

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Mother Hen by Lauren Wright Pittman

**Third Sunday of Lent
March 20, 2022**

Prelude	<i>Our Father</i>	G. Böhm
Introit	<i>Kyrie Eleison</i>	A. Dvorák

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The hungry search for bread,
And the thirsty long for water,

**People: Those who ache for meaning will pursue it,
Those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.**

Leader: We come here today with our hunger and thirst,
Our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

People: May the God of abundant life satisfy our souls.

***Opening Hymn 488** *The God of Abraham Praise*

Confession

Call to Confession

God of Mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in grace, and always ready to forgive. Help us to turn from our wrongs, to nurture our compassion, and to live in abundance, through your spirit.

(Silent confession)

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response *Jesus, Lover of My Soul (Hymn 303)*

**Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last!**

Time with the Children

The children can leave for Sunday Spirit.

Music Interlude *Two Arias in Rondeau* Jean-Jacques Naudot
Barbara Kanner, Flute; John Lettieri, Piano

Ordination and Installation of Sarah Ryan and Bart Tyler

Hebrew Bible Lesson *Isaiah 55:1-9*

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Anthem *Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts* H. Purcell

Gospel Lesson *Luke 13:6-9*

Then Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Sermon *God as Arborist* Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Anthem

Teach Me, O Lord

T. Attwood

***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 275**

God of Our Life

***Charge and Blessing**

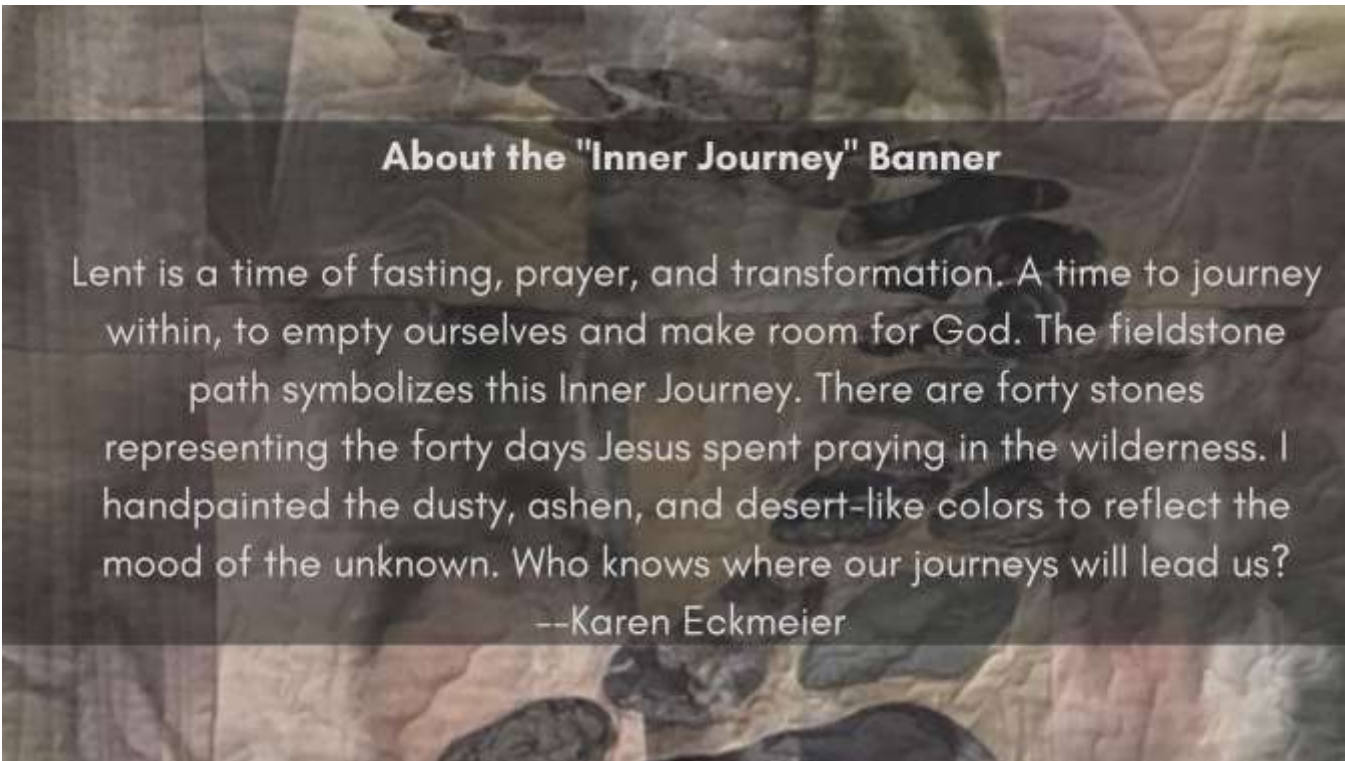
***Sung Response** *The Peace of God which Passes all Understanding*

H. Purcell

***Postlude**

Have Mercy, Lord, My God

J. S. Bach



About the "Inner Journey" Banner

Lent is a time of fasting, prayer, and transformation. A time to journey within, to empty ourselves and make room for God. The fieldstone path symbolizes this Inner Journey. There are forty stones representing the forty days Jesus spent praying in the wilderness. I handpainted the dusty, ashen, and desert-like colors to reflect the mood of the unknown. Who knows where our journeys will lead us?

--Karen Eckmeier

TOGETHER

WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE

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

OUR NEXT SERVICE SUNDAY IS MARCH 27TH. WE WILL GATHER TOGETHER AFTER CHURCH TO WORK ON A SERVICE PROJECT TOGETHER.



Joyful Noise will be singing with the adult choir on Sunday, March 27th.

Easter Flowers

Help us decorate the church for
Easter!

With a \$25 donation you can add flowers to the sanctuary. You may also submit a dedication that will appear in the Sunday bulletin.

You can pay by check or on our website. Dedications should be email or mailed to the office. Deadline is April 9th.



COFFEE HOUR IS BACK!

We are very excited that we can now hold Coffee Hour in person again! It will be wonderful to be able to have the interpersonal connections once again after the service. We do need volunteers to sign up to bring a few food items and to make the coffee. Please go to our website to sign up.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Alley or Michelle Eames.



Upcoming Kid's Easter Events

Sunday, April 3
date change -
Easter Egg Dying
dying after service

Sunday, April 17th -
Easter
Easter Egg Hunt
10 am (in between
services)



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 10th

During Worship,
children
are invited to play
tone chimes and
participate in the
processional.



Easter Services

Sunday, April 17th
9 am & 11 am



FLOWER DONATIONS

We have many Sundays available for Sunday flower sponsors. Please sign up no later than one week prior to the Sunday you want to sponsor to ensure that your dedication gets placed in the bulletin. Checks can be sent to the church office or you can make your secure online donation of \$50.00 on our website.

Go to our website to sign up.





Annual Prom Drive

Our Prom Drive is underway! Each year, the Center helps our students offset the financial burden of attending prom by offering them access to formal wear they need for prom night.

Thanks to the generous donations of dresses, tuxedos, shoes & accessories from the community, our students can confidently attend their prom in style.

Items we are collecting:

- Long & short dresses
- Tuxedos & suits
- Men's & women's dress shoes
- Purses & clutches
- Jewelry
- Bow ties, cummerbunds & neck ties
- New make up

Bring donations to the Community Center:

Tues, Weds, Fri: 10 am - 4 pm,
Thurs: 12 pm - 6 pm & Sat: 10 am - 1 pm

Do you know someone who needs help with prom clothing? Call us at 914-232-6572 ext. 110

All calls are confidential

84 Bedford Rd, Katonah, NY

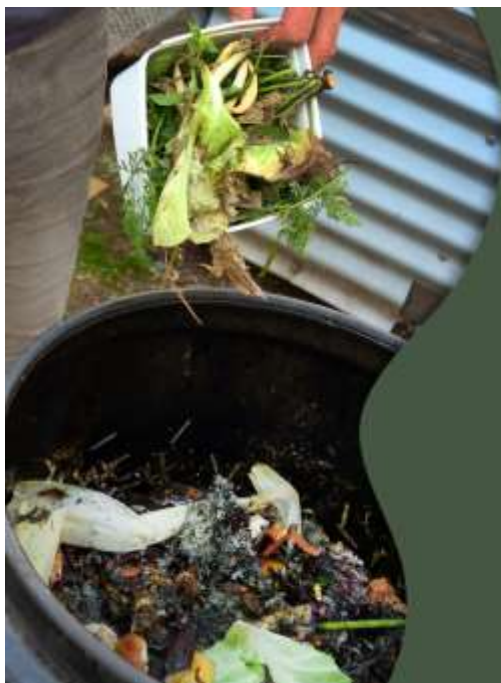
SPIRITUALITY GROUP

*During Lent, we will continue working through various spiritual practices from Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*.*

Please contact Courtney with any questions

*Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
via zoom*

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



DROP OFF YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

Compost needed for Nativity Farm's soil health

No meat or dairy!

Compost bin is located on the playground side at the back of the paved parking lot.





Northern Westchester
Refugee Resettlement Initiative
resetwestchester@gmail.com

We are excited that through ReSET Westchester, we now are helping three refugee families!

We are currently looking for financial donations to help support the families and organization. A link is available on our website to donate. Checks can be made payable to *Neighbors Link (ReSET on memo line)* and dropped at the church.

This is an ongoing mission that will need the help of many. Volunteers of all types of involvement are needed and welcomed. There are many committees within ReSET ranging from education, finance, youth, housing, etc. We also need drivers to bring the families to their appointments and such. We would love to have you involved!

If you would like to volunteer, email resetwestchester@gmail.com.

Email Elyssa Michaels or Linda Burpee with any questions.

CARD WRITERS
WANTED



The Care Team is looking for volunteers to help us write cards to reach out people in our congregation. If you would be interested in helping or in donating some blank cards please reach out to Kate Branch (Katebranch@gmail.com) or Rebecca Rivard (rebeccarivard@me.com).

We are also looking for volunteers to be a part of our Care Team. The Care Team helps keep in contact with church members, make meals for anyone in need (surgery, new baby, sickness, etc.), people in need of rides, sending care packages to college kids, etc. We would love to have a team of people so that we can easily achieve all of these tasks. Contact Rebecca Rivard at the email shown above if you are interested in joining us.

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday
10 - 11 am via zoom

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



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, March 20th** - Sunday Worship at 10 am.
- **Monday, March 21st** - Yoga at 9 am.
- **Tuesday, March 22nd** - Lunch with Friends at 12:30 pm & Quilting at 1 pm.
- **Wednesday, March 23rd** - Spirituality Group at 7:30 pm.
- **Thursday, March 24th** - Bible Study at 10 am.
- **Sunday, March 27th** - Sunday Worship & Joyful Noise Performance at 10 am & Service Sunday immediately after worship.

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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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