



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



TWON

"Shells and Starfish" by M. C. Escher

January 28, 2024
4th Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude	<i>Fanfare</i>	William Mathias
Introit	<i>Praise Ye the Lord</i>	F. Mendelssohn

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

***Opening Sentences from Psalm 111**

Leader: Who can forget God's wonders? God is merciful and kind. God nourishes the faithful and upholds promises.

People: Faithful, just, and true are God's decrees, and wise are those who live by them.

***Opening Hymn 138** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we are reluctant to forgive ourselves. We expect to be perfect. We deny that we have done anything wrong. We hold on to our guilt and shame.

Help us to see when we have hurt ourselves and others. Give us the ability to forgive, to let go of our shame, and to receive your mercy.

[Silent confession]

Assurance of Pardon

Sung Response

I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

***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

I Corinthians 8:1-13

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. But whoever loves God is known by God.

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-22

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

Sermon

Rev. Carol Howard

Offering

Anthem *Cause Me to Hear Thy Lovingkindness* R. Haan

*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

Bell Anthem *Simple Gifts* Traditional Shaker Tune

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and Carlson Dedication

**Eternal Life-giver,
Focus your light within us.
Create your reign of unity now,
through our fiery hearts and willing hands.
Help us love beyond our ideals
and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures.
Animate the earth within us,
So that we might feel the Wisdom underneath
supporting all.
Untangle the knots within
so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to
each other.**

Don't let surface things delude us,
But free us from what holds us back from our true
purpose.
Out of you, the astonishing fire,
Returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen.

Anthem *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Peter Lutkin

Charge and Blessing

***Hymn Response 540** *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

***Postlude** *Fugue in g minor ("Little")* J. S. Bach

*Please stand, if you are able.

Announcements

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

Child Care Available

*In addition to Sunday Spirit for elementary school kids, childcare is
provided during worship for kids not yet in kindergarten.
Please contact Courtney for more information.*





Please join us for the

Carlson's Celebration

Today, after the service
Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Events

Feb. 4 - Candlemas
Feb. 11 - Burning of the Palms
Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday
Feb. 18 - First Sunday of Lent

Thanks to the generosity of the following members of BPC's congregation, 20 of our neighbors without homes of their own found warm shelter, delicious dinners, hot showers, portable takeaway food, and loving hospitality through the wintry first week of the New Year. The Emergency Shelter Partnership (ESP) is sustained by the person-to-person collective care of congregations like ours at Bedford Presbyterian Church, and that takes individual commitment.

We are deeply grateful for their participation and invite everyone to get in on the action during our upcoming second session: the week of February 26th-March 3rd.

To participate, contact either ESP Coordinator, Elizabeth Messinger at ehjmessinger@gmail.com | 914-980-0059 or Elyssa elyssa@bedfordpreschurh.org. You can also sign up directly by clicking [here](#) or by going to the website or enews.



ESP January volunteers 🍷:

Sarah Alley
Anne Bentzen
Kate Branch
Kathy DiBiasi
Lara DiCorpo
Brian and Don Hiller-Dupont
Laurie Fancher
Nancy Gernert
Ashley Glod-Hayes
Carol Howard
Greenwood Family
Barbara Kanner

Dave Keefe
Sue Kelly
Frieda Kautsky
Kim Lapple
Deirdre Lewin
Anne Lloyd
Joan McDougall
Elizabeth Messinger
Elyssa Michaels
Chris and Kathy Perry
Sarah Ryan
Jason Welsch



In case of inclement weather, please check the BPC website by 9 am Sunday morning for any updates regarding worship service.



SECOND SUNDAY SOUP

**Volunteers needed for our next
Second Sunday Soups on 2/11 & 3/10.**

Meat & veggie soup - 2/11

Veggie soup - 3/10

**If you are interested helping please
email Andres Mejia.**

Annual Meeting Reports

As a reminder to session members and
committee heads:

Committee reports for the February
Congregational Meeting are due into the
BPC office by January 31st.

Please contact Carol or Jessica with any questions.

MIDNIGHT RUN

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Friday, February 23rd
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We will be holding a Midnight Run on Friday, February 23rd. We are looking for donations of new or gently used items. Go to the website or enews to sign up. We also need people to join us on the run. Please email Courtney if you would like to attend.



Join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month!

LUNCH WITH FRIENDS

12:30 pm - Chapel Room

Quilting

Tuesdays 1 - 4 pm
Chapel Room



Learn as you go
from other quilters.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!



On February 5th,
we will be
launching a
survey to gather
information on a
variety of
opportunities for
the church.

Please watch for
it and make sure
to respond. We
need everyone's
participation!

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** and 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, January 28th

10 am	Worship
11 am	Carlson Reception

Monday, January 29th

9 am	No Yoga
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Tuesday, January 30th

1 pm	Quilting
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Thursday, February 1st

10 am	Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net .
7pm	Choir rehearsal

Friday, February 2nd

Candlemas

Sunday, February 4th

10 am	Worship, Communion and Youth Collection
11 am	Coffee Hour

Our Leadership

Session

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

Anne Bentzen, Linda Burpee (Mission),
Jessica Cunningham (Personnel and Generosity Team),
Amy Drabek, Danielle Gamar (Christian Education),
Ashley Glod-Hayes, Maria Andrea Laverde (Nativity Farm),
Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance),
& Bart Tyler (Members & Friends and Generosity Team)
Moderator Reverend Carol Howard

Deacons

Chair Kim Lapple, Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,
Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson, Andres Mejía,
Diane Palmento, and Lisa Sayre

Staff

The Reverend Carol Howard, Pastor

The Reverend Courtney Steininger, Minister of Christian Education

John Lettieri, Director of Music

Jessica DeAlto, Administrative and Financial Manager

Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries

The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

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