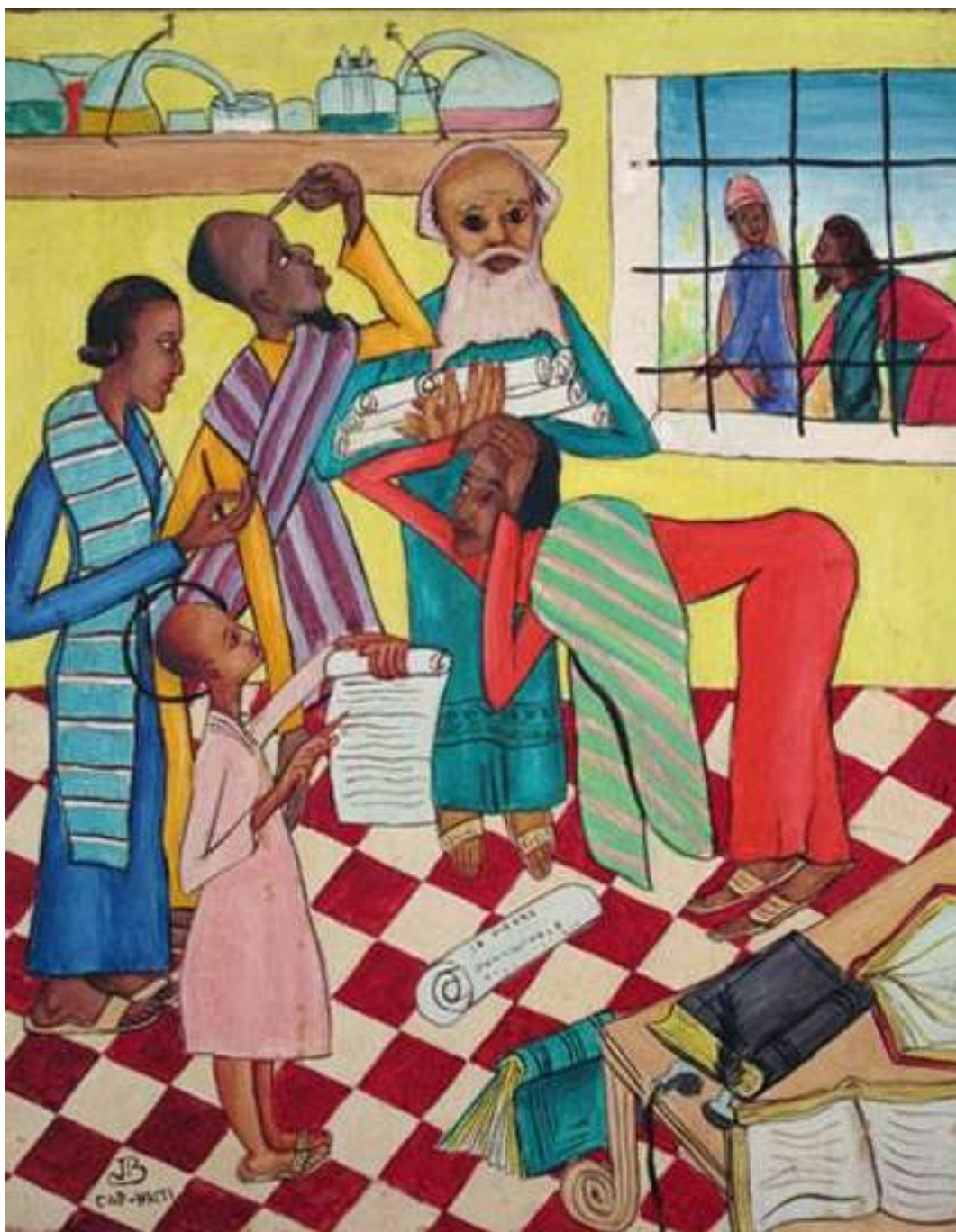


# BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Young Jesus in the Temple" by Jean-Baptiste Bottex

# First Sunday of Christmas

## December 26, 2021

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

Leader: Like Joseph and Mary, we want to protect the child Jesus.

**People: We want him to be safe and sound.**

Leader: And when something unexpected happens, we are frightened.

**People: We wonder what we should have done differently.**

Leader: Lord, in this day, help us to remember that God is ever with us.

**People: Let us place our trust in God's loving presence as we grow in our own faith.**

### \*Hymn 274

*O God of Earth and Space*

Hebrew melody

### Prayers of Confession

**O God, we have wandered far from the promises of our covenant with you. We have taken for granted the blessings we enjoy from your hand. We seldom stop to ponder who you are or to bow down in awe before your holiness. We resist your will and ignore your activity in our midst. Only when life is difficult do we think of ultimate realities. Then you seem far away and unreal. Forgive us, we pray, for trying to play God. Show us how to grow in relation to you and to other people. Hear now our silent prayers of confession:**

(Silent confession)

**Amen.**

### Pardon

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

**People: And also with you.**

## Hebrew Bible Lesson and Response: Psalm 148 (from *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill)

### Sung Response: 3 Alleluia 11

The image shows a musical score for a sung response. It is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 104. The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! (hum)". The first staff has a repeat sign at the beginning and a "D.S." marking at the end. The second staff has the lyrics "(Al - le - lu - ia)" written below it. The score is licensed by OneLicense.net #A-700877.

Praise the Blessed One! Give praise from the heavens, And from all ends of the earth! Give praise, all you angels, angels of earth and of heaven! Give praise, sun and moon, give praise, all you shining stars! Give praise, all universes, the whole cosmos of creation! **ALLELUIA**

Praise the Blessed One! For through love all was created and firmly fixed forever and ever; Yes, the pattern of creation was established. **ALLELUIA**

Give praise to the Beloved, all the earth, all that swim in the deep, and all the winged ones in the air! Give praise, all mountains and hills, all trees and all minerals! Give praise, all four-legged and all that creep on the ground! **ALLELUIA**

Leaders of the nations and all peoples, young and old, give praise! Unite together in all your diversity, that peace and harmony might flourish on earth! **ALLELUIA**

For all are called to be friends, companions to the true Friend, giving their lives joyfully as co-creators and people of peace! Praises be to the Blessed One, The very breath of our breath, The very heart of our heart! **ALLELUIA**

### Gospel Lesson Presentation

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they

started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

**Sermon**

*Child-like Wonder*

Courtney Steininger

**Joys and Concerns**

**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 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**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn 28**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

German Folk Tune

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Postlude**

**Thank you to the following people for so generously donating to BPC to help with the beautiful flowers & greens in the sanctuary.**

**Bradley & Tate Atkinson**

*In loving memory of Bette Lou & Bob Mann, Adele Tegtmeier, & Carter's mom, Brenda.*

**Gordon & Judy Aydelott**

*In memory of my parents, Jesse and Ruth Agor, and Gordon's parents, Marge and Jack Aydelott.*

**Rick & Anne Bentzen**

*From the Bentzen family in gratitude for the blessings of our family's youngest generation.*

**Bob & Hope Black**

*Given by Hope and Bob Black in celebration of our family, and thankful for our many blessings.*

**Bing & Marcy Carlson**

*To our wonderful family, the members we've loved being with recently and those we've lost.*

*To Vickie Dey for all of her thoughtfulness and help for the older people in our congregation.*

**Pat Ferguson**

*In loving memory of Tom Ferguson, who loved celebrating Christmas in our beautiful church.*

**Michael & Kate Flynn**

*Dedicated to our kids, Isla and Ronan Flynn.*

**Victor Fried**

*Good will to all creatures great and small.*

**Carla Hawryluk**

*Peace on Earth.*

**Marilyn Hermansen**

*In loving memory of Roy W. Hermansen who remains in our hearts forever.*

**Don & Brian Hiller-Dupont**

*From Brian and Don Hiller-Dupont in loving memory of Phyllis Hiller.*

**Richard & Natasha Mast**

*Dedicated to the memory of Mark London.*

**Tom & Lindsay Miserandino**

*In memory of Nelson H. Erb.*

**Mandana O'Connor**

*Wishing everyone good health, peace, love and happiness from the O'Connors.*

**Jean Palmer**

*In loving memory of Joe Palmer.*

**Heather Raker**

*In loving memory of our father, Bruce L. Beatty from Holly Bernene and Heather Raker.*

**Jeff and Sharon Seidell**

*In gratitude for so many Christmas celebrations together as a family.*

**Andrew Strawcutter**

*For Daddy, born 12/25/26.*

**Matt Valenti & Jeanne Collins**

*To Tinsley and Luke.*

**Jill Ferguson Warmbier & Jane Ferguson Huebner**

*In loving memory of our father, Thomas Wells Ferguson, III.*

# EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP

DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 2



ESP starts on Monday and we have many slots open for volunteers. We know it is a busy week and many are away but if you are available we can really use your help!

We need:  
Monday 12/27: Dinner & delivery  
Sunday 1/2: Snacks, dessert & delivery

Specific details for each of these items are on the sign up genius. We also need someone to transport the food and check in guests at Saint Mark's Church in Mount Kisco. We appreciate all of your help and support!

[Click here to sign up.](#)

Email Elyssa with any questions. [Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org).

## TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE

JOIN US FOR SERVICE SUNDAYS (4TH SUNDAY OF  
THE MONTH)!

OUR INITIAL SERVICE SUNDAY WILL BE JANUARY 23RD. WE  
WILL GATHER TOGETHER AFTER CHURCH TO WORK ON A  
SERVICE PROJECT TOGETHER. WE WILL BE PREPARING FOR  
OUR UPCOMING MIDNIGHT RUN, PUTTING TOGETHER BAGS  
FOR THE WOMENS PRISON, ETC.



## 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](mailto:Sarahryan237@gmail.com).



Northern Westchester  
Refugee Resettlement Initiative  
resetwestchester@gmail.com

**Through ReSET\* we have adopted a family of 5 who will be arriving in Northern Westchester this weekend! Bedford Presbyterian Church, along with other organizations have come together to help the family.**

**This is an ongoing mission that will need the help of many. Volunteers of all types of involvement are needed and welcomed. If you would like to volunteer email [resetwestchester@gmail.com](mailto:resetwestchester@gmail.com).**

**We currently need gift cards to Acme, Target or Khol's so that we can help the family settle and get everything they need. Gift cards can be dropped off at the church office or email Elyssa to coordinate other arrangements.**

\*Bedford Presbyterian Church, Temple Beth El, Temple Shaaray Teflia, Antioch Baptist Church & other local organizations have joined together to form an initiative called ReSET (Northern Westchester Refugee Resettlement Initiative). ReSET will play a direct role in helping refugees establish new homes in Northern Westchester.

## 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](mailto:dondupont@outlook.com).

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





Join us on Wednesday, January 5th at 6pm to chalk the doors for the night before Epiphany. There will be a bonfire and great company!

## Join the Bedford Bellringers



The Bedford Bellringers have been playing together for over 60 years at BPC. The Bellringers play 3-4 times a year and rehearse on Tuesday evenings, for a few weeks prior to performances. If you are interested in playing with the bells or have any questions, please contact **Heidi Michaels** at [hmichaels425@gmail.com](mailto:hmichaels425@gmail.com).

## BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday, 10 -11 am via zoom

Please contact Alan McDougall at [alanmcd@verizon.net](mailto:alanmcd@verizon.net) for the Zoom link.

All are welcome.





# AA Meetings at BPC

AA BVIG Meetings

For more information contact NY Intergroup  
office (212)647-1680

AA Women's Meeting  
Friday 7:15 - 8:15 pm

*Communion is held the on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
of every month.*

## 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](http://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](mailto:Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org)

[Office@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Office@bedfordpreschurch.org)

## Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Monday, December 27th – Sunday, January 2nd** - Emergency Shelter Partnership
- **Monday, December 27th** – Yoga, Office Closed
- **Thursday, December 30th** – Bible Study, Youth Group
- **Friday, December 31st** – Office Closed
- **Sunday, January 2nd** – Sunday worship

# Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church

## A Worshiping 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](http://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

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