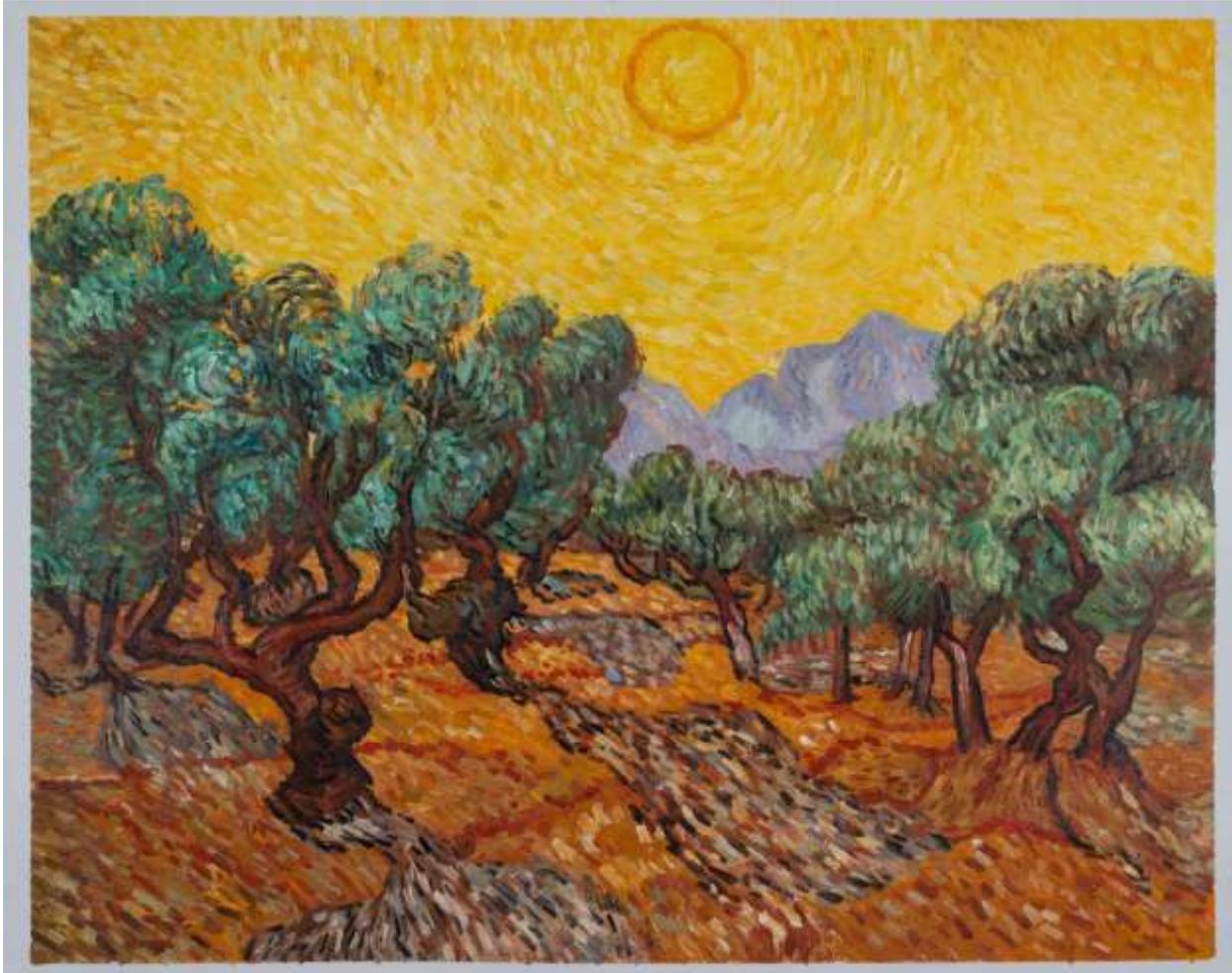


BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Olive Trees with Yellow Sky” by Vincent Van Gogh

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Prelude

Voluntary in D

John Stanley

Introit

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Caribbean arr. J. Bell

Welcome, Announcements, and Greetings

***Call to Worship from Psalm 19**

Leader: The heavens tell of God's beauty; the sky proclaims God's handiwork.

People: Day to day pours forth speech. Night to night declares knowledge.

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

People: The sun comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding, like a strong man running his course with joy.

*** Opening Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,

Singing bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3 Mortals, join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Confession

God of grace, we have done things that make us want to hide. We would like to bury the awful acts that hatred, bitterness, anger, and jealousy propelled us to do.

Forgive us for those things we tremble to name out loud. Remind us that we should never be defined by our failings. As we receive your mercy, help us to forgive ourselves, and learn to forgive one another. By your Spirit, we pray.

(Silent Confession)

Amen

Assurance of Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response*Breathe on Me. Breath of God*

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Joyful Noise Children's Choir*The children will leave for Sunday Spirit after the song.***Epistle Lesson***James 3:1-12*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can saltwater yield fresh.

Anthem

The Heart's Offering

Antony Baldwin

Gospel Lesson

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Sermon

Who Am I?

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering

Offertory

Anthem

Jubilate in C flat

C.V. Stanford

***Doxology and Prayer and Dedication**

**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 and Concerns

Solo	The Lord's Prayer	Albert H. Malotte Joseph Gansert, Baritone
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*** Hymn** *Lift High the Cross*

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. (Refrain)

2 Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. (Refrain)

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. (Refrain)

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. (Refrain)

***Charge and Blessing**

Response

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

Postlude

Praeludium in C

J. S. Bach

***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.

SAVE THE DATE!



Rev. Carol's Installation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

SERVICE AT 10 AM

RECEPTION AT 12:30 PM

INSTALLATION AT 3 PM

WITH DR. DIANA BUTLER BASS



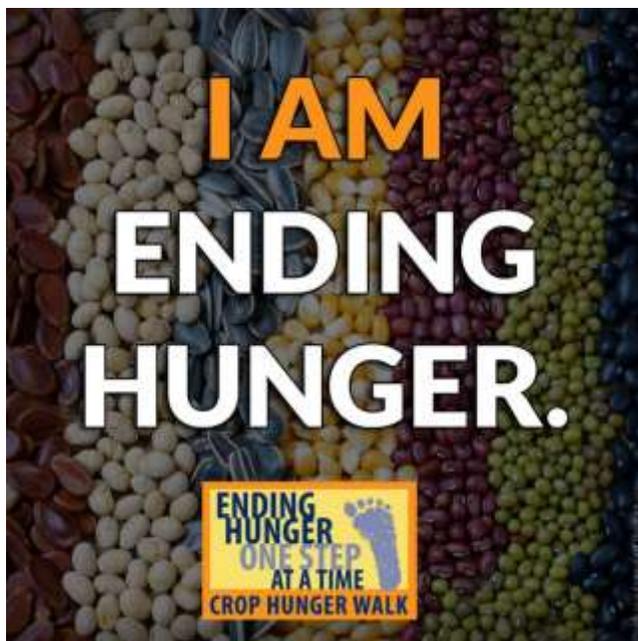
Immediately following worship.





The Sleepy Hollow String Band will be performing at our Welcome Back Picnic and Open House. Come and hear them play!!





The Northern Westchester Crop Walk is happening OCTOBER 17th.

If you would like to join our team and collect sponsors please go to our website and find the link for the Crop Walk or scan the QR Code below.

Click on the blue "join the team" button at the bottom.



If you cannot join the team, your sponsorship would be much appreciated. Please donate at the Crop Walk link (click on the orange "donate now" button), or if you prefer give cash or checks (made out to Church World Service) to Charlotte or Alison Cape.

Sunday Flowers

Flowers in the sanctuary were graciously dedicated by Bing & Marcy Carlson

In celebration of being back in the sanctuary for church services and the resumption of church activities with long time and new friends and families.



Thank you from the Property & Maintenance Committee

Thanks to the congregational support over the past 18 months we've been able to do a lot of work on our church facilities. We invite you to see what's been done right after church on Sept. 12th, then stay for the Welcome Back BBQ.

Please walk through the church basement and see the cleaned-up storage closets. Then check out the rehabbed choir room, our new conference room and our new Christian Education office. View the new security system in the church office and then walk over to the Youth Room on the lower level of the Sunday School wing. Finish the tour by walking to the front door of the manse to see the improvements on the first floor and then out the back door to the BBQ.

Major work we've been able to do:

Church building: mold remediation in basement and rebuilding/painting of all closets. Considerable painting of choir room, Christian Education office and creation of new conference room. Painting of the upstairs bathroom and rehabbing the old piano room into a workable storage closet. New benches, flower pots and plaques were added to the Memorial Garden (Columbarium). Did you notice the repaired slates and railings leading into the sanctuary, and the rebuilt side steps? What about the new walkway leading up to the pastor's office?

Jessica will show you the security monitors on her desk and the door entry lock on the main white Fellowship Hall doors. If you come to the church during the week, especially for a committee meeting, you will now have to be buzzed-in at the main door. For Sunday morning church gatherings, the security system will be deactivated and you probably won't notice any changes. Jessica is compiling a list of outstanding keys and a list of who should have key cards, and some of you will want a card. Nothing has changed in terms of an emergency exit in the case of fire. Ongoing work is an upgrade to our fire and burglar alarms.

The manse: We rebuilt the roof over the kitchen, did lots of interior painting, repaired and refinished hardwood floor in the den. We installed crown molding in living room and replaced the stair carpet. We remodeled the kitchen with granite counters and a new floor, and built a new wall to the back stairway. We also completed the exterior painting.

Thanks to all of you!



Join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month!

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

Tuesdays 12:30pm behind the church. Bring a chair.

The next lunch is September 14th.

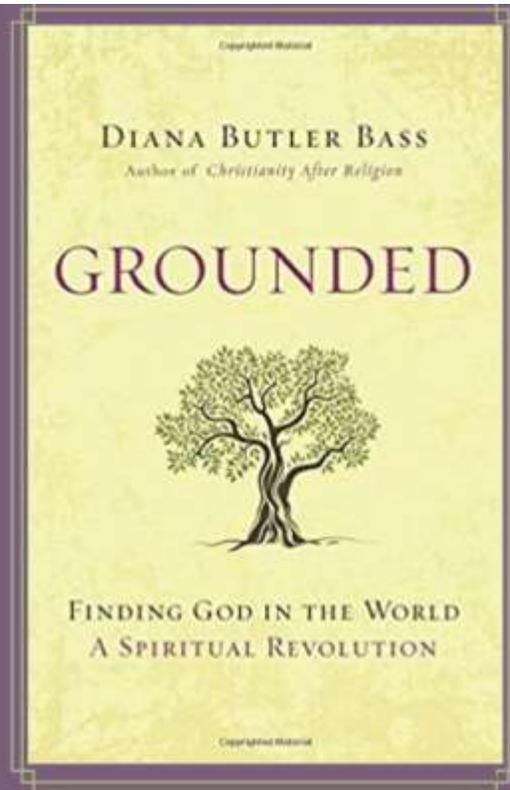


The Bible Study group meets between 10 – 11:00 am Thursdays on Zoom and anyone interested is welcome. Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net for the Zoom link.

Join us!

READ, GATHER, DISCUSS

MONDAY, SEPT 20TH • 7:00 PM
BACKYARD OF THE MANSE



BPC Quilting

The next meeting is

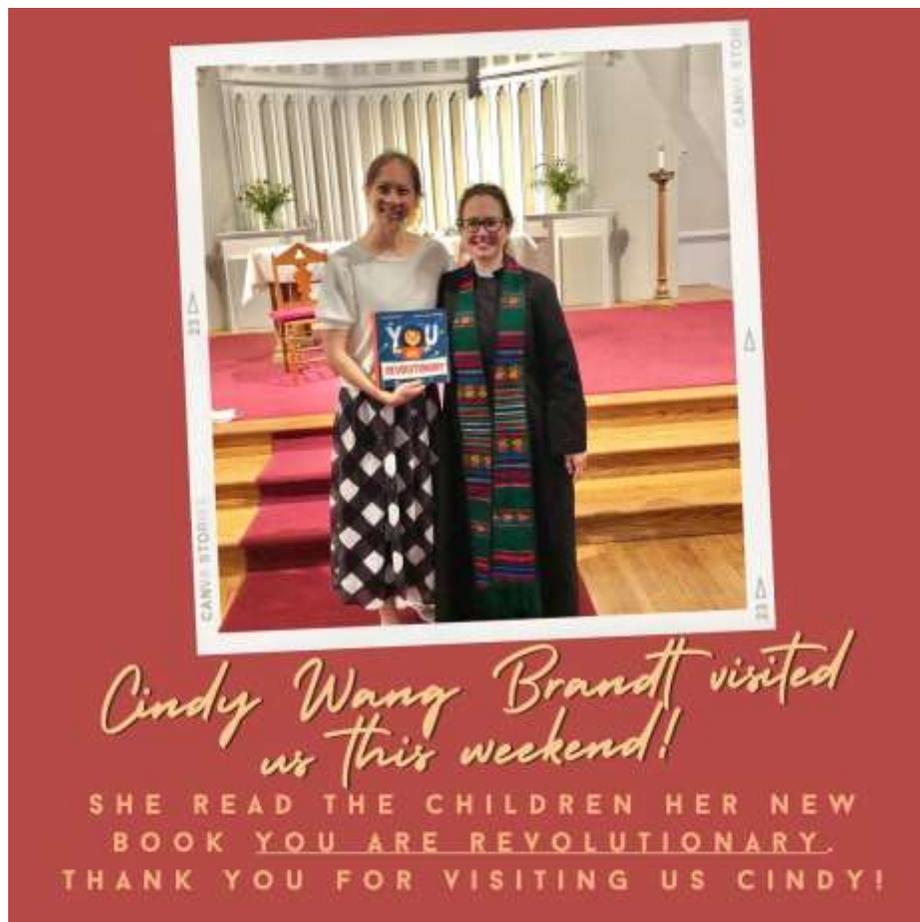
September 21st

1 pm - 4 pm



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.





Calling all children!

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

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**.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Sunday, September 12th** – Welcome Back Picnic & Open House
- **Monday, September 13th** - Yoga
- **Tuesday, September 14th** - Pub Theology & Lunch with Friends
- **Thursday, September 16th** - Bible Study
- **Sunday, September 19th** - 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 19th** - Installation of Deacons & Elders & Baptism
- **Monday, September 20th** - Yoga
- **Tuesday, September 21st** – Quilting
- **Thursday, September 23rd** - Bible Study
- **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 Congregational Life

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

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