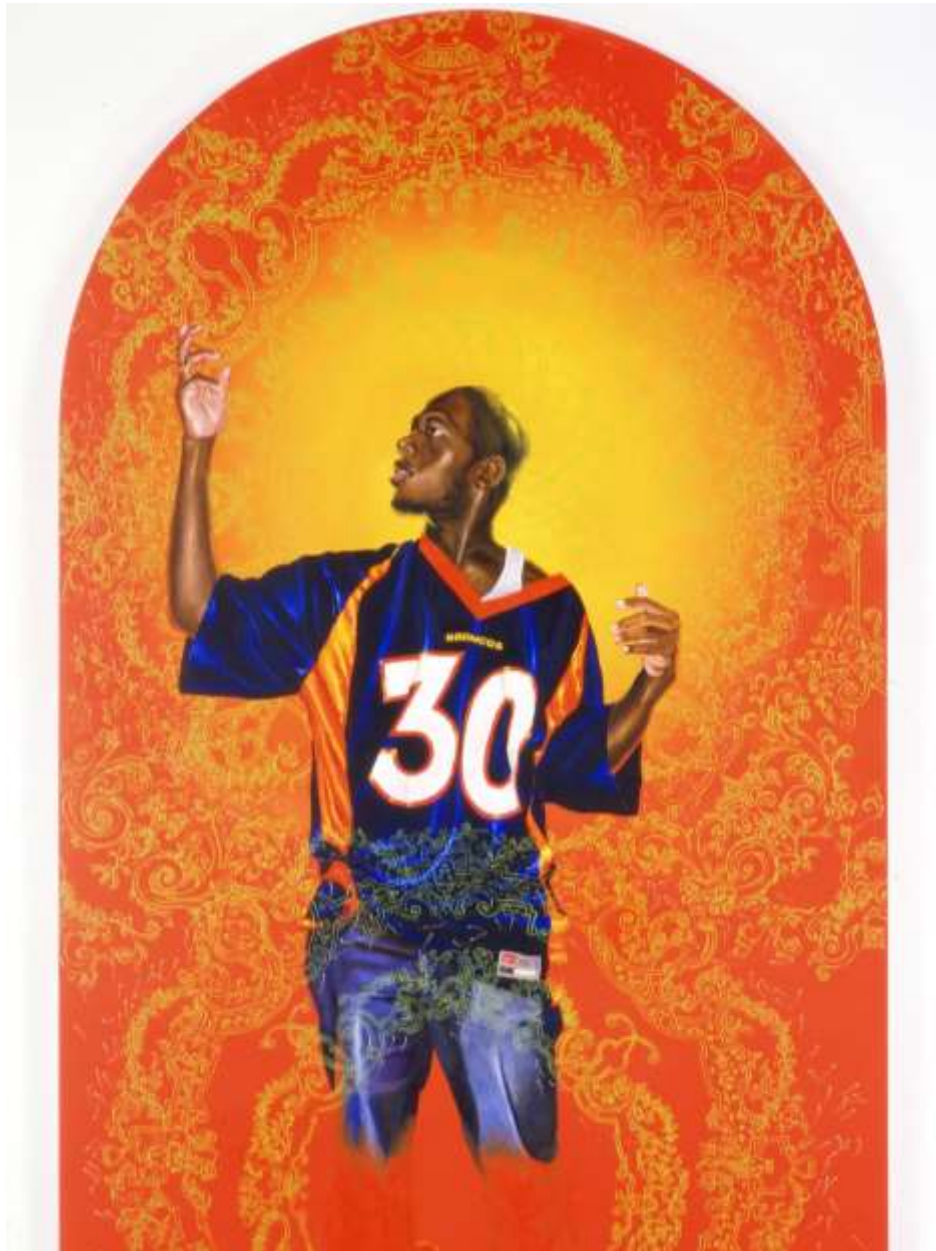




# BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Prophet Anne, Who Observes the  
Presentation of Jesus in the Temple*

by Kehinde Wiley

# February 5, 2023

## Presentation of the Lord

**Prelude**

*Recit de Nazard*

L. N. Clerambault

**Introit**

G. Thalben-Ball

*O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **\*Call to Worship from Isaiah 58**

Leader: What sort of sacrifice does God want?

**People: We are to loosen the bonds of injustice, to untie the yoke, and let the oppressed go free.**

Leader: We are to share our bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into our house. When we see the naked, we cover them.

**People: Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring forth quickly.**

**\*Hymn 376**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
Verses 1, 2, 3

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Confession**

**Merciful God, forgive us, for we make mistakes that we regret. We fail our loved ones. We feel overwhelmed by injustice. Our guilt consumes us, and we refuse to forgive ourselves. We swallow our shame. Remind us that we should never be defined by the worst thing that we have done. Help us to receive your forgiveness, your embrace, and your peace.**

(Silent Confession)

## Assurance of Pardon

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

**People: And also with you.**

## Time with Children

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

## Hebrew Bible Lesson

*Isaiah 58:3-8*

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loosen the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly.

## Anthem

*At the River*

A. Copland

## Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

## Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

## Offering

### Minute for Mission

Woman 2 Woman

### Anthem

*Jubilate Deo in C*

C. Stanford

## \*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

## Communion and Blessing of the Candles

### 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.**

**\*Charge and Blessing**

**Benediction Response**

John Bell

*The Peace of the Earth*

**\*Postlude**

*Postlude in G*

C. Stanford

\*Please stand if able

**Announcements**

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



# BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday  
10 - 11 am via zoom

Please contact Alan McDougall at [alanmcd@verizon.net](mailto:alanmcd@verizon.net) for the Zoom link.

All are welcome.



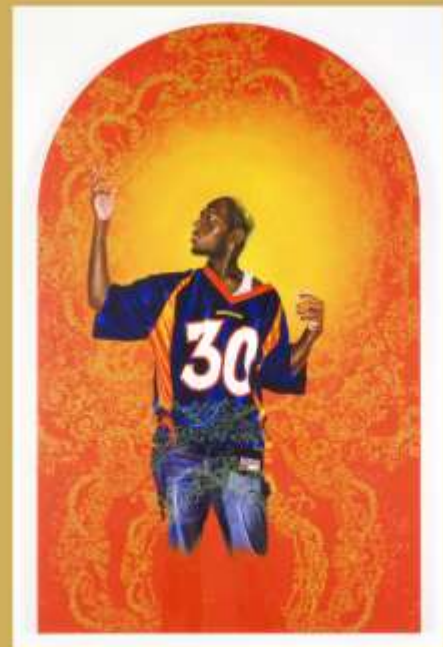
"What I wanted to do was create a body of work in which empathy and the language of the religious and the rapturous all collided into one space," Wiley explained. "In this space there is a new way of seeing black and brown bodies from all over the world."

Learn more:



## Cover Art

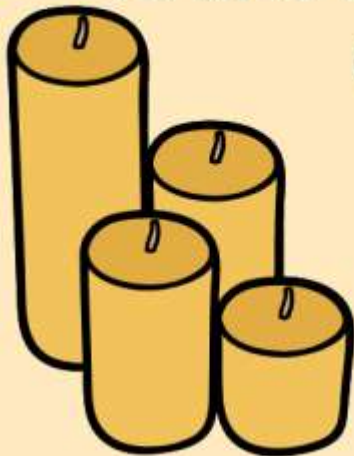
Kehinde Wiley created the cover art, "Female Prophet Anne, Who Observes the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple." Wiley often asks people off the streets to pose for him, using classic works as his inspiration. This portrait is based on Giotto's work, "The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple."



# Candlemas Candlemaking

Join us after worship today in  
Fellowship Hall.

During Coffee Hour, there will be  
opportunities to make and bless candles  
to take with you to celebrate  
Candlemas!



## Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 12th.

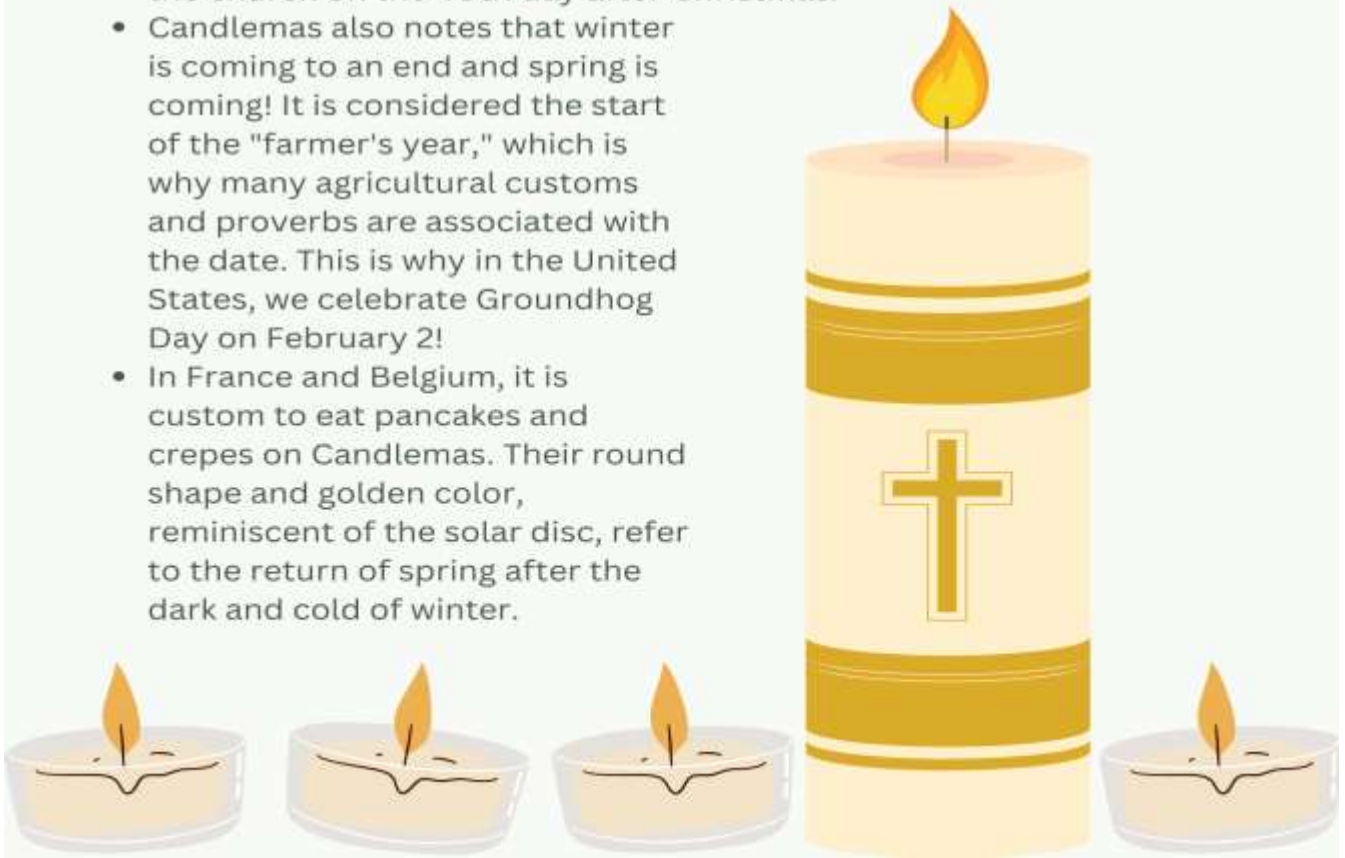
Next Sunday, the youth will be having a  
Souper Bowl of Caring Special Offering after  
worship to benefit the  
Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry.



# CANDLEMAS

Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ or the Feast of the Holy Encounter, commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the temple.

- Candlemas (February 2) takes place forty days after Christmas. First Century Jewish law held that after the birth of a child, women were considered impure for 40 days. On the 40th day, the child and mother would be re-welcomed into the community.
- Just as Christ, the Light of the World, was presented to the Temple on the 40th day, Christians present their candles for blessing in the church on the 40th day after Christmas.
- Candlemas also notes that winter is coming to an end and spring is coming! It is considered the start of the "farmer's year," which is why many agricultural customs and proverbs are associated with the date. This is why in the United States, we celebrate Groundhog Day on February 2!
- In France and Belgium, it is custom to eat pancakes and crepes on Candlemas. Their round shape and golden color, reminiscent of the solar disc, refer to the return of spring after the dark and cold of winter.



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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH  
7-9 PM VIA ZOOM

# WOMAN 2 WOMAN TRAINING SESSION

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Woman 2 Woman, Bedford Presbyterian Church's prison ministry program. Over the years, we have connected well over 150 women in this community with those incarcerated at the two women's prisons in Bedford. And yet, sadly, the need persists. We have a long list of women who would love to have a visitor.

If you are interested in learning more, please attend our visitors' training on Wednesday, February 8th from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom.

To RSVP and to receive the Zoom link, please contact Nancy Gernert at [nancygernert@gmail.com](mailto:nancygernert@gmail.com).

## Senior Luncheons



Thursday, February 9th at 12 pm - 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.



# 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:

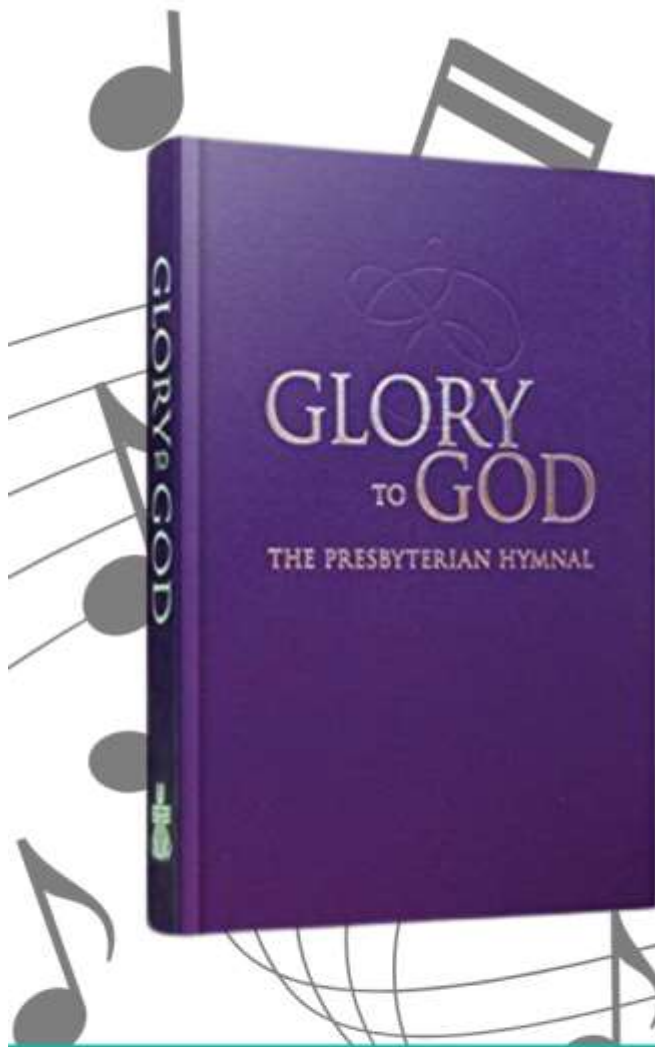
Where are you most aware of God's presence? What causes your faith to bloom? What helps your faith to flourish? How does God support and nourish your growth? How do you imagine the "Ground of All Being"? How has nature informed your spiritual journey?



## 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.



Did you know...it is believed that a clear sky on Candlemas foretells a beneficial year for beekeepers. Thursday's good weather is a good sign for the bees this year!



## 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](mailto:skippyhouse@aol.com).















## Winter Youth Group Schedule

- **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!**

FEB 5-11, 2023

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Mostly Cloudy 45°	Mostly Sunny 45°	Mostly Cloudy 49°	Showers 53°	Partly Cloudy 50°	Showers 48°	Rain/Snow Showers 44°

**WHAT WE ARE READING**

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:13-16*

**PHRASE OF THE WEEK**

winter sowing

N | F

# 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 5th

10 am

Worship, Celebration of Candlemas and Blessing of the Candles, Communion, and Children's Collection.

11 am

Candlemaking.

### Monday, February 6th

9 am

**No YOGA FOR 2/6 or 2/13/23.**

### Tuesday, February 7th

1 pm

Quilting.

### Wednesday, February 8th

7 pm

Woman 2 Woman training via Zoom.

### Thursday, February 9th

10 am

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

12 pm

Senior Luncheon.

### Sunday, February 12th

10 am

Worship & Souper Bowl of Caring.

11 am

Second Sunday Soup.

12 pm

Youth Bowling.

## 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, 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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