

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2021 (177 Years)



Week of November 21st

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 yet.

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.



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

"Old Hundredth"

Piet Post

Welcome and Announcements

- Offering Plates currently are not being passed. They are located at the front and rear of the sanctuary along with 5 ¢ a meal offering baskets. You can place your offering as you enter or leave the church.
- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- Something More meets Tuesdays at 3 pm. Those who wish to ZOOM can link into the meeting by 2:45 pm.
- As of today we have collected \$5213 for the Afghan Refugees. Thank You! Now let's see how far above our goal we can make this gift.
- The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held today at 3pm at the Bedford Christian Church on Moneta Road.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

Minute for Missions

Bedford Pregnancy Center

Lori Lewis

Call to Worship (Psalm 100) (unison)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his Name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever; and his faithfulness to all generations. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

"Now Thank We All our God"

Hymn 14

Prayer of Confession:

We give thanks to You, O God, for the gift of Your creation that continues to sustain us and for all of Your servants and witnesses in every generation. We confess that it is too easy to think of ourselves as self-made and self-sustaining. Forgive us for forgetting that we were created for You, to bring You glory. Help us to remember all that You have done for us since the beginning of time, that we may be inspired to serve You faithfully now. Give us thankful hearts that we may share the gifts we have been given with those who are in need. Help us share our resources and talents in our congregations, to carry on ministry in Your name and to Your glory. Keep our eyes on Jesus Christ, in whom our lives – past, present, and future – are grounded. 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 to the Father"

Bill Rutledge

Proclaiming the Word of God

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

1 Chronicles 16: 8-12, 29b-34, 1 Peter 1: 18-21

Hymn

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

arr. Mark Hayes

Sermon

Singing Songs of Thanksgiving to God

Portions adapted from, The Best Reason To Give Thanks. Jonathan McLeod @ SermonCentral.Com

Having danced the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem and enshrined it in a special tent to await the building of the temple, King David made offerings of thanksgiving and wellbeing before the Lord. He then appointed priests *"to regularly invoke and thank, and praise the Lord God of Israel,"* along with others who were using cymbals and sounding trumpets; this was not to be a quiet event (16:4-6).

David then blessed all the people in the name of the Lord, giving to every single person in Israel – man and woman alike – a loaf of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisons; you might call this the Hebrew version of the first Thanksgiving Day.

On that day, David also gave the priests a special psalm to sing to the Lord; portions of which appear in many his other psalms. This psalm was divided into five stanzas:

- First, giving thanks to the Lord,
- Then, singing praises to the Lord,
- ascribing – giving credit – to the Lord for what He has done,
- and worshipping the Lord in all His glory;
- but all of these acts of praise were based not upon what they had now, but upon the people **REMEMBERING** how God through the years had blessed them as both individuals and as a nation.

David's thanksgiving psalm then concluded with the phrase ...

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34

I think that is good advice for us to be following today; especially this idea of **REMEMBERING** how **GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE FOR US HAS ENDURED FOREVER**. For around this time every year, I am newly impressed with how hard our country seems to be trying to forget all of God's blessings. The current spirit seems reminiscent of Bart Simpson's Thanksgiving prayer: ***"Dear God, we paid for this stuff ourselves, so thanks for nothing."***

To all such prayers, God replies...

You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But REMEMBER the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth..."
Deuteronomy 8:17-18 NIV.

Around this time, people also start making lists of what they want for Christmas, especially with newscasters continually reminding us, *"if you see it, buy it now, because it may not be there*

later.” But shouldn’t we first make Thanksgiving lists — of what we already have and are thankful for?

When asked, most people reply that they are thankful for their family, their home, their job, health, etc. That list is good, but it’s incomplete. We who are Christians should also be thanking God for *His steadfast love that endures forever.*

Interestingly, in the original Hebrew, there is no word for “**endures.**” It was added by the translators. The Hebrew simply reads, “**His love forever.**” This then is the biggest, most basic reason we should be remembering and giving thanks, **because God’s love for us is and has always been ETERNAL; His love is forever! It didn’t have a BEGINNING and it will never have an END.**

Have you ever thought of how long ago, God first knew you and loved you?

In another of his psalms David praises God for seeing him when he was yet unformed, for knitting him together in his mother’s womb and before he was ever born numbering the days of his life (Psalm 139:15-16). Yes we should be thankful that even before our birth, we were being wonderfully made by God’s hand, but according to the Apostle Peter, God was already thinking of each one of us even before the very beginning of time. Writing to the believers of his day, Peter reminded them.

you were ransomed... with the precious blood of Christ ... He was destined before the foundation of the world ... but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake 1 Peter 1:18-20

[Remember] that **you were ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. **He was destined before the foundation of the world,** but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. 1 Peter 1:18-21

Did you hear that? Christ’s necessary CRUCIFIXION was already planned before the creation of the world. The entrance of sin into the world through Adam and Eve was not an event that somehow caught God by surprise. It didn’t cause God to begin to ponder what He should do to correct it. God knew what was going to happen from the beginning. So before He even set the universe in motion, He determined to send Jesus Christ to die for the salvation of our race. Can you imagine the second person of the Divine Trinity, throughout eternity remembering that one day He would have to meet death in our behalf.

But why would God even set our world in motion if He knew that one day its rescue would cost the life of his own Son?

The simple answer is love. We sing songs, *Love is all you need* and *Love makes the world go round.* That is truer than you can even imagine. Our Bible says – and now you know that this was before you even existed – that “*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16).

As was planned from the very beginning, eternal life can be offered to us now because of the death of Jesus Christ; who was, is and ever shall be God in human flesh. Remember that in some

way incomprehensible to us, the Father, the Son and the Spirit are one God. So when God gave us Jesus, He gave us Himself.

A minister was talking with a married couple who were having marital difficulties. At one point the husband spoke up in obvious exasperation. "I've given you everything," he said to his wife. "I've given you a new home. I've given you a new wardrobe. I've given you a new car. I've given you..." The list went on. But when he had ended the wife said quietly, "That much is true, dear. You have given me everything...but yourself."

What God's love had planned for us in the past, which has been given to us in the present, is the gift of His life in exchange for ours – so that *everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved* (Romans 10:13) and this forever love still has a future fulfillment for every one of us as well.

Jesus told His disciples that beyond His death He was going to prepare a place for them (and us), and He promised that He would return to bring us home with Himself (John 14:2-3). Whether that happens with our own physical death or at the end of time, whether *we are away from our body and at home with the Lord* (2 Cor. 5:6-10), or with the trumpets sound we are changed and ascend to meet Christ in the air (1 Cor. 15:51-53), this is the promise we should be **remembering**, not only for our future hope but also for our present thanksgiving in which we should be *regularly invoking, thanking, and praising the Lord God of Israel" whose steadfast love is forever.*

Also, because of what God's love planned for us from before the beginning, which came to pass with Christ's birth *in the fullness of time*, we now have the assurance that we are not only forgiven, but also as the aged Apostle John reminds us that right now we are living as God's children.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 1 John 3:2

He then concludes, *and all who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.*

Did you hear that? We are God's Children NOW!

This is what we should constantly remember and be daily thanking God for. And this is also how we should respond to such eternal love. *All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.*

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love is forever" 1 Chronicles 16:34.

- In the past, God made a plan. Jesus would die to save us.
- In the present, God makes us an offer. Anyone can have eternal life through faith in Jesus.
- In the future, we will live with God and He will live with us. His home will be our home.

That is what we should be remembering and like those Hebrew priests standing before the Ark of Covenant, we should be daily invoking the name of the Lord, giving our praise and thanksgiving to the Lord God of Israel, *whose love is forever.*

How can we do that? Here are a few ideas:

- As you admire nature (the last of our colorful fall leaves), remind yourself that the One who created the earth, is the One who has always loved you.
- If you are asked this Thanksgiving what you are thankful for, think of a spiritual blessing.
- The next time you are about to complain about something, think instead of how from the very beginning God has wrapped His love around your whole life.
- Make a Thanksgiving list.
- Treat every day like Thanksgiving Day.
- Regularly saying the simple prayer, 'Thank you.'
- And REMEMBER that the very best gift of Christmas was birthed in a barn – not wrapped under a tree. So, make sure that a crèche scene (a nativity scene) is the first Christmas decoration you put up...perhaps even beside your Thanksgiving table.

Let us together, invoke God's name to give Him thanks and sing His glorious praises.

Response to the Word of God

***Worship Song**

"We Give Thanks to Thee"

Steve Smith

***Hymn**

"My Heart is Filled with Thanksgiving"

Getty/Townend

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we know that all gracious giving and every good and perfect gift comes from You. We give thanks for all You have done for and given to us, most especially for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. Help us, we pray, to use these gifts, following the example You have placed before us, of open-handed generosity and open-hearted welcoming, and to mirror the love so amply shown to those in need by Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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 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 Hymn

"Let All Things Now Living"

Hymn 22

The Sending Forth

Benediction (attributed to St. Peter)

May your days be many and your troubles be few. May all God's blessings descend upon you. May peace be within you, may your heart be strong. May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam. May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us. May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and forevermore, Amen.

Postlude

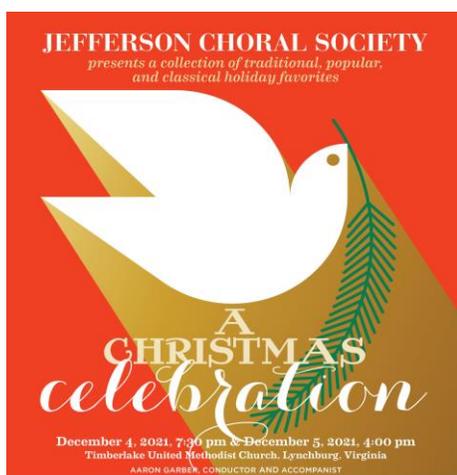
"Nun danket alle Gott"

Jeffrey Honore

The flowers are given to the Glory of God, and in celebration of Dick and Lois Diddams 61st wedding anniversary, by their daughter, Colleen Perkins.



TODAY at 3 pm the
Community Thanksgiving Service
will be held at
Bedford Christian Church,
1928 Moneta Road, Bedford



Jefferson Choral Society
A Christmas Celebration
December 4th at 7:30 pm, December 5th at 4 pm
Timberlake United Methodist Church, Lynchburg
Tickets, Adults \$20, children and students free.

Tickets: Adult \$20.00, Children and students free. Group rate available for 20+ tickets. Purchase online at JeffersonChoralSociety.org or LynchburgTickets.com, at Givens Books, Ayles, or from JCS singers.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT ARTS

Virginia Commission for the Arts

Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation

EASLEY FAMILY TRUST

Joys- November 21st

Joy- Afghan offering \$5213

Joy- Ron Morris thankful for healthcare workers and medical advancements

Concerns- November 21st

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care, Frank had medical procedure done

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Joey Hedrick- (Kim's husband) cancer

Benton: Linda Crawford- (friend) not doing well, chemo

Kim- sister's neighbor- thyroid cancer

Carolyn- (friend) diagnosed with bone cancer

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

Casdorph: Sarah- (friend) has Delta variant after being vaccinated

Compter: two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Bob- (friend) Parkinson's

Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure

Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities

John & Bobbi- (friends) John's mom passed and now Covid

Larry & Barbara- covid doing better

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

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

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

Gayle Mauser- health issues, still struggling

DeHart: Dick Hatch- fell and broke hip

Fleming: family dealing with addiction and self-esteem

Their children- having difficulties

Dominic- (Ann Marie's brother) doing better

Foster: Joyce Abbott- (former member) doing better

Howard- (Tom's brother) problem with legs

Ellen- recovering from cataract surgery

Goodman: Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis

Mike Virts- (nephew) may have liver transplant

Gould: Venus- upcoming cataract surgery

Lyle- (son) medical issues

Graboyes: Leslie's mom, Janice, nursing home, hospice, not eating

Leslie's dad- fell broke hip, recovering from surgery

Brenda & Willie-(friend) Brenda under hospice care

Harris: Judy- not doing well, doing PT

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Hopkins: Mark- colon cancer, chemo

Kuhn- Kibbey: Nancy & Jeff Milton (friend) both in memory care

Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration

Dick- macular degeneration, taking shots

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches

McGuire: Catherine, in Springtree in Roanoke

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders
Forensic scientists who deal with crime
Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home
Kyle Coble- (cousin) lymphoma

Nichols: JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease

Poindexter: Heather- rheumatoid arthritis, looking for rheumatologist

Rutledge: Sherry (friend) covid complications

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)

Scott- (son-in-law) terminal brain cancer

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer

Sonny (son) colon cancer, recovering from surgery

Smith: Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer

Katy Dubinski-(daughter) friend Michelle, depression

Kaleb- (grandson) pneumonia, possible feeding tube

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Duncan Elliston- (fireman)

Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer

Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery

Toney: Wesley-(grandson) Crohn's disease

Van Dyke: Donna Mannel (friend) MS

Eleanor- (Nancy's mom) stable, nursing home, pray for Salvation

Thomas Blythe- (friend) back in hospital, having tests run

Winberry: Chris- severe heart issues

Prayers for Afghanistan citizens

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 for those infected

Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different

Prayers on ways to help Massanetta, who are hosting 50+ Afghan immigrants

Prayers for the missionaries that were kidnapped in Haiti

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.
You can mail your pledge or contribution, or you can drop by the office,
Mon-Thurs between 8 am - 4 pm.

Activities for week of November 21st

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Harvest Home Potluck
Youth Tree Decorating
Prayer Time following service
Monday: Cubs
Tuesday: 3 pm Something More
6 pm Quilters
Thursday: Happy Thanksgiving! Office closed
Sunday: November 28th
10 am Worship
First Sunday of Advent
Prayer Time following service

November Birthdays

Bill Rutledge- 23rd
Dianne Fain- 29th
Barry Schubert- 30th

November Anniversaries

Dick & Lois Diddams- 25th
Harold & Janet Neal- 29th

Afghan Collection to date: \$5213



December 4th beginning at 11 am!!!!

In the vein of stewardship, I would like to challenge you to start collecting plastic film. Blue Ridge Garden Club is taking on the Trex Community Recycling project to collect 500 pounds (or more) in a 6 month period. I applied to the program Saturday and expect to soon be getting the recycling bins to be placed outside the fellowship hall doors under the portico. I will place a folder on the bulletin board also (it's more than plastic grocery bags!!). If you have any questions please let me know, Christy (540) 816-8895.

Save Your Plastic Bags at Home- may be two months before we have containers.



COMMUNITY PROGRAM

NexTrex

plastic film recycling challenge info sheet

1 How does the challenge work?

Determine a six-month collection time period.

Collect a minimum of 500 lbs. or 40,500 plastic film and bags.

Weigh and record amount of film recycled each month.

Deliver the collected plastic film to a participating retailer (see list) for recycling.

Stores prefer smaller and more frequent amounts in the provided bin. Please contact store ahead of time with larger amounts.

Report recycling totals to Stephanie Hicks, shicks@trex.com each month.

What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Pallet wrap & stretch film



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags

2 What does Trex provide?

- Two recycling bins
- Posters
- Award

3 Award

- If goal is met or exceeded, group will receive a Trex bench.

register on the website: trex.com/recycling