



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"The Sower" by Vincent Van Gogh

First Sunday of Lent

February 26, 2023

Prelude *When We Are In Deepest Need* J. S. Bach

Ringing of the Bells

Introit *Lord Have Mercy* Swee Hong Lim

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Leader: As we journey through this Lenten season,
We come with hesitant steps and uncertain motives.
We think of the ways that we have strayed from
God's ways.

**People: We expose the strife and discord,
Reveal the fear and anxiety,
And confess our indifference to the suffering of others.**

Leader: We nurture the stirrings of new life.
We awaken to seeds of growth.
We pray that the Holy One will heal us and
give us peace.

***Opening Hymn 50** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Confession

Call to Confession

Forgiving God, in this Lenten season, we have fallen short of what you have called us to be. You have promised us your presence, in Spirit and in community, even so, we neglect, ignore, and reject your purposes for us. Have mercy on us. Forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do. And with your gifts, promises, and grace, continue working in our lives that we might live abundant and blessed lives. 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.)

Baptism of Onora Flynn

Baptism Hymn 492

Baptized in Water
Versus 1 and 3

Time with the Children

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

Hebrew Bible Lesson

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Now the serpent was craftier than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they

were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Anthem *Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts* H. Purcell

Gospel Lesson *Matthew 4:1-11*

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,
'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Offering

Anthem

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Jean Berger

*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

*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 84

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

*Charge and Blessing

*Sung Response

R. Vaughan Williams

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

*Postlude

Fugue in e

J. S. Bach

*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 26th**

Communication #4 - Recommendations from the Visioning Team

Dear Friends,

As we have communicated previously, the Visioning Team has been hard at work discerning a recommendation to Session and Personnel for our 'next steps' staffing configuration. In case you missed some of the previous communications and documents that have been shared throughout this process, here are some of those missives that we hope will assist in understanding how we arrived at this recommendation:



Executive Summary

From the Holy Cow Assessment

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kTwJcjTIKGLRX-dtaanRIIOB4hsWJFqquqvAlZgKoNE/edit>

January 6th

Charge and Guiding Questions

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1amz11FFSUCi4bJT-aJ4-rU2KWi_KMcTpDpUgoTqKMTQ/edit





February 12th

Update to the Congregation

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D2m3in5-cVWru8g_1zwdZU2Vh1ejfPL1VDSK2AGjk5A/edit

February 19th

Communication to the Congregation – Process

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FL-Yxfms3j4ktMt3A9B9k93hU9k_OxUOAxpNIWKy3qk/edit



As a reminder, we make this Phase I recommendation in faithful pursuit of the following desired 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?*

Phase I Recommendation - Staffing:

We are aware that one of the lingering questions that the Congregation needs answered pertains to our current and future staffing composition. Given the totality of the needs expressed in both the Vision Study and the Holy Cow, as well as our hopes for how we want to grow as a Congregation, we recommend the following resource allocation and path forward:

1. We recommend to Session that we create a Minister of Christian Education position. Session would need to vote on this, with the official motion being a one-year Stated Supply Associate Pastor position (we can share more detail about what 'Stated Supply' means at the Congregational Meeting. The establishment of this position is possible through the grant from the Presbytery.

2. We have always been a Congregation that supports young people on their path towards ministry and ordination. The Visioning Team believes that we should support Courtney Steinger in her continued path to ordination.
3. We recommend that we ordain Courtney and appoint her as the Minister of Christian Education for one year (April - March). The additional cost beyond the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in the proposed 2023 budget is a pro-rated (April - December) amount of approximately \$1,125, which reflects the minimum effective salary for an Associate Pastor and includes benefits. This position would be valid from April 2023 through March 2024. Primary responsibilities of the Minister of Christian Education includes but are not limited to:
 - a. Christian Education - Children and Youth
 - b. Nativity Farm
 - c. Assume preaching responsibilities as needed, especially when Carol is away on the 'hard to fill' Sundays
4. We continue to partner with the Presbytery to support Nativity Farm.
5. Concurrently, we commit to a search for an Associate Pastor and adhere to the following timeline:
 - o Spring 2023
 - Visioning Team reconvenes to continue discussion around resource allocation, with a Phase II focus
 - o Summer 2023
 - Job Description(s) developed
 - Posting(s) prepared
 - Search Committee(s) formed
 - o September, 2023
 - The position(s) is/are posted in various outlets
 - o October - November, 2023
 - Initial screenings
 - Committee interviews
 - Finalists are asked to complete a performance task
 - o December, 2023
 - Final negotiations with Personnel

- January 2024
 - Candidate(s) selected and presented to the Congregation

Phase I Recommendation - Nativity Farm

We also think it is important to state, as a Visioning Team, that we recommend that Nativity Farm is continued and supported. This is a concept brought forward by members of our Congregation and supported, both financially and philosophically, by the Presbytery. Nativity Farm engages children and youth, and has the potential for further outreach to the broader community. We wholeheartedly endorse this idea and recommend that BPC continue to support it. We also recommend that the Visioning Team, or others, further articulate how the efforts underway with Nativity Farm support the broader vision of BPC both short and long term.

We will expand on these recommendations at the Congregational Meeting and in a forthcoming written report of our Phase I recommendations. We thank you for the trust and faith that you have placed in the Visioning Team, and we look forward to continuing to meet as an advisory group in support of our thriving Congregation.

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!



Annual Congregational Meeting for 2022

Sunday, March 5th

Immediately following the
worship service.



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.



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



Hello BPC!

We (the Deacons) are writing to all members of our congregation to ask for your help. Coffee hour and the Care Team are two critical ways for our church to come together.

Coffee hour: We are in desperate need of volunteers for this winter and spring. Please review the **SignUpGenius** calendar on our website and volunteer for a Sunday. If you don't want to use SignUpGenius, email coffee hour deacons Michele Eames (**meames@yorktown.org**) or Sarah Alley (**sarahalley724@gmail.com**) and they can help. Directions and supplies will be provided. It's a great way to contribute, attend, and be involved!

Care Team: As we rebuild our care team efforts, we are asking that each BPC family/member complete a form which identifies ways we can support one another. This form was sent out via email a few weeks ago. We are reaching out a second time hoping that if you have not done so yet, please take a quick moment and complete the Care Team Form.

On behalf of the deacons, we are committed and eager to strengthen our BPC community. Thank you for being part of this meaningful journey together.

The BPC Deacons

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!**

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.



SEARCHING FOR PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE DESIGNER.

PLEASE EMAIL CAROL OR ELYSSA IF YOU HAVE ANY
RECOMMENDATIONS.

1st Week















FARMERS ALMANAC

3rd Month

FEB 26- MAR 4, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Cloudy 49°	Cloudy 42°	Rain 57°	Cloudy 45°	Rain 44°	Rain 42°	Cloudy 46°

WHAT WE ARE READING

"To be commanded to love God at all, let alone in the wilderness, is like being commanded to be well when we are sick, to sing for joy when we are dying of thirst, to run when our legs are broken. But this is the first and great commandment nonetheless. Even in the wilderness - especially in the wilderness - you shall love him." -*Frederick Buechner*

PHRASE OF THE WEEK

autotrophic organisms

RSVP: OLD FRIENDS NEW FRIENDS DINNER



03

11

23

POTLUCK DINNER AT
BING & MARCY CARLSON'S HOUSE

6 PM

TO RSVP, GO TO THE E-NEWS,
CONTACT MARCY OR EMAIL ELYSSA

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.



EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP



Our next week hosting ESP is from March 20 - 26.

We are looking for volunteers for our various needs for the week.

We will need people to cook/serve dinner, make dessert,
provide snacks and drinks.

Go to our website or E-NEWS to sign up.

Email Elyssa with any questions. Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org.

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**



Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, February 26th

10 am Worship & Baptism.

Monday, February 27th

9 am Yoga.

Tuesday, February 28th

12:30 pm Lunch with Friends

1 pm Quilting.

Thursday, March 2nd

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

12 pm Senior Luncheon.

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, March 4th

4 pm Charis Concert

Sunday, March 5th

10 am Worship, Communion & Youth Collection.

11 am Congregational Meeting

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.