



# BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Roman Stripes” Variation by “Ma” Willie Abrams of Gee’s Bend

**Ordinary Time**  
**September 25, 2022**

**Prelude** *Voluntary in G* Henry Purcell

**Introit** *Holy Lord, God of Hosts* Russian Liturgy

**Ringing of the Bells**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship from Psalm 91**

Leader: We live in the shelter of the Most High. We abide in the shadow of the Almighty. God is our refuge and our strength.

**People: For the Holy One will deliver us from the snare and the epidemic. God's wings will cover us, and we will find safety.**

Leader: We will not fear the terror of the night, the arrow that flies by the day, the pandemic that stalks in the darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

**People: For when we call, God will answer us.**

**\*Opening Hymn 267** *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

**Confession**

**Call to Confession**

**God of grace, forgive us for the times when we have been estranged and disconnected from our neighbors. We look away from those who suffer, blinded by callous indifference. We pass by those in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We close our ears to the cries of the hungry, refusing to share our table.**

**Forgive us. Help us to understand your abundant love. As we receive your grace and the gift of your forgiveness, let us discover the joy of**

**sharing our tables and feasting with one another. Through your Holy Spirit, we pray.**

(Silent confession)

### **Assurance of Pardon**

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

**People: And also with you.**

### **Sung Response**

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

### **Time with the Children**

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

### **Epistle Lesson**

*I Timothy 6:6-19*

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before

Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

**Anthem**

*O Come, Ye Servants of the Lord*

Christopher Tye

**Gospel Lesson**

*Luke 16:19-31*

‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.”

But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.”

He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.”

Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.”

He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.”

He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.””

**Sermon**

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

**\*Hymn 391**

*Take My Life*  
Versus 1, 2, 3, 4

**Joys and Concerns**

**Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn 589**

**Offering**

**Offertory**

**Anthem**    *“Hallelujah! Amen” from Judas Maccabaeus*    G. F. Handel

**\*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 483**    *Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

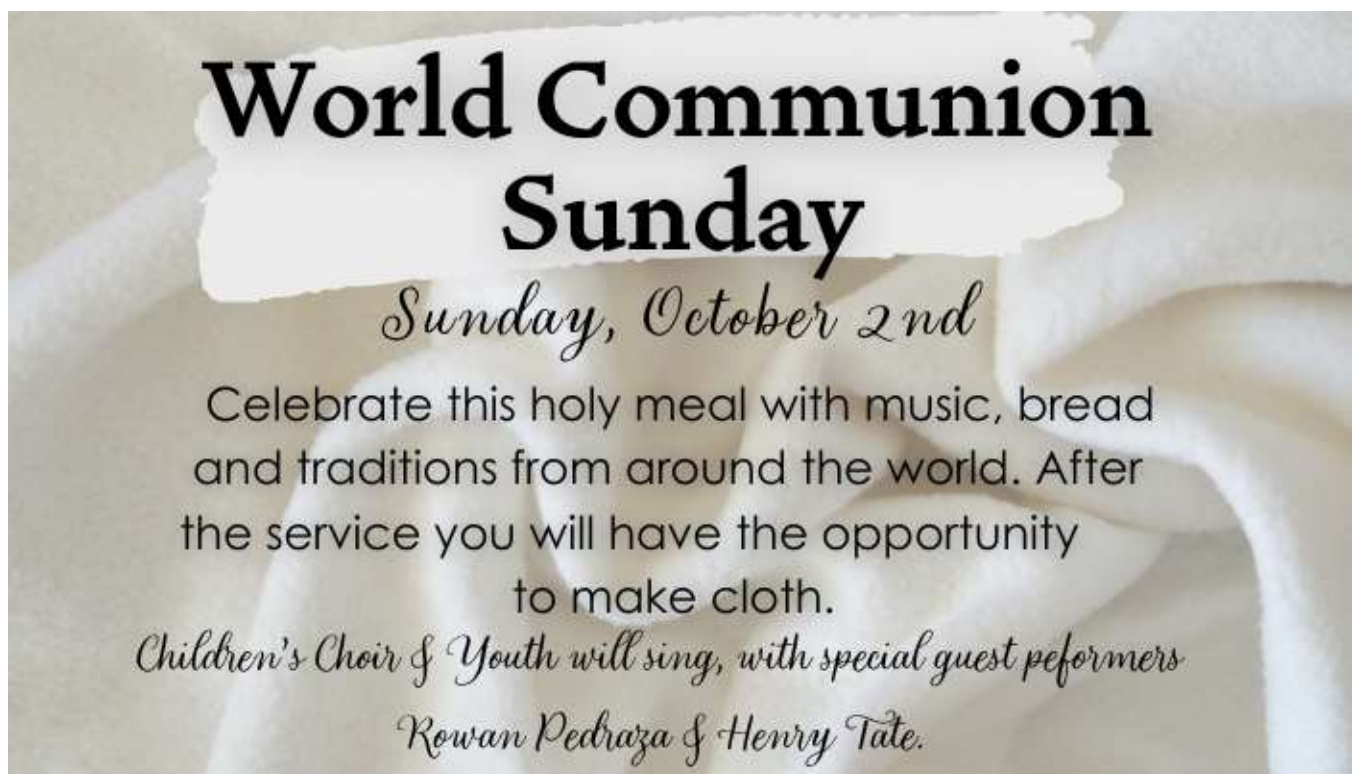
**\*Charge and Blessing**

**Response**                                      *The Peace of God*                                      Henry Purcell

**\*Postlude**                      *Allegro on a Theme of Orlando Gibbons*                      C. V. Stanford

*\*Please stand, if you are able.*

**Announcements**

A graphic for World Communion Sunday. The background is a close-up of a white cloth draped over a table. The text is centered and reads: 

# World Communion Sunday

*Sunday, October 2nd*

Celebrate this holy meal with music, bread and traditions from around the world. After the service you will have the opportunity to make cloth.

*Children's Choir & Youth will sing, with special guest performers Rowan Pedraza & Henry Tate.*

A graphic for Sunday Night Service. The background is a top-down view of a wooden table with various dishes of food, including bread, salad, and a bowl of tomatoes. The text is centered and reads: 

# Sunday Night Service

Simple Meal, Simple Service, Great Community

Sundays at 6 pm

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Come as you are



**Sunday, October 16th**

*Ordination & Installation - 10 am*

*Labyrinth Dedication - 10 am*

Learn about the ancient practice  
of walking the Labyrinth during the  
Sunday morning service.

*Blessing of the Animals - 6 pm*

Bring your pets to the evening  
service to receive a blessing.

## **FRESH FOOD DRIVE**

*Sunday, October 23*



*October 23*

6 pm

Sunday Evening Service  
and Cooking with Barbara Kanner

A photograph of a white cup filled with a light brown beverage, likely coffee or tea, with a small cookie on the table next to it. The background is a light, textured surface.

*All Shall be Well*  
**WOMEN'S RETREAT**  
HOLMES CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

October 28-30

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt and Rev. Katherine Pater will lead a retreat on the wisdom of Julian of Norwich.

## **FLOWER DONATIONS**

Every week the sanctuary is decorated with beautiful flower arrangements donated and dedicated by congregants.

If you would like to sign up to sponsor a week of flowers, please do so no later than one week prior. Please be sure to include your dedication when you sign up. Checks can be sent to the church office or you can make your \$50.00 secure online donation on our website.

**Go to our website to donate.**

### **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 7th.**

**[vdey1@optonline.net](mailto:vdey1@optonline.net)**



“Holy Cow!”

### PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!

We invite you to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line instrument that will help leaders gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping the leaders of Bedford Presbyterian as they make decisions about the future of the church.

Please go online by clicking on the link provided in the e-news and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers.

If you need a paper copy, please contact the office, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.



## Sunday Night Service World Communion Sunday















Potluck Dinner  
With chamber musicians from  
Mannes School of Music  
6 PM



SEP 25- OCT 1, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Partly Cloudy 73°	AM Showers 73°	Mostly Cloudy 70°	Mostly Sunny 67°	Partly Cloudy 65°	Partly Cloudy 66°	Showers 68°

ON THE FARM

Our kale continues to grow prolifically and our peppers are slowly catching up. Our radishes are also about ready to be harvested in the next week or so. We will continue to grow for as long as we can, but as we move to a winter sabbath season for the soil, we will shift our focus to topsoil regeneration for many of our beds. That means trying to restore nutrients to our soil so that it will continue to be healthy and support biodiversity for years to come.

THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST

Harvest and prepare kale for Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry as part of our Service Sunday activities. We will also be spreading mulch and transferring compost.

OTHER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We continue to harvest large amounts of kale. Please let Courtney know if you would like to help deliver it to the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry.

WHAT WE ARE READING

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart. The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the coney. You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows it's time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. *Psalm 104:14-21*

A GRATITUDE

Grateful for the Mejia family and all the volunteer hours they put in this summer.

WORD OF THE WEEK

biodiversity



## 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.

### This Week's Cover

This fall, as the outside temperatures cool, we will be celebrating the warmth of our community. We will highlight the quilters of Gee's Bend.



Scan the QR Code to learn more.

### Upcoming Events at a Glance

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Monday, September 25th</b>   | Yoga at 9 am.   |
| <b>Thursday, September 29th</b> | Bible Study at 10 am. Please contact Alan McDougall at <a href="mailto:alanmcd@verizon.net">alanmcd@verizon.net</a> .           |
| <b>Sunday, October 2nd</b>      | World Communion Sunday & Sunday Worship at 10 am, with Children's Choir & Special Musical guests. Sunday Night Service 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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