

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2021 (177 Years)



Week of May 2, 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

"God of Day and God of Darkness"

Lynn Trapp

Words of Welcome and Announcements.

- Something More will resume Tuesday at 3 pm, in-person and ZOOM
- Prayer Time has resumed in the Anna Latimer room following service
- The Youth Group will meet following service
- For other announcements, be sure to read this version of the weekly bulletin.

Minute for Missions

Stewardship

John Blair

Call to Worship

One: Teach us, O Lord, the way of Your Commands,

All: And we will observe them to the end.

One: Give us understanding, that we may keep Your law,

All: And observe it with our whole heart.

One: Lead us in the path of Your righteousness,

All: For we delight in it and will strive to follow You all the days of our life.

Hymn of Praise

"Cry of My Heart"

Terry Butler

Prayer of Confession

The world around us is changing so fast, O God and we confess that we find ourselves in search of some path that will lead us to what the values of the present tell us we should desire. We look for power when we should seek wisdom. We run after those who promise wealth, material success and self-advancement. Turning our backs on the way of self-giving love that has given us life itself, to which Your Son is ever calling us. For our failures of focus and constancy, we humbly repent and we ask Your forgiveness. Lead us back, we pray, to the path of discipleship, always following Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Numbers 9: 15-19, John 8: 12

Sermon**Numbers: Following God to the Promised Land**

A portion adapted from GOD'S GUIDANCE – NUMBERS 9:15-23 by David Allen <https://drdavidallen.com/gods-guidance-numbers-915-23/>

Today we continue the stories of Israel's travel to the Promised Land, but now as they are recorded in the book of **Numbers**. Sometimes reading through the Biblical events, chapter by chapter, you can lose the sense of time involved. For example, not counting Moses' 80 years for growing up, or his duels with Pharaoh, the Book of Exodus only covers the first year of Israel's journey to the Promised land. This is how that year went.



Following the plagues and that first Passover celebration, it took only a 3 month walk from Egypt until the people of Israel arrived at Mt Sinai (God's mountain). They then camped around Mt Sinai while Moses verbally relayed God's commands to the people ... which they all promised to obey. But sadly, it was only a month later, after they thought Moses had stayed too long up on the mountain getting that

first set of stone tablets from God, that the people down below built and began dancing around a **golden calf**. Coming down the mountain to the spectacle of their idolatry, Moses smashed the tablets in disgust, ordered the sons of Levi to kill 3,000 of the worst offenders and then made the rest drink a mixture of water and the burnt ashes of that idol. He then went back up the mountain to plead with God to still lead these people to the Promised Land; to which God agreed only because Moses was His friend and also because of the promises God had made to their forefathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.



Having averted that crisis and with the people now apparently repentant and wanting to help, Moses set them to work building the Ark of the Covenant, the Tent of the Tabernacle with all its furniture and also the priestly robes for Aaron and his sons. While they were thus being kept busy, Moses then cut and had God inscribe a second set of stone tablets. He also wrote out physical copies of both the book of the **Covenant** containing all God's Laws along with

Leviticus - the Handbook for the Priests. Thus, as the Book of Exodus comes to a close, it has only been one single – very busy year since their departure from Egypt, but the tabernacle is standing ready and the priests are in place for Israel's second celebration of Passover.

Chapter 9 of the book of **Numbers** then picks up their story in the first month of the second year with the people celebrating their second Passover.

Now, if you were wondering, the first 8 chapters of Numbers actually describes events following that second Passover, when Moses ordered a census of all men capable of going to war - their total number coming to 603,550; which is how this book got its name (because Moses numbered the people).

Chapter 10 (vs.11) then records that on the 20th day of the 2nd month of the 2nd year, just 14 months after they had left Egypt, as the pillar of cloud lifted up and moved away from the tabernacle, the priests sounded their silver trumpets and the nation of Israel resumed marching on to their new home.

Now we are going to get ahead of today's story, but to keep you thinking along their timeline, it only took Israel another 5 months to make it to the border of the Promised Land and to receive back from the spies, a bad report which caused them to refuse to enter the land. In His wrath, God promised that all of those who had refused to enter, would now die in the wilderness, thus setting Israel up for a 38 year wander. It is the book of Numbers that records all the events during Israel's 38 years of exile in the wilderness.

Having put their years of wandering in order, now let's return to Numbers, chapter 9, which describes how God led Israel for those 40 years all the way from Egypt to the Promised Land.

Whether it was two days or a month, Whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, then the Israelites would set out; Numbers 9: 22 & 17



and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the Israelites would camp. Numbers 9: 22 & 17



Make no mistake, though taking the appearance of a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, it was actually "*the angel of God,*" who personally led the people of Israel all the way from Egypt to the Promised Land (Ex. 23:20-24). We don't often think of this, but not only did it guide them but, in the daytime, the pillar of cloud also provided them shade from the heat of the sun, while at night in a land that held precious little firewood, the pillar of fire provided light for the people see.

Whenever the cloud moved, the people moved and when the cloud stopped the people stopped; "*At the command of the Lord they set out, and at the command of the Lord they camped*" (Ex. 9:18).

Following that Angel of the Lord, that pillar, the people never knew how many days they would be marching or where they were next headed, their job was simply wherever it led, they would go.

While camped, they were also kept in a constant uncertainty of their next departure. Whether they stayed for just a day, a week, or for months there was no settling down, at the sound of the priest's trumpets the people had to be ready to move. Thus they learned to be totally dependent upon God not only for direction, but when to march and when to stop.

Why was such daily guidance necessary?

Notice these repeated phrases, "*at the command of the Lord the Israelites set out,*" and "*at the command of the Lord they would remain in camp.*" This 40 year journey was all about learning to trust and obey. As He was also attempting with the daily manna, the quail and the water, God was trying to teach the Israelites that they could trust Him completely not only for guidance, but

for all their needs on a daily basis. A lesson we still need to keep in mind; just as Jesus taught us to pray, *give us this day, our daily bread*.

Also, the phrase that in camp, "*the Israelites would keep the charge of the Lord,*" indicates that even while resting they still had to pull guard duty – someone had to keep an eye on that pillar to see when it next began to move! As followers of Christ Jesus, we should also be so concerned to guard every word that comes to us from God and to be ready and willing to move when we see God moving.

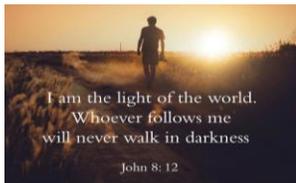
Like the Israelites who lived out this forty year lesson, we must never forget that the manna always falls and the water always flows where the presence of God abides.

And by now you should have guessed, since **God the Father**, by His own declaration is a spirit having no form or body, then the multiple appearances of the "**Angel of the Lord**" here in Exodus and Numbers and throughout our Old Testament, was actually a **pre-incarnation appearance of God the Son – whom we eventually came to know as Jesus of Nazareth**.

So, think about this for a bit: When God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden, it was actually Jesus. It was Jesus who closed the door of Noah's boat. It was Jesus who had lunch with Abraham, who rescued Hagar in the wilderness and wrestled one night with Jacob. It was also Jesus who personally led the people of Israel through the wilderness for 40 years until they reached their Promised Land.

Thus, though the Jewish Pharisees refused to believe Him, it was no exaggeration when Jesus told them, "*Abraham rejoiced that He would see my day... before Abraham was, I am*" (John 8:56-59).

And when Jesus told the people,



Now you know that he was speaking from previous experience.

The stories of the Exodus contain all these and several more clues pointing to the person and work of Jesus, Israel's promised and our present Messiah. He is as He was,

- Like manna in the Wilderness, Jesus is God's bread from heaven who can satisfy your hunger – for righteousness.
- And like water springing from the rock, Jesus can forever quench your thirst – for life.
- Like the pillar of fire, if you would follow, Jesus will always be there to guide your way - all the way home.
- And like the serpent Moses raised up on a poll, so also Jesus was lifted up so that you and I need only to "look and live" (Numbers 21:8, John 3:14-15).

But this last story must wait its telling for another day. The question that remains for us today as we once again come to our Lord's table, is what can we learn from Jesus' claim to be "light of the world."

In their letters to the churches, the Apostles Peter, Paul and John all bring up this image of following Jesus – the light of the world – so that we also might be transformed into children of the light, who never again have to walk in darkness.

In his letter, John wrote:

*This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that **God is light** and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; **but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.** 1 John 1:5-7*

Whether it was the children of Israel on an actual 40 year march, or the needs of our daily walk, we can still trust Jesus to safely lead us through the wilderness of this world to His and our future Heavenly home. All we have to do is follow the light.

Let's pray about this and then gratefully come to the table.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Solo

"Christ Be My Leader"

Hymn 453

Affirmation of Faith (Psalm 23)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, thank You for Your goodness and loving kindness, given to us and to all whom You have made. Accept our gifts this day. Make us more aware of Your mercies so that we praise You with our lips and also with our works. Lead us in paths of holiness and righteousness all of our days.
(lifting up prayers for the people)

This we ask in Your son's precious name, Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Song of Preparation

"If You Need Jesus"

Scott Wesley Brown

Communion

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

"Give Thanks"

Henry Smith

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction (Aaronic blessing, Numbers 6: 24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Postlude

"Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan"

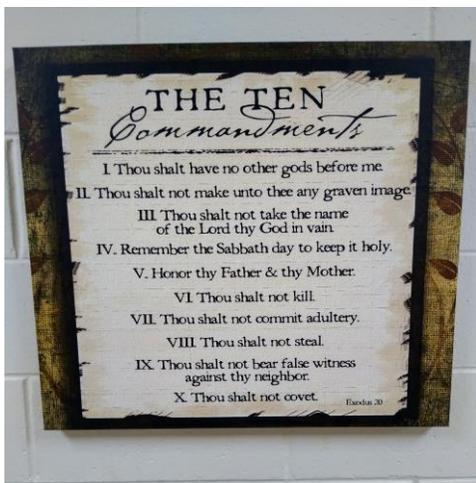
Johann Walther



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

It's Official!!

The new sign on the Community Center building
for the new free clinic.



They may longer be on the school house walls, but at least the 10 Commandments have returned to the wall in our Fellowship Hall.

Is there a copy of the commandments in your home for you, your children and your grandchildren to read and talk about??
(cf. Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

Six sizes of this particular print are available from
Amazon.Com (10"x10" = \$40)

Joys- May 2nd

Joy- to see Roy & Sally Cram and Lynne Palmer in service

Concerns- May 2nd

Avery: Rev. Frank and for Tinkie who has dementia

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

Timothy Looney- (nephew) infection in spine

Benton: Roger (friend) in rehab

Linda Crawford- (friend) chemo, found son dead

Prayers for law enforcement officers

Annette Kimble- (friend) upcoming surgery

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

DeHart: Dick Hatch- fell, broke hip

Tom Gilliam- back pain, waiting on 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

Virginia O'Neal- (James sister) complications from hip surgery

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-high blood pressure, voice is better, at the Summit

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
Lori's former boss, gall bladder

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

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

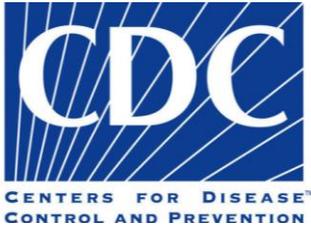
Prayers for our nation and our President

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



Donations to Bedford Presbyterian through Amazon Smile now available on the app...

Like to do your Amazon shopping on your phone instead of your laptop? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Bedford Presbyterian Church" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Bedford Presbyterian Church" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

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 May 2nd

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Communion
Youth Group meeting following service
Prayer Time following service

Monday: 6 pm, Quilters

Tuesday: 3 pm Something More

Sunday: May 9th

10 am Worship
Mother's Day
5 ¢ a Meal Offering
Prayer Time following service

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. 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