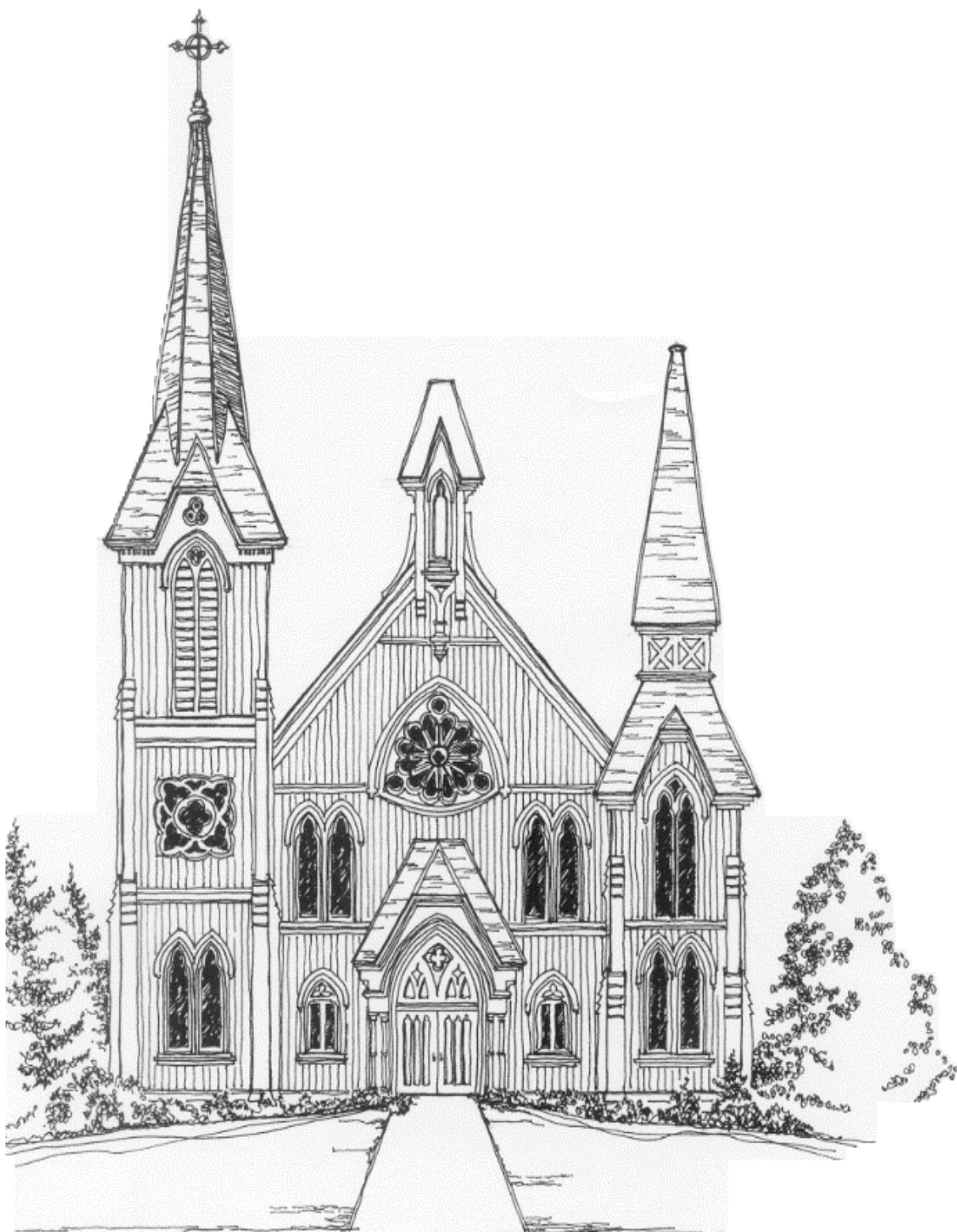


BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 1, 2019

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE – *Wake, Awake!*

J. S. Bach

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT – *Veni Immanuel*

John Bell

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** - (*Isa. 2:4*)

We celebrate the season of Advent as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Advent means coming.

We are preparing ourselves for the days

When the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more

***HYMN 15** – *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of ages past and of time to come, we await the one foretold by the prophets, who brings justice and peace to the earth. But our hearts are not always ready for your arrival. We accept lies as truth, do harm to our neighbor, turn our faces from the demands of justice. Forgive us, and open our hearts to be ready for the surprising advent of Jesus, Emmanuel, among us. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God does not remember our sins, but the promises which God made to us.
God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life.

Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love.

You are the God of our days, we wait for you to come, and to lead us

To the days of justice and peace that you have promised in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***ASCRPTION OF PRAISE Hymn 9**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, That mourns in
lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

***PASSING OF PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

THE PROCLAMATION

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN and ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

A Candle is Burning *Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger"*

*Words by Sandra Dean, a former Director of Music at
Southminster United Church in Ottawa, Canada.*

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,

A candle of HOPE in December's dark night

Like angels sang blessings from heaven's starry sky,

Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

ANTHEM – *Alma Redemptoris*

G. P. Palestrina

(Kind mother of the Redeemer, the open gateway to heaven and star of the Sea)

*The children's offering is received during the Anthem. This year's children
offering is designated for the **Heifer Project** and **Laundry Love**. Adults who
also wish to contribute to this children's offering will have an opportunity to
donate during the anthem. The general offering is received after the sermon.*

SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 24:36-44

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON – *Unexpected Arrivals*

Rev. Heather Brown-Huston

THE SENDING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY – *E'en So, Lord Jesus Quickly Come*

Paul Manz

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.

Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

- or -

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING and 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*or "Our Creator"

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Please come forward by the center aisle to receive communion.

THE PRAYER

*HYMN 12 - *People Look East*

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE – *Fourfold Amen*

John Stainer

*POSTLUDE – *Freu Dich Sehr*

J. Krebs

**Please stand if you are comfortable doing so.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP

December 1, 2019

Communion

Communion is **Today** during Worship.
Communion will be held during Worship on the
1st Sunday of every other month.

Bellringers

Now that we are in Advent, and looking forward to Christmas, the Bellringers are rehearsing to ring in church the Sunday before Christmas. It is always a great time for hearing the bells being rung.

For a little background information, the handbells, which belong to our church, have been in the process of being refurbished, for the past four years. Some of the bells were acquired in 1960, and had never had any work done to refurbish them. Over the years, bells were added to our set, a few at a time, bought with money brought in with concerts, and contributions. At present we have 85 bells, and most of them have never been refurbished to maintain them, their tone, and their value. So, this was an important project. We have been sending bells to Texas over the past four years, a small number of bells at a time. This year we have our last group of bells to be sent after the first of the year.

We want to thank all those who have contributed to our bell fund over the past years. The support shown by the congregation is very much appreciated, but is still needed by the Bellringers for this last group of bells. If you enjoy hearing the bells in church, perhaps you would like to help by contributing to our fund. Any contributions should indicate that it is for the Bell Fund.

We will be playing for the Christmas season in church on **December 22nd**. As always, we would encourage anyone interested in learning to ring bells in the future to speak to any one of the ringers, or to John Lettieri, or the church office.

Coffee Hour

A big thank you to *The Heller Family* for sponsoring today's coffee hour.

BPC is hosting the ESP from December 30 –January 5.

We need volunteers for the following:

- 1.** Prepare & serve dinner for approximately 20 people. This involves preparing a simple meal, such as a stew, a chicken casserole or lasagna. We'll give you more detailed suggestions once you sign up. Typically, you will arrive at the church at 9 PM and you will be done shortly after 10PM. It's best if there are two or three of you to help serve.
- 2.** Prepare breakfast bags. Breakfast items such as bagels, muffins, hard boiled eggs, fruit and a juice have to be bagged and brought to the church the evening before.
- 3.** Stay overnight in the Church. The ESP has a paid staff member who sleeps in Fellowship Hall with the group. In addition, we like a member of our congregation to spend the night, in a separate space, to be available in case of an emergency. We have never had an emergency situation, but we do need a church member to stay over. You can leave as early as 6:00 AM the next morning.
- 4.** Our guests have a shower at the Church during the week. Donations of soap and shampoo will be welcome. Please drop it off in the designated container outside the Church office.

Please contact **Shirani** at shiranip@gmail.com, telephone **845-797-6435** or Jessica at the Church Office, 234-3672. A signup sheet will also be available in Fellowship Hall following Sunday services beginning December 1. We really appreciate your help with this wonderful program which provides shelter for homeless men and women in Northern Westchester.



BRLA Caroling on the Green

Bedford Village Green
December 14th, 2pm – 3pm

Don your festive attire and join the Bedford Riding Lanes Association for merry making on the Green! We will sing carols, enjoy hot cocoa and sweet treats. Horses and riders are welcome. Please park horse trailers behind Bedford Presbyterian Church.

COAT DRIVE – Please bring your gently used coats to donate for the veterans at endeavor.

Millie Kane Luncheon

This year's luncheon for senior citizens in our community will be held on **December 11th** between **12pm -2pm**. We are looking for volunteers to provide appetizers, Christmas cookies and brownies for our guests. If you can help, please contact:

Vickie Dey at vdey1@optonline.net or **914-419-9062**.

To RSVP for the luncheon, please call or stop by the church office at:
914-234-3672 x1001

6 Days Left to the Mistletoe Mart!

Mistletoe Mart can't be missed. Let's keep this tradition going, as it can't happen without you! You are sure to find the perfect gift! Plan on coming **Saturday, Dec. 7th between 9 am – 3 pm**. Santa's Holiday Shop will have plenty of things for the kids to buy.

Don't miss the chili, as we are almost famous for it along with our popular bake sale. See the quilt and purchase your tickets. Thank you for supporting the Mart which uses the profits raised to support the many missions the church is involved in such as

A-HOME, Hope's Door, Neighbor's Link, Open Door and the Youth work trips to name just a few.

Call or text **Julia (Judy) Newton** at **914-523-1324** or email at julianewton@yahoo.com.

Wreath Making and Fellowship

Reminder! **Wednesday, December 4th, 9:30 a.m.** in **Fellowship Hall**, plan on having the most fun you'll ever have! Wreath making with all its ribbons and bows and glorious smell of evergreens can't be missed. Do it at least once. It's guaranteed to get you in the spirit. **Marylou Pappas** is so generous in sharing her florist secrets like how to tie the perfect bow.

Gloves and clippers are a must to ensure a good time.

Mistletoe Mart Menu

It's here! Chili, hot chocolate, cider, homemade baked goods, toffee and caramels by La Petite Occasion, Fab Felts, Bee Hive Goods, Hugick Pottery and jewelry and more will be on display in Fellowship Hall. Bring your children to shop at Santa's Holiday Shop in Chapel Hall! Plan on attending this wonderful tradition held here on **Saturday, Dec. 7th from 9-3 pm.**

Quilt Drawing

This happens at the Mistletoe Mart on **Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3 pm!** Can't win it if you're not in it. What a great item to pass on to your children. Raffle tickets will also be sold at the Mistletoe Mart. Contact Jeanne Morrison (914-234-3581) to make sure you get your tickets in case you can't be there.

Bake Sale

Remember to support the bake sale by sharing some of your favorite homemade treats. Having them packaged for sale is helpful but not required. Drop them off Friday in the kitchen and Saturday morning at the Bake Sale table in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact **Sharon Seidell: 914-522-2108**

Santa's Holiday Shop

We are collecting items such as candles, vases, figurines, Christmas ornaments, unused soaps, perfume, lotions, scarves, ties, costume jewelry, etc. If you have any of these items that you would like to donate, please call **Harriette Scott** at (C) **914-960-0420** or email to loscott2@optonline.net to let her know.

Chili Makers Needed!

A highlight of Mistletoe Mart is purchasing a hot bowl of chili with all the fixings. We need MANY chili makers to make this happen! We need both Meat and Vegetarian Chili and recipes are available. For more information Please contact **Elyssa Michaels** at youthgroup@bedfordpreschurch.org.

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are in memory of George F. Glod,
given by the **Glod-Hayes Family**.

Help beautify our sanctuary to celebrate Christmas this year!

Consider making a dedication to honor a loved one or to celebrate friends and family. Dedications will be printed on inserts in the Christmas Eve bulletins. The **suggested contribution for each dedication is \$50.00** and will go toward poinsettias, garlands, wreaths and Christmas trees for our sanctuary.

To place your dedication, please contact the church office at:

234-3672 x1001 x1001 or [**office@bedfordpreschurch.org**](mailto:office@bedfordpreschurch.org)

Please call and send your checks to the office **no later than December 17th** so we may acknowledge your dedication.

These two Holiday Giving Opportunities will be available to everyone in Fellowship Hall following the Sunday services.

A-HOME - The A-HOME organization works within Westchester County to provide safe and affordable housing. For the past number of years, BPC has purchased gifts for the men who live at the Heffner House in Mt. Kisco. Come take a star, purchase the gift, and return it on Sunday or to the BPC office. Stars will be available on the following Sundays: 12/1 and 12/8. All stars and gifts must be returned by Wednesday, 12/11.

DOVE TREE - A perennial presence during the month of December, the Dove Tree offers a variety of giving opportunities, ranging from hooded sweatshirts for the Emergency Shelter Program (ESP) to loads of laundry for Laundry Love, one of our newest outreach efforts. This is a great opportunity for families and individuals to assist in the ongoing work of the church. Select a gift, write down your name, and give either cash or check to the people working the Dove Tree. The Dove Tree will first be up during the Mistletoe Mart (12/7) and then on the following Sundays: 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22.

Childcare

Childcare *during worship* is available in Room #11

for children under the age of kindergarten.

Cookie Walk - One Day only!

Saturday, December 7th from 10 am to 4 pm

Get a head start on your holiday shopping! Stop by the Pound Ridge Community Church for your holiday cookies, soups, and other delectable treats. Let the women of Pound Ridge Community Church take care of all of your holiday baking. Enjoy a cup of hot mulled cider while you browse the many delectable treats. Homemade cookies for sale by the pound in our famous "Cookie Walk". Pies, candies, breads, foods-to-go and more! Beautiful quilt to raffle!

Plenty of Parking. Help support the mission projects of the church women. 3 Pound Ridge Road at the intersection of Routes 137 & 172 besides Pound Ridge Elementary School.

www.PoundRidgeCommunityChurch.org 914-764-9000

Calling all Lunch RAKES

(retired and keeping everything simple)

Please join us on **Thursday, December 5th**, and on the following first Thursday of every month

11:30 am -1:00 pm in the **Chapel Room**.

Bring a sandwich and join us for absolutely no agenda other than fellowship.

Please call the church office so that we set up enough chairs!

Office Hours
Monday – Friday

9 am – 3 pm

NYS Notary Public available during Office Hours

Coffee Hour

In order to simplify our coffee hour process, we will ask for just one family to sign up to host each of the Sundays. The Deacons will have, in stock at the church, items to put out for the children's table (and the coffee and tea setup will remain the same). Commitment to hosting the adult table will consist of providing a 1/2-1 gallon of milk for the coffee and 3-4 food items of your choice (and you will be emailed the instruction sheet the Monday before you host). We also welcome monetary donations to support the cost of providing the items for the children's table! Please indicate in the subject line of your check, "Coffee Hour".

In order to streamline the signup and communications process, we have set up a 'SignUpGenius' email, which many of you have utilized in the past. That link can be found here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48a5ab2ea6fa7-coffee>

Or you can contact:

Deacon Blakely Brodbeck at blakelybrodbeck@gmail.com or

917-374-2538 to sign up for a Sunday of your choice. Sign-up sheets will also be available following worship services.

We thank you for serving the congregation in this way--this act of hospitality is so important to the life of the congregation and your help is greatly appreciated!

Calling All "DECORATORS!"

**Sunday, December 22nd
after church**

Whether your strong suit is tying bows or manhandling large trees; whether you're a senior citizen or a kid or somewhere in between, you're invited to our annual Decorate-the-Sanctuary party. We need lots of help as we transform our sanctuary from Advent to Christmas, and there's a job for everyone. There will be Christmas music, a light pizza lunch provided by the Deacons, and plenty of hot cider to keep you energized and full of good cheer. We hope you'll join us. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall so we can plan food more effectively. Also, if you have clippers Or other tools for handling greenery, please bring them to help with the effort.

For information, please contact **Angela Sour** thesours@yahoo.com

or

Suzanne Holifield at Suzanne_holifield@hotmail.com

Events for the Week

Today, December 1 Communion Today

10:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary) Rev. Heather Brown-Huston
11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, December 2

7:15 PM Bellringers (Chapel)

Tuesday, December 3

9:30 AM Senior Group Exercise (Fellowship Hall)
10:30 AM Adult Bible Study (Conference Room)
7:15 PM AA Men & Women (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, December 4

9:30 AM Wreath making (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, December 5

9:30 AM Senior Group Exercise (Fellowship Hall)
11:30 AM Lunch RAKES (Chapel)
7:15 PM AA Men & Women (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 6

9:00 AM Yoga (Chapel)
6:45 PM AA Women (Chapel)

Saturday, December 7

9:00 AM Mistletoe Mart
6:00 PM Charis Concert
7:15 PM AA Men & Women (Fellowship Hall)

The Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn, Interim Pastor

The Rev. Heather Brown-Huston, Minister for Congregational Life

John Lettieri, Director of Music

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

The Rev. Leslie Mott, Coordinator for Spirituality and Practice

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM

Church School & Childcare 10:00 AM

Email: Office@bedfordpreschchurch.org www.bedfordpreschchurch.org

44 Village Green Bedford, NY 914-234-3672