



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Ghent Corn-Flag r *Gladiolus Gandavensis*" from *Favorite Flowers of Garden and Greenhouse*

July 23, 2023
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Opening Sentences** from Psalm 139

Leader: Lord, You searched us and You know us,

People: It is You Who know when we sit and when we rise.

Leader: With all our ways, You are familiar

People: Search us, O God, and know our hearts; test us and know our thoughts.

Leader: You created our innermost parts; be here as we worship You.

***Opening Hymn 275**

God of Our Life

SANDON

Confession adapted from Thom M. Shuman

We've tried to hide from your searching gaze, Love's Delight: we've climbed mountains and burrowed deep into earth's caverns; we've fled to the furthest edges of our souls, and longed to sail in our fears to the dark side of the moon. Yet wherever we go - You are waiting for us! Even in the dimmest corners of our hearts, Your Light is able to find us.

Lost, we are found; afraid to speak of our sinfulness - you hear our stumbling words before we shape them in our minds; unable to help ourselves- you redeem the world through the gracious love of Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior.

Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

(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 Children

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

Hebrew Bible Lesson *Genesis 28:10-19a*

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place — and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Sermon

Rev. Courtney Steininger

Searching, Sowing, Growing

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 the 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 344

Christ of the Upward Way

SURSUM CORDA

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Please stand, if able

Announcements

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

A colorful graphic with a purple and teal border. It features the text "CONGREGATIONAL MEETING" in large teal letters, followed by the Bedford Presbyterian Church logo and name. Below that, it says "TO VOTE ON THE TOWN OF BEDFORD'S EASEMENT". There are three teal buttons: "SUNDAY | JULY 23", "TODAY AFTER WORSHIP", and "FELLOWSHIP HALL". A circular inset image shows the church building.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

 **BEDFORD**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TO VOTE ON THE TOWN OF BEDFORD'S EASEMENT

SUNDAY | JULY 23

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP















FELLOWSHIP HALL



JULY 23-29, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Sunny 85°	Partly Cloudy 87°	Thunderstorms 85°	Partly Cloudy 86°	Thunderstorms 90°	Partly Cloudy 91°	PM Thunderstorms 88°

ON THE FARM

Our cucumber plants continue to grow. If you adopted a cucumber, be sure to check in and see how your plant is doing. We will be adding new labels soon because they are hard to see amidst the leaves!

We have been trimming our tomato bushes as we await the fruit to be ready to pick. We have also been able to harvest all of our garlic and potatoes. We look forward to our corn and beans being ready for harvest shortly!

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

As we work through the parables during this lectionary season, consider Elaine Wainwright's ecological reading of the parables:

"Jesus simply presents these complexly woven worlds in which multiple actants, including the human, are intertwined. Two different cosmologies are implicitly in tension within the parable and the network of associations it creates. First there is that of the emperor and his representatives, whether a Herodian king in Galilee or landowners supporting the imperial system, who are identified as the source of abundance. On the other hand, the parable evokes a more complex system of interwoven elements that intersect in the process of sowing seed. The surprise is that there is an ecology that can produce abundance."

THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST

Continue to water plants and harvest!

WORD OF THE WEEK

weeds of cultivation



Cooking for the food pantry

SERVES: OUR COMMUNITY
PREP TIME: JUST SHOW UP

Begins Wed., July 26

Continues every
other Wednesday.

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

Please see the enews to sign up for
food items



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 23rd

- 10 am Worship
- 11 am Coffee Hour & Congregational Meeting

Monday, July 24th

- 9 am Yoga

Wednesday, July 26th

- 1 pm Cooking for the Food Pantry

Thursday, July 27th

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

Sunday, July 30th

- 10 am Worship
- 11 am Picnic in the Park

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

The Reverend Courtney Steininger, Minister of Christian Education

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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