

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



## Week of July 10<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.



*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**

*"Hymn Fantasia on Melita"*

Charles Callahan

### **Welcome and Announcements**

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

**\*Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 33)

One: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, for the Word of the Lord is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness. The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

**All: By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made and all their host by the breath of His mouth.**

One: Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.

**All: The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations. Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*"God of Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"*

Hymn 728

**\*Prayer of Confession**

God of every nation, as we remember those that gave their life for our sake, let us be stirred to action in their memory. We confess that we have not done all that is possible to promote peace and justice in our world. We have not loved our neighbors, let alone our enemies. Forgive us for failing to live up to Your commandments. Empower us to work for your Kingdom in this world, and welcome us by Your grace into Your Kingdom 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

**Introduction to Scripture**

**Scripture**

2 Corinthians 3:17

**Praise Team**

*"God Bless the USA"*

Lee Greenwood

## **Sermon**

### Let Liberty's Light Shine

A number of years ago a little eight year old girl was taken on a vacation to New York City and while she was there she saw the Statue of Liberty. Like so many others she was impressed by this grand old lady of freedom, standing there in the New York harbor lifting aloft her torch of liberty to enlighten the world. In fact, the scene made such an impression on the little girl that she couldn't go to sleep that night. So after tossing and turning a while, she finally got up out of bed and said, "Daddy, I've been thinking about that beautiful lady out there all by herself with nobody to help her hold up her lamp. It's dark out there. Shouldn't we be helping Miss Liberty to hold up her lamp?"

Yes! That's exactly what we ought to be doing. For the world is growing darker day by day. The fires of freedom are being extinguished in one country after another and here at home the lights of liberty do not burn as brightly as they once did. Even during this past Fourth of July celebration, there was a growing chorus of celebrities and other individuals who demeaned our national holiday. But what can we do? How can we help the light of liberty shine into the hearts of all mankind? How can we rekindle the flame of freedom? What can we do as individuals and as Christians in this continuing struggle for liberty?

First of all, we can join with those who are willing to fight for it. One of those was a man by the name of Peter Muhlenberg. In 1775 he was serving as the pastor of a large Lutheran congregation in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. One Sunday morning he announced that his text for the day was Ecclesiastes 3:1. Reciting this passage of Scripture he said, "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." Then speaking on that text he addressed his congregation saying, "There is a time to preach and a time to pray, and there is a time to fight, and that time has now come." Stepping down from the pulpit, he pulled back his robe so that all could see that he was wearing the uniform of an officer in the Continental Army. That very day he recruited almost 300 men who were willing to fight for the cause of liberty. And he himself faithfully served in Washington's army during the entire Revolutionary War, rising in rank from colonel to major general.

Throughout our nation's history there have been many who have fought for our nation's freedom. My father-in-law fought on the battlefields of Europe during the Second World War, and a fellow pastor and dear friend, Stan Beach, was severely wounded while serving as a chaplain with the Marines in Vietnam. Many within this community have served in the Armed Forces of our Nation and we all know the story of the brave men who gave their lives on the beaches of Normandy in June of 1944. Fighting for the cause of liberty, however, involves more than guns and armed conflict. It involves fighting for the values and principals upon which our nation was established. Our country is a unique creation, unlike any which have preceded it. It is based upon the idea that government should be by, of and for the people. That was an unprecedented concept when it was first conceived in the seventeen hundreds and it still is today. It needs to be protected at all costs including our ballots during elections and our personal involvement in the political process by which we choose our nation's leaders.

Second, we must do something else as well, especially as Christians. We must pray for those who are responsible for protecting it. When Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States in 1860, he realized that was imminent. He also realized that upon him had been placed the awesome responsibility of preserving the Union. Speaking to his friends in Springfield, Illinois, just before his departure to Washington, he said:

I go to assume a task more difficult than that which has devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington. He never would have succeeded, but for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he at all times, relied. I feel that I cannot succeed

without the same divine blessing which sustained him, and on the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support. And I hope you, my friends, will all pray that I may receive the divine assistance without which I cannot succeed, but with which success is certain.

The same is true today. If we are to preserve the liberty which we hold so dear, then we must pray for those who are responsible for protecting it. That includes our president, our congressmen and women, our governor, and our state and local representatives. These individuals require the guidance of God as they make decisions that will affect our lives. With His help they will succeed and without it they will fall, which reminds me of a story that took place while a group of ladies were touring the Capitol in Washington D. C. During the tour the guide pointed to a tall benevolent gentleman and said, "He's the congressional chaplain." Whereupon one of the ladies asked, "What does he do? Does he pray for the Senate or for the House?" "No," said the guide. "The chaplain gets up, he looks at the Congress and then he prays for the nation."

Seriously though, we need to pray for our elected leaders and those who serve and are a part of our nation's government at every level. Never within my lifetime have I seen a more troubling set of challenges and potential calamities than what our nation is currently facing. Both at home and abroad our liberties are being threatened by a whole host of unrelenting enemies. I could list them but that would take a long, long time. You, I am confident, know who and what they are. Therefore, I will simply state what Paul said so long ago to Timothy, "First of all, then, I urge that petitions and prayers, requests and thanksgivings be offered to God for all men; for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life, in entire godliness and proper conduct" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). So what can we do to let freedom's light shine throughout our nation and around the world? We can pray for those who are responsible for protecting it.

And there's something else we can do. We can speak out against those who are attempting to destroy it. In the Old Testament there is a memorable account of a contentious meeting between King Ahab and the prophet Elijah. The king desired a vineyard near his palace which was owned by a man named Naboth. The king offered to buy it, but Naboth would not sell his property. It had been in the family for generations and was treasured. Ahab was upset and when his wife, the notorious Jezebel, heard about it she worked behind the scenes to have Naboth accused, convicted and executed on false charges. The vineyard came into the possession of Ahab. Soon thereafter, even while Ahab was enjoying his new acquisition, Elijah showed up and confronted the king with what he had done. He was not afraid to speak out about the terrible injustice that had taken place. Not only Naboth's liberty, but indeed his life had been taken away from him and Elijah would not be silent, even at the risk of his own life.

Here in our own country who has not heard those famous words uttered by Patrick Henry prior to the Revolutionary War. He was not afraid to speak out for freedom. Standing before his fellow Virginians in Saint John's church in Richmond, Virginia, in the year 1775, he cried out, "Give me liberty, or give me death." Today we need men and women like Patrick Henry who are not afraid to speak out even if they have to face severe repercussions. All too often we have remained silent when we should have spoken. Whether it's a letter to the editor of a newspaper, a speech before an assembled audience, or simply a conversation expressing our personal beliefs, we can no longer be silent. There is a concerted effort to transform our nation into a socialistic society where personal freedoms are no longer tolerated. It's taking place within our schools and universities and even our businesses and industries. If we are silent today, the light of liberty will be extinguished tomorrow.

Sometimes liberty requires more than even our words, our deeds and our prayers. It requires sharing the liberating power of Christ with those who so desperately need it. Paul declares in his second letter to the Corinthians, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." In other words, when the Spirit of God is present, freedom begins to blossom and grow. That's what happened when evangelists like Billy Graham began to speak and hold evangelistic crusades behind the Iron Curtain prior to the fall of the Soviet Union. People embraced Christ and began to turn away from the atheist indoctrination of the Soviets. Have you ever wondered why totalitarian regimes always persecute Christians? Once again, for example, China is closing churches and putting pastors and church leaders in prison. They know that when people become Christians, a desire for freedom and liberty is the undeniable consequence of that decision. They know that they can never exercise absolute authority over someone who has truly given their heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ. For Christians possess a dual citizenship. They are citizens of earthly kingdoms, but more importantly they are also citizens of heaven, a citizenship that cannot be taken away from them even by death. That's why, now more than ever, we need to do everything within our power to share the love of Christ with people here in America and all around the world.

In response to the little girl's question, "Shouldn't we be helping Miss Liberty to hold up her lamp?" Our answer should be a resounding, "Yes!" Now more than ever we need to do everything we can to let Liberty's light shine here at home and all around the world. May we never forget those immortal words from the book of Leviticus in the Old Testament which are inscribed upon our very own Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10).

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

### ***Affirmation of Faith***

#### **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

### ***Sharing of Joys and Concerns***

### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

All that we are, all that we ever hope to be: all come as a gift from You. So help us now in our giving to be freed by that reminder. Receive these offerings from who we are and what we have and for what we hope, and use them in Your gracious service for turning this world upon Your axis of providence. This we pray, these we give, in the name of Christ. Amen.

### ***Invitation to Communion***

### ***Hymn of Preparation***

*"This is Our Freedom"*

Jeremy Johnson

### ***Communion***

### **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'm So Glad, Jesus Set Me Free"*

Traditional Spiritual

### **THE SENDING FORTH**

#### **Benediction** (Romans 15:5)

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Postlude**

*"Postlude on America"*

Charles Callahan

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God,** for loving friends and  
in loving memory of Roy, Sally Cram.

### **Sermon Notes**

#### **"Let Liberty's Light Shine" 2 Corinthians 3:17**

What can you and I do to let liberty's light shine all across the great land of ours? We can:

- Join with those who are willing to fight for it.
- Pray for those who are responsible for protecting it.
- Speak out against those who are trying to destroy it.
- Share the liberating power of Christ with those who so desperately need it.

## Concerns- July 10<sup>th</sup>

- Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned
- Barefoot:** Jim & Joy, both mild cases of covid
- 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, lupus  
Travel mercies
- Blair:** Steve Arrington- (friend) pneumonia, possibly covid  
Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer
- Chryssikos:** Kathy- GI tract, doing better
- 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
- Cram:** Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems  
Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care  
Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith
- 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  
Ellen- trouble breathing
- Gillespie:** Paul, friend Jamie, needs work, recurring tumor
- Goodman:** Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis  
Betty- upcoming shoulder surgery, possible heart surgery
- 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  
Ron back problems  
Gang wars
- Narwid:** Ed- recovering at home
- Neal:** Janet- palliative care

**Nichols:** JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease  
**Parker:** God's intervention in Ukraine  
**Poindexter:** Heather- rheumatoid arthritis  
**Rutledge:** Sherry (friend) covid complications  
**Salley:** John- mild covid, recovering  
**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  
Katherine Tabor- (friend) stage 3 cervical cancer  
**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer  
Katy Dubinski-(daughter) friend Michelle, depression  
Nick & Tiffany, baby doing well, Tiffany improving  
Kaleb, (Nick's son) recovering from wound tear  
**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:** Justin Stafford and family (friends), loss of father  
**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**

## JULY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <i>10 am Worship Prayer Time</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Happy 4<sup>th</sup>! Office closed</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Farmers Market Prayer Table</i>
<b>10</b> <i>10 am Worship Communion 5 ¢ a Meal Offering Prayer Time</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>10 am Service Session mini retreat Prayer Time</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <i>10 am Service with Rev. Lowell Sykes Prayer Time</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Book Club, 4 pm</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Cancer Group, 6pm</i>	<b>29</b> <i>Confirmation retreat</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Confirmation retreat</i>
<b>31</b> <i>10 am Worship with Rev. Philp Parker Prayer Time Potluck</i>						

## 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 July 10<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
Communion  
5 ¢ a Meal Offering  
Prayer Time following service

Monday: Cub Scouts

Sunday: July 17<sup>th</sup>  
10 am Worship with  
Session mini-retreat  
Prayer Time following service

### July Birthdays

Charlotte McManis- 11  
Janet Yodis – 13  
Larry Compter- 18  
Weebie Clarke - 22  
Nancy Van Dyke - 22  
Jay Gould – 31

On **July 17<sup>th</sup>**, following worship, the Session and Deacons will be having a mini-retreat to discuss "**Challenges and changes facing Post-Covid churches.**" **You are also invited to attend.** This event should last between 1-2 hours and a light lunch will be provided.

*If interested please let me know so we can be prepared. – John Salley.*

**COVID-19**

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### **Something More SUMMER BOOK CLUB Returns!!**

Hot lazy summer days are good times to exercise your mind with the reading and sharing of some good books. For this reason the SMSBC is returning on two Tuesdays, **July 26<sup>th</sup>** and **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at **4 pm**. Along with stimulating discussion – led by Ellen Foster and her faithful assistant John Salley – we will also share a **potluck picnic supper** of whatever you bring. For these events, we have chosen two Max Lucado books:

*In The Grip Of Grace* (7/26), and *In The Eye Of The Storm* (8/23).

Since both of these are older publications, they are available in multiple formats and on the used market from \$0-\$10 each (Amazon is offering both books free with a trial Audible subscription).

Get your books now, get to reading, and we will see you July 26<sup>th</sup>.

