

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Iris" by Vincent Van Gogh

Sunday, May 2, 2021

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship *Wisdom from Julian of Norwich* Eric Eichhorn

Leader: Jesus is our ground, the soil from which we grow, the foundation on which we were built.

People: He guards us and keeps us safe, when we do not even realize our own need.

Leader: He guards us with care and kindness, showing us where we have gone astray.

People: His presence is always with us, and his loving gaze never wavers, for he wants us to turn back to him and become united with him.

Hymn *The Church's One Foundation* Vs. 1 and 2

1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died.

2 Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Sermon

“Abiding”

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Hymn

God, Bless Your Church with Strength Vs. 1 and 2

1. God bless your church with strength!
Wherever we may be,
up build your servants as we work
in common ministry.
Urge us from fledgling faith
to venture and to soar

through open skies to sing the praise
of Christ whom we adore.

2. God bless your church with life!

May all our branches thrive,
unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit,
abundantly alive.

From you, one holy vine,
in freedom may we grow;
sustain us in our mission, Lord,
your love and peace to show.

Communion

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.

(Many people say the Lord's Prayer with "trespasses" or "sins" instead of "debts." Please feel free to pray in any form that makes you feel the most comfortable.)

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

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.



Today's Worship Flowers

Flowers for our May 2nd worship service were donated by

Kathy DiBiasi

In loving memory of Frank S. Files



BPC Parenting Blog



BPC Parents is a parenting blog written by a team of professionals from our community. We are here to give insight, care and thoughtfulness to fellow parents as we do the challenging, yet rewarding work of raising children. This month's article is written by Ali Flynn titled *It's okay to rest your weary head...*

Please us the following link or access it on our website:
<https://bpcparents.tumblr.com/post/649270507697586177/its-okay-to-rest-your-weary-head>

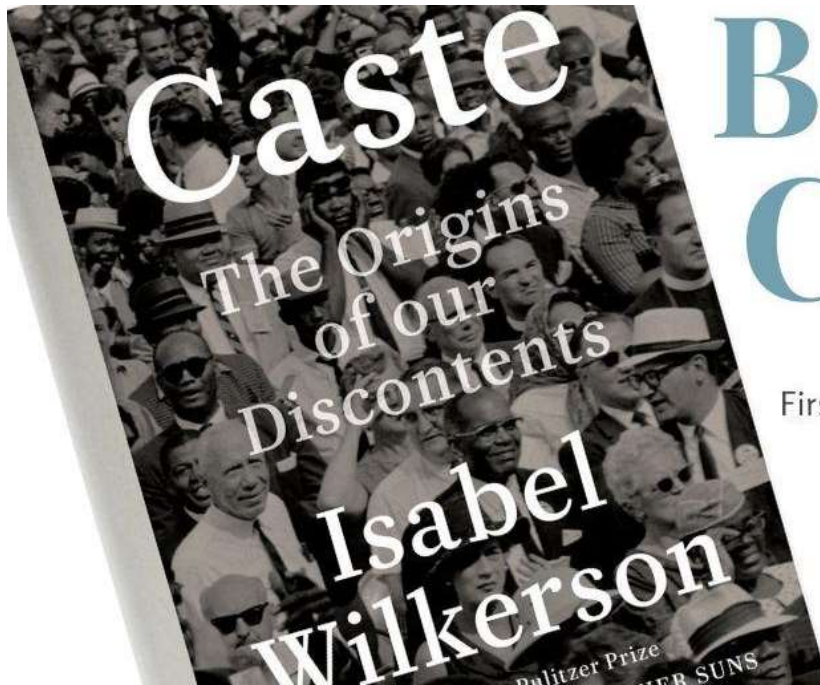
COFFEE HOUR RETURNS!

A top-down view of a white ceramic coffee cup filled with dark coffee, sitting on a matching white saucer. The cup is positioned in the bottom right corner of the image, partially overlapping the text area. The background is a light-colored, horizontally-grained wood texture.

We are bringing coffee back to our regular weekly services. We need volunteers to sign up to provide coffee for each week. You may either come to the church and make coffee in the kitchen or provide coffee from a place like Dunkin Donuts. They can provide you with a "Box of Jo" and all of the cups and fixings. If you choose to use the church kitchen to make the coffee there will be cups and sugar but you would be responsible for providing milk/cream. Please state in the comments which option you prefer so we can be sure everything is ready for you. Current estimates for coffee outside is for approximately 20 people. Thank you for your help!

If you have any questions, please contact either:
Blakely Brodbeck ~ blakelybrodbeck@gmail.com or
Elyssa Michaels ~ youthgroup@bedfordpreschurch.org

Please us the following link or access it on our website:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48A5AB2EA6FA7-coffee1>



Book Club

First and Third Mondays
beginning on May 3rd
at 7:00 pm



Please use the following link or access it on our website:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48a5ab2ea6fa7-coffee1>



Communion will be offered on the first Sunday of every month during the 10:00am worship service. Individual, pre-packaged Communion cups will be used.



On the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, join Reverend Carol for a socially distanced lunch under the tent. Just bring your lunch and a chair. Start time is 12:30 pm and there is no sign up needed. Tell your friends! The next lunch is May 11th.



Now that we are worshipping outside, we have volunteer opportunities.

Worship Assistant. We need someone who would be able to help Carol set up the worship space. The job would include making sure that candles are lit, the table is set, the kids' table is prepared, and the offering basket is out.

Sound Manager to fill in when David Burpee isn't available.

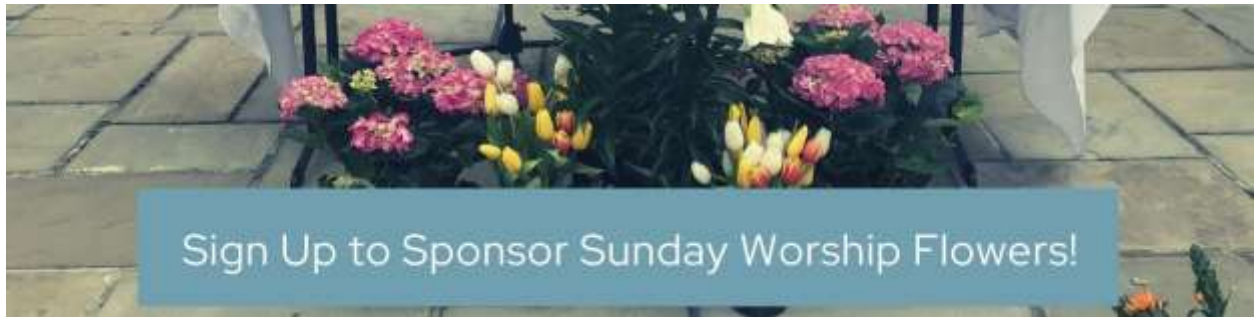
Please contact the BPC church office for more information.



TECHNOLOGY HELP NEEDED

Interested in helping with worship technology? During these unusual times we have learned that our ability to stream worship services to the internet is a vital way to keep our congregation connected. Now that we are worshipping outside, and will someday return to the sanctuary, we know that streaming worship will continue to be as important as ever.

As we continue this each week we are going to need individuals willing to be trained to perform this vital function. No experience or equipment is needed; all is provided. If interested contact Jim Fenimore jim@bedfordpreschurch.org for more info.



Flowers bring beauty to our Sunday morning service and can be a memorable way to celebrate a special day or a special person in your life. How to donate flowers couldn't be easier! Simply contribute \$50.00 to the church flower fund and create your own dedication line to run in the Sunday bulletin. Then, after worship, you or the person you're celebrating can take the flowers home! If you are interested, please use the SignUpGenius link below to:

- Sign up
- Submit your dedication
- Use the dedicated link to make your secure online donation of \$50.00

Please use the following link or access it on our website:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4daaab2ea5fa7-flower>

Please sign up no later than one week prior to the Sunday you want to sponsor flowers to ensure that your dedication gets placed in the bulletin.

**The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor
John Lettieri, Director of Music
Elyssa Michaels, Director of High School & Middle School Youth
Groups
Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager**

Sunday Worship Service In person and virtual 10:00 AM

**Email: Office@bedfordpreschurch.org ~ www.bedfordpreschurch.org
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914-234-3672**