

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Resurrection by Alma Woodsey Thomas

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 15, 2022

Prelude

Prière

L. Boellmann

Introit

Praise be to God

M. Vulpius

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship adapted from St. Francis of Assisi**

Leader: Praise to You, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor,
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

**People: Praise to You, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In the heavens you have made them bright, precious, and fair.
Praise to You, through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all weather's moods,
by which You cherish all that You have made.**

Leader: Praise to you, through Sibling Water,
So useful, humble, precious, and pure.
Praise to you, through Sibling Fire,
through whom You light the night
and they are beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

**People: Praise to you, our Mother Earth
who sustains and governs us,
producing varied fruits
with colored flowers and herbs.**

***Opening Hymn 473**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Confession

Call to Confession

Loving God, we hold our beliefs too tightly. Religious disputes have ripped apart our families, and holy wars have torn apart our world. We use shallow beliefs as weapons in our culture wars. We refuse to listen to the complex lives of your beloved people, and we allow dogmas to destroy relationships.

Help us make love our highest goal. Make us open to all the ways our understandings can shift. Form and reform our thoughts, through your Spirit. Amen.

(Silent confession)

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response 106 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

**Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his Name.**

**Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour....**

Time with the Children

The children may leave for Sunday Spirit.

History Lesson

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely, I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'"

Anthem

Cantate Domino (Psalm 49: 1-2)

G. Pitoni

Gospel Lesson

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Sermon

Spiritual Change

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Featured Upcoming Events

NATIVITY FARM

NEW DATE!

Saturday, May 21st

11 am – 1 pm

Potluck Lunch + Garden Workshop

Join us outside on the farm, behind the church, for some good food while we put the finishing touches on the learning garden.

All are welcome. Bring your friends and family for lots of fun!



Congregational Meeting

NEW DATE

Sunday, May 22nd - 11 am



JUNE 5, 2022

JOIN US DURING WORSHIP TO HONOR ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED WITH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION THIS PAST YEAR.

WE WILL ALSO BE CELEBRATING OUR CHILDREN RECEIVING BIBLES THIS YEAR.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

06 | 12

JOIN US DURING WORSHIP TO SUPPORT OUR CONFIRMANDS AS THEY BECOME MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

AFTER WORSHIP, JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR NEWEST MEMBERS.

Music at BPC

Joyful Noise Children's Choir - Please contact Don Hiller-Dupont at dondupont@outlook.com.

Adult Choir - Please contact John Lettieri at john@bedfordpreschurch.org.

Bedford Bellringers - Please contact Heidi Michaels at hmichaels425@gmail.com.

Mission Activities



RSVP for the Summer Mission Trip

POINT PLEASANT,
WEST VIRGINIA
JULY 2-JULY 9, 2022

TO RESERVE YOUR
SPOT, EMAIL
COURTNEY

Hour Children Seeking Local Host Families This Summer

After a two-year hiatus, Hour Children, which provides family service programs to incarcerated women and their families, will once again be offering a summer visiting program for children whose mothers are incarcerated at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Not surprisingly, many of the mothers and children Hour Children serves, particularly those from upstate, have not seen each other during the pandemic and have suffered deeply from the loss of connection.

Local host families, who are critical to the success of this program, are needed for the following dates to be responsible for the child/children's wellbeing:
July 17-20, July 24-27, August 7-10 & August 14-17.

For further information, please contact **Emily Kerr**, Bedford Hills Program Manager, at **615-636-7396** or ekerr@hourchildren.org.

Ongoing Activities

Bible Study - Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net for the Zoom link or for more information. Class is held every Thursday between 10 - 11 am.

Coffee Hour - Please contact Sarah Alley or Michele Eames with any questions. You can go to our website to sign up and access contact information.

Communion - Join us on the first Sunday of every month during worship.

Quilters - Please contact Anne Bentzen at r.bentzen@verizon.net or Karen Ulanowski at karen.ulanowski@gmail.com for information.

Spirituality Group - Please contact Courtney Steinger at courtney@befordpreschurch.org. The group meets via zoom every Wednesday at 7:30 pm and the meeting link can be found on our website.

Yoga - Please contact Bobbe Stultz at bobbestultz@gmail.com. Classes are held every Monday at 9 am in Fellowship Hall.

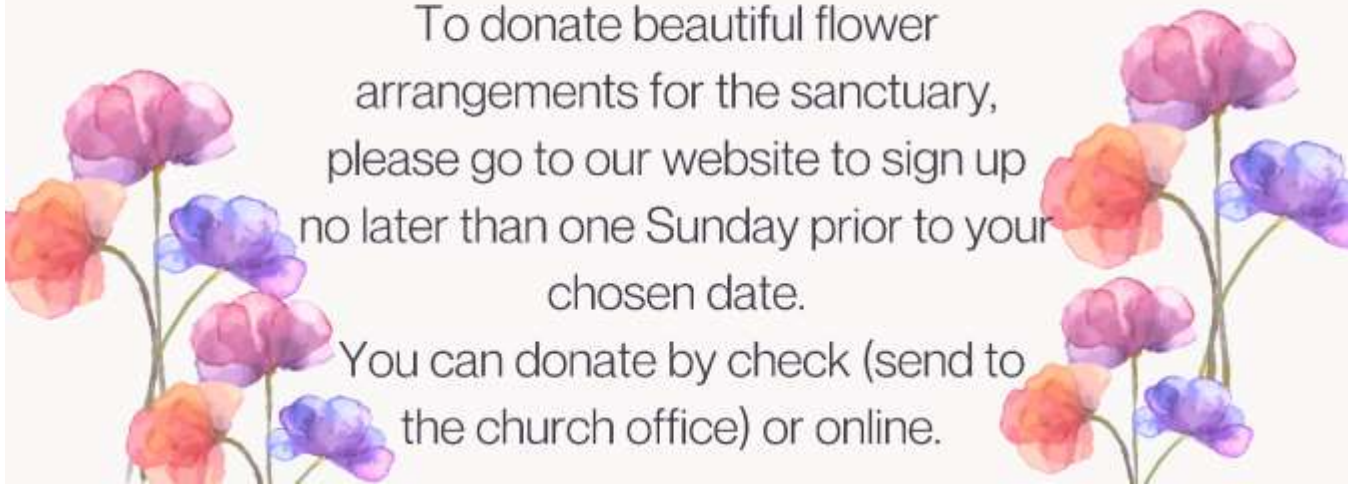


If you know of anyone who could use a card from the church for any reason please reach out to Kate Branch (Katebranch@gmail.com) or Rebecca Rivard (rebeccarivard@me.com).

FLOWER DONATIONS

To donate beautiful flower arrangements for the sanctuary, please go to our website to sign up no later than one Sunday prior to your chosen date.

You can donate by check (send to the church office) or online.



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

- **Monday, May 16th** - Yoga at 9 am.
- **Tuesday, May 17th** - Quilting at 1 pm.
- **Wednesday, May 18th** - Spirituality Group will resume May 25th.
- **Thursday, May 19th** - Bible Study at 10 am.
- **Saturday, May 21st** - Nativity Farm Open Work Day anytime between 11am and 1 pm.
- **Sunday, May 22nd** - Sunday Worship and Bells/Joyful Noise Children's Choir performance at 10 am. Congregational Meeting at 11 am and Service Sunday following the meeting.

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, Sarah Ryan,
& Bart Tyler
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



“When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.” -Victor Frankl