

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 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude *"Comfort, Comfort, You My. People"* J. Pachelbel

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship *Advent Candle Lighting* Branche Family

Advent Candle Lighting from I John 1

First John says, "God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have community with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have community with one another.

As we journey into the light in this Advent season, O God, help us to remember that we are vessels of your love. When we are in community with one another, we are in community with you.

(Light the first and second candle.)

Let us pray:

God of light, help your love to fill us so that it might flow through us, to our neighbors and our world. Through Jesus, our light. Amen.

Hymn 9 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Hebrew Bible Lesson *Isaiah 40:1-11* Sid Hershey

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the

rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

Sid Hershey

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon

Prepare the Way!

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

"The Only Son from Heaven"

J. S. Bach

Announcements for the Week of December 6 - 12, 2020

Cookie Drive

BPC and the other sponsoring congregations of the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry have traditionally provided cookies for the holiday food distribution. Donations of store-bought, packaged cookies can be made in two ways.

You can bring a package of cookies to the tree decorating being held at church on the second Sunday of Advent, **December 6th at 11:00am**, or you can purchase cookies on Amazon by following the link below or finding the link in this week's E-NEWS. Donations are needed **by December 11th** to be included in the holiday food bags. As always, many thanks for your generosity in bringing some holiday cheer to our neighbors.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1E5CZE4ZJK866?ref=cm_sw_em_r_wl_dp_ovpUM4lxNiXuV

ENJOY THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Greetings Everyone,

It has been a difficult but necessary decision to cancel our popular BPC Mistletoe Mart in December due to the potential health risks associated with the Coronavirus. Many of our favorite activities, such as making the quilt and wreath making, along with our youth making chili and cookies, all require groups of people getting together in-person. This is just not possible right now. We will dearly miss hearing our choir, enjoying the Bedford Bellringers and gathering to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

In an effort to bring the Spirit of Christmas into your home for the holidays, the Mistletoe Mart Committee is providing several activities for you to enjoy.

Keep track of the days before Christmas with a beautiful Advent calendar as a reminder of this important “waiting” period before the birth of Jesus. Also, enjoy several of our most popular recipes. Our famous Mistletoe Mart Chili, plus three popular bake sale recipes for Ginger Snap Cookies, Espresso Walnut Cookies and Bittersweet Brownies. Yum!! Many thanks to Kathy DiBiasi, Jean Palmer, Marie Warden and Sue Kelly for providing these recipes to fill our homes with the delightful smells of delicious holiday foods.

To complete our Spirit of Christmas you can enjoy the Bedford Bellringers playing several selections from their popular *Christmas on the Green* CD. Once you hear these beautiful bells play, you will want to hear all 12 selections! Please contact Marcy Carlson via email at marciabcarlson@gmail.com for information on how to purchase the CD which would make a great gift for the holidays! All proceeds will go to support the mission work of the BPC Women’s Association.

We hope these activities will help bring the Spirit of Christmas into your homes with the reminder of the strong community that Mistletoe Mart represents at BPC each year. May you have continued good health and experience the eternal peace of Christmas in your hearts this year. We hope to see you in the spring as we are able to gather safely once again.

Visit our website to view all of the wonderful activities discussed above.

With love and gratitude, The Mistletoe Mart Committee

Upcoming Events

JOIN US IN MAKING THE HOLIDAYS A LITTLE BRIGHTER

Winter is quickly approaching and along with it, the holiday season. For years, Neighbors Link has hosted a Holiday Market in December where parents can select presents for their children. It is a lovely tradition that empowers families to choose gifts that are the right fit for their children.

This year, due to social distancing requirements, the Holiday market is going to look a little different. Instead of collecting toys, Neighbors Link will be collecting gift cards so parents can continue to choose the right gifts for their children. In partnership with Neighbors Link **BPC is requesting gift cards from Target and/or Kohl's in \$25 denominations.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE GIFT CARDS
PLEASE DROP THEM OFF IN THE CHURCH
OFFICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 12PM - 3PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY
DEADLINE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

Any questions, please contact Kathy
DiBiasi at dibiasi@optonline.net

Watch a short video about the Holiday Market by following this link
<https://vimeo.com/482798451> or go to the link in this week's E-NEWS.

Bedford Presbyterian Church

JOURNEY INTO THE LIGHT

**ADVENT TWO • DEC 6 • 11 AM
DECORATE THE CHURCH
COCOA & CAROLS WITH JOHN!**

**ADVENT THREE • DEC 13 • 4 PM
CHRISTMAS-O-RAMA
ZOOM TALENT SHOW**

**ADVENT FOUR • DEC 20 • 4 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**

#BPCintothelight

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.

Virtual Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour will not be held this Sunday. Instead, join us at 11:00 am to help decorate the church.

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

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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

Christmas-O-Rama Talent Show - December 13th at 4:00pm.

We would love to showcase your talents at our virtual talent show this year. Dust off your instruments, read your favorite poem, sing a song, or play your last recital piece! You may record it or perform it live.

- If you record it, please contact Jim Fenimore at:
Jim@BedfordPresChurch.org for uploading instructions.
- To sign up to participate, please use this SignUpGenius link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D44A4A823A2FB6-bpctalent>
- To view the Christmas-O-Rama Talent Show, use the following Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88977656109?pwd=SHdpZVNlVWhSMzArdnpUd3hzWno4dz09>
Meeting ID: 889 7765 6109
Passcode: 303045

You can also find this link on our weekly E-NEWS.

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
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