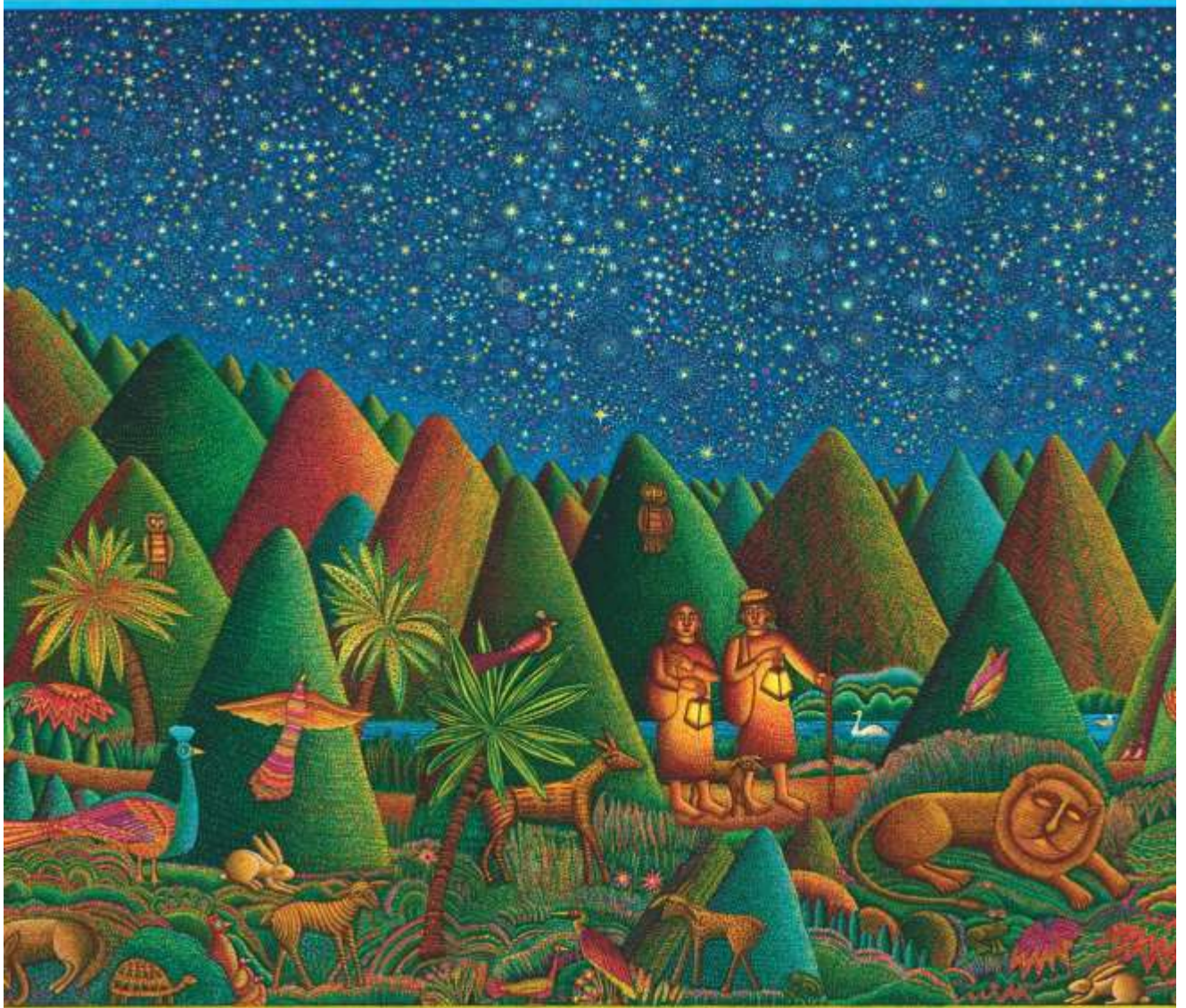


BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Peaceable Kingdom" by John August Swanson

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

Prelude	<i>Veni, Veni, Emmanuel</i>	J. McGregor
Introit	<i>Soon and Very Soon</i>	A. Crouch

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Candle of Joy

“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.’” (Luke 1:46-47)

When John kicked in Elizabeth’s womb, Mary proclaimed how her spirit rejoiced! We know that John’s jolt will be just the beginning of the joy that the two women will feel—for their days will soon be filled with the exhausted and weary delights of parenting.

Mary will experience the elation of holding her child on her chest. She will thrill as Jesus turns over, lifts his head, learns to crawl, and takes a step. Each clumsy march will fill Mary with pleasure. Mary will relish the days as Jesus discovers the world, his face shining with awe and amazement. Every day, Mary will have joy, as Jesus grows in wisdom and stature.

We share in the delight of Advent, as we encounter children around us, and when we can be as children ourselves, rejoicing in light and laughter.

Lighting

All: We light the candle of joy, as we take pleasure in the Spirit's surprising jolts. May the spark remind us to taste and see that God is good.

(Light the first, second, and third candles.)

Prayer

**All: God of joy, awaken us so we might savor your abundant life.
Amen.**

*** Opening Hymn 36** In the Bleak Midwinter

Prayer of Confession

God of peace, you call us to work for a world where all will be fed, but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires. You call us to seek peace, but we become used to violence. You call us to forgiveness, but we cling to our resentments. Forgive us, O God. Change us by your Spirit, so that all may know satisfaction, peace, and forgiveness.

(Silent confession)

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Time with the Children

The children may leave for Sunday Spirit after Time with the Children.

Anthem *Rejoice in the Lord Alway* Henry Purcell

Gospel Lesson *Luke 1:39-45*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Sermon *Promise of Change* Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering

Offertory Anthem *Dixit Maria* H.L. Hassler

Mary said to the Angel: I am the servant of the Lord

***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**

Prayers of the People

Joys & Concerns

Prayer & 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 12**

People, Look East

***Charge and Blessing**

***Response**

The Peace of God

Henry Purcell

***Postlude**

Magnificat Primi Toni

D. Buxtehude

Announcements

Christmas Eve Services

5 pm - Candlelight Service, Christmas Pageant,
& Joyful Noise Performance

7 pm - Candlelight Service

9 pm - Candlelight Service

11 pm - Candlelight Service & Communion

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Were given by the Glod-Hayes family
in loving memory of
George F. Glod

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5TH
7-9 PM VIA ZOOM

WOMAN 2 WOMAN TRAINING SESSION

Since April of 2020, when Covid originally shut down in-person visiting at NY State prisons, Woman 2 Woman visitors have relied primarily on email to stay connected with our incarcerated friends. Slowly but steadily we are headed back into Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities for in-person visits. We have found the processes streamlined, Covid protocols routinely followed, and the visiting rooms depressingly empty. It's time to get back to our original mission.

And so, for the first time since September of 2019, we're thrilled to announce that we have scheduled an in-person visitors' training, to be held on Wednesday, January 5th from 7-9 pm.

To RSVP and to receive the Zoom link, please contact Nancy Gernert at

nancygernert@gmail.com.



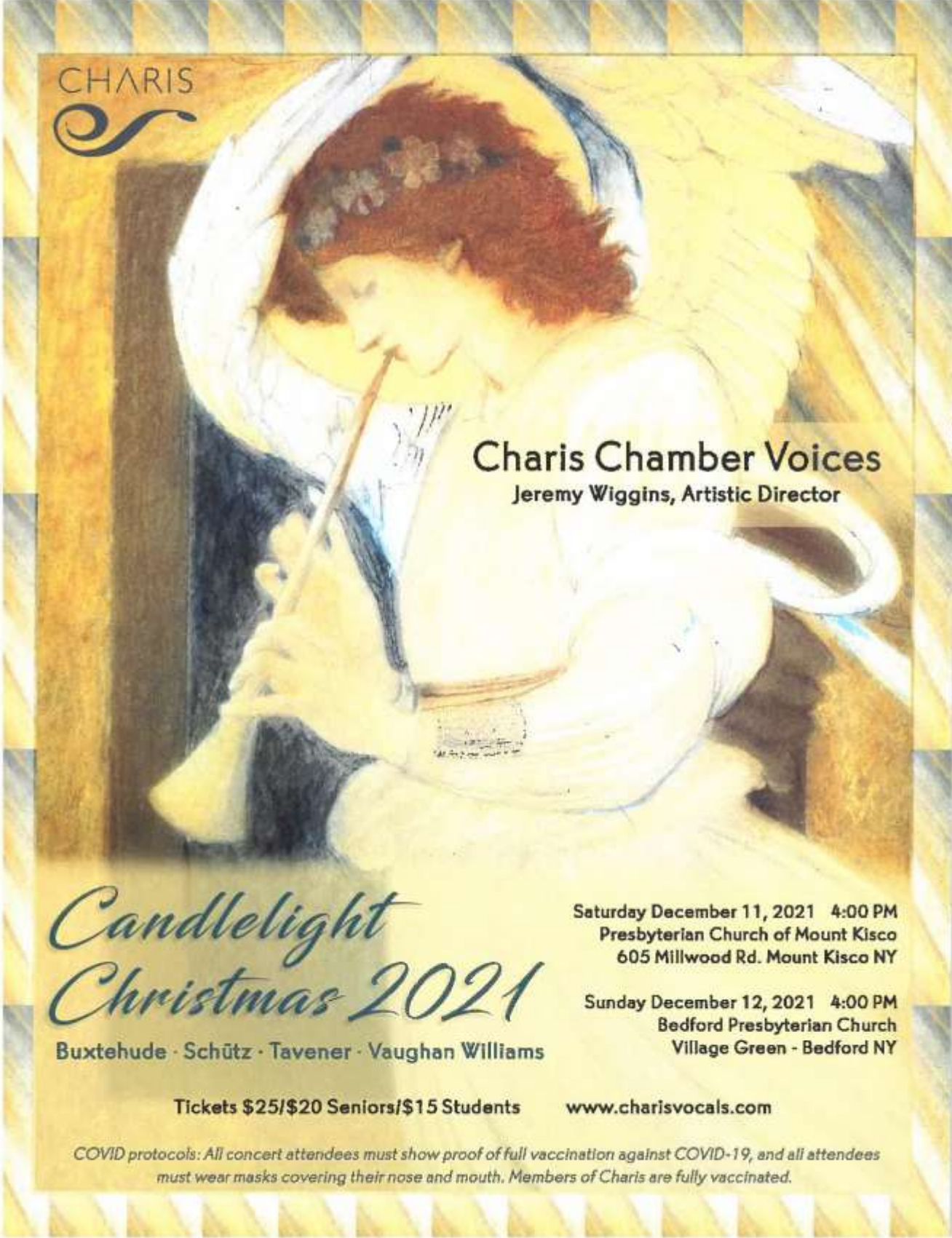
RECONNECT WITH

OUR FAITH
EACH OTHER
OUR COMMUNITY

Reminder: Have you sent in your stewardship pledge in support of Bedford Presbyterian Church for 2022?

- The Stewardship Committee

CHARIS

Charis Chamber Voices
Jeremy Wiggins, Artistic Director

*Candlelight
Christmas 2021*

Buxtehude · Schütz · Tavener · Vaughan Williams

Saturday December 11, 2021 4:00 PM
Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco
605 Millwood Rd. Mount Kisco NY

Sunday December 12, 2021 4:00 PM
Bedford Presbyterian Church
Village Green - Bedford NY

Tickets \$25/\$20 Seniors/\$15 Students

www.charisvocals.com

COVID protocols: All concert attendees must show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19, and all attendees must wear masks covering their nose and mouth. Members of Charis are fully vaccinated.



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

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!

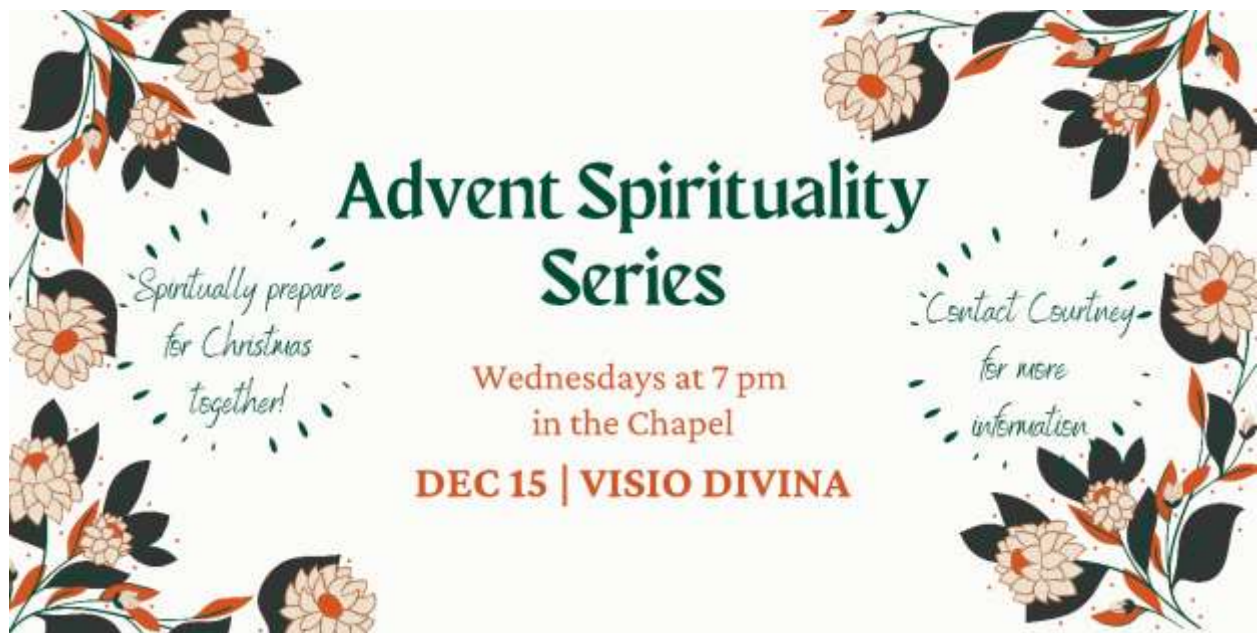
Don Hiller-Dupont leads Joyful Noise. Please email Don with any questions at dondupont@outlook.com.

Parents, go to our website to join the Joyful Noise's Google Classroom!

The date of our next performance is **December 24th** during the 5 pm Christmas Eve service.

Upcoming Youth Group Event

On **Friday, December 17th at 7 pm**, 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.

A decorative graphic for an Advent Spirituality Series event. The background is light green with a floral border of white flowers with orange centers and dark green leaves. The text is centered and reads: "Advent Spirituality Series" in a large, dark green, serif font. Below it, in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font, is "Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Chapel". At the bottom, in a bold, orange, sans-serif font, is "DEC 15 | VISIO DIVINA". On the left side, there is a circular callout with the text "Spiritually prepare for Christmas together!" in a cursive font. On the right side, there is another circular callout with the text "Contact Courtney for more information" in a cursive font.

Advent Spirituality Series

Wednesdays at 7 pm
in the Chapel

DEC 15 | VISIO DIVINA

Spiritually prepare for Christmas together!

Contact Courtney for more information



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**.



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 new, unwrapped gifts for children ages 0-12 and \$25 gift cards for teenagers 13-18.

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



SECOND SUNDAY SOUP



We will be having Second Sunday Soup on Jan. 9th, Feb. 13th and March 13th! We are looking for volunteers to make soup for each of these weekends. Please email Sarah Ryan to sign up at Sarahryan237@gmail.com.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

We are reviving Circle of Friends! Members can host small celebrations throughout the year to help foster and build relationships in our church community. Some ideas could include hosting a dinner, a luncheon, or even an afternoon tea!

You decide the date, time, and amount of people, and we will organize the sign-up! If you're interested in hosting, please e-mail Don Hiller-Dupont at dondupont@outlook.com.

DECORATORS LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE TO HELP US DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON! THERE WILL BE DECORATING ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS AS WELL!

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday, 10 -11 am via zoom

Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net for the Zoom link.

All are welcome.

*Communion is held on the 1st Sunday
of every month.*

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 5 pm. 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 at dondupont@outlook.com. We would like to have a confirmation of children interested so we can make preparations throughout the month of December.

Thank you,

Don Dupont, Sarah Ryan & Kathy DiBiasi

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 both Elyssa and Jessica by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org **Office@bedfordpreschurch.org**

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Monday, December 13th** - Yoga
- **Tuesday, December 14th** – Lunch with Friends
- **Wednesday, December 15th** – Advent Spirituality Series
- **Thursday, December 16th** - Bible Study & Choir Practice
- **Friday, December 17th** – Youth Group
- **Sunday, December 19th** – 4rd Sunday of Advent. Worship with us in person in the sanctuary at 10:00 am, or *virtually* by going to the link on our website. **Childcare available. Decorators Lunch.**
- **Monday, December 20th** - Yoga
- **Tuesday, December 28th** - Lunch with Friends

Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church

A Worshipping Community

Shortly after the founding of the town of Bedford in 1680, plans were made to build a multi-purpose "meeting house" for town gatherings and religious services. In its first years, the church was Anglican and Congregational, but became Presbyterian by 1720 under the pastorate of Rev. William Tennent.

Today, Sunday morning worship at BPC is grounded in progressive Presbyterian tradition. Our values are exemplified by our short mission statements:

- *Love Your Neighbor*
- *Teach Our Children*
- *Never Stop Learning*



More than Just Sundays.

Opportunities to participate in outreach abound at BPC. BPC was a co-founder of the Emergency Shelter Partnership in which local churches and synagogues provide shelter for homeless people during the winter months. The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry is another organization we have a strong, ongoing partnership with. Additionally, we participate in Midnight Runs, and our high school youth participate in work trips both domestically, to Appalachia and internationally. We believe that living our faith means involving ourselves in social justice work.

For additional information about Bedford Presbyterian Church, visit us online at: www.bedfordpreschurch.org or call us at 914.234.3672



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

Our Leadership

Session

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

Deacons

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