

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2021 (177 Years)



Week of April 25, 2021

We will continue sending out this combination of the newsletter and bulletin to keep you up to date on announcements, prayers, needs and scheduled activities for those that are uncomfortable to attend service.

Included will be the usual newsletter information, along with prayers, scripture and a sermon.

We hope that you can utilize this format to keep up to date while being away from actual services, meetings, activities and watching the online sermon.

Please be in prayer for the end of the coronavirus and healing for those affected by it.



Bedford Presbyterian Church
serving Christ since 1844

A Biblically Guided Christian Community,

Loving God, Loving Others,

Serving the World & Growing Disciples

THE APPROACH TO GOD

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And Also with you

Prelude

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Harold DeCou

Words of Welcome and Announcements.

- Reminder Something More will not be meeting this week.
- Prayer Time has resumed in the Anna Latimer room following service
- Youth group meeting after service
- For other announcements, be sure to read this version of the weekly bulletin.

Call to Worship

One: This is the day the Lord has made,

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: Jesus is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Our celebration of Easter life continues,

All: Let us worship and give praise to God.

Hymn of Praise

"Rejoice! The Lord is King"

Praise Team

Prayer of Confession

God, with praise and thanksgiving we celebrate the amazing truth that You bring forgiveness and new life. The resurrection of Jesus proclaims that nothing can separate us from Your love. We need this assurance, God, because there are times when, like those first disciples, we are afraid, hiding behind locked doors, unwilling or unable to declare our allegiance to Christ. We ask You to change and transform us. Roll away the heavy stones of guilt or regret or disappointment. Remove whatever it is that keeps us from being Your Easter people – people who love You, who are loved by You, and who share Your love with all. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Through Jesus Christ we have been born again to new life.

Gloria

"Glory be to the Father"

Hymn 734

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Time for all God's Children

Scripture

Philippians 4:4

Worship Song

"I Will Rejoice Medley"

Praise Team

Sermon

Christians with Shining Faces

Years ago a young businessman left his hotel room on Sunday morning and began searching for a church where he might worship that day. The streets of the city were almost completely deserted, but the man happened to see a policeman standing at the corner. Walking up to the officer he said, "I'm a stranger in this town. Could you suggest a church where I might worship this morning?" "Certainly," the policeman replied. The young man thanked the police officer after receiving directions about where the church was located and was just about to walk away, when suddenly he turned back around and asked, "By the way, there must be several churches on your beat. Why did you suggest this particular one?" The policeman replied, "I'm not a very religious man. I don't even belong to a church. But I've observed one thing down through the years. The people who attend the church I suggested to you are the happiest Christians in all of St. Louis."

Joy! In a world filled with so much sorrow and suffering, there is a tremendous need for happy Christians, followers of Jesus who are possessed by a spirit of joy. A native from the country of India once asked a Christian, "What kind of medicine do you put on your face to make it shine so?" "I don't put anything on it," the Christian replied. "Oh yes you do," the Indian said. "All you Christians do. Whenever I've met one of you, I've seen shining faces."

A shining face. That ought to be one of the distinguishing characteristics of every Christian, a spirit of joy and happiness bubbling up out of our lives like a spring of living water, an exuberant cheerfulness rooted in the love of God. In spite of the problems and difficulties we all face, there is so much for us to be happy about as Christians.

Paul reminds us of that in his letter to the Philippians. He says in chapter 4, verse 4, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, 'Rejoice!'" In fact, he says it again and again. Sixteen times in just four chapters of Scripture, he tells the Christians at Philippi to rejoice, to be joyful, filled with happiness. It almost seems impossible that a man like Paul, a man who had been stoned, run out of town, rejected by his fellow Jews, and now even imprisoned in Rome, could write such a letter of joy. And yet he did. In spite of the hardships he had faced, in spite of the fact that soon he might die the death of a martyr, Paul was still a happy man. And he wanted to share that happiness with his fellow believers in Philippi. As he wrote this letter he listed a number of reasons why both he and they should be filled with a spirit of joy. Let me share four of them with you this morning.

First, there was the joy of friendship which they had with one another. Philippi was the first city in Greece where Paul had preached the Gospel. His ministry there was quite short. And just like Rome, he had ended up in jail. But still there were many fond memories of the people whom he had met in Philippi. One of them was Lydia. She was a merchant who sold fine cloth. He met her down by the harbor. Then there was the slave girl from whom he had cast out a demon. And, of course, there was the jailor. Paul had had the privilege of leading the jailor and his family to the Lord. Paul loved these people and they loved him. Even though they were separated by many miles, there were still strong ties of friendship. Paul opened his letter to them by saying, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now (Philippians 1:3-5)." He

remembered that soon after he left them they had begun supporting him financially, so that he didn't have to work so hard sewing tents to support himself. Instead he could spend more of his time teaching and preaching. Now that he was in prison, they had not only sent him additional gifts, including perhaps a warm coat, but had also sent one of their own to visit with him, Epaphroditus. It must have really cheered the heart of old Paul to know that those Christians in Philippi really cared about him. Indeed, it's a joyful experience when we're reminded that there are strong ties of friendship and love that bind us together as Christians.

I remember the death of my father. It was my first year at seminary and as soon as I received word of what had happened, I hurried home to be with Mom. It was a sad and hectic time as we prepared for the funeral. But in the midst of it there was still a note of joy. For my friends at seminary had not forgotten me. There was a personal telegram from the president of the school. An arrangement of flowers arrived from a singing group of which I was a member. And there were three friends who drove for more than four hours to be with me during the funeral service. Yes, there was sorrow and grief, but there was also joy. Like Paul, I experienced the joy of Christian fellowship. How about you? Has there been a time in your life when you experienced that kind of joy? Perhaps it occurred in just the give and take of life, when someone, for example, invited you over to their home for a meal. But whatever it was, those are the kind of things that can bring great joy into our lives.

There is also a second reason why Paul's letter to the Philippians is filled with so much joy and happiness. This is what he says, "Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well-known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of the Lord without fear (Philippians 1:12-14)." As he continues to write, he knows that this evangelistic zeal is not always derived from the purest of motives. Some he says, are sharing the gospel because they are actually envious of what he is accomplishing. Nevertheless he declares, "What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice (Philippians 1:18)."

Proclaiming the gospel is a wonderful reason for being joyful. It is an expression of heartfelt appreciation for doing for which we were created in Christ to perform. As a child, I remember watching a craftsman build a canoe at the Old Town Canoe Company in Bangor, Maine. The craftsman looked at me with a smile of satisfaction upon his face and said, "After years of trying, finally at last, I can use a drawing knife to shape the wooden gunnels of this canoe so that they fit together perfectly, with both my right and now my left hand." He had mastered a difficult skill and it brought him great joy, just like the man who exclaimed, "I did it." He had completed his evangelistic, witness training and had gone out with a team to make a visit in a local home. During that visit, he had shared the plan of salvation from memory and the person listening to him had prayed to receive Christ as his personal savior. This newly trained evangelist was so excited he could hardly contain himself. He had discovered that there is great joy when we finally arrive at the place where we can do what Christ told us to do, to be His witnesses, telling others how they too can become a Christian. What about you, as a believer have you ever experienced the joy of leading another person to Christ. It's one of the most exciting and wonderful things that you will ever experience.

There's a third reason why Paul was joyful and this may surprise you. He was joyful with regards to the possibility of becoming a martyr for Christ. He said, "But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. And you too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me (Philippians 2:17-18)." Wow! Can you believe it? Paul was even joyful in the expectation that he might soon be executed. That's what he was talking about when he said that he might be "poured out as a drink offering," like a sacrifice on an altar. The Philippians knew that you may pay a price, sometimes a severe, life threatening one when you stand up for Christ. But even then, there can be joy because great suffering produces even greater joy. As one writer has put it, "The saints have sung their sweetest when the thorns have pierced their hearts the deepest."

The Nazi regime was one of the most vile and reprehensible totalitarian states that has ever existed and caught up in the middle of it was a Lutheran pastor by the name of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He could have fled from Germany before and even during the beginning of World War II, but instead decided to stay and become part of the resistance movement. As a result he was arrested and finally executed on April 9, 1945. Eight months earlier, while in prison, he wrote to a friend, his words now a part of a collection of writings entitled, Letters and Papers from Prison." This is what he wrote:

Please don't ever get anxious about me, but don't forget to pray for me—I'm sure you don't. I am so sure of God's guiding hand that I hope I shall always be kept in that certainty. You must never doubt that I am travelling with gratitude and cheerfulness along the road where I am being led. My past life is brim-full of God's goodness, and my sins are covered by the forgiving love of Christ crucified. I am most thankful for the people I have met, and I only hope that they never have to grieve about me, but that they, too, will always be certain of, and thankful for, God's mercy and forgiveness. Forgive my writing this. Don't let it grieve or upset you for a moment, but let it make you happy. But I did want to say it for once, and I could not think of anyone else who I could be sure would take it aright (page 208).

What kind of joy was it that Bonhoeffer possessed while he was in prison? It was the joy of loyalty to the Lord. It was the joy of standing firm in his beliefs and principles even if that meant the sacrifice of life itself. It was the joy of being true to his Lord, no matter the cost, no matter the suffering involved.

This is the kind of joy that an athlete experiences after playing in a spirited contest, like a football game. He has done his best. He has blocked, tackled, run, passed and performed to the limits of his ability. He has done everything humanly possible to win the game and bring honor to his team and his coach. That deep inner feeling of satisfaction, earned even at the expense of the bumps, bruises and pulled muscles is joy, the joy of complete dedication, the joy of personal sacrifice. What about you? Does that kind of loyal devotion reside within your heart and mind? One of the books Bonhoeffer wrote is named, The Cost of Discipleship. What about your discipleship and its cost, especially in a day and time right here in America where the persecution of Christians is becoming an ever present and growing reality?

Finally, let me call your attention to one more reason for joy in Paul's letter to the Philippians. It's found in chapter 3, verse 14. Paul says, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Notice that he doesn't use the word "joy" in this verse of Scripture, but it is clearly understood as something that he joyfully anticipates in the future. In fact, in chapter 2 he had already indicated that heaven was his preferred destination, although he would also joyfully continue to minister to God's people here on earth, especially his beloved Philippians. Let's be honest. Paul was getting up in years. His eyesight was nearly gone and for that reason he had to dictate his letters. Life on the road going from church to church was not easy, especially when it also included several incarcerations and at least one shipwreck. He was ready for heaven. He was ready to receive the gift of eternal life and that was genuinely a cause for celebration. Indeed, the prospect of eternal life is something that should bring joy to everyone who has entrusted their lives into the care of Christ.

Years ago, there was an elderly woman who lived on the fifth floor of a dilapidated apartment building in a large city. She was getting up in years and for months she had been confined to bed. But she was still a cheerful Christian. Regularly one of the ladies from the church, a woman by the name of Helen, visited with her. On this particular occasion she stopped by with a friend. Now the friend was a rather pessimistic person. She always looked on the darker side of things. As they entered the building, she said, "Helen, this is a crummy dump." Pointing to the staircase, Helen replied, "It gets better higher up." So they climbed the stairs, but the second floor was no better than the first. Looking around her friend shook her head in disgust and said, "This place is filthy." Again Helen replied, "It gets better higher up." And so it continued floor after floor, the friend complaining and Helen saying, "It gets better higher up." Finally they arrived at the fifth floor, and opening the door to the small apartment, Helen's friend was truly amazed. It was truly a thing of beauty. There was a pretty rug on the floor, nice furniture, flowers and ferns everywhere and even a little bird happily chirping on the window sill. Even the person they had come to visit possessed such a cheerful countenance that Helen's friend was at a loss for words. Finally she blurted out, "It must be very hard for you to lie here all the time without being able to get up and about." To which the elderly woman offered a joyous smile and said, "It gets better higher up."

The joy that develops out of Christian friendship, the joy of proclaiming the gospel, the joy of suffering for the cause of Christ, the joy of eternal life, these are some of the reasons for Paul's declaration to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, 'Rejoice!'" As he spoke to them so he speaks to us, telling us to be joyful and happy Christians, telling us to be Christians with shining faces.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

“Blessed Assurance”

Praise Team

Affirmation of Faith

(Creedal Statement from 1 Timothy 3: 16)

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our faith: Christ Jesus was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen by [His messengers], preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Doxology

“Doxology”

Hymn 34

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

God of mercy and love, we thank You for the message of hope and the promise of peace given in our worship here today. Grant us a thoughtful mind and a willing obedience to live and think according to both Your call and promises upon our life. Guide the use of these gifts we give, that by Your Spirit they may bring comfort and assurance, justice and peace in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer- Now let us pray together the prayer our Lord taught us

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.

Closing Song

“May Your Presence Go With Us”

Praise Team

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction (Philippians 4:7)

May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Postlude

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

Harold DeCou

Christians with Shining Faces Philippians 4:4

In Paul’s letter to the Philippians he uses the word “joy” sixteen times. This letter has often been called the “Epistle of Joy.”

This morning we are going to discover four of the reasons why Paul was so joyful as he wrote this letter to the Christians of Philippi:

The Joy of Christian Friendship—Philippians 1:3-5

The Joy of Proclaiming the Gospel—Philippians 1:12-14 and 18

The Joy of Suffering for Christ—Philippians 2:17-18

The Joy of Eternal Life—Philippians 3:14

Joys- April 25th

Joy- David Grigg's friend- Danny miller- cancer free

Concerns- April 25th

Avery: Rev. Frank and for Tinkie who has dementia

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer, husband colon cancer

Benton: Roger (friend) in rehab

Linda Crawford- (friend) chemo, found son dead

Prayers for law enforcement officers

Blair: Katy Neel- (LHS student) lymphoma- chemo

Tonya Blair's friend-(Shelly Longnecker) recurring cancer

Boone: Jim Hedrick - (friend) cancer

Judy Jockets- (sister's friend) lung cancer

Jim Cutler- (LHS teacher) stage 4 lung cancer

Dennis Sulka - terminal pancreatic cancer

Don Bartz- (brother-in-law) taking cardiac rehab

Jean Cannaday-(cousin) recovering from covid

Roy Graber- (Sammy's cousin) intestinal surgery

Chryssikos: John (Kathy's son) liver cancer

Compter: two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Bob- (friend) Parkinson's

Michael Compter-(brother) heart failure

Cram: Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for his faith

Light family- passing of John and mother in hospital

Nancy Holmes- (friend) stage 4 ovarian cancer, chemo, surgery

DeWitt- Tammy's parents are home in rehab

Dills: Katy Neel- lymphoma- chemo

Fleming: family dealing with addiction and self- esteem

Their children- having difficulties

Linda Marcet- (Friend) lumpectomy

Christina- (daughter) battling substance abuse

Foster: Tom- home with heart monitor

Joyce Abbott- (former member) cancer

Marian Kelly- (friend) breast cancer, mother's caretaker

Howard-(Tom's brother) thyroid and other health issues

Goodman: Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis

Randall Sales-(SRHS coach) cancer

Katherine Saunders- (Hugh's daughter) hospice

Harris: Judy-recovering from surgery, high blood pressure, problem with voice

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn- Kibbey: Nancy Milton- (friend) cancer, Alzheimer's
Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration
Grandson- alcoholism
Dan Withers- (friend) inoperative cancer

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems
Steven-(son's boss) going blind
Norma Jean- (Gayle's sister) medical issues

Morris: Lisa (Robert's wife) lung cancer, undergoing treatment

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Forensic scientists who deal with crime
Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home
Ron & Margaret – doing better, exercising, still in pain, at the Summit, can call him

Noell: Cody Boyd (friend of late son, Chad) being deployed to Syria

Parker: Nithi & Angie Abraham, Nithi near end of life

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)
Scott- (son-in-law) doing well, still undergoing chemo

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick-(friend) cancer, partial lung removed
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer
Sonny- (son) colon cancer, taking radiation and chemo

Smith: Dorothy Smith (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord
Bill & Marie Walker- (Sonya's parents) continue doing well

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery
Duncan Elliston –(fireman)
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer, covid-19
Russell- upcoming knee surgery, May 5th

Toney: Karen Hyde-(friend) bladder cancer
Cal Rice- (former pastor) bone cancer, refused treatment

Van Dyke: Donna Mannel- (friend) MS

Prayers for all front line workers, Drs, nurses, first responders

Prayers for our nation and our President

Prayers for those dealing with loneliness

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Prayers for an end of the coronavirus and healing for those infected

Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different



If you have been fully vaccinated

(last shot plus 2-weeks), according to April 2, 2021, CDC guidelines you can now ease up on quarantine restrictions – especially in regards to private meetings and visiting in homes. For the full report, follow this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html#print>

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing
- Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at [increased risk for severe COVID-19](#) disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households
- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings
- Get tested if experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](#)
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations



**The flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in honor of our wedding anniversary,
John & Sonya Smith.**

Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.
You can mail your pledge or contribution (also 5 ¢ a meal and Heifer) or you
can drop by the office, Mon-Thurs between 8 am - 4pm.

Activities for week of April 25th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Prayer Time following service

Youth Group following service

Monday: 6 pm, Quilters

Tuesday: NO Something More this week

Sunday: May 2nd

10 am Worship

Communion

Prayer Time following service

April Birthdays

Richard Tate - 29

April Anniversaries

John and Sonya Smith – 30

May Birthdays

Ellen Foster 3

Barbara Compter 3

Paul Van Dyke 4

John Smith 4

Becky Noell 9

Russell Stevens 9

Roy Cram 13

Richard Creasy 15

Tammy DeWitt 18

Heather Browning 18

Belvia Tate 22

Marlon Creasy 24

Elizabeth Creasy 26

Venus Gould 28

May Anniversaries

John and Judy Blair- 13

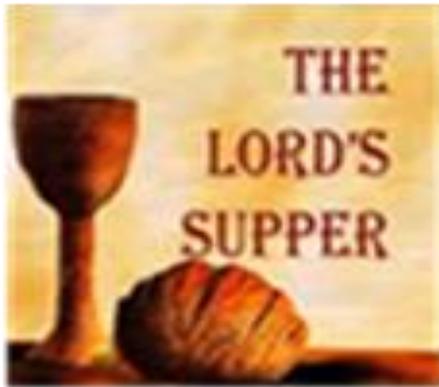
Here's a list of our shut-ins, please take time to send a card or give them a call, to let them know you are thinking of them.

Covid Shut-ins

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Cram
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Heinrich
Mr. & Mrs. Dick Kibbey
Mr. & Mrs. Al Mauser
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Morris
Mrs. Judy Toney
Ms. Gloria Saunders
Mr. Ronnie Saunders

Long Term Shut-ins

Anne Arthur
Rev. Frank & Tinkie Avery
Pat Clarke
Janet Eagler
Ann Fowler
Dorinda Hopkins
Doris Koch
Ruby Page



Next Sunday we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. Paul reminds us that we should examine ourselves prior to partaking of communion so that we are not guilty of eating the bread or drinking the cup in an 'unworthy manner.' Please take some time to prepare your heart to receive this sacrament on the Lord's Day.