



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Billy Showell, "Tulip Celebration"

July 30, 2023
Nineth Sunday After Pentecost

Prelude

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Opening Sentences**

Leader: In our suffering and our groans, we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

People: Hardship, distress, oppression, hunger, vulnerability, danger, and war cannot remove us from God's love.

Leader: Neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come can separate us from God's love.

People: God is for us. Who could be against us?

***Opening Hymn 384** *"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"* St. Margaret

Confession

O God, too often we cannot fully understand your love toward us. When we encounter hardships, we think they exist because you do not love us. When we feel guilt, we are sure that you have rejected us. When we cannot forgive ourselves, we assume that you cannot forgive us.

Help us to remember your mercy and grace. May we always understand that that you are for us and there is nothing that can separate us from your love. By 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.

Epistle Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them,

“Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard

Offering

Offertory and *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 314** *“Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song”* Bridegroom

***Charge and Blessing**

***Postlude**

*Please stand, if able

Announcements

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



Writing the River

A Pilgrimage and Writer's
Workshop to Israel and
Palestine.

April 2-13, 2024

Join Pastor Carol on a unique journey that will take us into the places and spaces that formed Jesus and framed his ministry. This pilgrimage will give time and guidance for reflection and writing. We will stay in three places-- Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and the Sea of Galilee. Each day, we will venture out to tour and worship. And, as we dip into the waters, a writers will lead us in reflecting and practicing our craft. This is a complex story. To help us learn, we will engage with local writers and people who work for peace. Click on the QR code to learn more.





Cooking for the food pantry

SERVES: OUR COMMUNITY
PREP TIME: JUST SHOW UP

Next session, Wed, Aug. 9th

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

Today, after worship

11 am

Bedford Village Park Pavilion















Next to the playground



JULY 30 - AUG 5, 2022

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
Partly Cloudy 79°	Mostly Sunny 80°	Mostly Sunny 80°	PM Showers 81°	Partly Cloudy 81°	Few Showers 80°	Partly Cloudy 82°

ON THE FARM

We have been trimming our tomato bushes as we await the fruit to be ready to pick. We have begun to hand-pollinate our corn.

Additionally, our harvests have grown more bountiful. We have been able to harvest all of our garlic and potatoes. We have also begun to harvest cucumbers, squash, and zucchini. We have also been able to harvest more beets, radishes, and carrots. Peppers and tomatoes will be harvested shortly!

OTHER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for cooking every other Wednesday at 1pm in the church kitchen!

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

Dr. V.I. John explores the Kingdom of God and ecology when he writes, *"When the mustard seed was sown on the Transforming Earth it grew and became the greatest of all shrubs, providing shelter to birds of the sky. Folklore and religion, therefore, emphasized the 'spirit of the soil' as against the scientific view that saw soil as dead matter. It is this close relationship between humankind and the earth that led L. H. Bailey to remark,*

So bountiful hath been the earth and so securely have we drawn from it our substance, that we have taken it all for granted as if it were only a gift, and with little care or conscious thought of the consequences of our [ab]use of it; nor have we very much considered the essential relation that we bear to it as living parts in the vast creation."

THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST

Continue to water plants and harvest!

PHRASE OF THE WEEK

dynamic soil properties

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 30th

10 am	Worship
11 am	Picnic in the Park

Monday, July 31st

9 am	No Yoga
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Thursday, August 3rd

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

Sunday, August 6th

10 am	Worship and Communion
11 am	Coffee Hour & Super Soaker Sunday

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

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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