



# BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Ruach" by Baruch Koritan

**May 14, 2023**  
**6th Sunday of Easter**

**Prelude**                      *Pastorale in F Major, BWV 590*                      J.S. Bach

**Ringing of the Bells**

**Introit**                      *Jesus said, Come unto me*                      G. Thalben-Ball

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Praise God, who nurtures us!

**People: Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!**

Leader: Praise God, who loves us unconditionally!

**People: Praise God, who teaches us the way we should go!**

Leader: Praise God, and let us worship God together!

**\*Opening Hymn 273**                      *O God the Creator*

**Confession**

**Maker and giver of all, forgive us when we are too preoccupied to notice your presence in our lives: when we walk through this world and fail to see the wonder of you upholding our lives and all creation; when we walk through our lives and fail to see you abiding with, within, and around us; when we walk through holy moments and fail to savor your presence, instead feeling abandoned in the vast sweep of life as each day rushes at us with its demands. Open our eyes to your presence, God of love, that we may lean on you—for you uphold all of creation in **tenderness and power**. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.**

(Silent confession)

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

## **\*Passing of the Peace**

*You may stand and greet one another.*

## **Time with the Children**

*The children are welcome to stay for the service or they may leave for Sunday Spirit.*

## **First Reading**

*Acts 17:22-31*

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him — though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to

repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

**Anthem**                      *There Is a Balm in Gilead*     Arr. Howard Helvey

**Gospel Lesson**                      *John 14:15-21*

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

**Sermon**                      “*Mothering Church*”     Courtney Steininger

**Offering**

**Musical Offering**

*Selection from Six Metamorphoses after Ovid* B. Britten  
Matthew Maroon, Oboe

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**



## Joys and Concerns

**Time of Prayer**      *Saraband, Partita in A Minor, BWV 1013*      J.S. Bach  
Matthew Maroon, Oboe

## The 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.**

**\*Hymn 384**      *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

## \*Charge and Blessing

**Sung Response**      *Amen I*      James McGregor

**\*Postlude**      *Processional in G Major*      John Stanley


\*Please stand, if able


## Announcements

*Please fill out the pew pads and pass them to your neighbor.*



Many thanks to Jeremy McEvilly for contributing your beautiful voice to the choir each week. Thank you to Virginia Leeman for your wonderful organ playing and for accompanying our choir. Finally, thank you to Matthew Maroon for your melodious oboe music during our offering and time of prayer.



 Pentecost Sunday

*Join us to celebrate the Holy Spirit in worship on May 28 at 10 am!*

Featuring special music from instrumentalists, a children's procession, and more!

The 6th Sunday of Easter, which is the last Sunday before the Ascension, is known as Rogation Sunday. The word rogation comes from the Latin verb *rogare*, meaning "to ask." A common practice for Rogation Sunday was the "beating the bounds," where one would check the boundaries of land and a priest would pray for its protection, as well as for the success of crops planted there.





*Mark your calendars!!*

**Congregational Meeting**



**June 4th, immediately following worship.**

**Agenda**

**Election of Elders & Deacons for the Fall 2023 Term**

**Congregational Updates**



*Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful moms in our congregation!*

*We also recognize that Mother's Day can be a painful day for some, and we respect the range of emotions that this time can bring.*



COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER'S  
**7TH ANNUAL MOMS FOR MOMS DRIVE**

May 1 through May 15, 2023



Please help local mothers who turn to CCNW for support by donating to our drive for diapers, wipes, baby food and feminine care products!

Moms for Moms has collected over 10,000 pounds of diapers and wipes over the last 6 years!

**WE ARE SEEKING DONATIONS OF:**

- Diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6)
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Food
- Feminine Care Products

Purchase online through our Amazon wishlist by scanning the QR code and have it delivered directly to the Center, or drop your donations in person at the Center's donation room!



COMMUNITY CENTER  
OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER  
30 Years of Neighbors Helping Neighbors

84 BEDFORD ROAD  
KATONAH, NY 10536  
COMMUNITYCENTERNW.ORG  
914-232-6572

**VOLUNTEER AT NATIVITY FARM**



Join us on Thursdays from 5-7 pm!



## **RECURRING EVENTS AT BPC**

Lunch with Friends – 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month at 12:30 pm.

Quilting- Every Tuesday at 1 pm.

Bible Study – Every Thursday at 10 am via Zoom.

Coffee Hour – Sundays after worship at 11 am. Please sign up to host.









Flower donations for Sunday Worship. Please sign up to dedicate flowers.

Please go to our website or call the church office for more information.

MAY 14 - 20, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

| SUN   | MON   | TUE   | WED   | THU  | FRI   | SAT   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |   |  |   |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly Cloudy<br>71°  | Partly Cloudy<br>74°  | Mostly Cloudy<br>74°  | Mostly Sunny<br>64°   | Partly Cloudy<br>70°   | Partly Cloudy<br>76°  | Partly Cloudy<br>75°  |

**ON THE FARM**

We continue to hold workdays each Thursday afternoon. Our garlic is prolific and we should have garlic scapes for harvesting soon! In the meanwhile, we are continuing to plant more plants.

This week, our Nativity Farm intern, Olive Cape began work. They will be helping out on the farm and behind the scenes.

In the coming weeks, we will plant our pollinator garden in front of the sanctuary, as well as continue to add veggies to the learning garden.

**OTHER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please follow our new Nativity Farm instagram: @nativityfarm\_BPC

Our volunteer hours at the farm are Thursday evenings from 5pm to 7pm. Please join us! If you are unable to volunteer during that time, let Courtney know or volunteer at any of the other Westchester Local Food Project gardens in the are.

**PHRASE OF THE WEEK**

pollination syndrome

**WHAT WE ARE READING**

"i have a friend who's an artist and he's sometimes taken a view which i don't agree with very well. he'll hold up a flower and say, "look how beautiful it is," and i'll agree...at the same time i see much more about the flower than he sees. i can imagine the cells in there, the complicated actions inside which also have a beauty. i mean it's not just beauty at this dimension of one centimeter, there is also beauty at a smaller dimension, the inner structure. also the processes, the fact that the colors in the flower evolved in order to attract insects to pollinate it is interesting - it means that insects can see the color... all kinds of interesting questions which shows that a science knowledge only adds to the excitement and mystery and the awe of a flower. it only adds; i don't understand how it subtracts.." -Richard Feynman

**THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST**

Continue to clear the garden; water and monitor our seedlings; plan and prepare for the pollinator garden.

## Upcoming Events at a Glance

### Sunday, May 14th

10 am      Worship  
11 am      Coffee Hour

### Monday, May 15th

9 am      Yoga

### Tuesday, May 16th

1 pm      Quilting

### Thursday, May 18th

10 am      Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall  
                 at **alanmcd@verizon.net**  
5 pm      Nativity Farm Work Session

### Sunday, May 21st

10 am      Worship and Youth Collection  
11 am      Coffee Hour

## Bulletin & Weekly E-NEWS Announcements

To sign up for our weekly E-NEWS that has live links to all of our announcements, please go to the BPC website at **bedfordpreschurch.org** and select either **'Contact'** at the top *or* **E-NEWS** just below it. To have information entered into the Bulletin and/or the E-NEWS, please email Jessica at **Office@bedfordpreschurch.org** by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.



# Our Leadership

## Session

**Clerk of Session Brian Hiller-Dupont, President Michelle Gosh,**  
Linda Burpee (Mission),  
Jessica Cunningham (Personnel and Stewardship),  
Danielle Gamar (Christian Education),  
Maria Andrea Laverde (Nativity Farm),  
Suzanne Millette (Finance), Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance),  
& Bart Tyler (Members & Friends and Stewardship)  
Moderator Reverend Carol Howard Merritt

## Deacons

**Chair Kim Lapple,** Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,  
Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson, & Diane Palmento

## Staff

The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor  
Courtney Steininger, Director of Christian Education & Youth  
John Lettieri, Director of Music  
Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries  
Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager  
The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

Office@bedfordpreschurch.org ~ www.bedfordpreschurch.org  
P.O. Box 280 ~ 44 Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506  
914-234-3672