

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



23rd Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME



Sunday, September 5, 2021

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, and Greetings

***Call to Worship from Psalm 146**

Leader: Happy are those whose help and hope is in God.

**People: For God gives justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry,
and sets the prisoners free.**

Leader: God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and
the widow.

People: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

1 Lord, you give the great commission:

"Heal the sick and preach the word."

Lest the church neglect its mission,

And the gospel go unheard,

Help us witness to your purpose

With renewed integrity;

With the Spirit's gifts empower us

For the work of ministry.

2 Lord, you call us to your service:

"In my name baptize and teach."

That the world may trust your promise,

Life abundant meant for each,

Give us all new fervor, draw us

Closer in community;

With the Spirit's gifts empower us

For the work of ministry.

3 Lord, you make the common holy:

"This my body, this my blood."

Let us all, for earth's true glory,

Daily lift life heavenward,

Asking that the world around us

Share your children's liberty;

With the Spirit's gifts empower us

For the work of ministry.

4 Lord, you show us love's true measure:

"Father, what they do, forgive."

Yet we hoard as private treasure

All that you so freely give.

May your care and mercy lead us

To a just society:

With the Spirit's gifts empower us

For the work of ministry.

Call to Confession

Confession

Loving God, as we look at the news, suffering overwhelms us. We watch as hurricanes batter the nation, wildfires blaze in the west, and refugees look for relief. We hear about overwhelmed hospitals. We feel helpless and so we look away. We ignore the pain in the world and wrap ourselves in our own concerns. We ignore the cries of the needy and refuse to love our neighbors.

Forgive us for our callous response. Show us how to overcome our fear, so that we might have strength to love. Through 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 *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,
And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again. (Refrain)

Epistle Lesson *James 2:1-10, 14-17*

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 7:24-37

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to

him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.

They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Sermon *Faith without Works* Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering

***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.

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord

Leader: Let us give thanks to God...

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

Prayer after Communion and 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

Come, Labor On

1 Come, labor on.

Who dares stand idle, on the harvest plain
While all around him waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
"Go work today."

2 Come, labor on.

Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
To young and old the Gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.

3 Come, labor on.

Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here;
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill
God's righteous will.

4 Come, labor on.

No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
Till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
And a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
"Well done, well done!"

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Fuga in D

J. Pachelbel

***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!



Reverend
Carol's Installation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
RECEPTION AT 12:30 PM
SERVICE AT 3 PM



Immediately following worship.



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

Food Drive

DROP OFF DONATIONS ON
SUNDAY, 9/12 AT THE
WELCOME BACK PICNIC



AFGHANISTAN

Refugee Resettlement

A number of people have asked how we can help the refugees from Afghanistan. We are working with Church World Services and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to find out what we can do.

Stay tuned for more information.



BPC YOGA

Every Monday between 9 & 10 am in Fellowship Hall



Come and work on your downward dog.

Join Kripalu Yoga Instructor Bobbe Stultz every Monday. The cost is \$20.00 per class and a percentage of proceeds goes to BPC! For more information, contact bobbestultz@gmail.com. No class on Labor Day.



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

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

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

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. No sign up necessary. Tell your friends! **The next lunch is September 14th.**

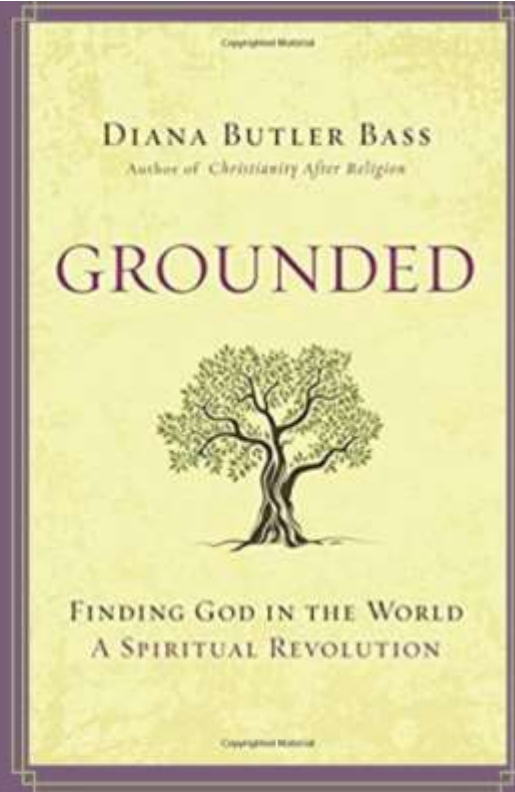


The Bible Study group meets 10:00 - 11:00 am Thursdays via Zoom and anyone interested is welcome. Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net for the Zoom link.

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

For questions or to join, contact: Jeanne Morrison
at Rjmorr145@verizon.net, Karen Ulanowski
at karen.ulanowski@gmail.com, or Anne Bentzen
at r.bentzen@verizon.net.



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!

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.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Monday, September 6th OFFICE CLOSED for Labor Day** - No Yoga
- **Thursday, September 9th** - Bible Study
- **Sunday, September 12th** - 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 & Open House
- **Monday, September 13th** - Yoga
- **Tuesday, September 14th** - Pub Theology & Lunch with Friends
- **Thursday, September 16th** - Bible Study
- **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 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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