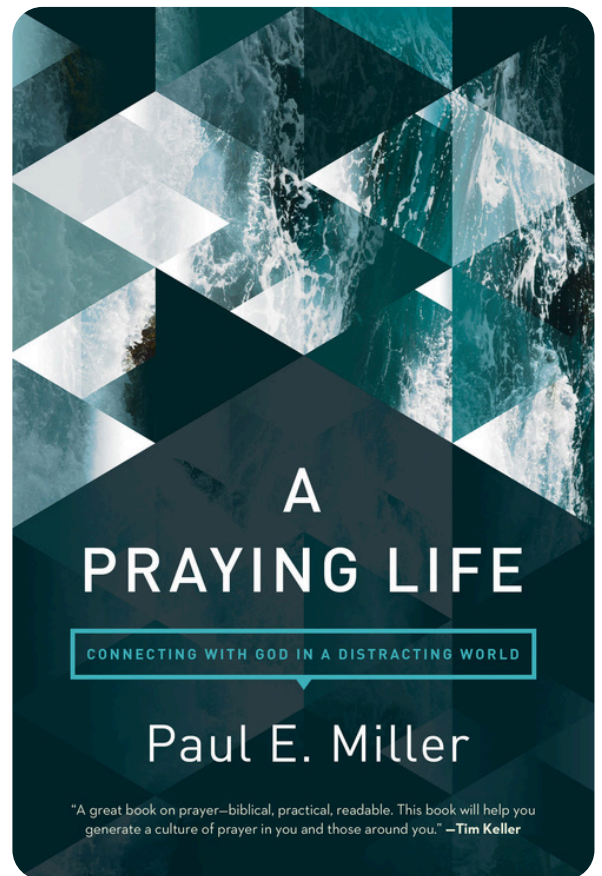
# Join a Sunday School Class

Sunday School is a time where you can dig a little deeper into the Christian life by committing to a Sunday School Class. Come and grow with other believers, diving into a biblical study.

## Classes:

- Kids (Nursery – 5th Grade)
- Students (6-12th Grades)
- Young Adult/College (18-20's)
- Adult
- Senior Men
- Senior Women

If you would like more information, call us at  
615-643-0230 (Church Office)



## Deacon Family Ministry

If you are a member of our church, you have a deacon who prays for you, who is commissioned to support you, and wants to be involved in serving you.

### Needs:

- Sick or Visitation
- Prayer
- Around the House
- Transportation Assistance

### Contact:

Johnny Banks

Chairman of the Deacons

615-643-0230 (Church Office)

