



# BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Jacob Wrestling with the Angel” by Rembrandt

**Ordinary Time**  
**October 16, 2022**

**Prelude** *Sicilienne* Maria Theresa Von Paradis

**Introit** *O God, Beyond All Praising* G. Holst

**Ringing of the Bells**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship from Psalm 119** Andrew Strawcutter

Leader: Oh, how I love your wisdom! I meditate on it all day long. I do not turn away from your guidance, for you have taught me.

**People: Your words make me wiser than my adversaries, for they are always with me. They have given me more understanding than my teachers, for I breathe them in. I hold back my feet from wandering into corruption, so that I might keep your word.**

Leader: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**\*Opening Hymn 429** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*  
Versus 1 – 4

**Confession**

**Call to Confession**

Loving God, too often we believe that a blessed life is an easy life. We avoid pain at all costs. When we harm our loved ones, we lack the courage to ask for forgiveness. We are afraid to face the truth about ourselves and lack the strength to apologize. We cut people off, instead of making amends. We run away, instead of reconciling. Forgive us and give us the determination to struggle for our loving relationships. Help

us to wrestle with all of those things within us that keep us from your deep and abiding peace. 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.**

### **Time with the Children**

*The children are welcome to stay for the service or they may leave for Sunday Spirit.*

### **Hebrew Bible Lesson**

*Genesis 32:22-31*

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.'

But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.'

So he said to him, 'What is your name?'

And he said, 'Jacob.'

Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.'

Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.'

But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him.

So, Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

**Anthem**      *Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace*      Peter Aston

**Gospel Lesson**      *Luke 18:1-8*

'Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

**Sermon**      Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

**Ordination and Installation of Jessica Cunningham, María Andrea Leverde, and Diane Palmento**

**Sentences of Scripture**

Leader: There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**People: There are different ways of serving God, but it's the same God who is served.**

Leader: God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**People: To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.**

Leader: Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

## Statement on Ordination

### Constitutional Questions

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our Confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

### **For Diane:**

Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people's help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

### **For Jessica and María:**

Will you be faithful ruling elders, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture and service? Will you share in the government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

Do we, the members of the church, accept Jessica Cunningham, María Andrea Leverde, and Diane Palmento as Ruling Elders and Deacon, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

### **Prayer**

### **Declaration of Ordination and Installation**

### **Labyrinth Dedication**

### **Offering**

**Anthem**

*Exsultate Justi*

L. Viadana

## **\*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 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 434**

*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

## **\*Charge and Blessing**

## **\*Postlude**

*If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee*

J. S. Bach

\*Please rise, if able.

## **Announcements**

Flowers in the sanctuary are provided by  
Diane Palmento and Michael Bruneau

Wishing all at Bedford Presbyterian Church  
a blessed year.

“Holy Cow!”

Please join the session as we hear the interpretation of the results from the Congregational Assessment Tool Survey.

Today at 11:30 am.

TONIGHT AT 6 PM

## Blessing of the Animals

*animals of all faiths are welcome*







## Spirituality Group Returns!

Wednesdays at  
7 pm  
beginning  
October 19  
*via Zoom.*

Please email  
Courtney for more  
information and to  
vote on our fall  
theme!

## Join the Bedford Bellringers



**The Bedford Bellringers have been playing together for over 60 years at BPC. The Bellringers 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](mailto:hmichaels425@gmail.com).**

## CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Next week: October 23

Bring cash! The children are raising money to build a community garden in a food desert through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



# October 23rd

## Fresh Food Drive Service Sunday - 11 am



# October 23

6 pm















## Sunday Evening Service and Cooking with Barbara Kanner



OCT 16 - OCT 22, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Mostly Sunny 68°	Showers 60°	Partly Cloudy 51°	Mostly Sunny 52°	Partly Cloudy 54°	Partly Cloudy 58°	Partly Cloudy 59°

**ON THE FARM**

Our radishes are now ready to harvest, and we continue to harvest lots of kale for the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. It is also time to put beds to rest for the winter, which we accomplish by putting grass clippings and dead leaves on top as mulch.

**THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST**

Harvest and prepare kale for Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. We will also be putting beds to rest for the winter. As always, Courtney is looking for volunteers!

**OTHER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Courtney is looking for volunteers to harvest, wash, and pack veggies for the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. Alternately, if you would be willing to drop off veggies at the food pantry, please let Courtney know!

**PHRASE OF THE WEEK**  
food systems

**WHAT WE ARE READING**

*Today, Sunday, Oct. 16 is World Food Day. The theme this year is "Leave NO ONE Behind." The problem is access and availability of nutritious food, which is increasingly impeded by multiple challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, climate change, inequality, rising prices and international tensions. People around the world are suffering the domino effects of challenges that know no borders.*

*"The global system for producing and sharing food is broken...Imagine if food could talk. What would your rice tell you about where it came from? What would your coffee beans say about who grew them? And how would your potatoes describe their journey to your plate? We have to make sure the journey from plot to plate is fair and sustainable, so that everyone, always has enough to eat."  
-Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu*



**Millie Kane Luncheon**

**Please contact Vickie Dey if you are interested in helping to plan this wonderful, traditional holiday event being held this year on December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Vdey1@optonline.net**

# Joyful Noise

## Children's Choir



Joyful Noise will be singing with the adult choir on Sunday, November 6th during the morning worship service.

If your child wants to join the choir, please email Don at [dondupont@outlook.com](mailto:dondupont@outlook.com).

# Sunday Night Service

Simple Meal, Simple Service, Great Community  
Sundays at 6 pm

Come as you are





## Coffee Hour Sign Up

Sunday Coffee Hours have been a wonderful time for congregation members to reconnect with those they haven't seen recently and a nice opportunity to meet new visitors in a casual environment. The church provides the main equipment needed so volunteers only supply the food items. Instructions are provided.

**Go to our website to sign up.**

Contact Marcy Carlson, Sarah Alley or Michele Eames with questions.

### Upcoming Events at a Glance

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday, October 16th</b>    | Blessing of the Animals at 6 pm.  |
| <b>Monday, October 17th</b>    | Yoga at 9 am.   |
| <b>Tuesday, October 18th</b>   | Quilters at 1 pm and Bellringers at 7:15 pm.  |
| <b>Wednesday, October 19th</b> | Spirituality Group begins at 7 pm.  |
| <b>Thursday, October 20th</b>  | Bible Study at 10 am. Please contact Alan McDougall at <a href="mailto:alanmcd@verizon.net">alanmcd@verizon.net</a> .             |
| <b>Sunday, October 23rd</b>    | Children's Sabbath Sunday Service and Fresh Food Drive at 10 am. Service Sunday at 11 am and Cooking with Barbara Kanner at 6 pm. |

## **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 Elyssa (**Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org**) and Jessica at (**Office@bedfordpreschurch.org**) by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

## **Our Leadership**

### **Session**

**Clerk of Session Brian Hiller-Dupont**, Linda Burpee,  
Alison Cape, **President Jeanne Collins**,  
Michelle Gosh, Alan McDougall, Suzanne Millette, Sarah Ryan,  
& Bart Tyler  
Moderator Reverend Carol Howard Merritt

### **Deacons**

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

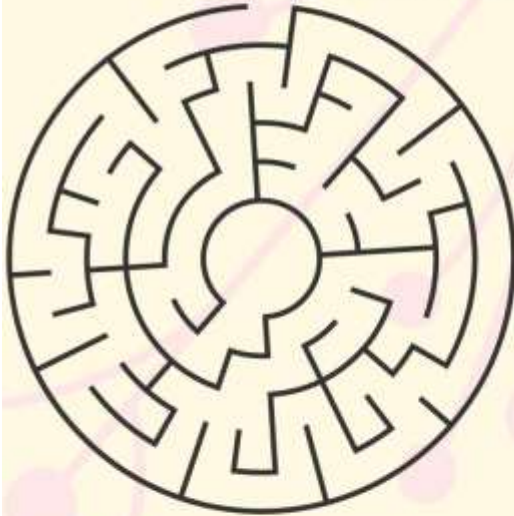
### **Staff**

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  
The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

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This past summer our church received an anonymous gift of two labyrinths, a small one for the chapel room and a large one for Fellowship Hall. Labyrinths are used in Christianity for contemplation, reflection and evoke the character of a pilgrimage, reflecting our life journey to reconnect with God at the center of the Labyrinth.

It is a spiritual tool that can help us find our way.



## HOW TO USE A LABYRINTH

Generally there are three stages to the walk:

- Releasing on the way in
- Receiving in the center
- Returning when you follow the path back out of the labyrinth.

Symbolically, and sometimes actually, you are taking back out into the world that which you have received.

There is no right way or wrong way to walk a labyrinth. Use the labyrinth in any way that meets what you need while being respectful of others walking. You may go directly to the center to sit quietly -- whatever meets your needs.

Today after the service, we invite you to walk either of the labyrinths on your way to coffee hour and experience the power and energy of this ancient symbol.