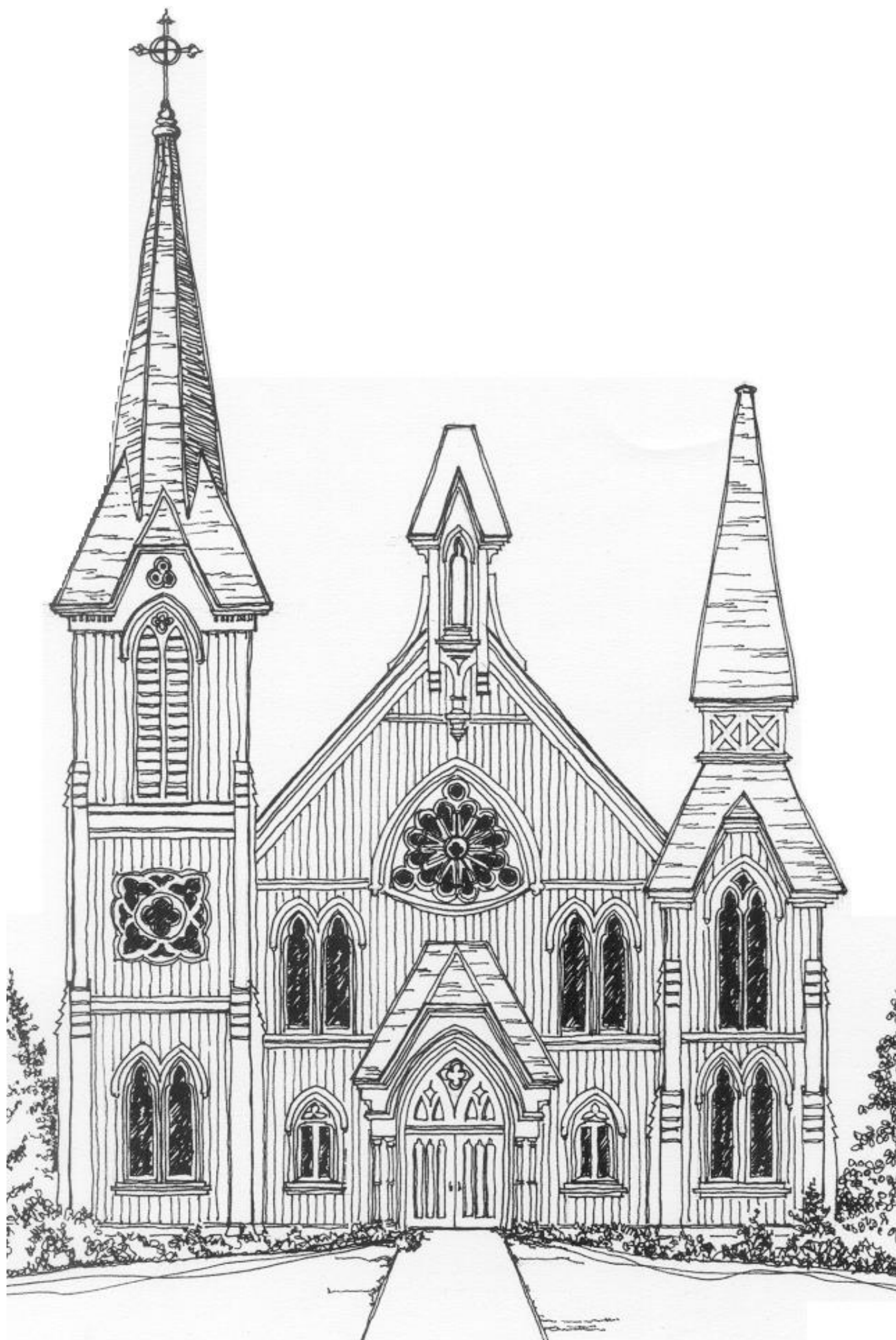


BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service for the Lord's Day

December 22, 2019

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE – *Joseph est bien Marié*

Claude Balbastre

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT – *Veni Immanuel*

John Bell

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** - (*Isa. 7:14b*)

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 Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (God is with us).

***HYMN 28** – *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, always with us, always coming,
we confess that we do not know
how to prepare for your Advent.

We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.

Forgive us, God.

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the magi,
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem
and find the good news of a child born for us.

Now, in the quiet of our hearts,
we ask you to make us ready for his coming. 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 King of nations, bind

in one the hearts of all mankind.

Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.

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 LOVE,

A candle to point us to heaven above

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth

For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

*The children's offering will be received during the Instrumental Interlude. 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 Instrumental Interlude.

The general offering is received after the sermon.

THE INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE BIDDING PRAYER 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"**

First Lesson:

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head. Genesis 3:8—15.

Christmas Bell Suite

arr. by John A. Behnke

Bedford Bellringers

Second Lesson:

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown. Isaiah 11:1–9.

Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary

Italian carol arr. Charles Wood

Third Lesson:

The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary. Luke 1:26–38.

*HYMN 16 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Fourth Lesson:

The shepherds go to the manger. Luke 2:8–16.

Nativity Carol

John Rutter

Fifth Lesson:

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. Matthew 2:1–11

Angels' Carol

John Rutter arr. by Sondra Tucker

Bedford Bellsingers

THE SENDING

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY – Tell Us, Shepherd Maids

Mary E. Caldwell

***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 38** – *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE – *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

French Carol

Bellsingers and Choir

POSTLUDE *Fugue on the Magnificat*

J. S. Bach

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP

December 22, 2019

Thank you to the following people for contributing to our Christmas flower fund for decorating after worship today.

Anne & Rick Bentzen

In gratitude for the gift of life and all our blessings.

Hope & Bob Black

In thanks for our family and our many blessings.

Deb and Peter Ferguson

With love - In honor of Tom Ferguson and his wife, Pat.

Tom and Pat Ferguson

With gratitude and thanksgiving for the love and support of our BPC family.

Victor & Linda Fried

Merry Christmas to our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Anne & David Hardy

In loving memory of Grace Moffat and Sidney Wetmore Davidson, Jr.

Carla Hawryluk

Peace on Earth, for Everyone, Everywhere.

The Entire Hermansen Family

In Loving memory of Roy whom we miss so very much.

Brian & Don Hiller-Dupont

In honor of our parents, Phyllis Hiller and Don & Cynthia Dupont,
and in memory of Charles Nelson Hiller

Cynthia, Taylor, Mary Lou & Mike

In loving memory of Foxy and Wilson.

Josephine Jane Schweiloch

In celebration of Louella Jane Schweiloch and Zadie Jane Schweiloch, and
in loving memory of Eleanor Jane Schweiloch.

The Senior Choir

Thank you, John, for your gift of music which has brought joy
to our congregation.

Andrew Strawcutter

In loving memory of my father, born 12/25/26.

Three tall trees being decorated in the sanctuary after worship today are donated by the Glod-Hayes family in memory of Margaret and Richard Svencer and Violet and George Glod. "



Coffee Hour

A big thank you to *the Bensabeur Family* for sponsoring today's coffee hour.

Bellringers

The ringers this morning are Bing Carlson, Bob Alspach, Brian Hiller, Chris Perry, Kathy Perry, Mari Hurry, Marcy Carlson, Hope Black, and Pat Ferguson, directed by Heidi Michaels.

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. If you enjoy hearing the bells in church, perhaps you would like to help by contributing to our fund.

We also would encourage anyone interested in learning to ring bells to speak to any one of the ringers, or to John Lettieri or the church office.

Did you know?

Communion is celebrated on the 1st Sunday of every other month.

Next communion, Sunday February 2nd

Childcare

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

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

We need volunteers for the following:

We are still in need of volunteers for the following:

Provide Breakfast bags on Sunday, January 5th

A volunteer to assist serving our guests on Wednesday, January 1st

Three volunteers to stay overnight on the following dates:

Wednesday January 1st, Thursday January 2nd & Sunday January 5th

- 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.

Contributions & Donations

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

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

Flowers, Pledges, etc.

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!!

January 12th Choir Performance of *Carols and Lullabies*

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!"

TODAY, immediately after worship

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 still need a few more volunteers to 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.**

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 final day** for the Dove Tree is *today*.

Coffee Hour

We have a short term need on January 5th – Please help 😊

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!

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9 am – 3 pm

NYS Notary Public available during Office Hours

Events for the Week

Today, December 22 Bellringers Perform During Worship

10:00 AM

Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00 AM

Sanctuary Decorating!!

11:00 AM

Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, December 23

7:30 PM

AA Business Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve - Office Closed

Services at 5pm (Children's), 7pm, 9pm & 11pm

7:15 PM

AA Men & Women (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day - Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

7:15 PM

AA Men & Women (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, December 27

9:00 AM

Yoga (Chapel)

6:45 PM

AA Women (Chapel)

Saturday, December 28

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

Merry Christmas



Reverend Vaughn leaves Christmas Day for a week of vacation in Pennsylvania. He will return January 2nd. While he is away, the **Reverend Cabaness** of Katonah Presbyterian is available in the event of an emergency. His cell number is **914-299-7708**.