

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"The Annunciation" by Henry Ossawa Tanner

**First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021**

Prelude

“Wake, Awake!”

J. S. Bach

Introit

Veni Immanuel

John Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candles

Reader: The hope began when Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, “And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.” (Luke 1:31-32)

Reader: This dream of God loomed far from the everyday realities that Mary faced—the brittle ground, the stubborn rocks, the pounding sun, and the dry air. Yet, Gabriel lodged a hope in Mary that she could not resist. After the visit, when Mary looked to the horizon, she imagined something else ahead of her. Her perspective transformed. Though Mary lived a bleak existence of servitude, she would be the mother of God. Though she labored under the rule of Rome, her son’s reign would have no end. As the months wore on, that hope kept fluttering in Mary’s belly, along with a yearning hunger.

Reader: We live into that hope, this Advent season. Like an itch that cannot quite be reached, we know that the world is not what it ought to be, but we see glimpses of God’s dream. As we look to the horizon, that longing sparks in us, as we yearn to be God’s beloved community.

All: As we light the candle of hope, we open ourselves to longing and possibilities. We enter into the Advent season, watching for those sparks of God’s reign, when peace will endure forever.

(Light the candle of hope.)

Prayer

All: God of possibilities, help us to see beyond the horizon as we hope for the world as it ought to be. Create in us a hunger and thirst for you. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn 9** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, forgive us, for we ignore the signs of our times. Even as nature cries out with threats of global climate change—flooding, droughts, and hurricanes—we neglect the roaring sea and the waves. We do not take care and we cut ourselves off from the earth and its goodness. Spark awe in us, God, so that we might understand all of the ways that we are interconnected. Through your Spirit, we pray.

(Silent confession)

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

*** Sung Response** *Comfort, Comfort You My People (Hymn 3)*

Comfort, comfort you my people,
Tell of peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover,
And their warfare now is over.

Time with the Children

The children can leave for Sunday Spirit.

Hebrew Bible Lesson *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Anthem Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying! Chorale arr. J. S. Bach

Gospel Lesson *Luke 21:25-33*

Jesus said: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Sermon *"Signs of the Times"* Carol Howard Merritt

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and 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

Anthem *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* Paul Manz

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 1** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*** Choral Response** *Fourfold Amen* F. Glynn

***Postlude** *Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul* J. Krebs

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.

2022 Pledges

Have you made a pledge for 2022 in support of Bedford Presbyterian Church? We hope to hear from all of our members and friends. Thank you!



Christmas Eve Services

5pm - Christmas Pageant, Joyful Noise Performance
7pm - Candlelight Service
9pm - Candlelight Service
11pm - Candlelight & Communion



"Stars of Hope" Quilt Raffle

Don't forget to return
your raffle tickets!

Increase your chance of
winning by buying more
tickets after the service,
every Sunday in
November.

The winning ticket will be
picked at the Mistletoe
Mart at 3pm.



Jean Palmer is a founding member of the
BPC Quilters. The quilt raffle has been a
church tradition since 1979.



AA Meetings at BPC

AA BVIG Meetings

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 7:15 - 8:15 pm

Sunday 7 - 8 pm

AA Women's Meeting

Friday 7:15 - 8:15 pm

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE
37TH ANNUAL
MISTLETOE MART

**Saturday,
December 4th
9am - 3pm**

Knitted goods - Hand hooked
pillows - Handmade pottery -
Jewelry -
Hand-painted home decor
- Pottery - Felted wool
accessories -
Wreaths & Floral arrangements
- Toffee - Vintage
Christmas Treasures

Santa is coming 11-1pm

**Buy your Raffle
tickets for the
"Stars of Hope"
Quilt**



Please sign up to:
**-bring in baked goods
for the Bake Sale**
**-Cook, provide supplies
or help to sell chili**
**-Christmas Wreath
Making with MaryLou**

***more information & sign ups
in the E-NEWS, on our website,
or call the office for contact
information**

**If anyone has Christmas
items they would like to
donate to the Christmas
Treasures Sale please
contact Pat Ferguson.**



Go to our website for more information on the Mistletoe Mart Wreath Making on Wednesday, December 1st from 9am-5pm at the Church and for more information on the collection of Vintage Christmas Treasures for the Mistletoe Mart.

Upcoming Youth Group Events

On **Friday, December 3rd at 7pm**, middle and high school students are invited to go shopping at Target for Christmas gifts for the Bedford Hills Correctional Children's Center.

On **Friday, December 17th at 7pm**, youth, their friends, and *any college students who are home* are invited to the Youth Group Christmas Party where there will be food, games and good times to celebrate the holiday season.

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT

Your child is invited
to be a part of the Christmas
pageant at BPC! The pageant will
be presented at the Christmas Eve
service at 5pm.

This beloved tradition offers each child a
unique experience of the Christmas story,
with its enduring message of hope, peace, joy and love.

If you are interested in participating, please
email Don Hiller-DuPont (see below). We would like
to have a confirmation of children interested so
we can make preparations throughout
the month of December.

Thank you,
Don DuPont (dondupont@outlook.com)
Sarah Ryan
Kathy DiBiasi



Cookies Needed!!

The **Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry** will be distributing red holiday bags with some special items for pantry clients. The pantry is requesting 'store bought' packaged cookies (no tins and no larger than approximately 1 pound) to include in the bags. A donation box will be available in the church vestibule and our goal is to receive 30 packages of cookies by December 15th. For questions or more information, please contact Cecilia Rosenblum at: **914-645-2096** or clr4tny@optonline.net.



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 our website and use the sign up genius to pick your dates and get more information.

If you have any questions please contact Sarah Alley or Michelle Eames.

Millie Kane Luncheon

The Millie Kane Luncheon has been postponed until the spring. More information to come at a future date.

Advent Spirituality Series

Wednesdays at 7pm in the Chapel

DEC 1 | CENTERING PRAYER
DEC 8 | LECTIO DIVINA
DEC 15 | VISIO DIVINA

Spiritually prepares for Christmas together!

Contact Courtney for more information

The poster features a decorative border of stylized flowers and leaves in shades of orange, red, and green. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, dark green, and red fonts. Two circular callouts with dashed borders contain additional text.

JOYFUL NOISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR



At Bedford Presbyterian Church, we LOVE music. We believe every child should have the chance to sing and find their voice. We are asking children of all ages to join us 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 at dondupont@outlook.com.

Parents, please join the Joyful Noise's Google Classroom through the website!

The date of our next performance is Sunday, November 21st and the rehearsal will be at 9:30 am on the morning of the service.

THANK YOU!

Thank you all for your support and help with our first week of the Emergency Shelter Partnership! ESP, their guests and all of us really appreciate your support and hard work last week!

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday
10-11am via zoom

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

Neighbors Link ★ Holiday Gift Drive

Drop off by December 12th

Neighbors Link's traditional Mercado de las Fiestas (Holiday Market) is back for their clients in Mount Kisco and Ossining! Parents are able to select gifts for their children. They are collecting. You can also click here to see their Amazon wishlist.

Please drop off all donations in the bin at the church.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

We are reviving
Circle of Friends this year!
The idea is for members to host
small celebrations throughout the
entire year. The goal is that through these
informal gatherings we will help foster and
build relationships in our church community.

Some ideas could include hosting a
dinner or luncheon at your home or even an
afternoon tea! You decide the date, time,
and amount of people you feel comfortable
hosting and we will organize the sign-up!

If you are interested in hosting an
event, please e-mail
Don Hiller-DuPont at
dondupont@outlook.com

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



FLOWER DONATIONS

Flower donations for Sunday Services

We have many Sundays available for Sunday flower sponsors. Please sign up no later than one week prior to the Sunday you want to sponsor to ensure that your dedication gets placed in the bulletin. Checks can be sent to the church office or you can make your \$50.00 secure online donation on our website.

Christmas decorations for the Church

Please help us decorate the church with Christmas flowers and greens. A \$25.00 donation will help us beautify the church, and along with your donation, you can make a dedication to anyone you would like. Your name along with your dedication will go in our bulletin and E-NEWS. The deadline to make your donation and dedication is Thursday, December 9th. Mail your check to the church along with your dedication, go to our website and click on Donate > Christmas Flowers or call the church office at 914-232-3672 or email Office@bedfordpreschurch.org.



Please visit
CommunityCenterNW.org
to learn more about the
Share the Warmth Drive.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Monday, November 29th** - Yoga
- **Tuesday, November 30th** – Quilting
- **Wednesday, December 1st** – Wreath Making & Advent Spirituality Series
- **Thursday, December 2nd** – Bible Study
- **Saturday, December 4th** – Mistletoe Mart 9am – 3pm MASKS REQUIRED
- **Sunday, December 5th** - First Sunday of Advent and Communion. Worship with us in person in the sanctuary at 10:00 am, or *virtually* by going to the link on our website. ***Childcare available.***

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, 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