

# BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Mother Hen* by Lauren Wright Pittman

**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 27, 2022**

**Prelude** *Passion Chorale* J. Brahms

**Introit** *It's Me, It's Me, O Lord, Standing in the Need of Prayer* Spiritual

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** Aidan Aybar

Leader: In the name of God our Creator  
who holds us and the whole world,  
who calls us to be co-creators,

**People: In the name of the Jesus our Brother  
who came into the world,  
who suffers with us,**

Leader: In the name of the Spirit our illuminator  
who fills us with eternal life,  
and incites us to peace,

**People: we come together  
to offer our thanks and praise.**

**\* Opening Hymn 280** *Amazing Grace*

**Confession**

**Call to Confession**

**God, we often stray from the path that you have planned for us. We walk by our neighbors in need. We become distracted by our greed, selfishness, and jealousies. We allow bitterness and hatred to overtake our lives.**

**Forgive us. Remind us of your loving arms, which will always welcome us home. Help us to know your embrace and love will be waiting, no matter how far away we stray.**

(Silent confession)

**Pardon**

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

**People: And also with you.**

**Sung Response 303**      *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

**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!**

**Anthem**              *Angels Watching Over Me*              Spiritual arr. Ruth Schram  
Joyful Noise Choir and BPC Choir

*The children can leave for Sunday Spirit.*

**Epistle Lesson**                              *2 Corinthians 5:16-31*                              Rowan Pedraza

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Anthem**              *If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee*      Chorale arr. J. S. Bach

**Gospel Lesson**                              *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*                              Henry Tate  
Aidan Aybar

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been

working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; ye t you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’

Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

**Sermon**                                      *God as Loving Parent*                      Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

## **Prayers of the People**

### **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.

## **Offering**

**Anthem**                                      *Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake*                      John Hilton

### **\*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 434**                                      *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

### **\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*Sung Response**

*Lord, Have Mercy*

Swee Hong Lim

**\*Postlude**

*Fugue in E*

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

**SEED**

**STARTING**

*For Nativity Farm*

**TODAY AFTER WORSHIP**

**3/27/22**

Join us for this week's Service Sunday for Nativity Farm featuring food, activities for kids, a walking tour of the future learning garden, and plant starters for the farm and to take home.



This week's flowers have been donated by  
The DiCorpo Family,  
*in honor of Judy Struble.*

*Remember Holy Week with us.*

## **Maundy Thursday Service**

**Thursday, April 14th - 7 pm**



On the night before he was arrested, Jesus joined with his friends for a meal. We will also gather together in Fellowship Hall on April 14th at 7 pm for a service to share a simple meal.

**Communion is held on the first Sunday  
of every month.**

*Remember Holy Week with us.*

## **Good Friday Service**

Online Premier:  
Friday, April 15th - 12 pm

In lieu of a traditional Good Friday service, our confirmands have prepared a video vigil. That video will be available on our YouTube page at noon.

# ***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.



## **Upcoming Kid's Easter Events**

Sunday, April 3rd  
\*date change\*  
Easter Egg Dyeing  
after service.

Sunday, April 17th  
*Easter Sunday*  
Easter Egg Hunt at  
10 am (in between  
9 am & 11 am 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



## Easter Reception Volunteers Needed

We will be having our Easter Reception at 10 am, between the services. We need volunteers to help us make this a success. We need people to sign up for the various food items we need that day.

Go to the website to sign up for items.

If you have any questions please email Pat Ferguson - [pkferg1@gmail.com](mailto:pkferg1@gmail.com) or  
Marcy Carlson - [marciabcarlson@gmail.com](mailto:marciabcarlson@gmail.com).





## 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



**Northern Westchester  
Refugee Resettlement Initiative**  
[resetwestchester@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:resetwestchester@gmail.com).

Email Elyssa Michaels or Linda Burpee with any questions.

# CARD WRITING REQUESTS



If you know of anyone who could use a card from the church for any reason please reach out to  
**Kate Branch (Katebranch@gmail.com) or  
Rebecca Rivard (rebeccarivard@me.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  
**Elyssa (Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org)** and  
**Jessica (Office@bedfordpreschurch.org)**  
by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

## **Upcoming Events at a Glance**

- **Sunday, March 27th** - Sunday Worship at 10 am with Joyful Noise and our Adult Choir performing. Service Sunday/Coffee Hour immediately after worship.
- **Monday, March 28th** - Yoga at 9 am.
- **Tuesday, March 29th** - Quilting at 1 pm.
- **Wednesday, March 30th** - Spirituality Group at 7:30 pm.
- **Thursday, March 31st** - Bible Study at 10 am.
- **Sunday, April 3rd** - Sunday Worship & Communion. Egg Dyeing 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

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