

# BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Weather Change" by Helen Frankenthaler

Ordinary Time  
September 4, 2022

Prelude

*How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou*

M. Dupre

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** from Psalm 139

Leader: O God, you have searched us and known us.

**People: You know when we sit down and when we rise up. You discern our thoughts from far away. You search out our paths and our lying down.**

Leader: You are acquainted with all our ways. Even before a word is on our tongues, O God, you know it completely.

**People: We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are your works.**

**\*Hymn 469**

*Morning Has Broken*

**Call to Confession**

**Confession**

**Creator God, you form us from the dust of the earth, mold us into your people, and blow your Spirit into us. Yet, we resist change. We hate the pain of evolving. We resent the discomfort of becoming something new. We long to go back to who we were.**

**Make us pliable, O God. Help us to be open to your changing Spirit, so that we might grow and be renewed.**

**Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

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

**People: And also with you.**

## **Time with the Children**

*Childcare is provided. Children are always invited to stay and participate in the service.*

## **Hebrew Bible Lesson**

*Jeremiah 18:1-8*

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.”

So, I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: “Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done?” says the Lord. “Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it.”

## **Hymn 322**

*Spirit of the Living God*

## **Gospel Lesson**

*Luke 14:27-30*

Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’

## **Sermon**

Reverend Carol Howard Merritt

## Offering

Organ Voluntary

*Deck Yourself, My Soul with Gladness*

J. Brahms

## \*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

## Communion

### Invitation to the Table

### Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: We lift up our hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise...**

### Breaking of the Bread

### \*Communion

### Prayer after Communion 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.**

### \*Hymn 415

*Come Labor On*

Verses 1, 2, 3

### \*Charge and Blessing

### \*Postlude

*Basse de Trompette*

L. N. Clerambault

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

# OUR NEW LOGO



## Announcements

# LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

Join us after worship every week for lemonade under the Hughart tree.



# Welcome Back Picnic

Sunday,  
September 11th  
11 am







# Sunday Night Service

a simple meal, a simple service,  
& great community

begins September 18 at 6 pm

come as you are



# Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 18th  
at 11 am.

In person at the church.

We will be electing new Elders and Deacons, and there will be a finance update.



*Join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month!*

## LUNCH WITH FRIENDS RETURNS!

Starting September 27th at 12:30 pm.



# SESSION UPDATE

At a previous session meeting, we talked about how to keep families engaged as their kids grow older and have commitments to sports and other activities on Sunday mornings. In response, we decided to start a Sunday evening service.

We decided to begin in the fall. We'll gather in a relaxed setting to share a simple meal, listen to great music, and break bread with one another. In the New Year, we can evaluate whether we should continue.

Watch out for more details!

# Yoga

Every Monday in Fellowship Hall

9 - 10 am ~ \$20 per class

Please email [bobbestultz@gmail.com](mailto:bobbestultz@gmail.com) for information.

# BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday  
10 - 11 am via zoom

Please contact Alan McDougall at  
[alanmcd@verizon.net](mailto:alanmcd@verizon.net) for the Zoom link.

All are welcome.

## Upcoming Events at a Glance

**Monday, September 5th**

**OFFICE CLOSED – No Yoga**

**Tuesday, September 6th**

**Thursday, September 8th**

Bible Study at 10 am. Please contact Alan McDougall at [alanmcd@verizon.net](mailto:alanmcd@verizon.net).

**Sunday, September 11th**

Sunday Worship at 10 am, followed by the Welcome back Picnic at 11 am.

## 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](http://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](mailto:Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org)) and

Jessica ([Office@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto: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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*Just like the clay  
in the potter's hand,  
so are you in my hand.*