

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



## Week of May 29<sup>th</sup>

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***

*"Honor the Brave"*

Video

### ***Welcome and Announcements***

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- Please join us today after service for Refreshments on the Lawn, where we will enjoy great fellowship with cookies and lemonade!
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

### ***\*Call to Worship***

One: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**All: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.**

One: Know that the Lord is God.

**All: It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.**

One: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.

**All: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.**

### ***\*Hymn of Praise***

*"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"*

Hymn 728

### ***\*Prayer of Confession***

On this weekend as we remember those who have given their last full measure of devotion for our country, we would also remember, O Lord, the last full measure of devotion that Your Son has given unto us for our salvation. As we commemorate those who sacrificed their lives on the battlefields of this world, we would also commemorate the One who sacrificed His life for us on a hillside named Calvary. As we express our gratitude for those who died that we might live, we also express our most profound gratitude for the gift of life that we have received, through the death of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. On this Memorial Day weekend and always may we, O Lord, be a grateful people, thankful for the sacrifice of others on our behalf, both in this world and in the next. 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

### ***Anthem***

*"Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones"*

Christopher

## **Sermon**

## **SACRIFICIAL SERVICE, Romans 12:1**

This weekend we are celebrating Memorial Day. For many people this holiday marks the beginning of summer. It's an opportunity to start vacationing or gather with family and friends for an outdoor barbecue. This holiday, however, has a much more hallowed meaning, one which can be easily forgotten. It is a time for us to remember and honor those who have died while serving in the Armed Forces of our nation.

This holiday has its origins in the aftermath of the Civil War. In both the South and the North, families and sometimes entire communities gathered together to honor their fallen. Then in 1868, John Logan, General of the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans' organization for those who had served in the Union Army, suggested the establishment of a "Decoration Day." The idea was enthusiastically received and ceremonies began to take place throughout the nation, especially in the North. Gradually the name of this special remembrance became known as Memorial Day. My mother recalled that when she was a little girl, she and her classmates would be dismissed from school to go to a Civil War cemetery in Philadelphia on Memorial Day. They would place little American flags on the gravesites of the fallen and then wait as veterans of that conflict, now old men dressed in their faded uniforms, came marching down the aisle between the tomb stones.

Today, that ceremony will be repeated in numerous places throughout our nation, the most solemn of which will take place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Arlington National Cemetery. Journey with me to this hallowed spot and read again the inscription on the tomb. It declares, "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God." Completed and opened to the public in 1932, it contains the remains of an unknown soldier who died during the First World War. That soldier symbolizes all of those unknown dead who have sacrificed their lives in defense of our nation.

However, this morning I want us to focus our attention upon those who stand guard over this tomb, members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> U. S. Infantry Regiment known as the "Old Guard." Since 1937 they have taken upon themselves the responsibility of honoring and protecting this sacred monument with their very presence, 24 hours a day, in all kinds of weather. Even during hurricanes and snowstorms they have faithfully maintained their vigil. When I consider their dedication to the one who is being honored within that mausoleum, I am reminded of what Saint Paul said to his young protégé, Timothy, so long ago, "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:3). For we too are guardians, guardians not of a tomb of dead men's bones, but guardians on an empty tomb and the One who was resurrected from its cold confines, the Lord Jesus Christ. Like the soldiers of the "Old Guard" at Arlington National Cemetery, we too have a duty to perform, a sacrificial duty that has been clearly delineated for us in the book of Romans, chapter 12, verse 1. It reads, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies to God as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service."

If we like Timothy, are soldiers in the army of God and if we like the “Old Guard” have been called upon to bring honor and recognition to the One whom we serve, what are our duties and responsibilities? They are described throughout the pages of the New Testament, but nowhere are they more clearly defined than in this singular verse of Scripture. Let us examine it carefully this morning in light of the example that has been given unto us by those who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Like them, we too must render sacrificial service. Sacrificial service means complete and absolute devotion, no matter the cost. But how, you might ask should this service be rendered? There are four distinct ways that you and I are called upon to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here’s the first one. We are expected to be **physical sacrifices**. The soldiers who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are well aware of this kind of devotion. They march back and forth across the front of the tomb 24 hours a day in all kinds of weather. It doesn’t matter if it is raining or snowing. Their physical presence is a demonstration of their devotion. In fact, it adds an air of solemnity that would otherwise be absent if they were not present. Like these soldiers, we too should be the kind of Christians that are present and accounted for with regards to the affairs of God’s kingdom. The world needs to see us when we are called upon to worship the Lord as well as when we are about His business out in the world. Our very presence is a testimony of our devotion. I’ll always remember the example set by my father. He was a stroke patient, the left side of his body almost completely paralyzed. It was hard for him to get around. It would have been easy for him to just stay at home. Nevertheless, on any given Sunday you would find him dressed and present at the morning worship services of our church. You could actually say that it was a physical sacrifice for him just to be there. That is why I grieve in my heart when so many Christians pursue their own interests with little or no regard for the things of the Lord. They are essentially AWOL. They have forgotten that when they joined up for the Kingdom of God, it involved the totality of who they are, including their physical presence. Writing to the Christians in Corinth, Paul said, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19). Being a Christian is more than mental assent to beliefs and doctrines. It is the offering of your life, everything that you are to God.

Second, we are to be **living sacrifices**. If you have ever visited Washington D. C., you have probably seen numerous statues, especially at the memorials honoring those who have served in wars which our nation has fought. None of those statues, however, no matter how majestic, were alive. Those who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are not immovable statues. They are living breathing soldiers constantly on the move. They march a precise 21 steps, in recognition of a 21 gun salute, the highest military honor that can be bestowed. Then they about face and repeat the process all over again. Likewise, we as God’s people need to be active in the work of the Kingdom. We need to be doing those things which honor the Lord. Your active involvement in the ministries of this church and those which this congregation supports in the Bedford community are important. Of

course, I recognize that there are times in our lives, especially as we grow older that our involvement is restricted. However, throughout my ministry I've been amazed to discover how God's people find ways to still be a living sacrifice even though they are restricted by age or illness. One example that I remember was a home-bound member who had a card writing ministry. She could not leave her home. Nevertheless, she reached out to her fellow members and friends through the beautiful cards that she wrote and mailed to them. Writing to fellow believers, Peter wrote long ago, "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). We are not the frozen chosen. We are living breathing servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Third, we are to be **holy sacrifices**. Those who serve as soldiers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier must be spotless in their deportment. It involves not only the care with which they dress and prepare themselves for service. It also involves the very way in which they live. For example, each soldier must be in superb physical condition and possess an unblemished military record. There are specific standards of behavior which they must follow both on and off duty. In fact, their regimental motto is "my standard is perfection." In other words they are to be distinctly different, set apart from the usual, holy in their sacrificial service. We have already heard that word, "holy," in every verse of Scripture that has been used this morning. But what does it mean? Paul explains it in this way, he says, "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness" (Romans 6:13). In dress, in speech, in lifestyle our lives need to be exemplary. Our lives need to uphold a standard of behavior which far surpasses what we see in the world around us. I'm sure that everyone has heard of the horrific events which transpired at the school in Texas on Tuesday. That was the epitome of wickedness. It reflected the abandonment of the basic moral values which we are to uphold as Christians. It was a rejection of the sixth commandment of the Ten Commandments, "Thou shall not kill. Thou shall not commit murder." Now more than ever, we must become the standard bearers of a way of life that embraces righteousness, goodness and love. Otherwise our nation will be consumed by an evilness from which we will not escape.

Finally, we must become **pleasing sacrifices**. The typical tour of duty for a soldier who guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is one year in length. At the end of that year if the soldier has performed their duties flawlessly, he or she receives the "Tomb Guard Identification Badge," which is to be worn on the right pocket of their uniform jacket. It is not simply given out to everyone who has served, but is reserved for a select few. During all of the years that soldiers have been standing guard at the Tomb, only about 600 badges have been issued, I suspect a number far fewer than the sum total of all of those who have served. I cannot help but be reminded of what Jesus said about those who serve the Lord in an exemplary manner. Remember the parable of the talents in the Gospel of Matthew. What does the master say to those who have invested his funds wisely? He declares, "Well

done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness" (Matthew 25:21)! Isn't that what we want to hear when we step before the Lord in heaven. Therefore, let us take to heart what the writer of the book of Hebrews said so long ago, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:15-16).

Like the soldiers who stand guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, we too stand guard at a tomb. It is not, however, a tomb that contains the remains of one who is unknown. It is rather the tomb of One who is known, but who is no longer there. It is the tomb of the resurrected Christ. Like the women who returned from that tomb telling everyone what they had seen and heard, let us likewise go forth and tell all the world that we serve a living Savior, that He is in our world today, bringing hope and deliverance to all who call upon Him.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

***Worship Song***

*"Sacrifice Medley"*

Rutledge

***Apostles' Creed***

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. On the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

***Doxology***

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Hymn 34

***Sharing of Joys and Concerns***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

O Lord, there are many things that we might give unto You. But above them all there is only one which suffices, the gift of ourselves. We would, therefore, offer ourselves unto You this morning as living sacrifices. And not just living sacrifices, but sacrifices that are holy, distinctively different from the wickedness of this world. May the giving of ourselves as living sacrifices be pleasing unto You. May they be the highest form of worship that we may render unto You this day and always. May they become the embodiment of prayer that Jesus taught us to pray.

***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.

***Hymn***

*"My Country, 'Tis of Thee"*

Hymn 731

## **THE SENDING FORTH**

### **Benediction**

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

### **Postlude**

*"God of Our Fathers"*

Linker



**Saturday, June 4th from 10 am until Noon in the Bedford Presbyterian Fellowship Hall,** Denise Scruggs from the Beard Center on Aging, University of Lynchburg will present a workshop offering resources and tips for your family's ***Journey through ALZHEIMER'S from the very start.***

Hello Everyone in **OPERATION BEDFORD REMEMBERS:**

On May 12th I advised that we will be calling upon volunteers in our Bedford Company A "Adopt A Soldier" program to assist us in packing up care packages for our soldiers. **Well, we now need your help!** I am very pleased to announce that we have a lot of donated articles ready to go overseas.

We will need your help on any of these days coming up; Thursday, May 26th, Friday, May 27th, and/or Saturday, May 28th between 11:00am and 3:00pm. Just come into the Bedford Boys Tribute Center Classroom and Auditorium, 108 N. Bridge Street, downtown Bedford. Please just show up; manpower we need, all needed packing boxes and materials we have. Thank you very much.

Also, as a reminder, I want you to know that the Bedford Boys Tribute Center will be hosting its second annual ivy wreath laying at the Bedford Boys Memorial Stone in front of the County Courthouse on E. Main Street, downtown Bedford on June 6th. The ceremony will commemorate the 78th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion. It will begin at 6:15pm and end exactly at 6:44pm with the County Courthouse Bell being rung 19 times. This bell ringing will commemorate the memory of our beloved 19 Bedford Boys who were placed on the Altar of Freedom that invasion day to ensure our freedom and to perpetually teach us that freedom is never free. **This ceremony is open to the public** and a wonderful event to attend and bring your children and grandchildren. History is alive and our beloved Bedford Boys will not be forgotten. Any Q's, just give me a call at 540-425-5598. Thank you and I remain in their service.

Ken Parker

## Joys- May 29<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** to have George Goodman share the message

**Joy-** James Fleming participated in memorial service for friend

**Joy-** Stetson's grandson Kaleb is home

**Joy-** Barbara Compter -glad for safe travels and back in church

**Joy-** Barbara Nichols- what a blessing prayer table has been

## Concerns- May 29<sup>th</sup>

**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

Faye McDaniel (friend) husband has severe health issues

Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) chemo

**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) undergoing tests

Sarah Walker- (daughter) arthritis in neck

**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

Sharing faith and for seeds of faith to grow

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

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Roy- weak, home, hospice care

**DeHart:** Dawn's mother radiation treatments

**Easter:** Ruby Key (friend) cancer

**Fleming:** Steve Trombecky- heart condition, in hospital

James Anthony- (son) recovering from bypass surgery

**Foster:** Ron- (brother-in-law) to get out of hospital and into home

**Goodman:** Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis

Mike Virts- (nephew) may have liver transplant

**Grigg:** Danny Miller (co-worker) cancer relapse

**Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Kuhn- Kibbey:** 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

Gayle Mauser- health issues, still struggling

**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

**Narwid:** Ed- recovering at home

**Neal:** Whitney Janet's (friend) kidney removed

**Nichols:** JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease

**Parker:** God's intervention in Ukraine

**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) doing well

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

**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer

Katy Dubinski-(daughter) friend Michelle, depression

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems

Duncan Elliston- (fireman)

Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer

Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery

Smith Farris- (friend) recovering from surgery, pneumonia

Tom Richardson- (friend) hospital, afib

**Toney:** Family of David Cisco (friend) who passed away

**Van Dyke:** Donna Mannel (friend) MS

Nancy- lymphoma, prayers for remission, treatments and follow Dr's prescription for living her life

**Watkins:** Joy- needing veterinarians for animal hospital

**Winberry:** Chris- severe heart issues. Some improvement

Tom & Dee-(brother) COPD, maybe hospice, prayers for family

**Prayers for our nation and our President**

**Prayers for those dealing with loneliness**

**Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation**

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

**Prayers for new residents to come to worship with us**

**Prayers for our constant responders**

## **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 May 29<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

Refreshments on the Lawn

Prayer Time following service

Monday: Memorial Day, office closed

Cubs

Sunday: June 5<sup>th</sup>

10 am Worship with

Pentecost Sunday

Communion

Prayer Time following service

### **June Birthdays**

Dot Kuhn - 7

Dave Stetson - 12

Hugh Saunders - 19

Betty Salley - 25

### **June Anniversaries**

Christy and Sammy Boone - 2

BJ & Heather Poindexter - 11

Jim and Joy Barefoot - 21

David & Kathy Grigg - 21

Philip & Sherry Parker - 28

