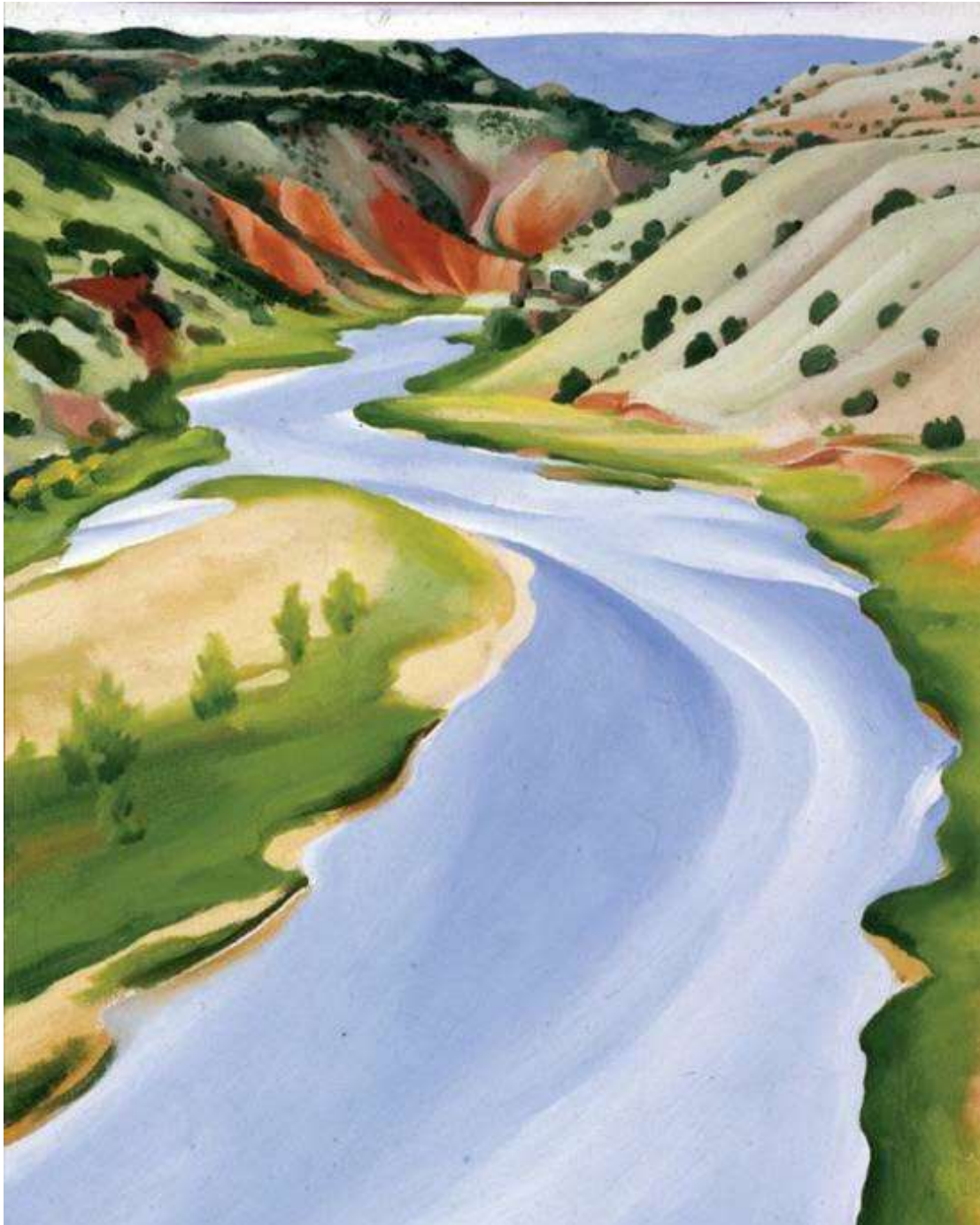




BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Chama River by Georgia O'Keeffe

Baptism of the Lord

January 8, 2023

Prelude

D. Buxtehude

How Brightly Shines the Morningstar

Introit

Holy, Holy, Holy

F. Schubert

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: In the beginning, darkness covered the deep, while a wind from God swept over the waters.

People: The voice of God is over the waters!

Leader: In the voice of the prophet, God said: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

People: The voice of God is over the waters!

Leader: When Jesus was baptized by John, suddenly the heavens opened, and a voice said: You are my beloved. With you I am well pleased.

People: The voice of God is over the waters!

***Opening Hymn 10** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Confession

God of grace, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us a part of the body of Christ. We confess that we hold onto our guilt and shame. We become preoccupied with ourselves and separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and turn each other away. We allow our past to hold us captive.

In your love, have mercy on us, and free us. Help us to embrace the promises of our baptism, so that we might live as your beloved children.

(Silent confession)

Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

***Passing of the Peace**

Time with the Children

The children can leave for Sunday Spirit after communion.

Hebrew Bible Lesson

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Anthem

Chorale arr. J. S. Bach

Blessed Jesus, We Are Here

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering

Offertory Anthem

F. Mendelssohn

There Shall a Star from Jacob Rise Up

***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.**

Remembering Our Baptism

Leader:

Siblings in Christ,
through the sacrament of baptism
God's Spirit has been poured out upon water,
water poured over and immersing us,
water that flows freely for all who will receive it,
water from the streams of God,
water that brings hope to all who thirst,
water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today we come to the waters,
to renew our commitments
in each other's presence
to Christ who has raised us,
the Spirit who has birthed us,
and the Creator who is making all things new.

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us
by baptism into Jesus Christ
will never die.
Your justice never fails.
Your mercy is everlasting.
Your healing river flows.
Your Spirit blows where you will.

People:

**We are dry and thirsty, O God,
Come, refresh us!**

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 492

Baptized in Water

*Charge and Blessing

*Sung Response

Sevenfold Amen

J. Stainer

*Postlude

Praise God, All Christians Rejoice

J. S. Bach

*Please stand if able

Announcements

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



Together

Together we give.
Together we share.



BEDFORD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*This week's flowers are dedicated by
Gordon & Judy Cydelott.
Best wishes to family and friends in
2023!*



CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Sunday, January 15th

Each year, the Presbyterian Mission Agency publishes the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, an opportunity to make specific small gifts that can make a big impact.

Our children will vote on where to put the Children's Offering money for this year.

For more information, visit presbyteriangifts.org.



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, and Feminine Hygiene products.

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

- Men's underwear, sizes 32-42, Socks, and 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 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.

2nd Week















FARMERS ALMANAC

1st Month

JAN 8-14, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Partly Cloudy 38°	Rain 44°	Partly Cloudy 45°	Rain Showers 44°	Clouds 38°	Partly Cloudy 36°	Mostly Cloudy 37°

WHAT WE ARE READING

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? *Ecclesiastes 3:1-9*

PHRASE OF THE WEEK

cold stratification

N | F

Did you know?.....

The seashell, particularly a scallop shell, is a symbol of baptism in Christianity. Many baptismal fonts are shaped like a shell or decorated with shells. Shells are evocative of early baptisms done near rivers and seashores. For this reason, and for the symbolism of "living water," water used for baptism should be a form of running water. If running water is not available, cold water is considered preferable!

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, January 8th

10 am Worship and Communion.

11 am Second Sunday Soup

Monday, January 9th

9 am Yoga.

Tuesday, January 10th

12:30 pm Lunch with Friends

1:00 pm Quilting

Thursday, January 12th

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

Sunday, January 15th

10:00 am Worship and Children's Offering.

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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