



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Wise Guys by Joel Schoon-Tanis

**1st Sunday of Christmas/ Epiphany of the Lord
January 1, 2023**

Prelude *From Heaven Above* J. Pachelbel

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship from Isaiah 60:1-6**

Leader: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

People: Darkness has been banished!

Leader: God's light of hope floods the earth

People: God's light comes to us all.

Leader: Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.

People: Prepare our hearts to receive this Light. Amen

***Opening Hymn 66** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Confession

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

(Silent Confession)

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

Time with the Children

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

Hebrew Bible Lesson *Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14*

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

May he live[a] while the sun endures
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.
May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.

For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy
and saves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Sermon

The Lights

Courtney Steininger

Joys and 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

Organ offering

D. Buxtehude

How Brightly Beams the Morning Star

***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 56**

The First Nowell

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Prelude on an Introit for Epiphany

M. Durufle

*Please rise, if able.

Announcements

Please fill out the pew pads and pass them to your neighbor.

*This week's flowers are dedicated by
Peter & Kathy DiBiasi
Happy New Year!!*

2023



Together

Together we give.
Together we share.

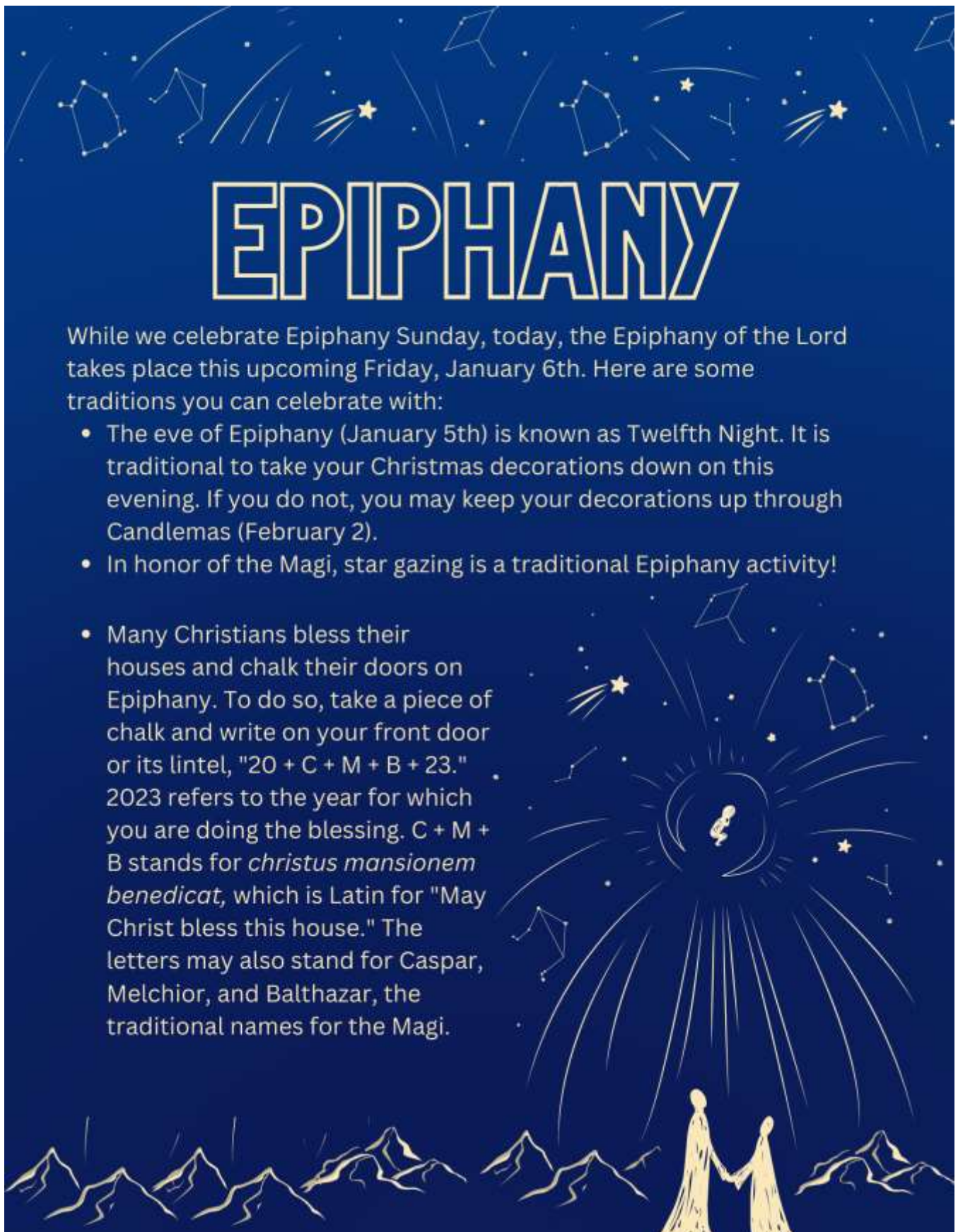


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EPIPHANY

While we celebrate Epiphany Sunday, today, the Epiphany of the Lord takes place this upcoming Friday, January 6th. Here are some traditions you can celebrate with:

- The eve of Epiphany (January 5th) is known as Twelfth Night. It is traditional to take your Christmas decorations down on this evening. If you do not, you may keep your decorations up through Candlemas (February 2).
- In honor of the Magi, star gazing is a traditional Epiphany activity!
- Many Christians bless their houses and chalk their doors on Epiphany. To do so, take a piece of chalk and write on your front door or its lintel, "20 + C + M + B + 23." 2023 refers to the year for which you are doing the blessing. C + M + B stands for *christus mansionem benedicat*, which is Latin for "May Christ bless this house." The letters may also stand for Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, the traditional names for the Magi.





Midnight Run

There are multiple ways to support BPC's Midnight Run on January 20th.

We are in need of toiletry donations, specifically:

- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Washcloths
- Deodorant
- Lip balm or moisturizer
- Feminine Hygiene products

We are also in need of the following items (new in packaging):

- Men's underwear, sizes 32-42
- Socks
- Long underwear in sizes M to XL

In the coming weeks, we will need food donations as well, so please stay tuned!

Please contact Courtney at courtney@bedfordpreschurch.org for more info.



Winter Youth Group Schedule

- January 8th & 22nd, 9:15am
Youth CE Class on Worship
- January 20th, 8pm
Midnight Run into NYC
- February 12th, 12pm
Bowling at Spins Bowl
- February 18th-25th
Bridges to Community
HS Mission Trip
- March 17th, 8pm
Midnight Run into NYC
...and more to come!

Confirmation class is an opportunity for 9th and 10th grade students and older to think about what they believe about God and Christianity, to explore our Presbyterian tradition as well as other Christian and non-Christian traditions, and to think critically about the world around them. At the end of the Confirmation class, students are given the opportunity to become adult members of the Church and "confirm" their baptism (or become baptized if they were not baptized as children).

If your child is interested in participating in this year's confirmation class, please email Courtney at courtney@bedfordpreschurch.org.

1st Week















FARMERS ALMANAC

1st Month

JAN 1-7, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Mostly Sunny 52°	Partly Cloudy 51°	PM Showers 51°	Rain 60°	Showers 52°	Partly Cloudy 38°	Partly Cloudy 40°

WHAT WE ARE READING

Each year, artist, writer, and Methodist minister Jan Richardson compiles art and spiritual reflections for Women's Christmas. This year's will be released as a free pdf on January 4th. "Women's Christmas originated as a day when the women, who often carried the domestic responsibilities all year, took Epiphany [January 6] as an occasion to celebrate together at the end of the holidays, leaving hearth and home to the men for a few hours." In this vein, and as we think about labor in our society, I wonder who else needs respite and opportunities for celebration. How do we desire to hold space for them in the presence and grace of God?

PHRASE OF THE WEEK

rejoicing

N | F

SECOND SUNDAY SOUP**Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for two volunteers for Second Sunday Soup on

January 8th,

February 12th, and March 12th.

If you are interested, please contact

Diane Palmento at **skippyhouse@aol.com**.

Did you know...

Epiphany, which celebrates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child, is also called Three Kings' Day. Occasionally, it is referred to as Little Christmas or Old Christmas. This is because of the history of calendars. In October 1582, Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian calendar as a correction of the Julian calendar, which had too many leap years. The accumulated error of the leap years was 10 days at the time. This meant that Christmas Day on 25 December ('New Style/NS') was eleven days earlier than it would have been, making "Old Christmas" [25 December ('Old Style')] happen on 5 January (NS). In February 1800, the Julian calendar had another leap year but the Gregorian did not, moving Old Christmas to 6 January (NS), which coincided with the Feast of the Epiphany.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, January 1st

10 am Worship.

Monday, January 2nd

9 am Yoga.

Thursday, January 5th

10 am Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at **alanmcd@verizon.net**.

Sunday, January 8th

10:00 am Worship and Communion.

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 both Elyssa at **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, President Michelle Gosh,

Linda Burpee, Jessica Cunningham, Danielle Gamar,

Maria Andrea Laverde,

Suzanne Millette, Sarah Ryan, & Bart Tyler

Moderator Reverend Carol Howard Merritt

Deacons

Chair Kim Lapple, Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,

Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson, & Diane Palmento

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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