



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“Botanical Paintings of Wild Rose, Pink Currant, and Wild Blackberry” by Claudia Stevens

July 16, 2023
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Opening Sentences** from Psalm 119

Leader: Your word is a lamp for our steps, and a light
for our paths.

People: We have suffered much, give us the life you promise.

Leader: Though danger stalks, I will not stray from you.

People: Receive what we say and teach us your wisdom.

***Opening Hymn 339**

Be Thou My Vision

Irish Ballad

Confession

Merciful God, notifications, alarms, and distractions fill our lives with so much sound that we cannot hear your voice. The stress of constant demands crowds our lives and anxiety overwhelms us, so that we cannot receive your wisdom.

Help us to stop and breathe in your wisdom. Help us to unplug from this bewildering world and allow us to become in tune with your peace. Through your Spirit, we pray.

(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

Genesis 25:21-26

Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife because she was barren, and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other;
the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

Anthem

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where

they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard

Offering

Offertory

***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 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 321**

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

Daniel Iverson

***Charge and Blessing**

***Postlude**

*Please stand, if able

Announcements

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





Join us to celebrate with great joy the Ordination of

Courtney Steininger

To the office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament in
the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Saturday, July 22, 2023
at 2 pm

Reception to Follow

All are invited to dress in Red, symbolizing the spirit's work in the
ordination.

3rd Week








FARMERS ALMANAC

7th Month

JULY 16-22, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
Thunderstorms 82°	Showers 81°	Thunderstorms 86°	Partly Cloudy 87°	Thunderstorms 85°	Thunderstorms 81°	PM Showers 82°

ON THE FARM

The pollinator garden is now thriving! It is so exciting to see bees and butterflies all over our property. In the learning garden, we continue to harvest more kale, garlic, peas, and lettuces. Sunday Spirit will continue to have class in the learning garden for the summer.

Meanwhile, our cucumbers have started to grow fruit, so if you adopted a cucumber plant, be sure to check out how your plant is doing!

OTHER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our volunteer hours at the farm are Thursday evenings from 5pm to 7pm. Please join us! If you are unable to volunteer during that time, let Courtney know or volunteer at any of the other Westchester Local Food Project gardens in the area.

We will also have a cooking event every other Wednesday through the rest of the growing season. If you don't want to support Nativity Farm with labor in the garden, please come chop vegetables and help us prepare meals for the Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry!

WHAT WE ARE READING

July 18th is Nelson Mandela's birthday. The anti-apartheid activist, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and former President of South Africa also had strong feelings about the environment, in addition to his better known stances on anti-racism. Here are some Mandela quotes to consider:

- "I dream of our vast deserts, of our forests, of all our great wildernesses. We must never forget that it is our duty to protect this environment."
- "The poverty of the people and the devastation of the natural environment painfully strike me."
- "It is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it."

THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST

Continue to water plants and harvest!

WORD OF THE WEEK

ecological apartheid

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



BEDFORD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TO VOTE ON THE TOWN OF BEDFORD'S EASEMENT

SUNDAY

JULY 23

AFTER THE SERVICE

FELLOWSHIP HALL



Cooking for the food pantry

SERVES: OUR COMMUNITY
PREP TIME: JUST SHOW UP

Begins Weds., July 26

Continues every other Weds.

1 -3 pm

BPC Kitchen

1) Help us prep food from Nativity

Farm with the Westchester Local

Food Project

2) Socialize while we cook

3) Serve our community!

Picnic

IN THE PARK

Sunday, July 30th

11 am

Bedford Village Park Pavilion

Next to the playground



VOLUNTEER AT NATIVITY FARM



Join us on Thursdays from 5-7 pm!



FALL 2023 COFFEE HOUR

Everyone loves a good BPC coffee hour! It provides us all with a time to socialize, connect, and strengthen our ties as a community. In order to have coffee hour on a consistent basis, Bedford Presbyterian Church will be asking each family to co-host a coffee hour once a year. The deacons will organize the Sunday assignments for our families in August and then we will send all members the information, including the date that we are asking for their help, via email.

Some members would prefer to choose their Sunday. Great! If you would like to choose the Sunday to host, please let Kim Lapple know via email (kjlapple@gmail.com) asap. We'd ask that all requests be sent to Kim by August 1st.

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 Jessica at **Office@bedfordpreschurch.org** & Elyssa at **Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org** by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.



Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, July 16th

10 am	Worship
11 am	Coffee Hour and Session Meeting

Monday, July 17th

9 am	Yoga
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Thursday, July 20th

10 am	Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net
5 pm	Nativity Farm Work Session

Saturday, July 22nd

2 pm	Courtney's Ordination, with reception to follow
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Sunday, July 23rd

10 am	Worship
11 am	Coffee Hour

Our Leadership

Session

Clerk of Session Brian Hiller-Dupont, President Michelle Gosh,

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

Courtney Steininger, Director of Christian Education & Youth

John Lettieri, Director of Music

Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager

Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries

The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

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