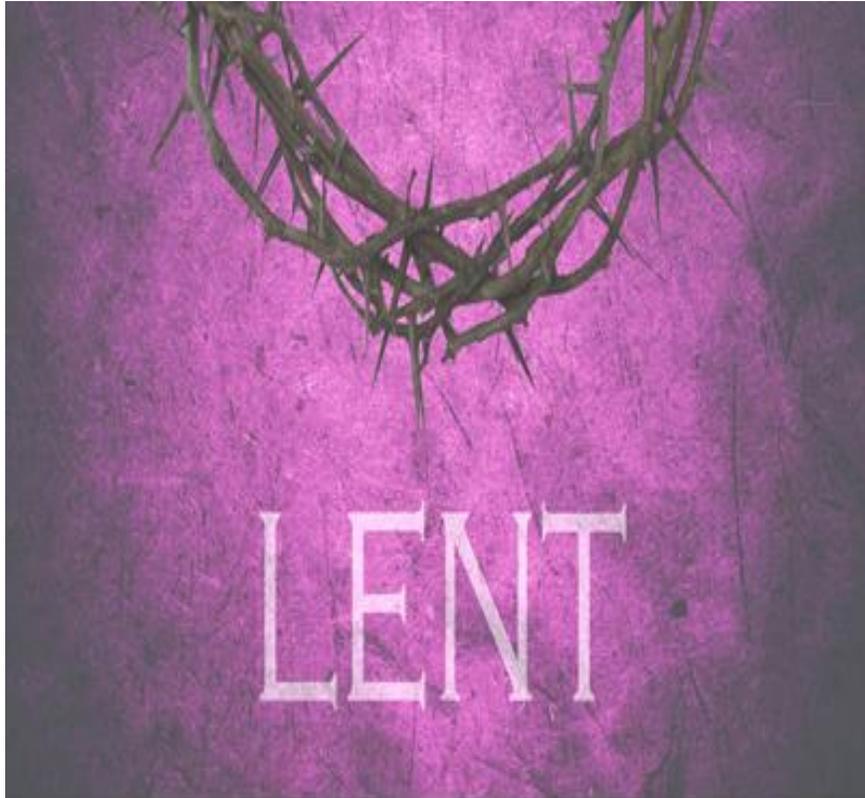


Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



Week of March 6th

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

“Erbarnt dich mein, O Herre Gott”

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- Something More will meet Tuesday at 3pm
- Congratulations to Russell Stevens for being a Firefighters of the Year.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

***Call to Worship**

One: We come together not as perfect people,

All: But as people seeking God’s re-formation of our souls,

One: Of our hopes and visions,

All: And of our words and deeds.

One: As clay in the potter’s hands,

All: We offer ourselves to be shaped anew.

***Hymn**

“Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above”

Hymn 46

***Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be Your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. *(offer silent prayers)*

Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being Your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of Your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. 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 Samuel 18: 5-9

Praise Medley

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

“I Stand in Awe”

Sermon

An All Consuming Jealously

In 1937 Walt Disney released the first full-length animated feature movie. It's a classic called *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. It tells the story of a beautiful young woman who becomes the victim of her stepmother's jealousy. Remember that famous scene where the wicked stepmother steps in front of her magic mirror and asks, "Whose the fairest one of all?" The mirror replies, "Snow White." Without hesitation the wicked stepmother plots the demise of Snow White by offering her a poisoned apple. As a consequence, the seven dwarfs with whom she has lived with mourn her loss by placing her in a casket made of glass. Jealousy is a vicious and cruel emotion. It has tremendous destructive power. Nothing is safe from its fury. It consumes everything, even the one who possesses it.

That's what happened to King Saul when he allowed jealousy to take hold of his life. As we discovered last week, Saul had some major self-esteem issues. He always felt that he had to impress others so that they would honor him as their king. You might say that he "sat a bit unsteadily upon his throne." That's why he was not at all pleased when, after returning from the great victory over the Philistines, women came out from all of the towns of Israel to meet the victors dancing and singing, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands" (1 Samuel 18:7). Hearing this refrain being sung over and over again, Saul became very angry. I can almost hear him saying to himself, "Here this kid kills one Philistine, even though he was a great big tall one, and everyone is falling over themselves to praise him. Maybe they would rather have him as their king instead of me." From that moment on, the Scriptures tell us that "Saul kept a jealous eye on David" (1 Samuel 18:9). In other words, an all consuming jealousy took hold of Saul's life, and things began to spiral downward towards a disastrous conclusion.

Here's a brief summary of what took place. The evil spirit which had afflicted him, probably in the form of an uncontrollable rage, began to assert itself with an ever increasing frequency. David, his new champion on the battlefield and the sweet singer who played his harp to soothe Saul's troubled mind, now became the object of his wrath. On two occasions he tried to pin him to the wall with a spear. Then Saul sent David into battle in the hopes that he would be killed by the enemy. When that didn't happen, he sent soldiers to have him arrested, and eventually he ended up chasing David and his companions all over the countryside. There were also some other unfortunate consequences that came to pass. His relationship with his son, Jonathan, was fractured, because he befriended and protected David. The Philistines who had been briefly subdued, began to reassert themselves because they saw that Israel was now a nation divided against itself. And worst of all, Saul became a demented murderer. Eighty-five priests in the town of Nob were killed along with all of the women and children in that place, because they had innocently given David bread to eat. They had thought David was on a mission for the king. They didn't know he was fleeing for his life. Saul even went so far as to visit a witch to conjure up the ghost of the long dead Samuel, so that he might know what would happen when he faced the Philistines in battle the next day. And when that day came, Saul's army was routed and three of his sons, including Jonathan, were killed. Wounded and alone on the battlefield, Saul fell upon his sword and died. Both he and many of his fellow countrymen had become the victims of an all consuming jealousy.

So, how does this tragic story of King Saul apply to you and me? First of all, let's examine the word "jealousy," and see if we can discover what it really means. In the Greek language the word means "to boil." In the ancient Hebrew the meaning is "to become red in the face." Both meanings point to the same thing. Jealousy is a strong passionate response which makes us angry. We "boil over" so to speak, and in terms of our appearance, blood rushes to our extremities and we get "red in the face." That's what happened to Saul. He got angry enough to become violent, and it can happen to people today as well. Have you heard this phrase when referring to a criminal investigation? The prosecutor says, "It was a crime of passion." In other words, it was a crime motivated by jealousy.

But let me take this investigation of jealousy to an even deeper level. Jealousy, a passionate response to something that has happened, has two synonyms, two words that give it an either positive or a negative connotation. The first word is “envy” and the second is “zeal.” Let’s take a look at the second and then the first. When Jesus ran the money changers out of the temple in Jerusalem, He declared, “My house will be a house of prayer but you have made it a den of thieves” (Luke 19:46). Remembering what He had said and done, His disciples quoted an Old Testament passage of Scripture, “Zeal for your house will consume me” (John 2:17). In other words, Jesus felt very strongly about what was happening in that place and decided that something must be done to correct this injustice. His jealousy was directed outwardly by providing a place where people could pray without being taken advantage of by unscrupulous merchants. We might say that He was filled with “righteous indignation.” When we stand up against that which is wrong and evil, that which demeans and hurts others, we are taking hold of the positive side of jealousy, and right now we need a lot of that with regards to what is happening in Eastern Europe.

There is, however, another synonym for jealousy, and that word is “envy.” Basically, it means “I want what you have and I’ll do whatever I can to possess it.” Remember how King Saul responded when he heard the women singing, “Saul has slain his thousands and David his tens of thousands?” He was bitter and angry, and he kept a jealous eye on David, or using the negative synonym for jealousy, he kept an “envious” eye on David. He wanted what David had. He wanted the praise that was being so generously bestowed upon this young champion. He had to be number one in the eyes of the people. He demanded their admiration and when it was given to another, it filled his heart with envy. How different the response of John the Baptist? When Jesus’ fame began to outshine his reputation, John did not become angry or envious. He simply stated, “He must become greater; I must become less” (John 3:30). Had Saul followed in his footsteps the final outcome of his life could have been quite different. People would have said, “Saul was a great king because he knew when to step aside and let someone else take hold of the reigns of leadership for the nation.” That didn’t happen. His envious jealousy destroyed him.

And the same thing can happen to any of us. A brief survey of the New Testament asserts that envy, self-seeking jealousy, has no place in the life of a Christian. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul instructed the Christians of that region, “Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other” (Galatians 5:26). In a letter to Titus, a fellow missionary, he admitted, “At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy” (Titus 3:3). Peter told his fellow believers, “Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind” (1 Peter 2:1). These Scriptural warnings along with many others were given for a reason. Envy can become a very dangerous pursuit.

It can decimate a friendship. It can ruin a young romance. It can destroy a marriage. It can generate bitterness among family members. It can create havoc in a business firm. It can bring physical and emotional distress to those against whom it is directed. What is not so immediately discernable, however, is that those who harbor this kind of jealousy not only harm others, they also harm themselves. This is what the book of Proverbs in the Old Testament declares, “A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones” (Proverbs 14:30). And that my friends is why we must never let it take hold of our lives. It’s a heinous sin that must be recognized and confessed. Otherwise it will destroy us just as it did King Saul.

As we prepare in a few moments to partake of the Lord’s Supper, there is one final thought that I would like to share with you. Why did the religious leaders want to crucify Jesus? In the Gospel of Matthew we are provided with the answer. We are told, “Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So

when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, 'Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Christ?' For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him" (Matthew 27:15-18). In other words, they were jealous. They wanted what Jesus possessed, the admiration and support of the people, as evidenced by His triumphant entry on Palm Sunday and the crowds who had gathered around Him, right there in their own temple. They were afraid of being diminished by His popularity and they were filled with hatred. They would never acknowledge His greatness nor His messiahship. Instead they would destroy Him and in so doing remove themselves from the opportunity to experience his salvation.

May it never be said of us that for the sake of jealousy, an envious disregard for the well-being of others, that we should find ourselves like Saul, totally alone cut off from everything, even the God who loves us.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female. We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, He died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day He rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present and His kingdom will come on earth. We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to Communion

Choir Anthem

"Bread of Heaven"

Faye Lopez

Communion

"In Remembrance"
"Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

"I Will Sing of My redeemer"

Hymn 356

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Postlude

"Prelude"

J.K.F. Fischer

Joys – March 6th

Joy: Bill Mitchell, test results showed no signs of cancer

Joy- Seeing the Crams and Smiths in service

Joy- Rev. Parker sharing the message while John on vacation

Concerns- March 6th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Joey Hedrick- (Kim's husband) cancer

Benton: Kim- sister's neighbor- thyroid cancer

Carolyn- (friend) tests being done, not cancer

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

Steve Arrington- (friend) pneumonia, possibly covid

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Harvey Clarke- Weebee sleeping most of the day now

Boone: Don Bartz- (brother-in-law) procedure successful

Karl Elleffson- (friend) hospice care

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

Aunt Herta- broke hip, pneumonia

Mike Neighbors-(friend) stroke

Jillian (friend) mother has cancer

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

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Nancy Holmes- (friend) passed away

Gayle Mauser- health issues, still struggling

Roy – more medical testing

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) foot is not healing

Fleming: family dealing with addiction and self-esteem

Their children- having difficulties

Christopher- grandson- cancer

Paul Trautman (friend) severely ill

James Anthony- (son) physical and emotional needs

Foster: Sue & Ron(in laws) found rehab

Ellen- waiting on results

Goodman: Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis

Mike Virts- (nephew) may have liver transplant

Graboyes: Gavin- (nephew) recovering from surgery

Grigg: Danny Miller (co-worker) cancer relapse

Harris: Judy- having difficulty swallowing, eating

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

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

McManis: those suffering from starvation in foreign countries
Areas hit by tornados especially hospitals

Morris: Robert, (sexton) wife Lisa, lung cancer, radiation

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
European conflicts, to find solutions
Margaret- travel mercies

Narwid: Ed- Lynchburg Gen, pneumonia, doing better

Neal: Whitney Janet's (friend) kidney removed

Nichols: JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease

Poindexter: Heather- rheumatoid arthritis

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
Bill Walker- (Sonya's dad) good results from tests

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

Van Dyke: Donna Mannel (friend) MS
Nancy- possible cancer, more testing

Winberry: Chris- severe heart issues. Some improvement
Tom & Dee-(brother) COPD, maybe hospice, prayers far family

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 to speak and listen to those who are different

Prayers for those that were affected by the tornados

Prayers for the end of the conflicts in Ukraine and Europe

Russian invasion ends and not resort to nuclear weapons. Nations to stand up for freedom.

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 March 6th

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker
9 am Sunday School in fellowship hall
Communion
Prayer Time following service

Monday: Cubs

Tuesday: 3 pm Something More
6 pm Quilters

Sunday: March 6th
9 am Sunday School in fellowship hall
10 am Worship
5 ¢ a Meal Offering
Prayer Time following service

March Birthdays

Eunice Barnes 12
Judy Toney 12
Jagger Creasy 14
Maggie DeWitt 17
Nick DeWitt 18
Ronnie Saunders 24

March Anniversaries

Roy & Sally Cram -19
Richard & Elizabeth Creasy -24



Town of Bedford Fire Department Chief Brad Creasy is one of two Virginia Fire Chief of the Year recipients. **Russell Stevens of the Town of Bedford Fire Department** was distinguished as one of two Virginia Firefighter of the Year recipients.

Congratulations Russell!!!

Congregational Survey Sunday School

With the membership in our church changing, it's time for our approach to Sunday School to change as well. The Discipleship Committee met recently and decided that

Sunday school should be based more on topics of interest of the congregation than a set curriculum. This survey gives you an opportunity to express your desires. You will also have a chance to let us know if you prefer a different time and/or day of the week for your Christian education. Please take a few moments to fill out this survey. You can turn them in to the office or place them in the basket marked 'Surveys' at either entrance.

We will do our best to provide classes on the topics you list. The preference for time and day of the week will be selected by popular vote.

Thank you

Topics I wish to study:

1. _____

2. _____

_____ I prefer a Bible study

_____ Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. is fine with me

_____ I prefer a different time/day. _____

_____ I am willing to teach occasionally.

Name _____

TIPS FOR CARING FOR A LOVED ONE



Caregiving is a labor of love. Each situation is unique and there is no one-size-fits-all approach. However, many strategies and resources are available to make life a little easier.

On Saturday, March 19, From 10a.m. -- Noon Bedford Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

Denise Scruggs from the Beard Center on Aging will present a workshop offering resources and tips for successfully navigating caregiving while caring for yourself during the journey.

This event is free and open to the public

Presenter: Denise Scruggs, CDP, CADDCT, is the Director of the Beard Center on Aging at the University of Lynchburg and Vice President of Corporate Training for the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. She has over 30 years of experience in gerontology and dementia care and has been a family caregiver.