



# BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Papyrus anitiquorum" botanical illustration

# August 27, 2023

## Ordinary Time

Prelude

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Opening Sentences** from Psalm 124

Leader: Let Israel now say,

**People: Were it not the Lord who was for us?**

Leader: When people rose against us,

**People: Were it not the Lord who was for us?**

Leader: When the snare was broken and we escaped,

**People: Were it not the Lord who was for us?**

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord, maker of heaven  
and earth.

**\*Opening Hymn 368**

African-American spiritual

*I've Got Peace Like a River*

**Confession**

**God calls us from a burning bush, yet we do not acknowledge that God speaks to us. We stand on holy ground, yet we tell ourselves that there are greener pastures elsewhere. The Spirit calls us to proclaim God's name to all generations, yet we speak softly only to our loved ones. Jesus calls us from the cross, saying "come and follow me," yet we remain seated. Yet God still speaks to us, we do stand on holy ground. The spirit continues to call us, and Jesus loves us still. Remind us of God's declaration, "I AM WHO I AM." Heal us, and continue to show us that You are our God, from generation to generation.**

Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

## **Response 246**

*By the Babylonian Rivers*

Latvian melody

### **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**

*Exodus 1:8- 2:10*

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to

them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

## **Epistle Lesson**

*Romans 12:1-8*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you

may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

## **Sermon**

*Call and Response* Rev. Courtney Steininger

## **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 536**      *Lord, Make Us More Holy*      African-American spiritual

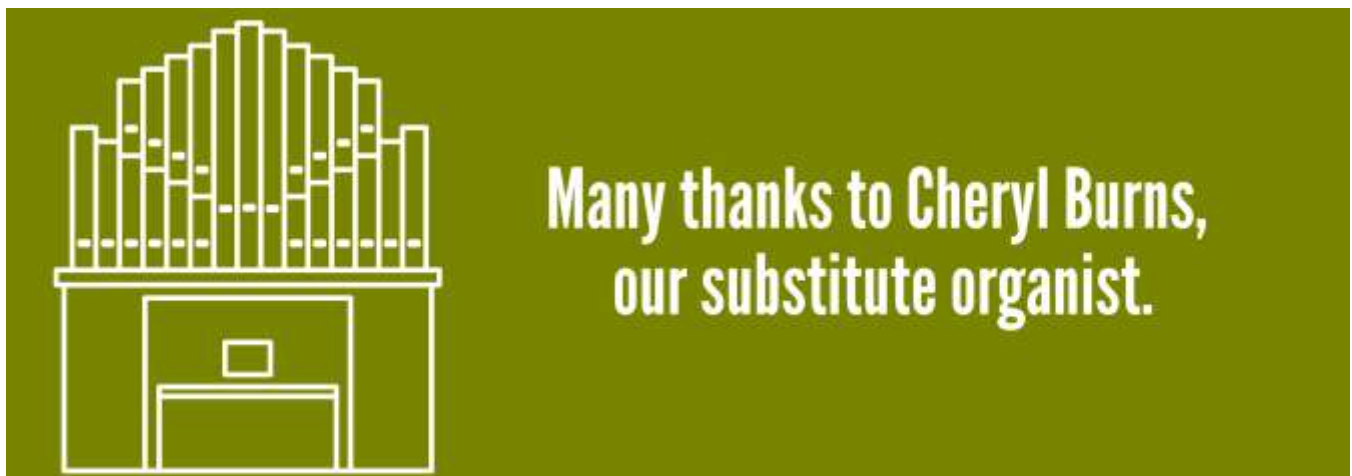
\***Benediction**

\***Postlude**

\*Please stand, if able

### **Announcements**

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



*Lift every voice and*  
**Ring!**



Please let Courtney know if your child would like to ring in  
worship on Welcome Back Sunday! Rehearsal will take  
place at 9:30 before worship on September 10th!





*Cooking for the food pantry* SERVES: OUR COMMUNITY  
PREP TIME: JUST SHOW UP

Next session: Wed, Sept. 6th

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!



**BLESSING OF  
THE BACKPACKS**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

JOIN US AS WE PRAY FOR  
OUR STUDENTS AND  
TEACHERS TO HAVE A  
GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!

# JOYFUL NOISE

We would love to have kids of all ages join us to sing throughout the year. Songs will be posted online and then rehearsed the morning of the performance. Our first performance this fall will be September 17th.

Contact Don Hiller-Dupont for more information.



## Answering Tough Questions About God

Training for Sunday Spirit Teachers &  
Everyone Who Talks to Kids with Big Questions

Sunday, September 17th after church

Please RSVP to Courtney at  
[Courtney@bedfordpreschurch.org](mailto:Courtney@bedfordpreschurch.org)
















AUG 27 - SEP 2, 2023

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
PM Showers 75°	Partly Cloudy 75°	Showers 73°	Showers 75°	AM Showers 75°	Mostly Sunny 77°	Partly Cloudy 81°

**ON THE FARM**

The harvests continue to be incredibly plentiful, and we have been able to donate both produce and meals to the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. After announcing the winner of our cucumber contest (Marcy Carlson), we donated all 45.1 lbs worth of cucumbers to the food pantry! We continue to harvest beans, zucchini, and tomatoes, as well as corn, which we have used in our cooking. Additionally, Jorge has begun work on a trail to take you directly from the parking lot to the garden via a nice walk in the woods.

**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 continue to hold cooking events 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**

August 28th is the anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I have a dream" speech. The following is from a speech inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr. given by Skip Truss to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse:

*"I have a dream where the urgency of the climate crisis becomes a unifying force, enabling all to recognize our mutual interests and independencies, and awakening the best within us to common purpose..."*

*I have a dream where we all embrace an ethic of respect for all living things and a conscious appreciation of the gifts that nature provides; that the earth's biodiversity and abundant resources are appreciated for the multiple benefits and ecological services they provide; and that we will garner the wisdom and the will to cherish the natural world, repair what we have broken, and begin to restore what we have lost."*

**THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST**

Continue to water plants and harvest!

**JOIN US**

# **WELCOME BACK SUNDAY**

**Sunday, September 10 is our annual  
Welcome Back Sunday. We will  
Bless the Harvest and then have our  
Welcome Back Picnic.**



**Sunday, September 10th**



**BEDFORD**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 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, August 27th

10 am	Worship
11 am	Lemonade on the Lawn

#### Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> – OFFICE CLOSED

9 am	Yoga
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#### Thursday, August 30th

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

#### Sunday, September 3rd

10 am	Worship & Communion
11 am	Lemonade on the Lawn

# 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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