



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Weed Transfiguration by Rev. Brian Merritt

"The Opposite of poverty is not wealth-it is justice." Leonardo Boff

February 19, 2023

ORDINARY TIME

Prelude

Rhosymedre R. Vaughan Williams

Ringing of the Bells

Introit

Alleluia, Alleluia

South African

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Looking for a miraculous experience, we find
the ordinary.

People: You are there.

Leader: Trying to experience exquisite flavors, we taste
plainness,

People: You are there.

Leader: Striving for excitement, we endure boredom,

People: You are there.

Leader: Yearning for googly-eyed love, we discover day-to-
day relationships,

People: You are there.

Leader: We prick up our ears to hear your booming voice, we
encounter silence,

People: You are there.

***Opening Hymn 488**

The God of Abraham Praise

Confession

**We understand any judgment imagined from above never
surpasses our own self-accusations. When you see us as
precious, we refuse the compliment. When you see us as
wonderful, we deflect to shortcomings. When you say rest, we
say we have too much to do. When you accept us, we say there
is no way.**

(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 Lesson *Exodus 24:12-18*

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.

To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Anthem

My Lord, What a Morning
African American Spiritual arr. H. Burleigh

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Sermon

Rev. Brian Merritt

*Hymn 339

Be Thou My Vision

Offering

Anthem

Behold Now, Bless the Lord

James McGregor

*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 & Concerns

***Prayer 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 426** *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

***Charge and Blessing**

***Benediction Response**

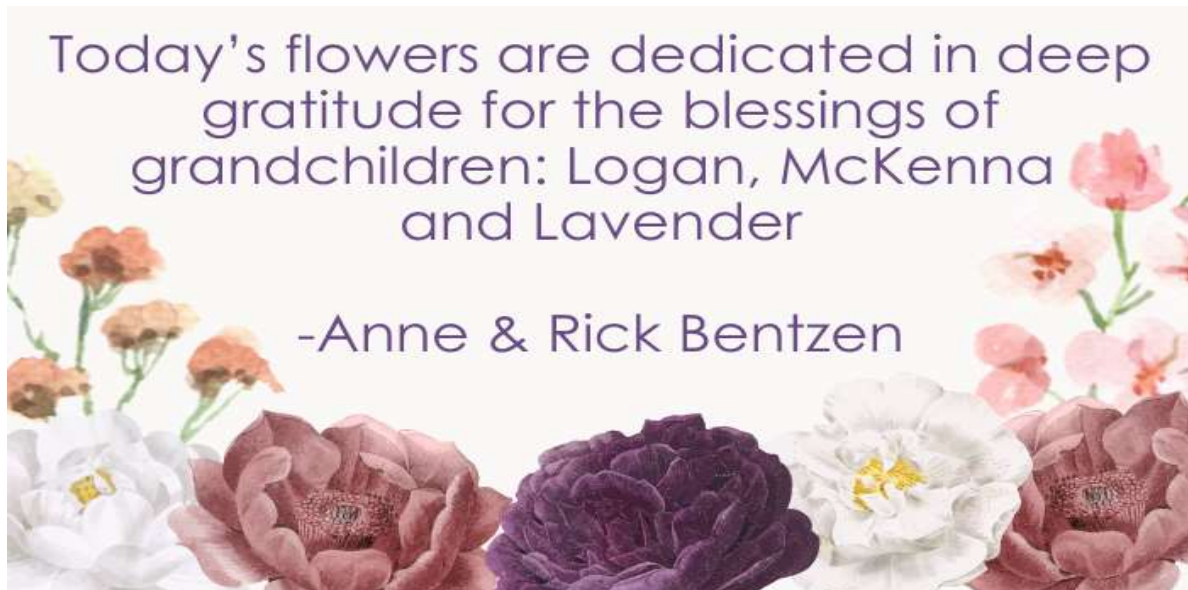
God Be with You Till' We Meet Again
R. Vaughan Williams

***Postlude** *Chaconne in g* D. Buxtehude

*Please stand, if able

Announcements

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



BPC Visioning Team Communication to the Congregation Weekend of Feb 19th

Communication #3 - Visioning Team Process

Dear Friends,

This is a follow-up communication to last week's update on the progress of the Visioning Team.

One of the takeaways from the Holy Cow assessment was that BPC is a Magi church, meaning that it is important for us to communicate process (as a reminder, [use this QR Code to view the Executive Summary](#) that was approved by Session and previously shared with the Congregation). Here is an excerpt from that Executive Summary describing a Magi church: *In a Magi church, process is important, and it is essential that that process and the discernment journey is communicated in a clear and transparent way to the Congregation at large. Michelle from Holy Cow stated, "Process will constantly be under pressure in a Magi church. Transparency becomes a big issue in decision making."* It is within that spirit that we share about our journey and process so far as a Visioning Team.



First, we reviewed and made sure that we had the same understanding and expectations of our Charge and Outcomes. We also identified norms, termed our working alliance, in which we were to engage in this work.

C

Having set the foundation, we identified 12 areas of church life that we needed to examine: administration, Christian education, communication, congregational life, mission, outreach, pastoral care, spirituality, stewardship, technology, worship, and youth.

We then welcomed Jeanne Collins, master architect of the 2019 Vision Study, to come and share with us the outcomes of that study. We thought it important to see if there were 'through lines' and connections to 2019 pre-pandemic and where we are now. We thank Jeanne for her time and energy. We digested the debrief of the Vision Study among the 12 categories of the church as outlined above.

Next, we dove into the Holy Cow Congregational Assessment Tool. We diligently made meaning of the themes within the results, and related those themes to what we saw among the 12 categories of the church. While distilling both sets of these assessment results, we made sure to pause, share experiences and anecdotes, and not just think about where we are but also where we want to be in the future.

We then conducted a needs assessment among the 12 categories given our experiences and the results of the two data sets. Adhering to our articulated desired outcomes (see below), we dove deep into each category and faithfully engaged in prayerful discernment:

- *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?*

Knowing that we are not acting in self-interest but instead as representatives of this vibrant Congregation, we have worked to make meaning of the varied perspectives within our church where the energy lies, and what that means for our short and long-term vision.

We appreciate you taking the time to read this communication. We will write again next week with another update.

Prayerfully yours,

Prayerfully yours,

Marcy Carlson ~ Jessica Cunningham ~ Jim Fenimore ~
Pat Ferguson

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



Our summer mission trip to Webster Springs, WV will take place on June 25 - July 2. Please reserve your spot with Courtney!

Meditation & Devotional Service

Online, Wednesday, February 22nd

Pick up ashes today after worship or at the church office on Tuesday (2/21) or Wednesday (2/22) between 10 am and 3 pm.



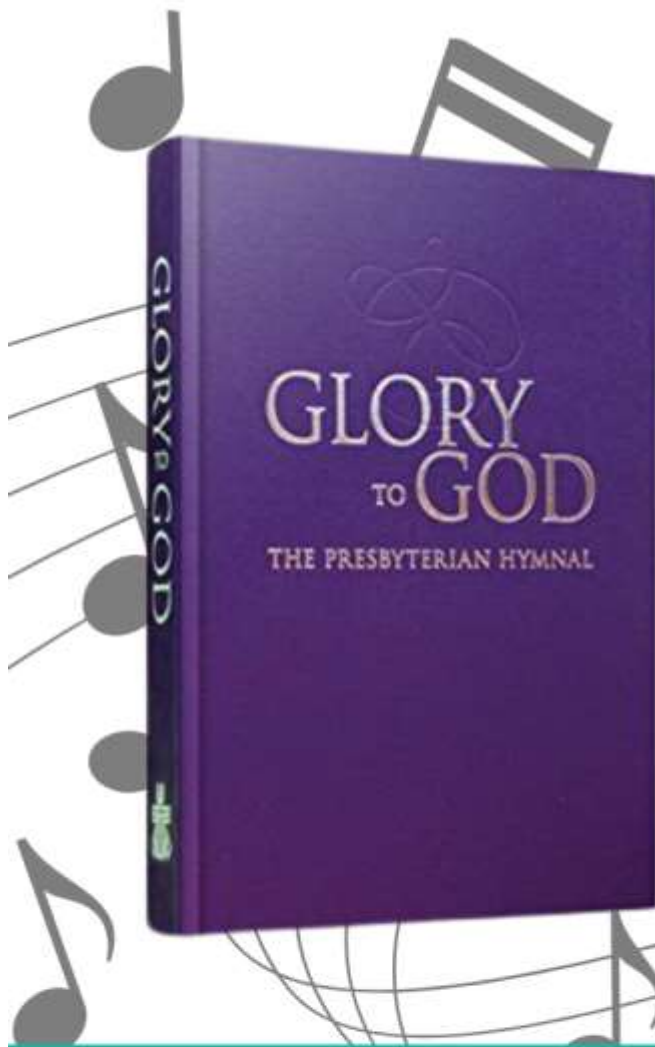
Annual Congregational Meeting for 2022

Sunday, March 5, 2023

Immediately following the
worship service.



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



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.



Spring Youth Group Schedule

- **March 17th, 8 pm**
Midnight Run into NYC
- **March 25th, 9 am**
Pollinator Garden Work Day
- **April 14th, 6:30 pm**
Neighbors Link Family Night

And more to come!



SECOND SUNDAY SOUP

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for one volunteer 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 19 - 25, 2023

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
Cloudy 49°	Mostly Cloudy 55°	Mostly Cloudy 45°	Snow to Rain 42°	Snow Showers 38°	AM Snow Showers 39°	Partly Cloudy 33°

WHAT WE ARE READING

"On the Holy Mountain of Athos, the monks sometimes put up beside the forest paths special signposts offering encouragement or warning to the pilgrim as he passes. One such notice used to give me particular pleasure. Its message was brief and clear: 'Love the trees.'" From "Through Creation to the Creator" by Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) of Diokleia.

PHRASE OF THE WEEK

eternity trees

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 first Thursday of the month through the Spring.

Please bring your bag lunch and come whenever you can.

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.

PAINT & PIZZA

Saturday, April 1st 6 pm

- Join us at 6 pm for pizza
- Painting begins at 6:30 pm
- Ages 9 & up is recommended
- All are welcome! Bring your friends!

**RECOMMENDED
DONATION OF \$20**



SAVE THE DATE: OLD FRIENDS NEW FRIENDS DINNER



03

MONTH

11

DAY

23

YEAR

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

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 19th

10 am

Worship & Youth Collection.

Monday, February 20th

9 am

President's Day - **OFFICE CLOSED**

Yoga.

Tuesday, February 21st

1 pm

Quilting.

Wednesday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday.

Thursday, February 23rd

10 am

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

Sunday, February 26th

10 am

Worship & Baptism.

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

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