

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JOURNEY INTO THE LIGHT

Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that. ~MLK
#BPCintotheLight

Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Prelude

"Wake, Awake!"

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship from Micah 7:8

The Cape Fenimore Family

Advent Candle Lighting

The prophet Micah said, "Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Holy One will be my light."

As we journey into the light in this Advent season, O God, make us light in this world.

Help us to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you.

(Light the first candle.)

Let us pray:

God of light and love, fill us so completely with your brilliance, that we cannot help but shine with your compassion and mercy, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn 1

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hebrew Bible Lesson

Isaiah 64:1-8

Jason Welsch

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 13:24-37

Jason Welsch

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Sermon

"On Watch"

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Minute for Mission

Neighbor's Link

Kathy DiBiasi

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

(Many people say the Lord's Prayer with "trespasses" or "sins" instead of "debts." Please feel free to pray in any form that makes you feel the most comfortable.)

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Announcements for the Week of November 29 – December 5, 2020

Cookie Drive

BPC and the other sponsoring congregations of the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry have traditionally provided cookies for the holiday food distribution. Donations of store-bought, packaged cookies can be made in two ways.

You can bring a package of cookies to the tree decorating being held at church on the second Sunday of Advent, **December 6th at 11:00am**, or you can purchase cookies on Amazon by following the link below or finding the link in this week's E-NEWS. Donations are needed **by December 11th** to be included in the holiday food bags. As always, many thanks for your generosity in bringing some holiday cheer to our neighbors.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1E5CZE4ZJK866?ref=cm_sw_em_r_wl_dp_ovpUM4lxNiXuV

ENJOY THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Greetings Everyone,

It has been a difficult but necessary decision to cancel our popular BPC Mistletoe Mart in December due to the potential health risks associated with the Coronavirus. Many of our favorite activities, such as making the quilt and wreath making, along with our youth making chili and cookies, all require groups of people getting together in-person. This is just not possible right now. We will dearly miss hearing our choir, enjoying the Bedford Bellringers and gathering to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

In an effort to bring the Spirit of Christmas into your home for the holidays, the Mistletoe Mart Committee is providing several activities for you to enjoy.

Keep track of the days before Christmas with a beautiful Advent calendar as a reminder of this important “waiting” period before the birth of Jesus. Also, enjoy several of our most popular recipes. Our famous Mistletoe Mart Chili, plus three popular bake sale recipes for Ginger Snap Cookies, Espresso Walnut Cookies and Bittersweet Brownies. Yum!! Many thanks to Kathy DiBiasi, Jean Palmer, Marie Warden and Sue Kelly for providing these recipes to fill our homes with the delightful smells of delicious holiday foods.

To complete our Spirit of Christmas you can enjoy the Bedford Bellringers playing several selections from their popular *Christmas on the Green* CD. Once you hear these beautiful bells play, you will want to hear all 12 selections! Please contact Marcy Carlson via email at marciabcarlson@gmail.com for information on how to purchase the CD which would make a great gift for the holidays! All proceeds will go to support the mission work of the BPC Women’s Association.

We hope these activities will help bring the Spirit of Christmas into your homes with the reminder of the strong community that Mistletoe Mart represents at BPC each year. May you have continued good health and experience the eternal peace of Christmas in your hearts this year. We hope to see you in the spring as we are able to gather safely once again.

Visit our website to view all of the wonderful activities discussed above.

With love and gratitude, The Mistletoe Mart Committee

Upcoming Events

JOIN US IN MAKING THE HOLIDAYS A LITTLE BRIGHTER

Winter is quickly approaching and along with it, the holiday season. For years, Neighbors Link has hosted a Holiday Market in December where parents can select presents for their children. It is a lovely tradition that empowers families to choose gifts that are the right fit for their children.

This year, due to social distancing requirements, the Holiday market is going to look a little different. Instead of collecting toys, Neighbors Link will be collecting gift cards so parents can continue to choose the right gifts for their children. In partnership with Neighbors Link **BPC is requesting gift cards from Target and/or Kohl's in \$25 denominations.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE GIFT CARDS
PLEASE DROP THEM OFF IN THE CHURCH
OFFICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 12PM - 3PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY
DEADLINE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

Any questions, please contact Kathy
DiBiasi at dibiasi@optonline.net

Watch a short video about the Holiday Market by following this link
<https://vimeo.com/482798451> or go to the link in this week's E-NEWS.

Bedford Presbyterian Church

JOURNEY INTO THE LIGHT

ADVENT ONE • NOV 29
REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

ADVENT TWO • DEC 6 • 11 AM
DECORATE THE CHURCH

ADVENT THREE • DEC 13 • 4 PM
CHRISTMAS-O-RAMA

ADVENT FOUR • DEC 20 • 4 PM
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

CHRISTMAS EVE • DEC 24
4 PM POP-UP PAGEANT
7:30 PM SERVICE ON THE LAWN
9 PM ON-LINE SERVICE

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Generosity

The pandemic has disrupted all of our lives, but we continue to serve in a surprising variety of ways. This includes serving God through our generosity.

Most of us at BPC write checks to financially support the congregation. The Finance Committee is regularly checking the mail and making deposits. Please send your contribution to the church at: **P.O. Box 280, Bedford NY 10506.**

Also, giving online is remarkably simple and convenient. Please go to the BPC website, click on 'Donate' at the very top, and select from the 'Fund' drop down where you want your donation applied.

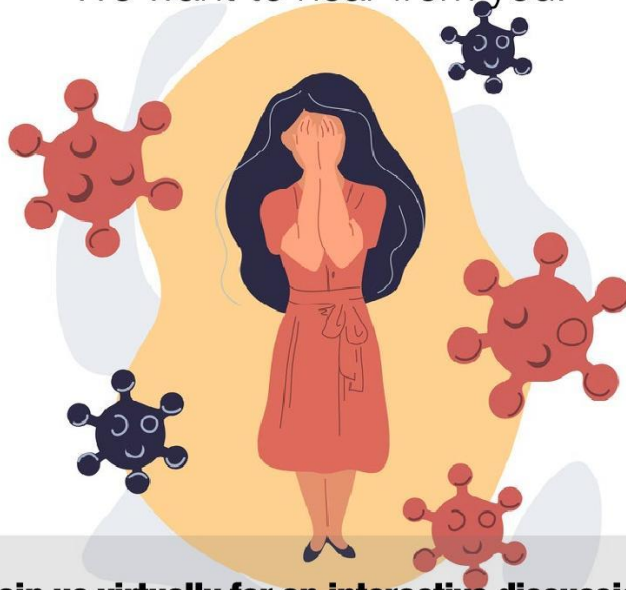
Virtual Coffee Hour

Join us virtually **on Sunday at 10:30 am.** Coffee Hour will not be held on those Sundays when there are special events after worship. Find the Zoom link on our website or in the weekly E-NEWS.



Women of Westchester

We want to hear from you!



**Join us virtually for an interactive discussion
about issues affecting women.**

Staying Sane in Pandemic Times

Tuesday, December 8

7-8:15 PM

Welcome by Westchester County Executive George Latimer

MODERATOR: **Nicole Benjamin**, JD, LMSW

PRESENTERS:

Alan Dienstag, Psy.D, Clinical Director
Larchmont Mamaroneck Counseling Center

Kelly Chiarella, Director
Office for the Aging, City of Yonkers

Soledad Soriano-Kaplan, LMHC,
Certified Stress Management Specialist,
Certified Yoga Instructor, Certified Aromatherapist

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3nEPo8T>

Submit your questions in advance to westchesterwomensadvisoryboard@gmail.com
or comment on Webex during the event.



George Latimer, County Executive
Robin Schlaff, Director
Office for Women

The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor

John Lettieri, Director of Music

Elyssa Michaels, Director of High School & Middle School Youth Groups

Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager

Sunday Virtual Worship Service 10:00 AM

**Email: Office@bedfordpreschurch.org www.bedfordpreschurch.org
44 Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506 914-234-3672**