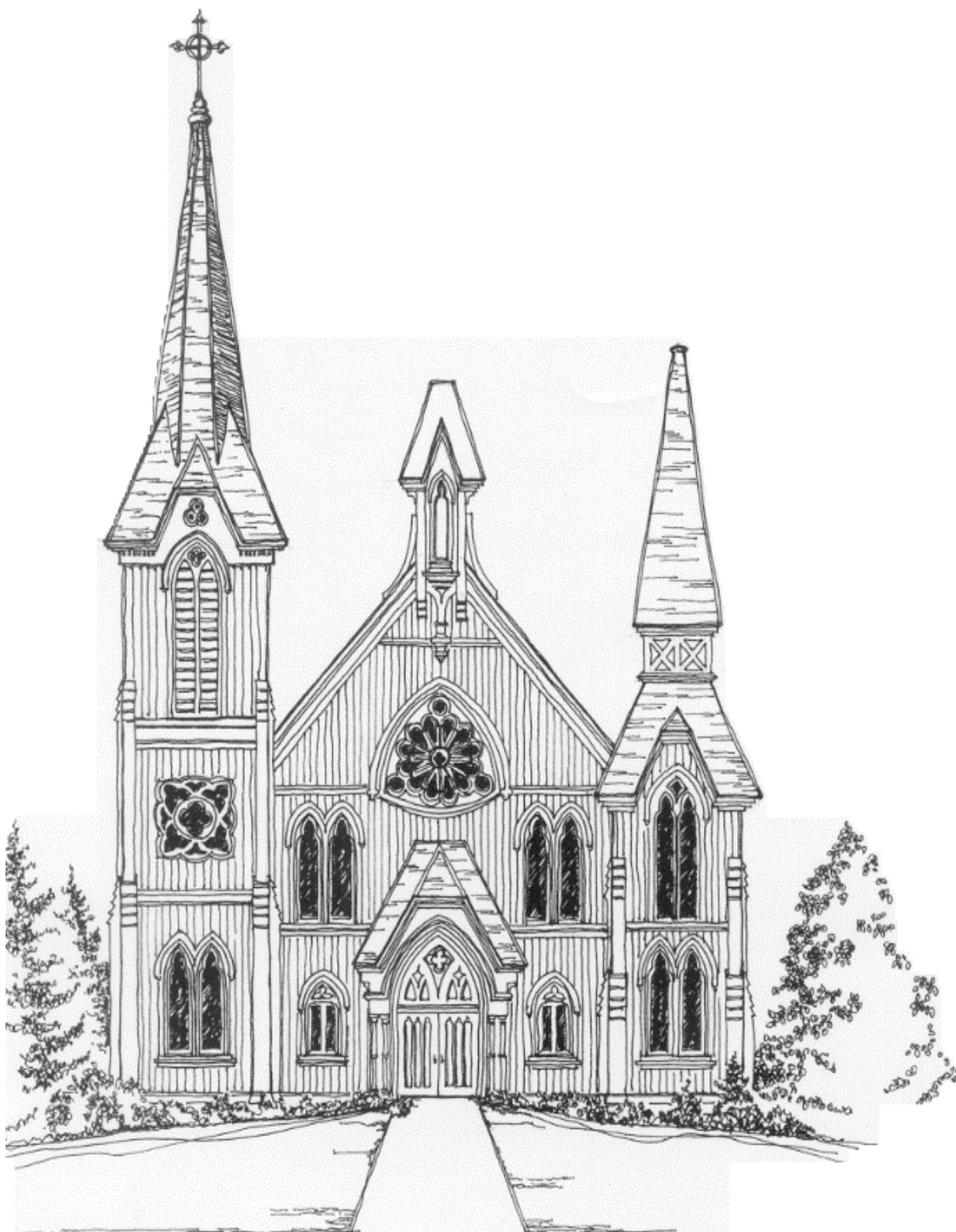


BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 8, 2019

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE – *Angels We Have Heard On High*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Bedford Presbyterian Church 2019 Instrumental Ensemble

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT – *Veni Immanuel*

John Bell

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP** - (*Isa. 11:6*)

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

People: When the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

***HYMN 2** – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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 Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

CAROLS *Away In A Manger and Silent Night*

The Bedford Presbyterian Church 2019 Instrumental Ensemble

***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 PEACE,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease
For Jesus is coming to show us the way
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay

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 - *Micah 5:2-5*

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON – *Less Than Three Weeks Away*

Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn

HYMN 22 – *Angels, from the Realms of Glory (vs 1 and 4)

THE SENDING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY – *Rejoice in the Lord Alway* 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 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 PRAYER

HYMN 13 – *Prepare the Way

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE – *Freu Dich Sehr

J. Krebs

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP
December 8, 2019

Healing and Faith
60 Minute Monthly Discussion in the Conference Room

Join a lively discussion on the power of faith and healing. Discriminate between healing and curing, see healing beyond the medical model and understand the power of faith as a community. Realize the gift of forgiveness, compassion and your perspective to "make all things new". Embrace your Divinity, the "Kingdom of God Within" and discover the power of intention in healing. Different presenters each month will lead us in an experience of healing.

Our second session will be held **TODAY** at **11:30 am**
in the **Conference Room**.

Jim Fenimore will help us to understand and experience
"Healing Through Relationships."

Coffee Hour

A big thank you to *Linda and David Burpee* for sponsoring today's coffee hour.

Today's Flowers

From *Anne and Rick Bentzen* honoring all friends and family members past and present who celebrate December birthdays.

Childcare

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

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.

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.

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.

December 15 Choir Performance of *Carols and Lullabies*

If you are lucky enough to come to church on Sunday, December 15 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

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!!

Millie Kane Luncheon

LAST CHANCE TO RSVP!!

This year's luncheon for senior citizens in our community will be held this coming Wednesday, **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

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

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

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

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 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.

Fitness at BPC

Bedford Presbyterian Church cares about your health! We offer two great ways to help keep you fit while helping to support BPC:

Senior Group Exercise and Yoga.

Both classes are low cost – no commitment – pay as you go.



Senior Group Exercise: This great class is offered 2 times per week, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, between 9:45 and 10:45 in Fellowship Hall. Join Susan Czechel, a certified instructor with 30+ years of group exercise experience.

This is a cardiovascular workout followed by muscle conditioning and functional training. Gain balance, get in better shape, become stronger, feel good, look good, have more energy and socialize with a wonderful group of people.



\$12 per class, with a percentage of earnings helping to support BPC.

Call Susan at 914-500-5162 with questions or come in for a Free Trial Class!

Yoga: Join Bobbe Stultz, a Kripalu trained Yoga Instructor, every Friday morning for Yoga between 9 am and 10 am.

Relaxing, Healing and Empowering - Body, Mind and Spirit.

\$20 per class, with a percentage of earnings helping to support BPC

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.

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****

Office Hours
Monday – Friday

9 am – 3 pm

NYS Notary Public available during Office Hours

Events for the Week

Today, December 8 **BPC Instrumental Ensemble Plays**
10:00 AM Worship (Sanctuary) Rev. Dr. J. Patrick Vaughn
11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
11:30 AM Healing & Faith Workshop (Conference Room)
11:45 AM Session/Vision Team Meeting (Chapel)

Monday, December 9
7:15 PM Bellringers (Chapel)

Tuesday, December 10
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 11
12:00 PM Millie Kane Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, December 12
9:30 AM Senior Group Exercise (Fellowship Hall)
7:15 PM AA Men & Women (Fellowship Hall)
7:30 PM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 13
9:00 AM Yoga (Chapel)
6:30 PM MSYG
6:45 PM AA Women (Chapel)

Saturday, December 14
1:30 PM BVRA Bedford Village Riding Association
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