

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



20th Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME



Sunday, August 15, 2021

Welcome, Announcements, and Greetings

***Call to Worship from Proverbs 9**

Leader: Wisdom has built her house. She has cut down and shaped her seven pillars.

People: She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, and she has also set her table.

Leader: She sends out her servers and she calls from the highest places in the town, "You who are simple, come here!"

People: To those without sense, Wisdom cries out, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Set aside your ignorance, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

***Opening Hymn 339**

Be Thou My Vision

1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

3 Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Call to Confession

Confession

Loving God, our lives are filled with chaotic voices that compete for our attentions. They sow discord to provoke our engagement. They whisper threats to kindle our fear. They insult us to heighten our despair. They yell enticements so that we might be entertained. Too often we become distracted by the cacophony.

Help us, O God, to quiet our minds. So that we might settle our conflicts, soothe our anxiety, and understand that we are your children. Give us ears to hear the voice of wisdom calling out to us. Help us to eat at her table, through your Spirit, we pray.

(Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response *I've Got Peace Like a River*

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

Hebrew Bible Lesson

1 Kings 3:3-14

Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you."

And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

Gospel Lesson

John 6:51-58

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jewish people then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

Sermon

The Call of Wisdom Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering

Offertory

***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 and Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Joys and Concerns

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.

*Hymn 478 *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

1 Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise Him for His grace and favor
To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

3 Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

4 Angels, help us to adore Him:
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Con moto maestoso

F. Mendelssohn

***Please stand if you are able**

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.





The Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah expects a heavy back to school rush in the next several weeks as families prepare for the coming year. Of particular need for the over 3,000 people the center gives food assistance to are containers of rice, pasta, cereals and mac & cheese. Center staff are very grateful for Bedford Presbyterian Church's prior support and hope the congregation will respond to this ongoing need.

The Center is located at 84 Bedford Road in Katonah. Food and gently used clothing may be dropped off Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm.

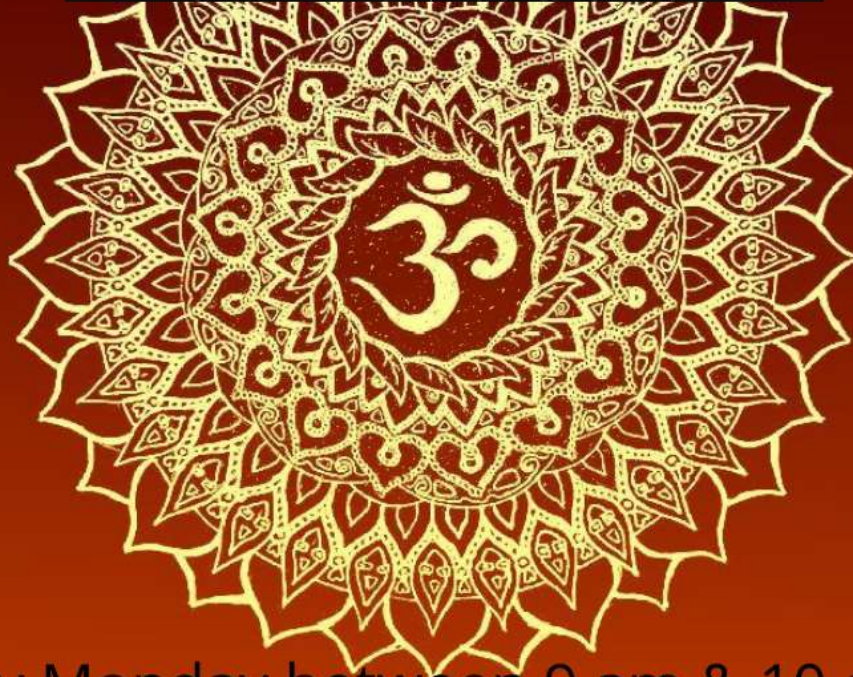
The graphic has a dark green background. On the left and right sides, there are white line-art illustrations of plants with leaves and small flowers. The text is centered and reads:

SAVE THE DATES!

September 12
Welcome Back Sunday!
Children's Choir
Picnic & Blue Grass Band

September 26
Rev. Carol Howard Merritt's Installation
with Dr. Diana Butler Bass

BPC YOGA



Every Monday between 9 am & 10 am
in Fellowship Hall

Join Kripalu Yoga Instructor Bobbe Stultz every Monday between 9:00 am and 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$20.00 per class.

A percentage of proceeds go to BPC!

For more information, contact bobbestultz@gmail.com.



Members worked on Intergenerate gardens and collected fresh food for distribution to Neighbors Link!



The BPC Quilting Group welcomes everyone to come and learn about the many joys of quilting. Feel free to come anytime between 1 pm and 4 pm. We will be in the Chapel Room.

No experience necessary. Creating a quilt together for the Mistletoe Mart is the perfect antidote for coming out of the pandemic!

RSVP to:

- Jeanne Morrison at Rjmorr145@verizon.net,
- Karen Ulanowski at karen.ulanowski@gmail.com, or
- Anne Bentzen at r.bentzen@verizon.net to join or inquire with any questions.



Calling all children!

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 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!

Our first song will be performed on **Sunday, September 12th** which is also our Welcome Back Picnic. Don Hiller-Dupont will lead Joyful Noise. Don is an active member at BPC and a Music Educator for the Chappaqua Central School District. Please email him with any questions at **dondupont@outlook.com**.



LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 12:30 pm
Under the tent

Join Carol for a socially distanced lunch under the tent on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. 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 August 24th.

SUPER SOAKER SUNDAY!

Today After Church
Kids Bring a Towel!

Volunteer Opportunity



We have opportunities to volunteer at **The Mt. Kisco Food Pantry**. We've also partnered with a local nonprofit organization, **Intergenerate**, to tend their "giving gardens." They distribute the harvest through a number of organizations including Neighbor's Link.

If you're interested in volunteering for either of these initiatives, please contact Sharon Seidell at sps1256s@gmail.com.



Please support the Rotary of Bedford-Armonk with their Food Pantry Drop-Off located in front of the church. Collected food will be distributed to the Community Center of Northern Westchester and the Interfaith Food Pantry.



The Bible Study group meets 10:00 am - 11:00 am Thursdays via Zoom and anyone interested is welcome. Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net for the Zoom link.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Monday, August 16th** - Yoga at BPC
- **Monday, August 16th** – **OFFICE CLOSED**
- **Tuesday, August 17th** – **OFFICE CLOSED**
- **Tuesday, August 17th** - Quilting
- **Thursday, August 19th** - Bible Study
- **Sunday, August 22nd** - Worship with us in person in the sanctuary at 10:00 am, or *virtually* by going to the link on our website.
Childcare available.
- **Sunday, September 12th** – Welcome Back Picnic
- **Tuesday, September 14th** - Pub Theology
- **Sunday, September 26th** – Reverend Carol’s Installation

Bedford Presbyterian Church Staff

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
Edwin & Ellida Acevedo, Building & Grounds Maintenance

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

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