

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JOURNEY INTO THE LIGHT

Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that. ~MLK
#BPCintotheLight

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting from Howard Thurman

The Kunhardt Family

I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

(Light the first, second, and third candle. If you have a pink candle, you can light it as your third candle.)

Let us pray:

God, help us to be channels for your joy, hope, courage, love. Amen.

Hymn 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Pat Ferguson

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

"Mother of God"

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Prayers of the People

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.

(Many people say the Lord's Prayer with "trespasses" or "sins" instead of "debts." Please feel free to pray in any form that makes you feel the most comfortable.)

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

From Whence Come These Happy Shepherds

C. Bablastre

Announcements for the Week of December 20 – 26, 2020

Beginning with our first bulletin in January 2021, we will no longer be including Announcements along with the Order of Worship on our website each week. All announcements will be included in our weekly E-NEWS that goes directly to your email inbox every Thursday. The benefit of the E-NEWS is that there are 'live' links that bring you directly to websites/documents that are referenced in our announcements.

To sign up for our E-NEWS, please go to the BPC website at bedfordpreschurch.org and select either 'Contact' at the top or E-NEWS just below it.

Upcoming Events



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

ADVENT FOUR • DEC 20 • 3:30 PM
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

CHRISTMAS EVE • DEC 24
4 PM POP-UP PAGEANT
7:30 PM SERVICE ON THE LAWN
9 PM ON-LINE SERVICE

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Bedford Presbyterian Church
Feel the Light

ADVENT FOUR • DEC 20 • 3:30 PM

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

**CELEBRATE THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR
BY MAKING LUMINARIES AND LANTERNS!**

**SANTA WILL BE THERE TO
RECEIVE YOUR FOOD BOXES.**

#BPCfeelthelight

Mount Kisco Food Pantry

Did you know that in 2020 the Mount Kisco Food Pantry is expected to serve more than 38,000 families? That's a 38% increase vs. 2019. **The Mount Kisco Food Pantry serves more than 400 households every single week.**

Please watch the video below of Mount Kisco Food Pantry's amazing work during the COVID crisis and don't forget to fill out your reverse advent calendar box with food donations!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhUkv2CSJ-E>

Reverse Advent Calendar

1

Find a box.
Decorate it with joyful colors!

2

Fill box with food donation each day.
See list on next page.

3

If you want to share, take a photo of your box and send to Jess at office@bedfordpreschurch.org

4

Drop off donation boxes at BPC on Dec. 20th between 3:30-5 pm

#BPCIntoTheLight

Journey Into
The Light

Reverse Advent Calendar Donation List

Dec. 1	Box of cereal	Dec. 11	Box of cereal
Dec. 2	Jar of peanut butter	Dec. 12	Bag of rice
Dec. 3	Bag of rice	Dec. 13	Can of beans
Dec. 4	Box of potatoes	Dec. 14	Box of crackers
Dec. 5	Box of macaroni and cheese	Dec. 15	Oatmeal
Dec. 6	Can of fruit	Dec. 16	Box of pasta
Dec. 7	Can of corn	Dec. 17	Jar of pasta sauce
Dec. 8	Can of tuna	Dec. 18	Can of soup
Dec. 9	Dessert mix	Dec. 19	Chicken noodle soup
Dec. 10	Jar of applesauce	Dec. 20	Box of pasta

EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP (ESP) - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

At this time of year, as many of us dream of that classic “White Christmas,” our neighbors without homes need special consideration. BPC helped form the **Emergency Shelter Partnership (ESP)** organization and for years since then has coordinated with congregations in Westchester to assure that those most vulnerable among us can count on a warm welcome, nutritious meals, and safe place to sleep. The EMERGENCY SHELTER PARTNERSHIP relies on the spirit of giving to sustain efforts from November through March -- and this year, even a pandemic can't stop the love. As always, though, it takes a Village, so please consider when and how best to devote your time and talents to it!

To adapt to demands that protect the public health in this era of Covid-19, the ESP this year will be physically hosted by three churches within walking distance of the Mt. Kisco Police Department. Supporting congregations coordinate to deliver:

- single-serving dinners
- snack bags
- A helper to assist for a half-hour in the nightly reception of homeless guests.

BPC is on duty during the first week of **January (Sunday 1/3 through Sunday 1/10)** and **March (Monday 3/1 through Sunday 3/7)**. Please check your calendars to decide when you might be able to pitch in, and thanks in advance for your generosity of spirit!

To sign up, please contact either:

- **Shirani** - 845-797-6435 or shiranip@gmail.com
- **Jessica** at the BPC office - **914-234-3672** or Office@bedfordpreschurch.org

Elizabeth Messinger, the BPC's Congregational Coordinator, is also happy to speak to volunteers individually if clarification about ESP policy & Covid-19 procedures are needed. Elizabeth can be reached at 914-980-0059 or ehjmessinger@gmail.com.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Please join us *virtually* for Coffee Hour at 10:30 am. Find the link on our website or on this past week's E-NEWS.

Mistletoe Mart 2020 - ENJOY THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Please visit our website and read about wonderful Mistletoe Mart activities that will bring the anticipation and enjoyment of Christmas activities, smells and sounds into your home this year.

Generosity

The pandemic has disrupted all of our lives, but we continue to serve in a surprising variety of ways. This includes serving God through our generosity.

Most of us at BPC write checks to financially support the congregation. The Finance Committee is regularly checking the mail and making deposits. Please send your contribution to the church at: **P.O. Box 280, Bedford NY 10506.**

Also, giving online is remarkably simple and convenient. Please go to the BPC website, click on 'Donate' at the very top, and select from the 'Fund' drop down where you want your donation applied.

The Reverend Carol Howard Merritt, Pastor

John Lettieri, Director of Music

Elyssa Michaels, Director of High School & Middle School Youth Groups

Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager

Sunday Virtual Worship Service 10:00 AM

**Email: Office@bedfordpreschurch.org www.bedfordpreschurch.org
44 Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506 914-234-3672**