

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



21st Sunday in

ORDINARY TIME



Sunday, August 22, 2021

Prelude

Andante Religioso

F. Mendelssohn

Welcome, Announcements, and Greetings

***Call to Worship from Psalm 84**

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O God of hosts!

People: My soul longs for your courts. My soul and my flesh sing for joy to you, O God.

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young at your altars.

People: For you are our sun and our shield. Our strength is in you.

***Opening Hymn 469**

Morning Has Broken

1 Morning has broken
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
Fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall
Sunlit from Heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where his feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play.
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day!

Call to Confession

Confession

God of grace, forgive us, for we have wandered from your ways and wasted your gifts. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

Restore us to your joy. By the power of your Spirit, help us to live as your forgiven people.

Amen.

(Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response

Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

Hebrew Bible Lesson

Ezekiel 36: 24 - 32

²⁴ “I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. ²⁸ Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ I will save you from all your uncleannesses, and I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰ I will make the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field abundant, so that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. ³¹ Then you shall remember your evil ways, and your dealings that were not good; and you shall loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominable deeds. ³² It is not for your sake that I will act, says the Lord GOD; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and dismayed for your ways, O house of Israel.”

Gospel Lesson

John 3:1-8

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”^[b] ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.^[c] ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You^[d] must be born from above.’^[e] ⁸ The wind^[f] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Sermon

The Born Identity

Elder David Burpee

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 430** *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy*

1 Come sing O church in joy!
Come join O church in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us
Through the ages long!

In bold accord come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

2 Long years have come and gone
And still God reigns supreme
Empowering us to catch the vision
Dream the dream!

In bold accord come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

3 Let courage be our friend
Let wisdom be our guide
As we in mission
Magnify the Crucified!

In bold accord come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

4 Come sing O church in joy!
Come join O church in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed
O'er the ages long!

In bold accord come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Trumpet Tune

H. Purcell

***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.





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

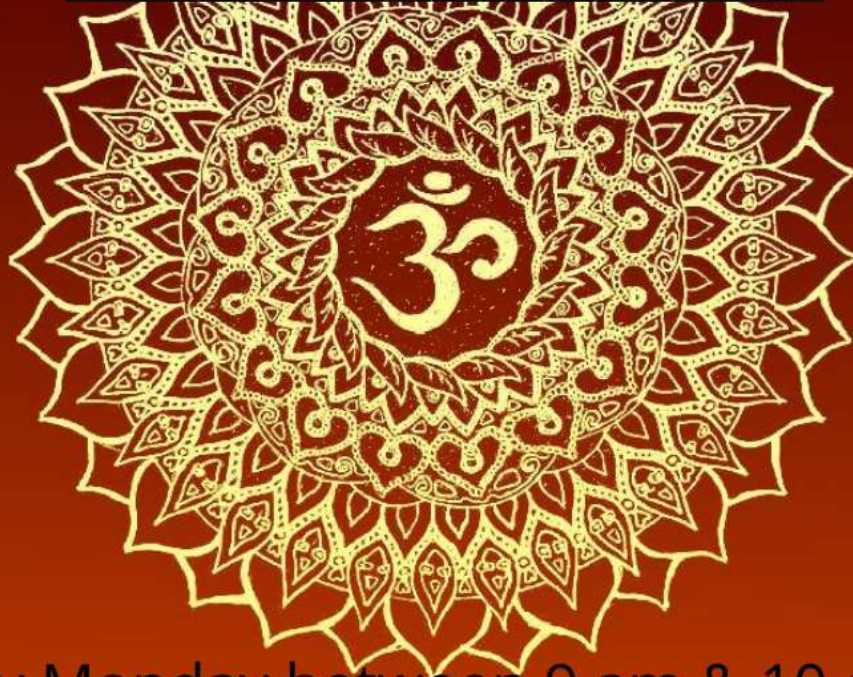


The Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah expects a heavy back to school rush in the next several weeks as families prepare for the coming year. Of particular need for the over 3,000 people the center gives food assistance to are containers of rice, pasta, cereals and mac & cheese. Center 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. At the top, 'SAVE THE DATES!' is written in a large, white, hand-drawn style font. Below this, 'September 12' is written in a white, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the text 'Welcome Back Sunday!', 'Children's Choir', and 'Picnic & Blue Grass Band' is stacked in a smaller white font. Further down, 'September 26' is written in the same large, white, hand-drawn style font. At the bottom, 'Rev. Carol Howard Merritt's Installation with Dr. Diana Butler Bass' is written in a white, sans-serif font. On the left and right sides, there are white line-art illustrations of various plants and leaves.

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.



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.

Look for the link to a **Joyful Noises Google Classroom** in our weekly E-NEWS.



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.



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 **Bedford-Armonk Rotary Club** 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 23rd** - Yoga at BPC
- **Tuesday, August 24th** – Lunch with Friends
- **Thursday, August 26th** - Bible Study
- **Sunday, August 29th** - 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

Email: Office@bedfordpreschurch.org ~ www.bedfordpreschurch.org
P.O. Box 280 ~ 44 Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506
914-234-3672