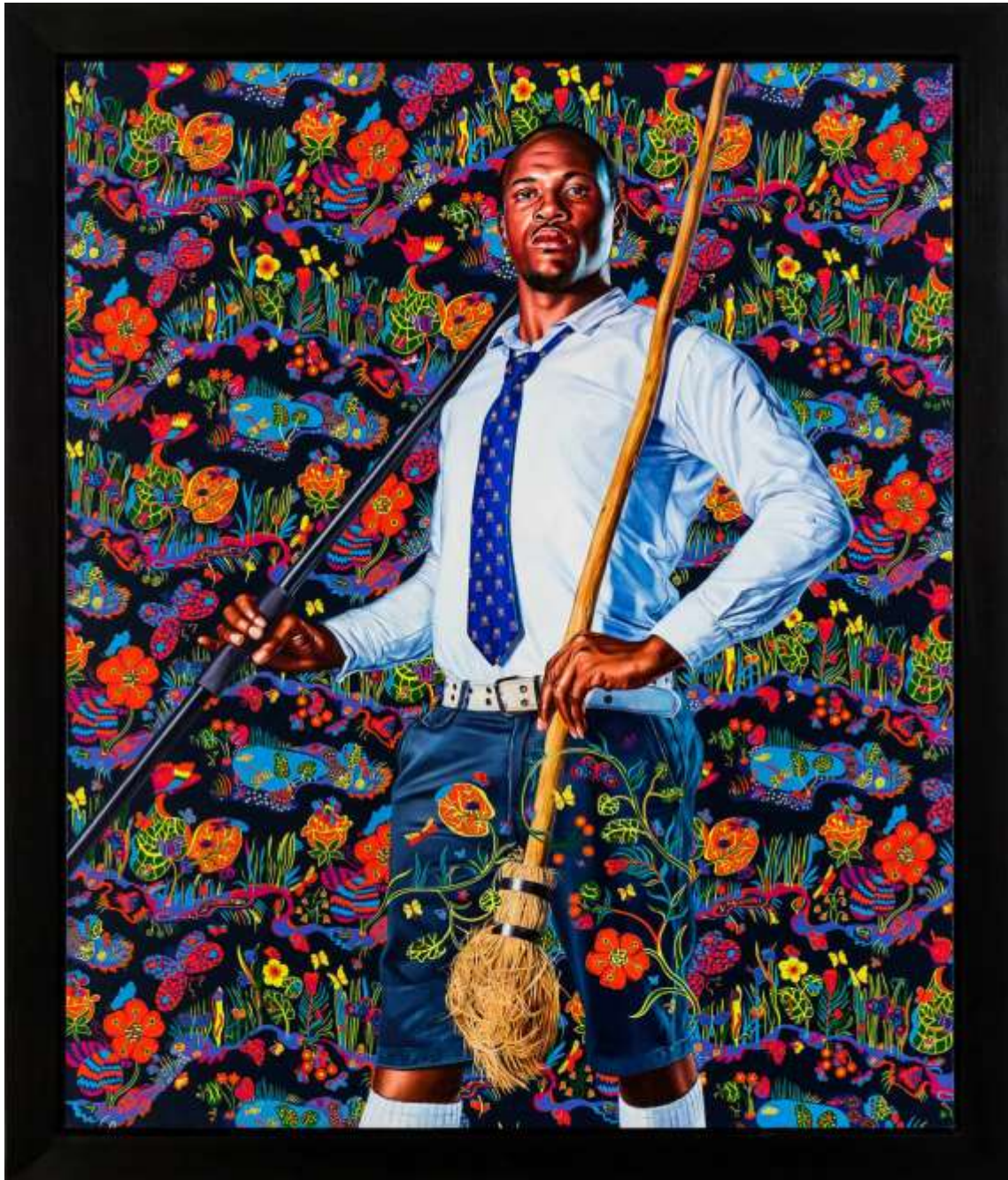




BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“A Boy as a Shepherd” by Kehinde Wiley

February 12, 2023

Ordinary Time

Prelude

Toccata in a

J. Sweelinck

Introit

African-American Spiritual
It's Me, O Lord, Standing in the Need of Prayer

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God has set before us life and abundance, death and adversity.

People: God longs for us to have life in abundance.

Leader: God has set before us blessings and curses.

People: God longs for us to have life in abundance.

***Opening Hymn 478** *Praise, My Soul the King of Heaven*

Confession

Loving God, Jesus came so that we might have abundant life, and yet we make choices that we regret. We hold on to resentments, instead of opening ourselves to forgiveness. We lash out in anger, instead of opening to love. We consume more, instead of giving generously. We squander your resources, instead of caring for them.

Forgive us, and as we accept your mercy, help us to forgive ourselves. We pray. Amen.

(Silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon

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

People: And also with you.

***Passing of the Peace**

You may stand and greet one another.

Time with the Children

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

Hebrew Bible

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Anthem

Spiritual arr. M . Hogan

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

Gospel Lesson

John 10:7-10

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering

Anthem

Cantate Domino

G. Croce

(O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto
the Lord, all the earth.)

***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**

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

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 436**

We Are Your People

***Charge and Blessing**

Benediction Response

J. Stainer

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

***Postlude**

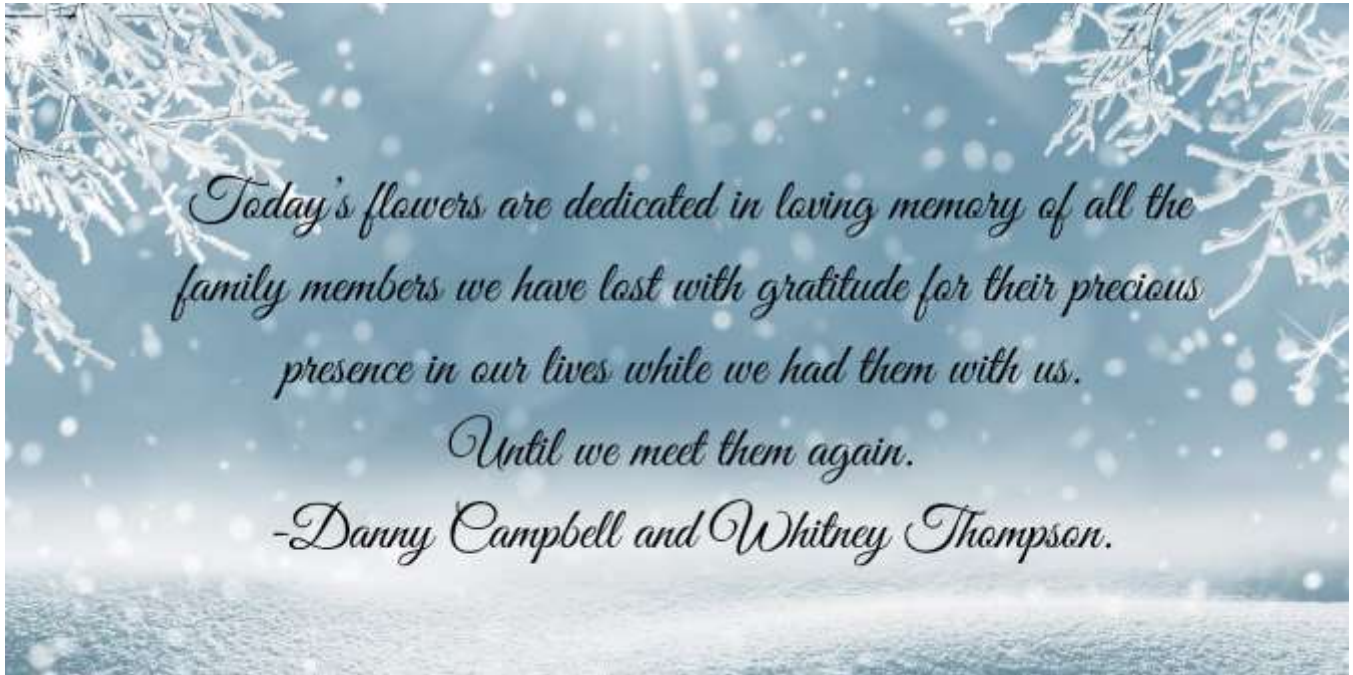
This Day which is So Joyous

J. S. Bach

***Please stand if able**

Announcements

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



CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Sunday, January 19th

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 spend the Children's Offering money for this year.

For more information, visit presbyteriangifts.org.

Cover Art

Kehinde Wiley created the cover art, "A Boy as a Shepherd." Wiley often asks people to pose, using classic works as his inspiration. This portrait recalls Bartolome Esteban Murillo's paintings of the boy Christ as a shepherd. "What I wanted to do was create a body of work in which empathy and the language of the religious and the rapturous all collided into one space," Wiley said.



BPC Visioning Team Communication to the Congregation Weekend of Feb 12th

Dear Friends,

As we communicated previously, the Visioning Team commenced our work in January and have met six times since then to study in-depth the following Charge:

- *How are we called to be church now?*
- *What, besides Sunday morning worship, do we need to nourish and expand our spiritual lives?*
- *Where are we called TODAY to take collective action in the world?*

We have aligned that Charge and our process to the following outcomes:

- *Is the current resource allocation meeting the needs of our Congregation?*
- *What recommendations do we have regarding resource allocation?*
- *What can current working groups do to meet the needs identified in the Holy Cow assessment?*
- *Where do we, as lay representatives of the Congregation, need to focus our energy and efforts in order to meet the needs identified?*

This intergenerational group with varied perspectives have gathered with loving hearts and have discerned these big questions in true Christian spirit. We have leaned into tough conversations and difficult topics, respectfully disagreeing at times, always seeking to understand one another, and prayerfully discerning along the way. We have discussed resource allocation and prioritization based on the Holy Cow assessment, the Vision Study (2019) and other data points and observations from our own experiences and perspectives.

We are prepared to make phase I recommendations. These recommendations will be shared with Session and the Personnel

Committee soon, and with you in full detail at the Congregational Meeting. We are eager to share our process and recommendations, knowing that the work is just beginning. We are committed to being a standing working group, should Session approve, to continue to help chart out our short and long term vision for a thriving Bedford Presbyterian Church.

Prayerfully yours,

Marcy Carlson ~ Jessica Cunningham ~ Jim Fenimore ~ Pat
Ferguson

Dale Forster ~ Michelle Gosh ~ Heidi Michaels ~ Sharon Seidell
Pastor Carol Howard Merritt





Annual Congregational Meeting for 2022

Sunday, March 5, 2023

Immediately following the
worship service.

SAVE THE DATE

New Friends ~ Old Friends Dinner

Saturday, March 11th, 6pm, at the home of Bing & Marcy Carlson.

Stay tuned for more information.



Faith in Bloom

As Lent approaches, we are once again looking for entries for our Lenten Devotional. Our theme is "Faith in Bloom."

Entries are due to Courtney by February 17.

As always, our theme is open-ended, but here are some questions to consider:

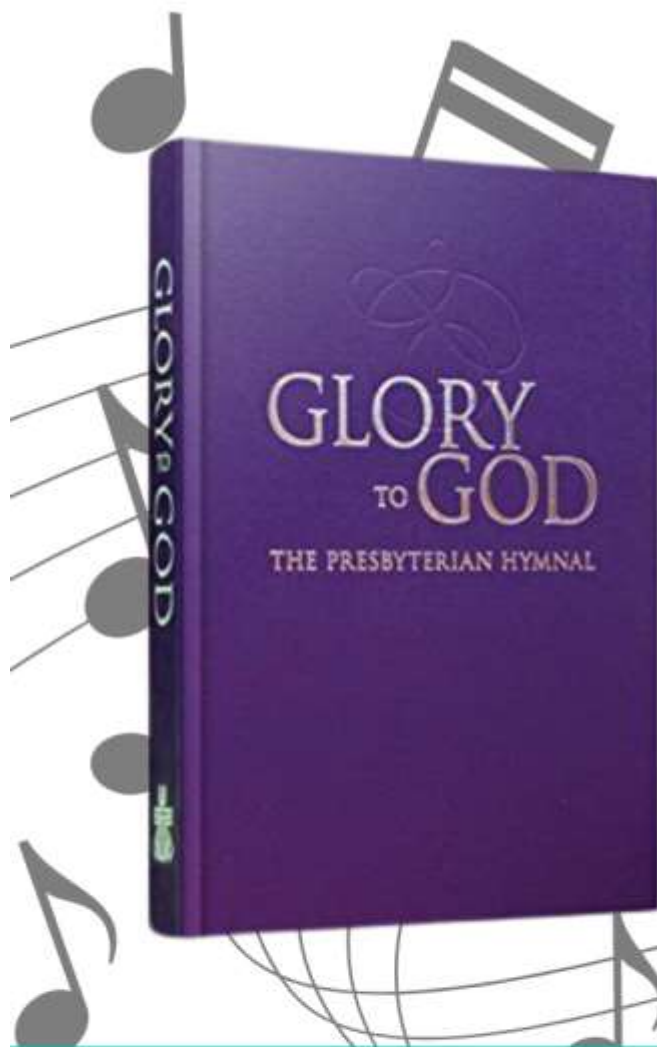
Where are you most aware of God's presence? What causes your faith to bloom? What helps your faith to flourish? How does God support and nourish your growth? How do you imagine the "Ground of All Being"? How has nature informed your spiritual journey?



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.

Contact Sarah Alley or Michele Eames with questions or go to our website to sign up.



Buy a hymnal for the
church
Dedicate it to a loved
one.



For \$25, you can buy a new hymnal and have it dedicated in honor or memory of someone you love.

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday
10 - 11 am via zoom

Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net for the Zoom link.
All are welcome.



Winter Youth Group Schedule

- **Today at 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!



SECOND SUNDAY SOUP

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for two volunteers for Second Sunday Soup on
March 12th.

If you are interested, please contact
Diane Palmento at skippyhouse@aol.com.



SEARCHING FOR PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE DESIGNER.

PLEASE EMAIL CAROL OR ELYSSA IF YOU HAVE ANY
RECOMMENDATIONS.

3rd Week















FARMERS ALMANAC

2nd Month

FEB 12 - 18, 2023

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Cloudy 47°	Partly Cloudy 51°	Sunny 50°	Mostly Sunny 54°	Showers 61°	Showers 54°	Partly Cloudy 36°

WHAT WE ARE READING

Consider the following as we burn last year's palms for this year's Ash Wednesday:

"I appreciated the dirtiness of our Ash Wednesday retreat, and by dirtiness I mean the reminder that the soil, the ground, and the earth that is the very foundation of our bodily existence is something that we must not lose touch with... In the roots and in the soil is the spirit we are looking for, the relationship to the Divine that tends to be largely obscured in the way we live today." -Chris Fici

WORD OF THE WEEK

Secondary Succession



Nativity Farm is looking for plastic, gallon milk or water jugs for seed starting. In lieu of recycling them, please give them to Courtney.

Senior Luncheons



Please join us for our next Senior Luncheon on Thursday, March 2nd, 12 pm in the Chapel Room

Join us for lunch and the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of friends (old and new). Everyone is invited, women, men, and couples, to reconnect and connect anew after our past two years of being so isolated. Bring a friend who is not a member of BPC if you'd like. Maintaining our connections is very important to many of us, so we are planning to schedule Senior Luncheons on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month through the Spring.

Please bring your bag lunch and come whenever you can.

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. You can sign up, enter your dedication and make your \$50 secure online donation on the BPC website.



Checks and dedications can also be sent to the church office.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, February 12th

10 am Worship & Souper Bowl of Caring collection.
11 am Palms to Ashes and Second Sunday Soup.
12 pm Youth Bowling.

Monday, February 13th

9 am **No YOGA.**

Tuesday, February 14th

12:30 pm Lunch with Friends.
1 pm Quilting.

Thursday, February 16th

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

Sunday, February 19th

10 am Worship & Children's Collection.

Monday, February 20th

President's Day - **OFFICE CLOSED**

Wednesday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday

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 (Mission), Jessica Cunningham (Personnel),
Danielle Gamar (Christian Education),
Maria Andrea Laverde (Nativity Farm),
Suzanne Millette (Finance), Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance), &
Bart Tyler (Members & Friends)
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

Office@bedfordpreschurch.org ~ www.bedfordpreschurch.org
P.O. Box 280 ~ 44 Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506
914-234-3672