

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



Week of July 2nd

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

"America, the Beautiful"

arr: Bill Wolaver

Words of Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

All: We will sing to the glory of God with resounding praise.

One: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!"

All: God has turned our mourning into dancing and clothed us with joy.

One: Let all the earth worship God and sing praises to God's holy name.

All: O LORD, our God, we will give thanks to You forever.

One: Come, let us worship our glorious God.

***Hymn**

"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

Hymn 728

*** Prayer of Confession**

Lord, on this Sunday before Independence Day, we stand before You as our forefathers did in the past to thank You for liberty and freedom and for all the blessings that Your gracious hand has given us. As a nation and a people we have not always chosen the right way. We ask You to forgive us for those times. On this day we commit ourselves to wholeheartedly honoring and serving You. With everything that we are, we lay our lives before You. For the sake of this land and the peoples and nations of the world, make us a generous people, a holy nation, a people set aside to love You forever. Today, we do not presume upon Your grace. Our nation needs You, our people need You, our industry and business needs You. Please come by Your Spirit and breathe new life into the heart of this nation. May justice flow like rivers, and righteousness like a never failing stream, until the whole of our land is filled with Your glory. We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. One God, now and for all eternity. 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

Joshua 2: 14-21, 25-27

Hymn

"I Stand in Awe"

Hymn 53

Years ago there was a well-known radio broadcaster by the name of Paul Harvey. During the Second World War and continuing thereafter, his broadcasts would feature little known stories about incidents and individuals that would otherwise have been forgotten. His program would always end with these famous words, "Now you know the rest of the story." After the two spies reported back to Joshua, a series of events took place which might also be described as "The Rest of the Story." In fact, the remaining chapters in the Old Testament book of Joshua tell the remarkable story of how, with God's help, they took the land which the Lord had promised to them. Here is a brief summary of what took place.

- **The Miraculous Crossing of the Jordan River.** As the Ark of the Covenant entered the river, it stopped flowing so that the people of Israel could cross over on dry land (Joshua 3:1-17).
- **The Destruction of the City of Jericho.** The Israelites marched around the city but God knocked down the walls (Joshua 5:13-6:27).
- **The Consequences of Sin in the Camp.** Achan and his family disobeyed the Lord and brought great harm upon their fellow countrymen (Joshua 7:1-26).
- **The Deception of the Gibeonites.** Because the Israelites didn't check with the Lord, they made a bad agreement with a delegation of citizens from a nearby city (Joshua 9:1-27).
- **The Nighttime Daylight Battle.** Joshua had to ask for a little help from the Lord for some extra daylight to defeat the enemies of the Gibeonites (Joshua 10:1-15).
- **The Gradual Conquest of Canaan.** Over a period of time the Israelites gradually conquered most but not all of the Promised Land (Joshua 10:29-13:5).
- **The Division of the Land.** Each of the twelve tribes of Israel received a portion of the land which had been promised to them (Joshua 13:6-19:51).
- **The Covenantal Ceremony at Shechem.** Near the end of Joshua's life the people of Israel gathered together to renew their covenantal relationship with the Lord (Joshua 24:1-27).

What if anything does these events in the book of Joshua have to do with our church, or for that matter, with the upcoming celebration of our nation's birthday? First of all, even with God's help it took a great deal of time and effort for Israel to secure their inheritance. It was a campaign that lasted about 6 to 7 years before the land was divided up among the various Israeli tribes. In fact, after describing all of the places that the Israelites conquered, this Old Testament book declares, "Joshua waged war against these kings for a long time" (Joshua 11:18). So they didn't take the Promised Land overnight. It took a while to secure what God had promised.

Likewise, don't be surprised if it takes us a while to find the individual who will be our next pastor. Downstairs in the hallway beside the fellowship hall, there are pictures of most if not all of the pastors who have served this church from its beginning. One thing you might not have noticed, however, is that some of them served for only a short period of time. These were the interim ministers who took over the leadership of the church until a new pastor could be found. They usually served for one to two years, sometimes a little longer. Then, as now, it took a while to find the right person. So don't become exasperated if the Pastor Nominating Committee seems to be taking a long, long time to find someone. Selecting a candidate for our church family, or for that matter any church family, is a serious responsibility. Just like Joshua's campaign in the Promised Land, it cannot be rushed.

Second, during the covenantal ceremony at Shechem, Joshua boldly declared that the time had come to make a decision. Whom were they going to serve, the false gods of the past or the Lord God who brought them out of Egypt and who had given them the land in which they now dwelled? They had a choice to make. The same is true for us as we look to the future of our church and beyond that to the future of our nation. So just as Joshua reminded the people of what had transpired in the past, let me do that for you today.

Like Israel, America was founded upon a belief in God, the God of the Bible. In many instances, especially among those who arrived during its earliest days, it also included a desire and in many instances, a determination to live by His statutes and commandments. God's laws and mandates would become the basis for forming a new society in a New World. Beginning with the Pilgrims who arrived on the Mayflower and continuing all the way through the formative years of our country, this was a guiding principle for those who birthed our nation. For example, when George Washington was elected as our first president in 1789, what did he and the members of Congress do immediately following his inauguration in New York City. They adjourned to the nearby Saint Paul's Chapel in Lower Manhattan for prayer and worship. And just in case you're wondering, it's one of the few nearby buildings that were spared during the 9/11 cataclysm. Today it is often referred to as the "Ground Zero Chapel." And what was the first textbook that found its way into America's schoolrooms? It's called the *McGuffey Reader*. First published in 1836, it was a basic grammar book, teaching children how to read phonically. Its subject matter was religious in nature, based upon the Bible and a Presbyterian understanding of the moral values and beliefs contained in the Scriptures. Finally, when we sing our great patriotic hymns and songs at this time of year in celebration of our nation's birthday, whose name and presence is invoked over and over again? The last verse of this beloved hymn immediately comes to mind, "Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty, to Thee we sing: Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!"

Unfortunately, this kind of religious devotion no longer resonates as clearly and strongly as it once did. Increasingly we have become a nation that values not freedom **of** religion, but freedom **from** religion. There is, in fact, a political organization in America by that very name. Their stated goal is to remove every vestige of religious practice and belief, especially Christianity, from our culture. Consequently, praying and even possessing a Bible can now get you into trouble in numerous public venues throughout our nation, something which would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. Furthermore, America's values, what we consider to be of greatest importance, have changed over the years. This is what the *Wall Street Journal* recently reported. In the past 25 years, 1998 to 2023, the paper stated that a tectonic shift had taken place in what used to be considered of great value to the average American. **Patriotism** had dropped from 70% to 38%. **Religion** had dropped by 62% to 39%. **Having children** had dropped by 59% to 30%. **Community involvement** had dropped from 47% to 27%. The only value of significant importance that had increased was **money**, up from 31% to 43%. One has only to look at what is happening all across our nation to comprehend that we have turned away from the Lord and adopted a way of life that is bringing untold misery, despair and violence upon us.

So what does all of this mean? For us as a church and for us as a nation, there is a decision confronting us. Are we going to serve the Lord and live by His standards, or are we going to choose some other source of authority and choose to live under its dictates? Even now that decision is before us and the consequences are more clearly evident with each passing day. Both the future of our congregation and, most assuredly, the future of our nation depend on how we answer this question and not just what we say, but what we do, how we live out our lives in relationship to the Lord and to one another. Nearly three thousand years ago, Joshua summoned the people of Israel and said to them, "Who are you going to serve? You have a choice to make. But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." May we, both as a church family and hopefully as an entire nation respond by boldly declaring, "We too will serve the LORD, because He is our God" (Joshua 24:18).

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

"The Family Prayer Song"

Hymn 605

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Blessed are You, O God, from whom all good things come. With thankful hearts we return to You a portion of what You have given us, dedicating both gifts and givers to Your service. Receive them for the sake of Jesus, who offered Himself for us and in whom we live and would bear faithful fruit. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation

"Here Is Bread"

Graham Kendrick

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.

***Hymn**

"What a Mighty God!"

Hymn 674

THE SENDING FORTH

***Benediction**

Postlude

"My Country 'tis of Thee/ Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Tornquist

The flowers this morning are given by Philip and Sherry Parker to the Glory of God and in honor of all of those who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries during this summer. The Parker's will be celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary this month.

Church History Books

The print run of the history of the church books has been received. The cost to purchase one is \$30, payable to Paul Van Dyke. They can be purchased today after the service. There are a few extra if you did not previously indicate interest. See Paul after the service. Or you can call or email him.

Youth Sunday

The week at Montreat this summer was an inspirational experience for our youth and their leaders. They will be leading us in worship on July 9th. Don't miss this opportunity to hear about their joyful encounter with the Lord during their week at camp.

Every Saturday from 7-9pm

Middle schoolers, high schoolers and young adults
meet at the Community Center for Dodgeball!!!
Sponsored by the Ecumenical Youth.

Joys- July 2nd

Joy- Betty Salley thanks everyone for their thoughts, prayers and concerns, she feels fantastic now. They're off to Alaska, safe travels

Joy- James Fleming proud great- granddad

Joy- John Blair sharing gospel with 2 boys while playing Dodgeball

Joy- Sonya Smith's brother's biopsy results, low risk for cancer

Joy- Organ parts are in and just need reprogramming

Concerns- July 2nd

Avery: Tinkie, 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

Prayers for family on passing of uncle

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

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Ecumenical youth group

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) cancer

Steve Chaffin- (friend) blood clots

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

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

Goode: prayers for Eunice, sciatic pain

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Grubb: John- heart issues

Harris: Judy- niece needs help after death in family

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: 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) biopsy results, low risk of cancer

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer
Nick, Tiffany & Savannah- 2 surgeries, in Pediatric wing

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

July 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Communion Prayer Time Property Committee</i>	3	4 <i>Happy Fourth of July! Office closed</i>	5 <i>Transition Committee, 4 pm</i>	6	7	8 <i>Ecumenical Youth 4pm</i>
9 <i>10 am Worship Youth Service Session 5¢ a Meal Prayer Time</i>	10	11 <i>Youth Council, 5:30 pm</i>	12	13 <i>Deacon's 3:30 pm</i>	14	15
16 <i>10 am Service with Rev. Shawn Morrison Prayer time</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker Prayer Time</i>	24	25	26	27 <i>Cancer Support</i>	28	29 <i>Bedford Hiking Club 9am</i>
30 <i>10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker Prayer Time</i>	31					

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Activities for week of July 2nd

Sunday: 10 am Worship, Rev. Philip Parker
Communion
Prayer time following service
Property Meeting following service

Tuesday: Happy Fourth of July!!
Office closed

Wednesday: Transition Committee, 4 pm

Saturday: Ecumenical Youth, 4 pm

Sunday: July 9th
10 am Worship
Youth Service
5¢ a Meal Offering
Session
Prayer time following service

July Birthdays

Lois Diddams - 2
Helen Heinrich - 4
Ryan Johnson- 6
Margaret Morris - 9
Charlotte McManis- 11
Janet Yodis – 13
Larry Compter- 18
Weebie Clarke - 22
Nancy Van Dyke - 22
Jay Gould – 31

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PRESBYTERIAN MEN

The Presbyterians Men's Conference will take place
July 21st through the 23rd at Massanetta Springs Conference
Center in Harrisonburg.

Registration is open, please go to www.midatlanticmen.org
to register and you can join Ron Morris for a
weekend of inspiring workshops, challenging
keynotes and recreational activities like zip-lining,
golfing and a cave tour.

Space may be limited, so please if you are
interested, register soon.

If wanting more information, please contact Ron Morris.

THE REST OF THE STORY

Joshua 24:14-21 and 25-27

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The Division of the Land. Each of the twelve tribes of Israel received a portion of the land which had been promised to them (Joshua 13:6-19:21).

The Covenantal Ceremony at Shechem. Near the end of Joshua's life the people of Israel gathered together to renew their covenantal relationship with the Lord (Joshua 24:1-27).

What if anything do these events in the book of Joshua have to do with our church, or for that matter with the upcoming celebration of our nation's birthday? First of all, even with God's help it took a great deal of time and effort to secure their inheritance. As we look for a new pastor don't be surprised if it takes a while for us to find the individual whom the Lord has chosen for us. Second, during the covenantal ceremony at Shechem, Joshua reminded the Israelites of the promises they had made to the Lord and the consequences which would befall them if they disregarded those promises. Like Israel, America was founded upon a set of Biblical principles. Unfortunately, many within our nation have forsaken these principles and as a result we are experiencing the consequences of our rejection. Our once great and wonderful country is sliding into the abyss of violence and chaos. Now, more than ever, we need to own up to our waywardness and return to God.