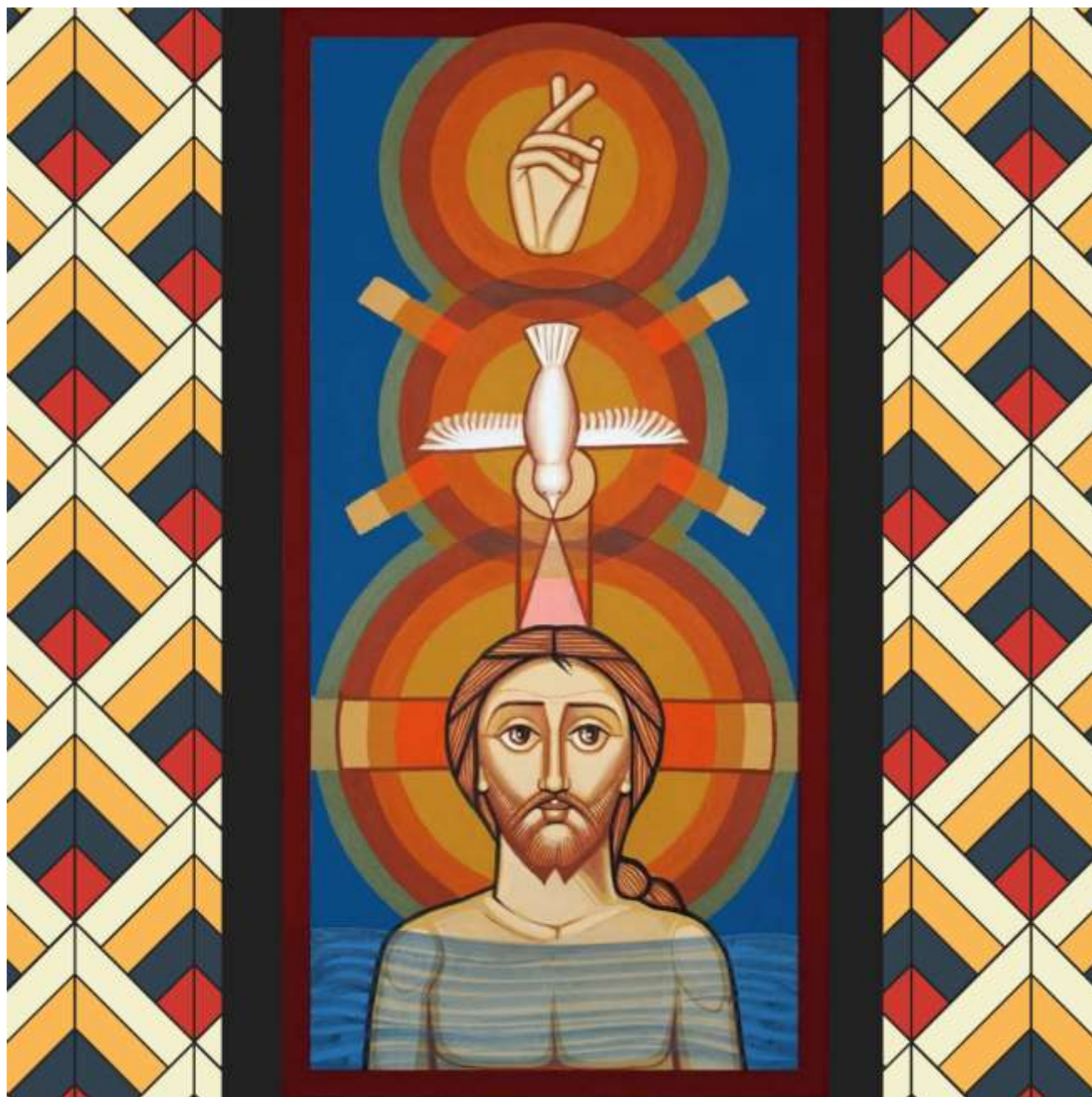


BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Coptic Sacred Icon of the *Baptism of the Lord*

Trinity Sunday

June 12, 2022

Prelude *Now We Praise the Holy Ghost* D. Buxtehude

Introit *Creator Spirit, All Divine* Gregorian Chant

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship** Confirmation Class

Leader One: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Leader Two: Speaker, Word, and Breath

Leader Three: Blessed Font, Living Water, and Flowing River

Leader Four: Compassionate Mother, Beloved Child, Life-Giving Womb

Leader One: Giver, Gift, and Giving

Leader Two: Lover, Beloved, and Love Itself

Leader Three: Creator, Liberator, and Nurturer

Leader Four: God who was, God who is, God who is to come.

People: We gather here, reminded of your steadfast love, revealed in all its forms.

***Opening Hymn 138** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

Confession Aidan Aybar

Call to Confession

God of grace, love, and nurture, we confess that we have failed to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. We get caught up in selfish ambitions. We compete with other people and forget to treat them with dignity. We are too harsh and do not allow ourselves any imperfections. Have mercy on us. Forgive us and help us to forgive ourselves.

(Silent confession)

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Sung Response Hymn 322

**Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.**

Epistle Lesson

Romans 5:1-5

Rowan Pedrazza

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Service of Confirmation

Aidan Aybar, Rowan Pedraza, Henry Tate, Tinsley Valenti

Time with the Children

The children can leave for Sunday Spirit.

Anthem

Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach

Gospel Lesson

John 16:12-15

Henry Tate

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People 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.

Offering

Children's Offering

Anthem

O How Amiable

R. Vaughan Williams

*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

Tinsley Valenti

*Hymn 525

Here I Am, Lord

*Charge and Blessing

***Sung Response**

The Peace of the Earth

Guatemalan arr. John

***Postlude**

Allegro con Brio from Organ Sonata IV

Felix Mendelssohn

**Please stand, if you are able.*

Announcements



Confirmation Sunday

This year's confirmation class has been meeting since January 16. They have been working with Courtney and discussing various aspects of the Bible, Christian faith, and Presbyterian history in order to make a profession of faith. This year's class has been:

- Aidan Aybar
- Rowan Pedraza
- Henry Tate
- Tinsley Valenti

They were received by Profession of Faith by the session on June 5, and will be confirmed in front of the congregation on June 12, 2022.

Below are their statements of faith. All of these statements demonstrate a maturity of faith and Spirit and desire to be involved in the BPC community and broader church.



Aidan Aybar

There are things I cannot explain. I do not know why I have been so fortunate in my life, when there is so much suffering in the world. Jesus Christ and my Christian faith have guided me and will continue to guide me through the challenges which I faced and will continue to face. To be confirmed for me will affirm my faith. It will ensure that I know and others know that I will let the teachings of God guide my life. In the most challenging moments, I can turn to my faith, knowing that I will be emboldened and

strengthened. To me, being Christian goes beyond doing the right things when it is easy. On the contrary, fundamental to my faith is the belief that we are taught to seek the challenging decisions, those which push us to choose between what is right and what is easy.

To me, to be a confirmed member of this church is to be a part of something far greater than myself. As I learned when going on the mission trip to West Virginia in 2019, the faith that unifies us brings us to do good for others. It brings us sacrifice for them - to love the neighbor we have yet to meet. This togetherness allows for us to make an exponentially greater impact on the lives of others, while also providing strength amongst ourselves in our times of hardship.

In April of 2021, I incurred a concussion, leaving me with about ten months of headaches and an inability to play sports over that period. This injury tested me, as there were months with no end in sight. My faith helped me through this time. Initially, I thought this faith would lead to an end of my injury, but after time in confirmation I realized that faith is not to seek a specific outcome, but to trust that no matter what, all that happened was meant to happen.

My parents and Paul Alcorn can be largely credited with my faith. My parents for bringing me to BPC to be baptized, and allowing for the foundations of my Christianity to begin to form shortly after my birth. Paul was our pastor at BPC through eighth grade for me. My most vivid memory of any church sermon I have heard was his emphasis on the following: "if not us, who? If not now, when?". This message instantly resonated, and speaks to my understanding of what it means to be a Christian. The greatest demonstration of our faith is to seek to be a changemaker. In a time of drastic polarization, rampant inequality, and violence, it is our duty to spark the change we seek. I still read each of the updates on his blog, as he continues to influence my belief of what it means to be a Christian, and how we can enrich the world in which we live.

Church is a place of warmth. It brings me great joy to think about my time in the children's choir, and each Christmas pageant, and each Easter Sunday. One of my favorite things has always been the lighting of the candles on Christmas Eve during the singing of Silent Night. I have never felt uncomfortable in Church. I have always felt the love and support of those surrounding me, and I think that that effect is the ultimate power of Christianity. It is what ties us together. It answers the questions which seem unanswerable.

With all this power that Christianity holds comes great responsibility. There are those who will use “faith” as an excuse to spew hateful sentiments. Using God and Jesus to degrade and oppress others is contradictory to all that my Christian faith has led me to believe. This despicable use of religion must be addressed and shattered. When we see evil in the world it is our task to stand and act.



Rowan Pedraza

I used to have a different relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. When I was around ten, I came down with an intense spell of some viral illness. It was one of those that came in waves of half an hour or so. Every half an hour, I would get sick, then I'd feel better for about five minutes. At which point the slow and agonizing climb of pain would begin once again, moving towards the inescapable climax that relieved it, restarting the cycle. Towards the end of the first few rounds of this cycle, I hoped God would feel how much pain I was in and relieve it.

When the end of the next cycle neared again, I prayed. I couldn't bear this anymore. I asked why, God, do I have to feel like this. What did I do? I couldn't think of anything. I didn't deserve this. But my efforts were to no avail. God wasn't listening, I thought. I sort of gave up. I cannot lie, I lost some of my faith.

As I got older, I got over that grudge. I started to think of all the happiness I've felt in life. I could never account for all of it, there's so much. There's so much good all around, and that's what reestablished the strength of my belief. What my belief was, exactly, I wasn't so sure. Still now as I write this I don't know exactly what my relationship with God is. I'm still figuring that out. What I've learned is that God is not there to approve my every request, necessarily. But God is, however, the force behind all of the things that make life great.



Henry Tate

Moving to Bedford Presbyterian Church, I was coming out of a two year period during the pandemic where I had gone to church maybe twice. I had almost forgotten what a Sunday morning looked like, but was reminded quickly the first Sunday we arrived. I was greeted by a friendly face at the front door, and I immediately felt at home. The sanctuary felt warm and inviting, and I was excited to become a part of this community.

Music has played a big role in my faith, and one of the ways that I connect to god the strongest. I had always wanted to get more involved in a musical program, and found it difficult until I came to Bedford Presbyterian where I was able to express my musicality and involve myself in the program. This expression has helped me to form a closer relationship with God, and the church where I felt like I belonged.

This feeling of homey-ness that I have at this point of my faith journey has helped me to reconcile and further develop my relationship with God. At this point, I'm not really sure how God fits into my everyday life and how I can apply Jesus's teachings to my actions. I'm always really busy and find it hard to find time to relax, and reflect. Coming to church every Sunday and taking the time to think about these things has helped me get through this past year. I feel like I have a solid understanding of the Bible and its teaching from this confirmation class, but how I can apply it to my everyday life is something that I think I have to do on my own.

Taking time to think about it, after trying to connect Jesus's teachings to aspects of my everyday life, I realized that some of his lessons I have already been carrying out subconsciously. Looking back, I can see all of the places God has been in my life without me even realizing, and I'm eager to try and build this relationship in the future.



Tinsley Valenti

Ever since I was young, Jesus's story and his teachings have always been a big part of my life. I never knew anything else, his ways were like an unspoken rule - it's what I was used to. The older I got, and the more I learned about the teachings of Jesus, the more fascinated I became. It posed questions for me such as, "Do I always have to forgive...and why?" Or, "Why do I have to love everyone, even if I don't exactly like them?" I battled between questions like these, trying to find, or at least understand their answer. As I became more intact with my faith, the answer came to me seamlessly and easily. It is something so simple yet so powerful. Love. Love is the only thing that can overpower any feeling. I believe that God's mission for me is to understand the power of love. Love teaches us to be kind, to do good, and forgive, which is sincerely the desire of the human heart. We crave and hope for love, but something I have learned is that in order to receive love, you must reciprocate that love back. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Another thing I've struggled with is battling hatred over love - and something I think that can get lost when learning Jesus's story is that it is not always easy to forgive and love when it *is* so easy to hate. I feel that as humans, it is so much simpler to be negative and to hate (or strongly dislike) others. Therefore, through my journey of finding and celebrating my faith, I learned to focus on the positive - what good there *is* in the world and how I should do my part to sustain some of that good by continuing love others; others who wronged me, others who made mistakes, and most importantly, loving those who will and have always loved me no matter what.

I have been attending Bedford Presbyterian Church since I was in early elementary school. I sang in the choir and participated in the Christmas pageants. This church has been a part of my life for a long time. I truly believe one of the most important things I have learned in my years being here, is that God is *always* here. He is an outlet for peace whenever I may need it, and that keeps my heart right here.

Featured Upcoming Events



"Coffee & Friends Make the Perfect Blend!"

We are looking for people to sign up to bring food items for coffee hour on Sundays!

You can sign up with a friend or do it yourself!

All details and responsibilities can be located on the SignUpGenius on our website.

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

Mission Activities



Support BPC's Mission Trip

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

HERE'S HOW:

- SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE, CONTACT COURTNEY TO SIGN UP
- DONATE FOOD OR SUPPLIES, LOOK FOR THE SIGN UP IN NEXT WEEK'S E-NEWS

RSVP BY MONDAY, JUNE 13th. COLLEGE STUDENTS WELCOME!

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**.



Northern Westchester
Refugee Resettlement Initiative
resetwestchester@gmail.com

Our newly arriving, Ukrainian family, needs your immediate help!

Over the past six months, ReSET's volunteers have been busy re-settling three families from Afghanistan. On June 14th, ReSET will be welcoming a Ukrainian family of 5 and their small dog.

Housing: We are looking for a 2-3 bedroom house/apartment that is dog friendly, in Northern Westchester from White Plains to Brewster & close to public transportation. E-mail Resethousingcommittee@gmail.com with leads.

Donate: ReSET needs to raise \$50,000 to cover the cost of housing, medical care, and other basic necessities to care for our new family. We need YOUR help in this fundraising effort. Please go to the church website to donate.

Volunteer: With the family of five from Ukraine arriving soon, we need your help more than ever. If you are interested in helping our families, we have many volunteer opportunities available for you. For more information, please visit the "Volunteer" section on ReSET's website. Resetwestchester.org

Email Elyssa Michaels or Linda Burpee with any questions.

Neighbors Link, a 501(c)3 organization, is the fiscal sponsor for ReSET

Nativity Farm

Nativity Farm is looking for the following gardening materials (new/used):

- Gardening gloves (children's and adult sizes)
- Shovels
- Spades
- Trowels
- Composting bins
- Hand-forks or claws
- Hoe
- Hand pruners
- Wheel barrows

Please contact Courtney, at courtney@bedfordpreschurch.org to arrange for gardening donations.

Growing season at Nativity Farm is now underway!

We have a variety of tasks for Nativity Farmers of all abilities to help with during the summer months. Shifts will take place on Sundays from 1-3 pm and Thursdays from 4-6 pm. All you need to do is bring water to stay hydrated and clothes to get dirty. If it is raining HEAVILY, the volunteer shift will be cancelled.

Please note that you can fill out the form as many times as you'd like, so feel free to sign up for June shifts now and shifts later in the summer at a later date! As always, reach out to Courtney at Courtney@bedfordpreschurch.org with any questions.

To sign up, please use this QR code:



FLOWER DONATIONS

Only one Sunday left to sponsor
flowers before the summer break.

- June 29th -

You can make a donation
by sending a check to the church or
by making a secure online donation.

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, June 13th** - Yoga at 9 am. Please contact Bobbe Stultz at **bobbestultz@gmail.com**.
- **Thursday, June 16th** - Bible Study at 10 am. Please contact Alan McDougall at **alanmcd@verizon.net**.
- **Sunday, June 19th** - Sunday Worship at 10 am.

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



SUMMER SUNDAYS

JULY 3•HIKE
10•SUPER SOAKER SUNDAY
17•MISSION TRIP REPORT
SUNDAE SUNDAY
24•SERVICE SUNDAY
31•PICNIC