

Do you have a question about Bethlehem, the Bible, God, accepting Jesus Christ or some other important issue? Ask one of us, or contact the church office (937-373-4533) or bethlehemchurch1@yahoo.com.

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Winchester, OH
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Mark Your Calendars

(More information is available in the weekly bulletins)

July 4 - BCC Patriotic Picnic

July 11 - 17 - Adams County Fair (Bethlehem's day, Thursday, 15th)

July 14 - Leadership meeting, 7:00 pm

July 21 - Adult & Teen Bible classes, 7:00 pm

July 26 - 29 - Hillsboro Family Camp - Join 3,000 others in worship and Bible study.

Youth programming for all ages.

Speakers include: Kerry Allen, Mark Scott, Jeff Faull, Lee Mason, Aaron Davis, Mike Shannon, and more.

August 11 - Shepherding meeting, 7:00 pm

August 18 - Adult & Teen Bible classes, 7:00 pm

The Word

"Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." — Psalm 90:12

Summer Worship & Vacations

If you & your family are traveling this summer, make sure to check with the office concerning congregations you might want to visit. It will keep your focus in the proper place & you can meet new people & gain new church ideas.

Bethlehem Church of Christ
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ELDERS/PASTORS: Pat Bihl, Terry Parker, Duane Scott, David Tatman,
and Kyle Truesdell (Elder Emeritus: Floyd Morris)
MINISTERS: Tom Claibourne & Christian Martin
SECRETARY: Donna Woods

Bible Study & Nursery
Worship & Nursery
Children's Worship

See monthly church calendar for
summer Sunday evening schedules

9:30 A.M.
10:30 A.M.
10:30 A.M.

The Bethlehem Star

July, 2021

A Challenge Letter For Family and Friends

Annual Patriotic Picnic

July 4th - 6:00 pm, BCC Pavilion

We did not get to have this annual gathering last year, but look forward to bringing it back. We understand that some families have annual plans for that day, but hope many of you can join us.

Please sign up in the foyer so we can make sure we have a good balance for food.

Come celebrate America's freedom and Biblical heritage with us. Enjoy good food & conversations, bocce ball, corn hole, and more.

New Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 - 9:30 - The Cafe open for fellowship & interaction before classes.
9:30 - 10:15 - Prayer & Bible Study time for each class.

(The Cafe will not be open during class time except for the Bible class that meets there).

10:15 - 10:30 - Time to visit, welcome guests, & prepare for worship.
10:30 - Adult & children's worship gatherings.

On Location

— **Life Lessons from Around the Globe** —

July 18 - September 12

Since summer is often a time to travel, our Sunday messages will take us around the world to discover Bible principles, practical warnings, and inspirational challenges.

July 18 — Great Wall of China

July 25 — Great Pyramids of Egypt

August 1 — Mt. Everest

August 8 — Venice

August 15 — Dead Sea

August 22 — Leaning Tower of Pisa

August 29 — Berlin Wall

Sept. 5 — Panama Canal

Sept. 12 — Bethlehem (Judea & Ohio)

"The Lord had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household, and go to the land I will show you' So Abram left, as the Lord had told him." — Gen. 12:1,4

Thoughts From Tom

“Lessons From a Dead Empire”

The Roman Empire was quite impressive in its day, extending across parts of three continents. At its peak of power it ruled the entire Mediterranean world, including virtually all civilized land in Europe and Africa. Its military power, advanced system of government, and unparalleled prowess in engineering prompted both admiration and fear in other peoples.

I have had the opportunity to see numerous reminders of that powerful empire at various locations across Europe and the Middle East. While examining aqueducts, statues, ancient stone roads, and other relics from the Romans, three things became clear to me:

- It was a vast empire.
- It was quite developed.
- It is gone.

The Roman Empire is dead. All those carefully-preserved ruins are just that: ruins. They are vivid reminders of a glory that is long past, and provide a perfect example of what can happen to a well-developed society that does not have the Lord God at its center. Our nation must take seriously this warning.

Let’s learn from the memories of the past, and remember that during the time of the Roman Empire God established His eternal kingdom which will never end, just as He predicted many years earlier in Daniel 2.

The Roman Empire now consists of stone relics scattered about, while the message of Jesus Christ that went out from Jerusalem in the first century A.D. is still changing hearts and lives today.

Let’s use our freedom as Americans and as Christians to continue that great mission.

Tom

Another Warning

*Whether it’s Nazism, Marxism, or Secularism, the state is always in conflict with religious freedom. And the more power the state has, the more laws it will pass to diminish the role of the church. What makes this so difficult is that these changes are made under the rubric of freedom and “what is best for everyone.” Thus the true nature of a totalitarian state is always hidden and always couched in the language of morality, progress, and liberty. As in George Orwell’s **Animal Farm**, slavery is defined as freedom, and suppression is defined as “the quest for equality and fairness.”*

(Erwin W. Lutzer, When A Nation Forgets God — 7 Lessons we must learn from Nazi Germany, 2010)

The Word

“I will always obey your law, forever and ever. I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.”

— Psalm 119:44-45

Wonderful VBS

Thanks to all those who helped make VBS a success. A special thanks to Monica Pence & Danielle Jodrey for their enthusiastic & excellent leadership.

Monday:	78 kids,	66 workers
Tuesday:	87 kids,	60 workers
Wednesday:	96 kids,	65 workers
Thursday:	92 kids,	63 workers

The offering for East Tennessee Christian Home & Academy was \$1,376.63.

(approximately 113 different children attended)

Bethlehem at the Fair

July 11 - 17

1. Fair participants, please sign the sheet in the foyer indicating project / event you are involved in. (include day and time). We will make a list available on July 11.
2. We will unite with other congregations to offer tables under a tent where people can sit and eat. We will also pass out hand fans in the hot show arena. Bethlehem’s day for fans & to keep the tent clean is Thursday. We need volunteers to fill 2-hour time slots. Sign up in the foyer.

Thoughts to Ponder

“The further a society drifts from truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.” (George Orwell)

“People don’t often lay aside the Bible because they disagree with it; but because it disagrees with them.” (Jim Estep)

Summer Connection Challenge

July 11 — September 5

This summer we have planned our Sunday evenings to help us better connect and share life as a church family. We didn’t have this opportunity in 2020.

We want everyone to accept the “Summer Connection Challenge”. We encourage you to use those 9 evenings to initiate gatherings with others (a hike, a cookout, an outdoor game night, a service project, an ice cream or watermelon gathering, etc.).

Maybe partner with another family & invite 1 or 2 other families. Get together with people you want to know better. Be creative. Share the cost. Consider a neutral location (park, church camp, etc.).

“Summer Connection Challenge” is about relationships. It is about getting as many people as possible interacting and sharing life. It’s about Biblical hospitality and new friendships.

For those at BCC who in past summers worked at this and took it seriously, it was a huge success, and quite enjoyable.

Don’t wait for someone else. Reach out. Love. Invite. Initiate. Begin your list today!

We need God and each other.

The Word

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:24-25