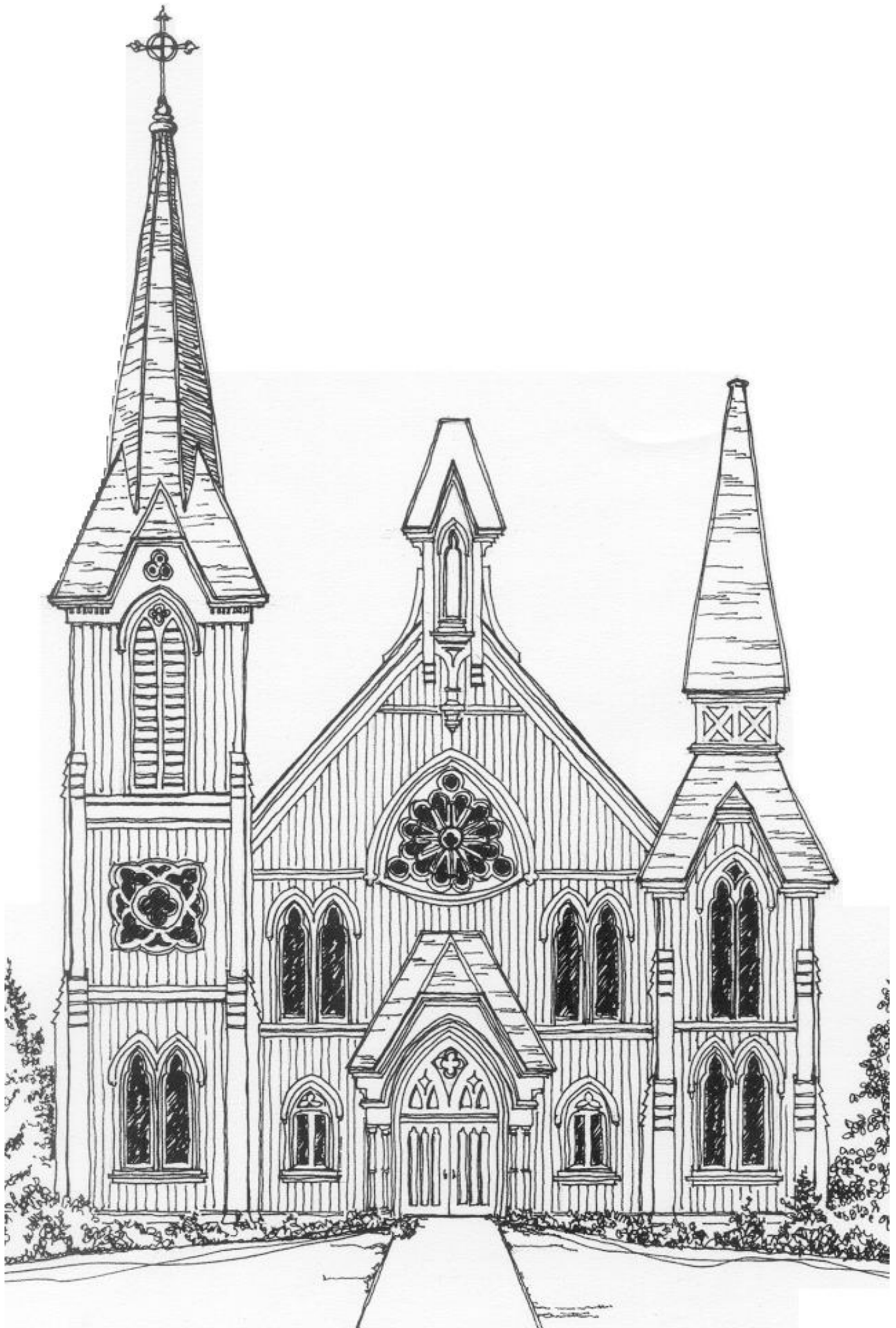


BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 15, 2019

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE – *Wake, Awake!*

J. S. Bach

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT – *Soon and Very Soon*

A. Crouch

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** - (*Isa. 35:1*)

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

People: Advent means coming.

Leader: We are preparing ourselves for the days when

People: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing

***HYMN 23** – *Angels We Have Heard on High*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of the darkness in the advent of Jesus our Christ; you continually open to us the ways we are to prepare.

We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways.

We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace.

We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service. 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, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel 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 candle is burning, a candle of JOY,
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow

ANTHEM – Dixit Maria

H. L. Hassler

(Mary said to the Angel: I am the servant of the Lord)

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 3: 1-12*

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON – *Hey! Who’s Missing?*

Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn

HYMN 49 – *Once in Royal David’s City

THE SENDING

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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”**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY – *Rejoice in the Lord Always*

Henry Purcell

***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 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN 29 – *Go, Tell It on the Mountain

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE – *Veni Immanuel*

John Bell

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP

December 15, 2019

Christmas Pageant 2019

Please join us immediately after Worship today in the Sanctuary



Star: Brandon Hiller-Dupont
Wiseman: : JR Rasamny,
Luke Ryan, Tyler Eames
Shepherds: Murphy Branche,
Harry Williams, Stephen Millete
Animals: Brady Lapple,
Luke Valenti, Bennett
Miserandino

Narrator: Charlotte Cape
Angel Gabriel: Tinsley Valenti
Angel 1: Chloe Siddons
Angel: Charlotte Jordan
Mary: Annabel Ryan
Joseph: Elliott Cape

Carols: O Little Town of Bethlehem #44 Verse 1
Silent Night
Angels We Have Heard on High #23
Away in a Manger #25 Verse 1
The First Noel #56 Verse 1

Unison Prayer: Dear God. Help us share the love of
Christmas with others.

And thank you for the best gift of all, the gift of Jesus.



**Bedford Fire Department Bond Vote
Information Session
Wednesday, December 18th at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall**

Did you know?

BPC's Session meets on the second Sunday of every month.



laundry love

Laundry Love is looking for a few volunteers to lighten the load at this month's event at Manara laundromat in Mt. Kisco on **Wednesday, December 18th**. Two people are needed for the early shift from 5-6:30pm and one for the later shift from 6:30-8pm. If you can pitch in to help us wash on, kindly contact **Elizabeth Messinger** at LaundryLoveMtKiscoNY@gmail.com or call her at 914-980-0059.

Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry – Cookies Needed!!

The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry will be distributing holiday bags with some special items for pantry clients. The pantry is requesting 'store bought' packaged cookies (no larger than approximately 1 pound) to include in the bags. A donation box will be available in the church vestibule and our goal is to receive 25 packages of cookies.

For questions or more information, please contact Cecilia Rosenblum at: 914-645-2096 or clr4tny@optonline.net.

Coffee Hour

A big thank you to *Carla Hawryluk* for sponsoring today's coffee hour.

Today's Flowers

From **Frieda Kautsky**

*In remembrance of Stan Kautsky,
loving husband, father & grandfather.*

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.

Holiday Giving Opportunity will be available to everyone in Fellowship Hall following the Sunday services.

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 be up during the following Sundays: **12/15 and 12/22**.

**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.

Christmas Tree Sale

The Bedford-Armonk Rotary Club is conducting its annual Christmas Tree Sale at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park which commenced Sunday, December 1st.

Sale hours will be **Fridays between 4 pm - 7 pm and Saturdays and Sundays 10 am to 6pm.**

For sale will be fresh Fraser and Balsam trees from Vermont in all sizes. All proceeds will benefit both international and local philanthropic projects such as the Northern Westchester Community Center, Hope's Door and the eradication of polio.

Best trees and best prices in town!!

December 15th Choir Performance of *Carols and Lullabies*

HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED

NEW DATE: Sunday, January 12th

If you are lucky enough to come to church on **Sunday, January 12th** you will be treated to a performance of a delightful piece of seasonal Christmas music during the 10 am worship service. Our choir along with guitar, harp and marimba will perform “**Carols and Lullabies**” by the American composer Conrad Susa. Subtitled *Christmas in the Southwest*, this collection of Spanish carols the composer found from Arizona are set as a narrative around the birth of Jesus and the manger scene. Bethlehem, angels, shepherds and the loving mother all play a part in this touching and festive Christmas music. Be sure to save the date and bring some friends

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.

2-3 ladders are needed for the decorators this year. Please advise the church office if you are able to provide one for that day.

For information, please contact **Angela Sour** thesours@yahoo.com
or
Suzanne Millette at Suzanne_holifield@hotmail.com

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BPC Book Club

Please join us Thursday, December 19th at 12:30 pm in the **conference room** at the church for our next book club meeting.

Engage in an interesting discussion of

- Charles Dickens – **A Christmas Carol**

A classic. Yes, you know the story, but have you actually read the book?

Dickens at his best.

The book club will meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month, with a new book discussed each month. Bring your lunch and eat while we talk.

Please contact **Jean Palmer** at joejeanpalmer@optonline.net for any questions or additional information.

Contributions & Donations

We are so grateful for our support of our wonderful church.

Please clearly mark you checks so that we can apply your contributions/donations to the correct account:

Flowers, Pledges, etc.

Childcare

Childcare *during worship* is available in Room #11 for children under the age of kindergarten.

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!

****January 5th is need of someone on the short term basis****

Help Beautify Our Sanctuary with Christmas Flowers

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** and will go toward poinsettias, garlands, wreaths and Christmas trees for our sanctuary.

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

914-234-3672 x1001 or email at: Office@BedfordPresChurch.org

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

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9 am – 3 pm

NYS Notary Public available during Office Hours

Events for the Week

Today, December 15 **Christmas Pageant**

10:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary) Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn
11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
11:45 AM Deacon Meeting (Chapel)
5:00 PM HSYG (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, December 16

7:15 PM Bellringers (Chapel)

Tuesday, December 17

9:30 AM Senior Group Exercise (Fellowship Hall)
10:30 AM Adult Bible Study (Conference Room)
7:00 PM Spirituality (Chapel)
7:15 PM AA Men & Women (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, December 18

9:30 AM Bedford Fire Bond Vote/Info Session (F. Hall)
9:30 AM Spirituality (Chapel)

Thursday, December 19

9:30 AM Senior Group Exercise (Fellowship Hall)
12:30 PM Book Club (Conference Room)
7:15 PM AA Men & Women (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 20

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

Saturday, December 21

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@bedfordpreschurch.org www.bedfordpreschurch.org

44 Village Green Bedford, NY 914-234-3672