

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



## Week of March 26<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.

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**

*"Sweet Hour of Prayer"*

arr: Bruce Greer

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

Almighty God, You who call us to prayer and who offers Yourself to all who seek Your face, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us today and deliver us from coldness of heart, a wandering mind, and wrongful desire. By the power of Your Spirit, place within us steadfast love and devotion, so that today we may worship and serve You with all our life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Hymn**

*"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"*

Hymn 56

**\* Prayer of Confession**

How often, O God, have we failed to listen for Your voice, or, having heard it, have chosen to ignore it so that we might choose our wills over Your own. We repent that we so often have failed to seek Your holy will and have not come when You call us to follow. Strengthen us to prefer Your will always to our own. Give us wise discernment that we might recognize Your words when You speak to us. Keep us safe from deception and ever walking in Your holy ways. Amen. *(pause for silent prayer)*

**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

**Children's Time**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

**Introduction to Scripture**

**Scripture**

Matthew 6: 5-15

**Hymn**

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

Hymn 473

In Greek mythology Narcissus was the son of a river god and a nymph. He was renowned for his exceptional beauty, but he was also very arrogant, rejecting the love of all others. Out of revenge the god Nemesis lured Narcissus to a pool of water where for the first time he saw and fell in love with his own reflection. Unable to leave the beauty of his reflection, Narcissus pined away and died there beside the pool staring at himself. From this story, comes the modern term "narcissism," a fixation with oneself.

According to Sociologists, American culture has increasingly encouraged narcissism, self-centeredness, focusing on our own desires and comforts instead of being aware of the needs of others. Workers are now more interested in what the company can do for them than what they can do for the company, probably because companies have also begun to reflect the same narcissism. The world has changed from "*One for all and all for one,*" to "*every person and every company for themselves.*"

There has rarely been a time when culture has been more at odds with the teachings of Jesus Christ. But, this is the world in which we Christians find ourselves; being challenged to live out our faith as people who are marching to the beat of a different drummer. How do we do that?

First, we need to recognize that such narcissistic tendencies have always been a part of our human nature; we are not the first society whose people sought to call attention to themselves. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus singled out those who made a public display of their gift giving, their prayers, and their fasting. He summarized their efforts in a single sentence; *they have received their reward.* Our walk of faith is not intended to call attention to ourselves.

In the prayer that He taught His disciples, which we have come to call "The Lord's Prayer," Jesus proposed an alternative lifestyle. Notice that this prayer uses the first person plural; it begins "**Our** Father," and goes on to say "*Lead **us** not into temptation.*" So, the first way to combat this tendency towards individualism in our lives is to understand that we are part of a community.

We talk about our need as disciples of Jesus Christ to love the *Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.* If we are to do this, it is important that our spirituality moves from merely external actions, to a living and personal relationship with God. We need to do more than simply go through a series of religious motions and one of the main ways that we nurture our relationship with God is through prayer. Whether we pray silently, verbally, or simply sit quietly in God's presence, prayer enables us to draw closer to God. Prayer gets our focus off ourselves and turns it toward God. In just a few sentences, the Lord's Prayer demonstrates what the priority of our lives as individuals and as a community of believers should be.

Have you also noticed, that this prayer is divided in two equal parts: First, there is the "*Your*" part related to what God desires, followed by the "*us*" part directed towards our needs. Thus, we first pray that God's name would be kept holy, that God's kingdom would come on earth and that God's will would be done.

Our first priority as disciples of Jesus Christ is to be a part of God's will and to honor God in our lives. This should supersede our individual desires for success, recognition, comfort, or security.

It is only later in the prayer that we pray for our daily bread, for the forgiveness of our sins, and that God would not allow us to be led into temptation.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we should live and breathe our desire to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We are on a difficult journey, but perhaps no more difficult than this journey has ever been; just different with each culture providing its own unique version of Vanity Fair through which we must pass. And we are expected to stand out, not in our efforts to call attention to ourselves but to God's kingdom. As Jesus said, *let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.* Mt. 5:16

As Children of God, we should be living intentionally countercultural lives. While our family, friends, neighbors and coworkers are busy doing their own thing and reaching their true potential, we are focused on being God's servants and one of the ways that God is present in the world today. So with this thought in mind let us take a closer look at just the opening line from this prayer: *Our Father, Who art in heaven...*

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If somebody were to ask you "What do you need most these days?" How would you answer? Some might say, I need more money, I need more time, I need.....

- But, what are the needs in my life that God has promised to meet?
- And how does He do it?

Why would God even be interested in meeting my needs, obviously He doesn't need me. So why would God be interested? Because He is Our Father.

Thus, the very first thing we learn about God from this prayer is that He is not some kind of impersonal force. Nor is God the angry tyrant of the Old Testament as some have tried to depict Him; just waiting to deal you a bumner in life. Nor is God the very opposite – as others have tried to describe Him – an apathetic creator that really doesn't care about what's going on here. Jesus defined God in two words, when He said, "*Pray then in this way, `Our Father...`"*

In the Old Testament, God was only called "Father" seven times. In this chapter alone, Jesus calls Him "Father" over ten times; furthermore, Jesus would go on both to name and pray to God as "Father," telling us to do the same, over seventy times in the Gospels.

The point is simply this: **God is a Person not a power.** He wants to be our Father I like that because...

- I can relate to a person.
- I can get to know a person.
- I can have a relationship with a person, especially with my father.

The problem is that for some people the idea of "father" may bring up a negative image, a bad experience, not so good childhood memories, arousing resentment, anger, fear, frustration, guilt. Some just don't have good memories of their own father.

So Jesus qualified the term by saying, "*Our Father, in heaven...*" He's not referring to a location because God is everywhere, He's talking about how Heaven is a place of perfection and God is a perfect Father in contrast to all of us who are human and very imperfect. God is our perfect Father.

The Bible teaches four characteristics about how God relates to us as *Our Father*.

**1. GOD IS A CARING FATHER.** He wants you to know that you are loved and cared for. If you don't get anything else this morning, get this: **You matter to God. God cares about you. He loves you. He's interested in you.** The Psalms tell us,

*"As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who honor Him..."* Psalm 103:13

This is God's most outstanding characteristic. He's caring, loving, and compassionate.

One time the disciples were out in a boat on the Sea of Galilee and a storm came up. They started taking on water and started to sink. As they were being tossed back and forth, they asked Jesus the most important question, the ultimate question: *"Lord, don't you care? We're drowning!"*

Have you ever felt like that? *I'm going under Lord! Don't you care?* The answer is, Yes. Yes, God cares a lot. You have a heavenly Father who cares. The apostle Peter wrote

Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you! 1 Peter 5:7

He cares!

- Does God care about your health? Yes.
- Does He care about your house payment? Yes.
- Does He care about your grades at school?
- Does He care about how you get along in your family?
- Does He care about whether you're a success or failure in life?
- Does any of this even matter to Him? The answer is, "Yes, all of it!"

As another Psalm declares, *Great is the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servants.* 35:27 Just like, I love to see my own children succeed. Your heavenly Father cares about you; He wants you to succeed.

**2. GOD IS A CONSISTENT FATHER.** He's reliable. He can be counted upon. He's worthy of trust. James, the brother of Jesus, wrote...

*"Every good and perfect gift is from the Father who does not change like shifting shadows."* James 1:17

*Who does not change.* Some people are unpredictable, but God is a consistent father. He's not moody. He never has a bad day. He never wakes up grouchy. He loves you just as much on your good days as He does on your bad days. It's not based on who you are, but who He is. As Paul described Him to Timothy, *"Even if we are faithless, [God] remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself."* 2 Timothy 2:13 That verse says even when I'm unfaithful and inconsistent, God can be counted on to remain faithful in His love for me.

In a world where everything is changing, in a world where everything is falling apart, if there's one thing I know, if there's one thing I can always count on, I can always count on God to always act the same way toward me no matter how I feel.

He is always caring and He is always consistent, no matter what I think, no matter what I feel, no matter what I do, He is caring and He is consistent.

I the Lord, do not change. Malachi 3:6

God is immutable, unchanging. Everything else shifts and changes but God is our rock. Nothing changes with Him. He is caring and He is consistent. That's the kind of God who wants to meet your needs.

**3. HE IS A CLOSE FATHER** The Bible makes it very clear that He's nearby when you need Him. To me, one of the most hope filled lines from Paul's sermon on Mars Hill says that God put each of us where we are and when we are in this world, so that we *would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.* Acts 17:27

God is not a million miles away; concerned only with the big picture. He's right here. He's here with you. And if you have opened your life to Him, He's in you; in your life. God dwells within us to bring about good in our lives and from our lives.

Today, many children grow up with absentee parents who are never around, never at home. But that's not the way your heavenly Father is. God is not detached. He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. He is a close God.

1. God is never too busy for me. Psalm 145:18 says, "*The Lord is near to all who call on Him.*" When you pray you don't get a busy signal. Whenever you say, "I've got a burden, a need I've got to talk with You about....." God doesn't say, "Not now. I'm busy." He's never too busy for you. You can talk to Him at any time.
2. God loves to meet my needs. Jesus told His disciples, "*If you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him.*" Matthew 7:11 The point is that good fathers take care of their children. You can count on your heavenly Father to meet your needs because He has unlimited resources to do it.
3. God is sympathetic to my hurts. You say, "I'm feeling low today." God knows and He does understand completely. Psalm 34:18 says "*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*" You've had a tough week? God understands. You've had a tough day yesterday, this month, this year, this life?? God understands.

God is not just my creator. He loves me. He makes a difference in my life. He made you and me for a purpose. That's how God wants us to relate to Him. Because He is a caring Father, a consistent Father and a close Father.

**4. GOD IS A CAPABLE FATHER.** Nothing is beyond His ability, nothing is beyond His resources, nothing is beyond His power. Whatever problem you've got -- at home, at work, at school -- God can handle it. He is a capable Father.

For nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37

This is how the Living Bible, describes Him, "*God is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes!*" Ephesians 3:20

God wants to meet your needs. He wants you to stop looking everywhere else to have those needs met. He wants you to look to Him.

And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

That means everything, even finances; all your needs. God takes care of His children.

The logical question then is, Is everybody God's child?

Is God the Father of everybody?

If He takes care of everybody's needs, is God the Father of everybody?"

Well yes and no. Yes, every human being is a child of God in the sense that we're all created by God. But not everybody has a relationship with God. Not everybody is able to call Him Father. That's why they don't have all their needs met.

So how do I establish this relationship with God?

We are children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:26

It's that simple? We're not children of God by getting baptized, or tithing, or promising to go to church, or trying to be perfect. If you had to be perfect to be a child of God, no one would be a child of God.

God made it so simple, nobody could say it was too hard to understand. He just said, "*Put your trust in My Son. Believe in Him!*". Jesus Christ is the way, He is the door. Our only way into God's family is through Jesus. As He said, "*no one comes to the Father except through Me.*"

God says if you want to be a part of My family, if you want to establish that relationship, if you want to feel My caring, consistent love, put your trust in My Son Jesus. The Bible says,

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, [Jesus] gave power to become children of God, John 1:12

Believe and receive. We believe and we receive.

You were physically born into the human family, but you must choose to be spiritually born into God's family. How do you get spiritually born? *We become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.*

God wants you to have a close relationship with Him.  
He is caring, He is consistent, He is competent, He is close.  
He wants to provide for your needs. And your greatest need is to first start trusting Him, by coming and saying, "Jesus Christ, I want to put my trust in You" "Please save me, a sinner"

If you have done this, then when you begin the Lord's Prayer, saying "*Our Father, who art in Heaven ...*" that is exactly who you are talking to.

Let's pray about this.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

**Worship Song**

*"As We Pray"*

Bob Fitts

**Credal Statement** (Philippians 2: 5-11)

We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

**Doxology**

*"Doxology"*

Hymn 44

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Accept, we pray, our gifts of our wealth, our energy, our prayers, our service, and our praise. May we, through our offerings demonstrate to the world and to ourselves that a life of the cross is a life that is blessed, so that in ministry together we may bring closer the day that You are acclaimed the world over as Lord. These things we pray in Your name. 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**

*"Keep on Praying"*

Ramon Pink

## THE SENDING FORTH

**\*Benediction** (2 Thess. 2: 16,17, 3:16)

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word...And, may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way...

**Postlude**

*"Come, Thou Almighty King"*

Joey Hoelscher



### Joys- March 26<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** Judy B. that the youth group from 5 churches is going so well

### Concerns- March 26<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer  
Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery

**Benton:** Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) having problems with transplant  
High school friend- prayers  
Sister-in-law, breast cancer

**Blair:** Larry (John's brother) heart attack, 2 stents, home  
Steve Arrington- (friend) not doing well  
Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer  
Ecumenical youth group

**Boone:** Michael Bamber (friend) recovering from chemo  
Tony Martin- stroke, long time Bedford resident

**Callahan:** Mary Jane Long (friend) kidney removed

**Clarke:** Weebie- 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

Zoey Foster- (child) injury to abdomen, doing well

Vicky- (friend) recurring lymphoma

Safe travels to missionaries traveling to Chili

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

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Al & Gayle- Gayle health issues, Al caretaker

Lory Graham (friend) health issues, Carolyn, wife caretaker

Anna Michnevich: (friend) 94 yr. old fell and broke arm

**Creasy:** Walker Wright (Elizabeth's brother) stroke

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

**DeWitt:** Gerald's father in rehab, then assisted living

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

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

Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia

Tom- breathing problems, sinus infection

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

**Goode:** Michelle, husband's sister surgery went well

**Goodman:** Charles- blood thinners and dialysis

**Harris:** Jim-kidney stones

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

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Kuhn- Kibbey:** Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration

Dick- macular degeneration, taking shots

Dick's sister (Kibbey) - dementia, Washington state

**Mauser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems  
Steven-(son's boss) going blind  
Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches  
Gayle-doing better

**Meyers:** Patty- in pain, cancer, waiting on surgery, alpha gal

**Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders  
Families of those who serve  
Kyle Coble- (cousin) leukemia  
Rev. Pam Ledbetter, auto-immune, diabetes  
For our church as we go through transition  
Annette Marcuson- Prayers for family on passing

**Narwid:** Ed- not doing well

**Neal:** Harold- Alpha Gal, can only see shapes, back brace

**Nichols:** for family who doesn't know the Lord  
Gracie Murphree- for their safety

**Palmer:** Family friend, health issues, recovering from surgery

**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  
Marcus (Sonya's brother) upcoming medical tests

**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer  
Nick, Tiffany & Savannah (doing better)

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer  
Smith Farris- (friend) recovering from surgery, pneumonia  
Keith Burnett- heart problems  
Mel Nowlin- (former firefighter)  
David Overstreet- (daughter's friend) heart attack

**Van Dyke:** Donna Mannel (friend) MS  
Rick Anderson (niece's husband) home recovering

**Winberry:** Chris- severe heart issues, improving  
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**

**Prayers for Ukraine**

**Pray for World Peace**

## March 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>Memorial Service , Sammy Boone</i>
<b>5</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Carl Utley Communion Prayer Time</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <i>10 am Worship 5 ¢ a Meal Congregational meeting Prayer Time</i>	<b>13</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Something More 3pm</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>Memorial Service, Judy Toney</i>
<b>19</b> <i>10 am Service Session Prayer time</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>23</b> <i>Cancer Group, 6pm</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <i>10 am Service Prayer Time</i>	<b>27</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Lenten Lunch 12 pm Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

## 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 26<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
Prayer time following service

Monday: Cub Scouts

**Wednesday: Lenten Lunch, 12 pm, MSUMC, BPC hosting  
3 pm Something More**

Sunday: April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
10 am Worship  
Palm Sunday  
Communion  
Prayer time following service

### April Birthdays

Margaret Lambert - 4  
James Fleming- 11  
Sherry Parker - 18  
Tricia Schubert - 23  
Al Mauser - 24  
Richard Tate - 29

### April Anniversaries

Dave and Lori Stetson - 1  
Ron and Margaret Morris - 8  
Russell & Scarlett Stevens- 8  
Fred and Sandy Scheurer - 22  
John and Sonya Smith - 30



As, part of our preparation in search for a new pastor, please come **to Sunday worship by 9:30 am either on March 26th or April 2nd, to complete a Church Vitality Survey.** If you are unable to attend church in person, please let us know and we will send someone to deliver and return the survey. This is an important step for our church in understanding what you think of our future opportunities and worship. The survey is confidential and voluntary.

Dear Church family,

The next few months will see the start of our journey, transitioning from Rev. John Salley's leadership to calling a new pastor. We described the near-term steps in the recent congregational meeting (*which can be seen on YouTube at the end of the March 12 worship service video*). But we have also summarized them here. In addition, Becky Noell will be setting up a visual cork board display on the first floor hallway marking our progress in this process.

The Presbytery counsels us to give the congregation time to consider or reconsider its mission going forward and consequently the key requirements for a new pastor. They recommend that we do a new church self-study based on new survey information.

- Thus we are asking you to **please come to church early, before the service begins (9:30 to 10:00am), on one of the next two Sundays, March 26<sup>th</sup> or April 2<sup>nd</sup> to fill out a Church Vitality Survey**; the survey is anonymous. If you are unable to take the survey one of those two days, please contact the office to make alternative arrangements. Shut-ins will have the survey brought to them.
- Once the survey has been analyzed by PCUSA and returned to us, there will be a congregational work session on a Saturday -- date still to be announced -- to create or update our mission statement. When this statement is complete, the Session will need to approve it and then ask the Presbytery for permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC.)
  - When permission has been granted to form a PNC, the session will schedule a congregational meeting to nominate and elect a PNC.
  - The Session suggests restricting the PNC to no more than 5-7 members.
  - Any active church member is eligible to serve on the PNC
  - Nominations will be accepted from the floor and then voted upon.
- Once the PNC is formed, there will be an education session to brief the PNC members on their task.
- The PNC's first action is to create a "*Ministry Information Form*" (MIF) which builds upon our mission statement to describe the candidates that would best fit our church. This form will be approved by the session and forwarded to the Presbytery.
- After this, the PNC will operate independent of the Session and in secret. The Presbytery will provide "*Pastor Information Forms*" (PIFs) for the PNC to consider. In addition, the PNC can look anywhere else to find suitable candidates.
- Through a careful interview process, the PNC will choose one candidate to present to the congregation who will then vote on whether to offer a call.
- Once the congregation approves the candidate, that person will be examined by the Presbytery. If the candidate is already a Presbyterian minister or a minister from another reformed denomination the examination is routine. If the person is a seminary graduate, but not yet ordained, or is a minister from a non-reformed denomination, the review process is more extensive. If the Presbytery approves, then the process is complete.

In the interim, once Rev. Salley retires and until a new pastor starts his/her tenure, the session is responsible for filling the pulpit and all other pastoral tasks with the help of the deacons. The Presbytery will provide a moderator for session meetings.

While the process is complex and time consuming, it has been done 25 times before. It has taken as little as seven months to as long as two years.

If you have any questions, please contact the pastor, or any member of the Way Forward committee: Ann-Marie Fleming, Becky Noell, Philip Parker, Bill Rutledge or Paul Van Dyke.

Stay tuned for more information on celebrating Pastor Salley's retirement!

Sincerely,  
The Session