

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Palms of Alligators” by Mark T. Howard

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

January 9, 2022

Prelude *Two Carols for Piano Four Hands* arr. N. Dello Joio
Rowan Pedraza and John Lettieri, Piano

Introit *Alleluia, Alleluia* South African

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning, darkness covered the deep, while a wind from God swept over the waters.

People: The voice of God is over the waters!

Leader: In the voice of the prophet, God said: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

People: The voice of God is over the waters!

Leader: When John baptized Jesus, suddenly the heavens opened, and a voice said: You are my beloved. With you I am well pleased.

People: The voice of God is over the waters!

Opening Hymn 10 *On Jordan's Bank*

Confession

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us a part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and turn each other away. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your love, have mercy on us, and free us. Fulfill the promises of our baptism, so that we might live as your beloved children.

(Silent confession)

Amen.

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response

**Baptized in water,
Sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Heirs of salvation,
Trusting the promise,
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.**

Time with the Children

Hebrew Bible Lesson *Isaiah 43:1-7*

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Anthem *Silent Night for Piano Four Hands* arr. N. Dello Joio

Gospel Lesson *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon *Beloved* Carol Howard Merritt

Prayers of the People and 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.

Remembering Our Baptism

You Have Put on Christ

Offering

Offertory

Anthem

There Shall a Star from Jacob Rise Up

F. Mendelssohn

*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 of Dedication

*Hymn 361

How Firm A Foundation

*Charge and Blessing

*Sung Response

Fourfold Amen

J. Stainer

*Postlude

Praise God, All Christians Rejoice

J. S. Bach

CHOIR

Do you love to sing?

WE WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN OUR CHOIR! ALL SINGERS MUST BE VACCINATED AND MASKED TO SING. CONTACT JOHN FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Joyful Noise Children's Choir



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 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!

Don Hiller-Dupont, leads Joyful Noise. Please email Don with any questions at dondupont@outlook.com.

Parents, **go to our website** to join the Joyful Noise's Google Classroom!



SPIRITUALITY GROUP

*We will be working through various spiritual practices from Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity* in order to re-ground our sense of self and our sense of faith.*

*Wednesdays at 7pm
via zoom*

*1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9,
2/16*

The Zoom link for the meeting can be found on our website.



Northern Westchester
Refugee Resettlement Initiative
resetwestchester@gmail.com

Through ReSET* we will be working with a family that is resettling from Afghanistan.

This is an ongoing mission that will need the help of many. Volunteers of all types of involvement are needed and welcomed. If you would like to volunteer email resetwestchester@gmail.com.

We currently need gift cards to Target, Khol's or Visa so that we can help the family settle and get everything they need. Gift cards can be dropped off at the church office or email Elyssa to coordinate other arrangements.

*Bedford Presbyterian Church, Temple Beth El, Temple Shaaray Teflia, Antioch Baptist Church & other local organizations have joined together to form an initiative called ReSET (Northern Westchester Refugee Resettlement Initiative). ReSET will play a direct role in helping refugees establish new homes in Northern Westchester.

Join the
Bedford Bellingers



The Bedford Bellingers have been playing together for over 60 years at BPC. The Bellingers play 3-4 times a year and rehearse on Tuesday evenings, for a few weeks prior to performances. If you are interested in playing with the bells or have any questions, please contact Heidi Michaels at hmichaels425@gmail.com.

SECOND SUNDAY SOUP

CANCELLED



Due to COVID concerns we will NOT have Second Sunday Soup this week. We will hold it again in February.



CANDLE MAKING

Saturday, January 29th
5pm
in Fellowship Hall

Join us for a
fun night of
candle
making!



BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday, 10 -11 am via zoom

Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net for the Zoom link.

All are welcome.



TOGETHER

WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE

JOIN US FOR SERVICE SUNDAYS (4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH)!

OUR INITIAL SERVICE SUNDAY WILL BE JANUARY 23RD. WE WILL GATHER TOGETHER AFTER CHURCH TO WORK ON A SERVICE PROJECT TOGETHER. WE WILL BE PREPARING FOR OUR UPCOMING MIDNIGHT RUN, PUTTING TOGETHER BAGS FOR THE WOMENS PRISON, ETC.



Communion is being held the first Sunday of every month.

SECOND SUNDAY SOUP



We will be having Second Sunday
Soup on Feb. 13th and March 13th!
We are looking for volunteers to make
soup for each of these weekends.
Please email Sarah Ryan to sign up.
Sarahryan237@gmail.com

Bulletin & Weekly E-NEWS 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. To have information entered into the Bulletin and/or the E-NEWS, please email both Elyssa and Jessica by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org Office@bedfordpreschurch.org

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **Sunday, January 9th** – Worship
- **Monday, January 10th** – Yoga
- **Wednesday, January 12th** – Spirituality
- **Thursday, January 13th** - Spirituality
- **Thursday, January 13th** – Bible Study
- **Sunday, January 16th** – Sunday worship
- **Saturday, January 29th** – Candle Making

Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church

A Worshiping Community

Shortly after the founding of the town of Bedford in 1680, plans were made to build a multi-purpose "meeting house" for town gatherings and religious services. In its first years, the church was Anglican and Congregational, but became Presbyterian by 1720 under the pastorate of Rev. William Tennent.

Today, Sunday morning worship at BPC is grounded in progressive Presbyterian tradition. Our values are exemplified by our short mission statements:

- *Love Your Neighbor*
- *Teach Our Children*
- *Never Stop Learning*



More than Just Sundays.

Opportunities to participate in outreach abound at BPC. BPC was a co-founder of the Emergency Shelter Partnership in which local churches and synagogues provide shelter for homeless people during the winter months. The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry is another organization we have a strong, ongoing partnership with. Additionally, we participate in Midnight Runs, and our high school youth participate in work trips both domestically, to Appalachia and internationally. We believe that living our faith means involving ourselves in social justice work.

For additional information about Bedford Presbyterian Church, visit us online at: www.bedfordpreschurch.org or call us at 914.234.3672



Bedford Presbyterian Church Staff

The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor
Courtney Steininger, Director of Christian Education & Youth
John Lettieri, Director of Music
Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries
Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager
Edwin & Ellida Acevedo, Building & Grounds Maintenance
The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

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

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

Our Leadership

Session

Clerk of Session Brian Hiller-Dupont, Linda Burpee,
Alison Cape, **President Jeanne Collins**,
Michelle Gosh, Alan McDougall, & Suzanne Millette
Moderator Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Deacons

Chair Don Hiller-Dupont, Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,
Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson,
Kim Lapple, Natasha Mast, Rebecca Rivard, & Sarah Ryan