

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



## Week of June 11<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.

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 & Prayerfully Guided  
Christian Family of Disciples  
Loving God & Serving Others

*Bedford Presbyterian is a Biblically and*

*Prayerfully Guided Christian Family of*

*Disciples, Loving God and Serving Others*

## THE APPROACH TO GOD

One: The peace of Christ be with you

**All: And Also with you**

**Prelude**

*"He Leadeth Me"*

arr: Don Wyrzten

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul and forget not all His benefits—

**All: Who forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases, who redeems our lives from the pit and crowns us with love and compassion, who satisfies our desires with good things so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

One: Praise the Lord, you His angels. Praise the Lord, all His heavenly hosts. Praise the Lord, all His works.

**All: Praise the Lord, my soul.**

**\*Hymn**

*"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"*

Hymn 82

**\* Prayer of Confession**

Forgive us, Lord, for the mounting fears that plague us. We are consumed with thoughts of the unknown, uncertain of the future and terrified of the present. All around us are indications that Your creation is tearing itself apart, and we are scared. But, all the fears that envelop us are not reflections of Your care and protection. We confess that what we know in our hearts does not always translate into how we live our lives. Help us, Lord, to live lives without fear, trusting only in Your strength and mercy. 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

**Children's Time**

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

**Introduction to Scripture**

**Scripture**

Deuteronomy 34:5-12, Joshua 1: 1-9

**Praise Medley**

*"Does Anybody Here"*

Ken Reynolds

*"You're the Love of My Life"*

The year was 1943 and the world was at war. Our Armed Forces were bogged down in Italy. Casualty lists of soldiers wounded and killed were growing longer. Rationing at home was making life difficult at the grocery store. There was a growing sense of discouragement. Ruth Jones, a pastor's wife and mother of five, couldn't help but be reminded of what people in her husband's church were facing as she read 2 Timothy 3:1 during her daily devotions. It said, "In the last days perilous times shall come." Reflecting upon that verse of Scripture as she went about her household duties, words and a melody came to mind. A self-taught pianist, she took out a notepad from her apron pocket and composed a simple song that expressed how she and so many other people were thinking during those difficult days. Little did she realize that she had composed a song that millions of people would come to know and love, especially when George Beverly Shea sang it during the Billy Graham crusades. She herself said, "I can't believe I had any part in writing this song. I just feel that God gave it to me, and I gave it to the world." Ruth Jones had composed a song that still speaks to us today. It's called "In Times Like These."

Thinking of what is taking place in our world today as well as what we are facing during this time of transition in the life of our church, I couldn't help but be reminded of what Ruth Jones wrote so long ago. In fact, John Salley referred to this same passage of Scripture during his sermon last Sunday. We are, indeed, living in perilous times. The same was true thousands of years ago as Joshua and the people of Israel prepared to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land. In many ways they were facing a situation similar to what we will be encountering in the days to come, a journey from what we have known for many years into a future that is at best uncertain. For that reason, beginning this Sunday and continuing for the next three weeks, let's take a look at the Old Testament book of Joshua. Hopefully we will learn some things that will guide us and perhaps even inspire us as we too journey into what we hope and pray will be a promised land of growth and spiritual vitality for our church. With that in mind, there are four things that I want to share with you from God's Word in today's passages of Scripture.

1. **In times like these we need to reminisce, remember and grieve (Deuteronomy 34: 5-12).** When a pastor retires after years of faithful service, his departure is in many ways like the loss of a loved one. It is therefore appropriate, even necessary, for our church family to reminisce and remember all of those special occasions and memories that are now a part of the past. They will become a treasured possession, but also one which at times saddens our hearts. That is what the children of Israel experienced after the death of Moses. It is recorded that they mourned his passing for thirty days. They also remembered and passed on to future generations an account of his life and how he had led his people from slavery to freedom. Whether we like it or not, grief is a powerful emotion and we need to recognize its reality. When we lose someone, or even something that we highly value and love, we experience a sense of loss. Years ago I came to appreciate this truth when one of the members of our church nearly lost her home to a fire caused by a lightning strike. She was thankful that her home had been saved, but was still burdened by a profound feeling of sadness because she had almost lost a home which was filled with so many treasured memories from her

past. So don't be surprised and despair if you feel a little down in the weeks and months to come. It's a very natural and normal emotional reaction. Our pastor whom we have known for many years is no longer leading us. As Paul was traveling to Jerusalem near the end of his earthly ministry, he stopped by the city of Ephesus and met with the elders of the church. He had spent over two years with them, teaching and training them in the Christian faith. It was a tear-stained meeting as the church's leaders realized that they would never see him again (Acts 20:36-38).

- 2. In times like these we need to patiently await the new leader that God will send to us (Deuteronomy 34:9).** For Israel this time of transition was an easy one. Joshua had already been serving as Moses' lieutenant. Just before his death, Moses empowered Joshua with the spiritual authority which had been granted unto him by God. Joshua was now the divinely appointed leader of Israel as they prepared to enter the Holy Land. Sometimes God moves very quickly to meet the needs of His people. That's what transpired when Moses turned over the reins of leadership to Joshua and sometimes that still happens. When I became the pastor of the church I served in Portsmouth Virginia, I was informed of a most unusual event which had taken place early in its history. The year was 1912 and the little church was in trouble. There was no money in the bank and no pastoral candidates to consider. The church family earnestly called for a season of prayer and in just one week the Lord sent them a pastor under whose leadership, the church became one of the fastest growing congregations in that city. For most churches, however, a time of pastoral transition is significantly longer. For example, it required two years before our church felt led of the Lord to call Reverend Salley as their next pastor. So whether it is long or short, our church family should be prepared to wait with a feeling of confident expectation, until God reveals the individual whom He has chosen to lead our congregation. Let us, therefore, rely upon the promise that God made to the people of Israel a long, long time ago. He said, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper' and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). It took a while, 70 years, for those plans to be fulfilled, but in God's perfect timing they came to pass. The same is true for us. He will send us a new pastor. Hopefully, it will be a little sooner than later. Nevertheless, we must be willing to patiently wait and pray for the one whom the Lord will be sending to us.
- 3. In times like these we need to hold fast to God's Word (Joshua 1:8).** The Lord told Joshua and the people of Israel to focus their attention upon the Book of the Law that had been entrusted into their care. Then and only then could they be assured of success and prosperity as they entered the land that God had promised to give them. The same is true for us. Pastoral leaders come and go and things are always changing in the world around us. God's Word, the Bible, however, is a constant and consistent resource to which we can cling as we face the future. During the Vietnam War those who were imprisoned by the North Vietnamese wrote memorized verses of Scripture on toilet paper and shared these verses with one another. When that failed, they started tapping messages, including verses from the Bible to one another using a simplified Morse Code system that they devised. They knew that the Bible was a bedrock of strength and hope upon which they could rely during their imprisonment. As we have been reminded on numerous occasions, the Bible is not like any other book that has ever been written. It is filled with the very breath and presence of God. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul stressed the importance of being an avid student of the Scriptures. He knew that Timothy's reliance upon them would enable him to effectively live the

Christian way of life (2 Timothy 3:14-17). The same is true for you and me. We need to be students of God's Word.

**4. In times like these we need to be reminded that God is with us (Joshua 1:5 and 9).** He has neither deserted, nor abandoned us. That was the promise that the Lord reiterated in this opening chapter in the book of Joshua. He wanted to reassure the Israelites that He would be right there with them as they faced the challenge of making a new home for themselves in the land of Canaan. We too need to hear those same words and take them to heart as we prepare for the future. Unless we cling to the Lord and rest in the assurance of His protective love and watch care, this time of transition will be much more difficult. We will be tempted to allow feelings of uncertainty and anxiety to lead us astray. I am reminded of the multitude of biographies that have been written about some of the most influential Christians who have ever lived. Without exception each and every one of them lived their lives in the unmistakable assurance that the Lord was with them, even when they were facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Whether they were facing determined opposition, lack of resources, or at times physical harm, they never wavered in their absolute dependence upon the Lord. Indeed, that's what Paul wrote when he so vividly declared, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword....Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35-39). No matter what we must face during this time of transition, always remember that the Lord is with us, our refuge and our strength.

Yes, in times like these we need a Savior. In times like these we need an anchor. Be very sure, be very sure your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock.

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

***Worship Song***

*"Be Strong and Take Courage"*

Basil Chiasson

***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

***Doxology***

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow"*

Hymn 34

***Sharing of Joys and Concerns***

***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

Gracious and Generous God, we give You thanks and praise for the good gifts You see fit to give Your children. Today we return a portion of those gifts and ask that You bless them and use them as You grow Your kingdom among us. We ask this in Christ's holy 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***

*"Be Strong in the Lord"*

Hymn 514

**THE SENDING FORTH**

***\*Benediction***

***Postlude***

*"Praise Him! Praise Him!"*

arr: Bill Wolaver

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in honor and celebration of  
Dave Stetson's birthday, by Lori Stetson.

**Celebrating Paul Gillespie's 50th anniversary as being  
a member of Bedford Presbyterian Church.**

### Joys- June 11<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** A wonderful sendoff for Rev. Salley!

**Joy-** Ron Morris, thanks for prayers for John Hargett

**Joy-** Lori Stetson thanks everyone for prayers for Savannah

**Joy-** Judy Blair, thanks for prayers and cards

**Joy-** Christy Boone, thankful for friends who visited on anniversary

### Concerns- June 11<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie & Frank , hospice care

**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

Tom Wilson- (friend) melanoma

**Blair:** Larry (John's brother) heart attack, 2 stents, home

Steve Arrington- (friend) not doing well

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Ecumenical youth group

Judy- fell and broke two ribs, doing better

**Boone:** Michael Bamber (friend) recovering from chemo

Tony Martin- stroke, long time Bedford resident

Don Bartz (brother-in-law) pneumonia, blood clot in leg

**Callahan:** Mary Jane (friend) cancer

**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

May- (friend) breast cancer

Travel mercies as they visit Larry's brothers

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

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

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

**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

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

**Goodman:** travel mercies for family

**Grigg:** Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

**Grubb:** John- heart issues

**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

**McManis:** Ken- seeing neurosurgeon

**Meyers:** Prayers for family on passing of Patty  
Bill (Brother) – daughter medical problems

**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  
James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung  
John Hargett (friend) woke up paralyzed

**Narwid:** Ed- not doing well

**Nichols:** for family who doesn't know the Lord

**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

**Schubert:** Gerda- multiple strokes

**Smith:** Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord  
Marcus (Sonya's brother) surgical biopsy June 7<sup>th</sup>

**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer  
Nick, Tiffany & Savannah- waiting on surgery

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Sharon Johnson (daughters co-worker) loss of husband

**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**  
**Tornado destruction across country**



## June 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<b>4</b> <i>10 am Worship Communion Retirement Potluck Prayer Time</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Deacon's 3:30 pm</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker 5¢ a Meal Prayer Time</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Bedford Hiking Club</i>
<b>18</b> <i>10 am Service Rev. Philip Parker Session Prayer time 3pm Ecumenical Youth</i>	<b>19</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Cancer Support</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <i>10 am Service Rev. Philip Parker Prayer Time</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Cub Scouts</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Activities for week of June 11<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship, Rev. Philip Parker  
5 ¢ a Meal Offering  
Prayer time following service

Monday: Cub Scouts

Sunday: June 18<sup>th</sup>

10 am Worship, Rev. Philip Parker  
Prayer time following service

### June Birthdays

Gloria Saunders- 11  
Dave Stetson - 12  
Hugh Saunders - 19  
Betty Salley – 25

### June Anniversaries

BJ & Heather Poindexter - 11  
Jim and Joy Barefoot - 21  
David & Kathy Grigg - 21  
Philip & Sherry Parker - 28

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### **BCMA FOOD PANTRY MOST NEEDED ITEMS** **CHILDREN'S ITEMS ARE THE PRIORITY FOR SUMMER**

CAPRI SUN OR KOOL-AID JAMMERS  
POP TARTS  
CEREAL BARS  
CANNED TUNA  
CANNED SPAGHETTI PRODUCTS  
FRUIT SNACKS  
PEANUT BUTTER OR CHEESE SNACK CRACKERS  
SINGLE SERVE COOKIES (COME IN LARGE CONTAINERS)  
SINGLE SERVE CHEESE ITEMS (WHALES OR GOLDFISH)  
FRUIT CUPS, PUDDING CUPS OR JELL-O CUPS

### **CLEANING ITEMS FOR FIRST-TIME CLIENTS**

.(These items can be found more reasonably priced at Dollar Tree)

LAUNDRY DETERGENT  
DISH DETERGENT  
BLEACH  
INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED TOOTHBRUSHES

### **NEEDS ON A REGULAR BASIS**

TOILET PAPER (LARGE PACKAGES)  
SUGAR  
COFFEE

## IN THE WEEKS TO COME

In the weeks to come I have been asked to fill some mighty big shoes. I will be bringing the messages on Sunday mornings and caring for the pastoral needs of our congregation. I am very thankful for the guidance and encouragement that Pastor John Salley has provided during the time that Sherry and I have been a part of this church family. Like each of you we will miss him dearly. Please feel free to call upon me when needs arise. As in the past when Pastor Salley was away, you can contact me directly or call the church office. I will do my best to respond to you as soon as possible. Both Sherry and I count it a real privilege for this opportunity to serve you. Remember us in your prayers with the assurance that you are remembered in ours as well. Philip.

## A TIME OF TRANSITION

During the remaining Sundays in June and the first Sunday in July, we will be taking a look at the Old Testament book of Joshua. Like our own congregation, the people of Israel were facing new challenges as well as some new expectations. Their beloved leader, Moses, was no longer with them. Furthermore they were preparing to cross over into a land that was far different from where they had spent the last 40 years. Although we are not moving geographically, we are most assuredly moving into a future that will be markedly different from the past. This will be a time of transition for us as we begin our search for a new pastor. So together let's see what the people of Israel experienced during their journey into the land that the Lord had promised to them. In many respects it will be like the journey upon which we too have embarked as we seek to secure the blessings that God has in store for us.

- June 11—"In Times Like These"—Deuteronomy 34:5-12 and Joshua 1:1-9
- June 18—"One for All and All for One"—Joshua 1:10-18
- June 25—"Spying Out the Land"—Joshua 2:1-24
- July 2—"The Rest of the Story"—Joshua 24:14-15 and 25-27

## Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> - Bedford Hiking Club Discovers Falling Creek Park

Falling Creek Park (FCP) is one of Bedford County's hidden gems with vast lawns for games, pavilions for picnicking, Frisbee golf courses, restrooms, and miles of trails for walking and cycling. The **Blue Bird Trail** is an easy 2 mile loop within the park that goes from the parking lot down along a wooded streamside then out onto open fields of wild flowers. It is a great place to walk your dog.

**Meet me in the FCP parking lot at 10 am, on**

**June 17<sup>th</sup>.** If you want, bring along a picnic lunch, and possibly some bocce balls or a Frisbee so you can linger after our stroll. The Park is located on Falling Creek Road, across the street from the County Sheriff's Office. Follow the drive back in behind the nursing home and the County Park service buildings to the FCP parking lot.

(Cancelled in case of rain, otherwise, I'll see you there – John)



## Clerk's Corner

- We grieve the loss of Patty Meyers. Thank you everyone who helped with cards, prayers, meals. Most especially, thank you to the Deacons and the Fellowship Committee.
- We had a great turnout for our Congregational Work Session on Apr 29th. As a result, our new mission statement is: "Bedford Presbyterian is a Biblically and Prayerfully Guided Christian Family of Disciples, Loving God and Serving Others."
- You have probably already notified our updated logo, thanks to Bill Mitchell!
- Our new Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) was elected at our Congregational meeting on May 12th: Judy Blair, Nick DeWitt, James Fleming, Deanna Rutledge, Dave Stetson, Paul Van Dyke and Shawn Webb. The Presbytery will provide training and then their work will commence. They will use our updated mission statement in starting their search. **But, all of us have work to do: keep this PNC lifted in prayer!**
- The Transition Committee will become a mini-PNC, focused on finding an interim pastor. We thank Rev. Parker for all he is doing!
- Thanks to donations and funds raised from working, all costs for the four youth and two adults attending Montreat are covered.
- Are you interested in our Church starting a Grief Group? Please let Becky Noell know.
- Have you noticed the improvements in the church? LED installed in Pastor's office and kitchen. We will organize a work day in the future to paint the Pastor's office. Also, lawn looking good thanks to the donation of an electric self-propelled lawn mower!
- Our beautiful organ is still not working. We have received additional parts and will see if those fix the problem. If that doesn't work, we will be getting a proposal from a local company on replacing the electric components. We will then need to allocate funds for routine maintenance/updates, i.e. think of your computer at home. Stay tuned!
- Monthly giving for April was above forecast amount. We have an awesome church family.
- With Rev. Salley's retirement, three couples have stepped up to be on call: Rev. and Sherry Parker, Dave and Lori Stetson, and John and Judy Blair.
- What a sendoff for Rev. Salley! I have never seen so much food in the fellowship hall or seen everyone stick around for so long. It was a bittersweet day as we faced the reality of his departure, but celebrated all he has done for this church! God's blessings Rev. Salley!
- **Important Dates:** Sunday, July 9th - Called Session Meeting

