

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



John August Swanson, "Story of Ruth"

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 31, 2021

Prelude *Choral prelude on "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"*

D. Buxtehude

Introit *Alleluia, Alleluia*

South African

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship from Psalm 146**

Leader: Never depend on rulers: born of the earth, they cannot save us.

People: Those who depend on God are wise. For God is the creator of heaven and earth, the maker of the teeming sea.

Leader: God keeps faith forever, giving food to the hungry, justice to the poor, and freedom to the captives. God opens blind eyes, comforting widows and orphans, protecting the stranger.

People: Let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn 260** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Prayer of Confession

Beloved God, forgive us for we have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world. We have passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.

Free us from our selfishness and strengthen our bonds of community, so that we might learn to love you, to love ourselves, and to love one another more deeply. Through your Spirit, we pray.

(Silent confession)

Amen.

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

*** Sung Response**

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Time with the Children

The children can leave for Sunday Spirit after Time with the Children

Hebrew Bible Lesson *Ruth 1:1-18*

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Anthem

What God Ordains Is Always Good

Chorale arr. J. S. Bach

Gospel Lesson

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Sermon

Community

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Prayers of the People

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.

Offering

Offertory

Anthem *Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace*

Peter Aston

*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

***Hymn 555** *Now Thank We All Our God*

*Charge and Blessing

***Choral Response** *Fivefold Amen* Edward Margetson

***Postlude** Now Praise the Lord, My Soul

D. Buxtehude

Announcements

Please fill out the Pew Pad located on the pew so that we know who joined us – both old friends and new!!

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mistletoe Mart Chili Sign up

We need volunteers to make meat and vegetarian chili for Mistletoe Mart on 12/4. Please see the sign up genius (or Courtney or Elyssa) to sign up for chili and other needed supplies.

We also need teens to volunteer to help sell chili that day.





**Mistletoe Mart, Saturday,
December 4th 9-3 pm at BPC
Save the Date! Mistletoe
Mart Wreath Workshop**

**Wednesday, December 1st
9 am to 5 pm at the church**

The Christmas wreaths sold at Mistletoe Mart need hands to trim double-faced balsam wreaths. Come for an hour or the day on Wednesday, December 1st for wreath making with Mary Lou Pappas. There will be help and hints all day from 9:00 to 5:00. Beginners get special attention! Bring a friend!

You can make wreaths to sell and/or make and buy a wreath for yourself. If you have CLIPPERS, please bring them! The balsam wreaths and a variety of greens, cones, berries, ribbons/raffia, and surprises are all provided.

That said, maybe you have good wreath trim in your yard! Maybe you forage! Just call Mary Lou (914-234-7779) to pick or pickup...or you can bring with you on December 1st.

There will be nibbles to feed your creativity, but bring a sandwich if you are planning to spend the day (or there's a deli right up the street from the church). It is going to look, feel and smell like Christmas in the wreath workshop! We need your hands to help make wreaths to sell at our Mistletoe Mart.

Vintage Christmas Treasures

We are collecting used Christmas Treasures for a holiday shop at the Mistletoe Mart on Saturday, December 4. If you have Christmas treasures to donate please contact Pat Ferguson at 914-234-7833 or pkferg1@gmail.com. She will be storing items in her garage until the sale and you can either deliver them there or call her and she will pick them up.

EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP

November 15 - November 21

We are looking for volunteers for our first week of ESP, the week of November 15th. We need 20 dinner meals made per night, as well as donations of water, soda, and snack bags. Specific details for each of these items are on the sign up genius. We also need someone to transport the food to the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Mount Kisco and volunteers to check in the guests there. We appreciate all of your help and support!

Please email Elyssa with any questions at Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org.

Visit our website for the link to the SignUpGenius

Bulletin & Weekly E-NEWS Announcements

To have information entered into the Bulletin and/or the E-NEWS,
please email both
Elyssa and Jessica by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that
week's media.

Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org Office@bedfordpreschurch.org



JOYFUL NOISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We would
love for you
to join!
Check out
the link on
the website
for more
information.



We are asking children of all ages to join us in singing throughout the year. All the songs will be posted on-line well in advance of our singing and we will rehearse the song the morning of our sharing. Simple!

Don Hiller-Dupont, an active member at BPC and a Music Educator for the Chappaqua Central School District, leads Joyful Noise. Please email Don with any questions, or if your child would like to join, at dondupont@outlook.com. Look for the link to a **Joyful Noises Google Classroom** in our weekly E-NEWS. Our next performance will be **November 21st!!**



Coffee Hour Sign Up

Coffee hour is held every Sunday after the church service. We ask that every family sign up for two Sundays throughout the year to help provide coffee and light snacks. Please go to the following sign up genius to pick your dates and get more information.

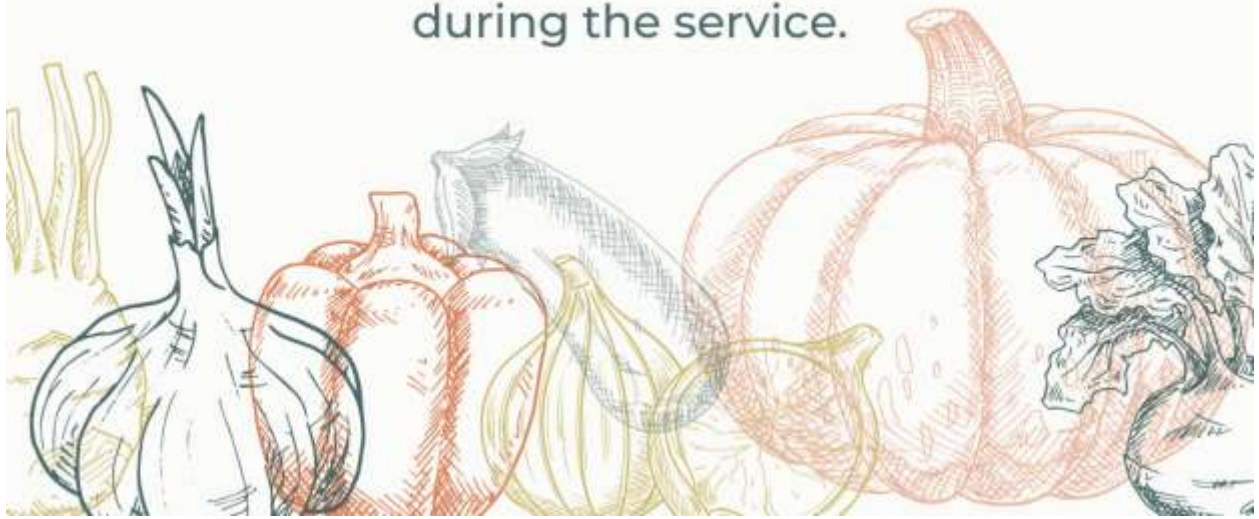
If you have any questions please contact us.

Sign up on our website or through our weekly E-NEWS.



ALL SAINTS' DAY SUNDAY, NOV. 7 10AM

On Sunday, Nov. 7th we will be observing All Saints' Day. Please bring in a framed picture of any lost loved ones to be placed on the Lord's Table during the service.



Bible Study

Every Thursday between
10 - 11am via Zoom.

Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net for the Zoom link. Anyone interested is welcome.

SUPPLY DRIVE TO SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS IN HURLEY, VIRGINIA

PLEASE BRING TO BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SOME ITEMS YOU CAN DONATE



TOWELS



SHEETS



POTS/PANS



COOKING SUPPLIES

We spent many summers in Hurley, Virginia helping to build homes, bathroom, ramps, etc. This past September they were badly hit by flooding due to Hurricane Ida. Homes were completely destroyed and washed away. Please help us collect household items. They need linens, towels, air mattresses, and cook wear. Items can be new or gently used. Please bring donations by 11/1.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Monday, November 1st** - Yoga
- **Tuesday, November 2nd** - Quilting
- **Thursday, November 4th** - Bible Study
- **Sunday, November 7th** - Worship with us in person in the sanctuary at 10:00 am, or *virtually* by going to the link on our website. **Childcare available. Communion & All Saints Day**
- **Sunday, November 14th** - Second Sunday Soup & Bells play during worship

Bedford Presbyterian Church 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
Edwin & Ellida Acevedo, Building & Grounds Maintenance
The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart as Pastor Emeritus

Sunday Worship Service in person and virtual at 10:00 am

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

Our Leadership

Session

Linda Burpee, Alison Cape, ***Jeanne Collins, President***
Michelle Gosh, ***Brian Hiller-Dupont, Clerk of Session***
Alan McDougall, Suzanne Millette
Carol Howard Merritt, Moderator

Deacons

Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson, Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames
Pat Ferguson, ***Don Hiller-Dupont, Moderator,***
Kim Lapple, Natasha Mast, Rebecca Rivard & Sarah Ryan