

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



## Week of August 13<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**

*"My Jesus, I Love Thee"*

Hammerly

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say Rejoice!

**All: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.**

One: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

**All: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.**

One: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

**All: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!**

**\*Hymn**

*"Come, People of the Risen King"*

Getty/Townend

**\* Prayer of Confession**

Loving Father, You receive all who come humbly before You. Yet we approach You far too often with much satisfaction and inappropriate pride. We think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. We forget Your Son's plain teaching: those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted. Forgive us and free us from this tyranny to self. Empower us to serve You joyfully and wholeheartedly. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. In the power of the Holy Spirit. 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**

Philippians 2: 1-11

**Worship Song**

*"Restless"*

Ella Blair

Have you ever had to eat a piece of humble pie? Was it a pleasant experience? Was it the result of something you said or something you did? Did it come about because of an embarrassing situation in which you found yourself. More seriously, did it derive from a presumed air of superiority that got the best of you? Whatever the reason, humble pie is an unpleasant pastry that no one really welcomes. It's origin goes all the way back to the Middle Ages. When a king and his nobles went on a hunting trip, they feasted on the finest portions of their kill. The leftovers, the worst cuts of meat and sometimes even the internal organs of the animal were all that was left for the servants. Their portion was described as the "offal." Over the centuries and a multitude of mispronunciations, the word "offal" was gradually transformed. It turned into the word that has come to be known to us as "humble." So, why would I, or for that matter anyone want to speak with you this morning about being humble. Even worse, why would anyone want to deliver a sermon about humility, let alone joyful humility? With such an odious history, humility is certainly no treasure. If anything it should be shunned, not sought after. Let's be honest, who among us wants to be identified with those who are at the end of the line, those who are so to speak—using another well-known idiom—on the "bottom of the totem pole?" Nevertheless, that's exactly what Paul said in the passage of Scripture that was read just a few moments ago. Let's take a look at what he had to say.

Beginning with the first verse in chapter two, we find Paul addressing the Christians in Philippi like a coach speaking to his team before the big game. Just like in one of those movies where the football or basketball coach is giving a rousing pep talk to his players, he starts off by reminding them of who they are. He says, "If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete" (Philippians 2:1-2a). In a more sports like lingo this is what he is saying, "Ok team, you belong to Christ. You've got His logo on your uniforms. You've been strengthened and trained by His loving support and hopefully you can sense His presence with you right now. What's more, I hope you realize that you're part of His team. As such, you're expected to support and encourage one another. Now make me proud by going out there and putting into practice what I'm about to tell you."

Continuing this sporting illustration, why was Paul addressing the Philippians in such a manner? The answer is found later on in his letter. There were disagreements and perhaps even some ill feelings among the members of the Philippian church. In chapter four he writes, "I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with one another in the Lord" (Philippians 4:2). Had a competitive spirit arisen among the members of the church, like a football or basketball team where one or more of the players want to be the stars, hogging all the attention and praise? Even with the best of intentions, controversies can arise when, for example, one player says, "Pass me the ball. I'm the only one who can score the winning points." The same kind of thing, of course, can

happen in a church. An individual, or a group of individuals rise to places of prominence, but in so doing become consumed by their sense of self-importance. When this kind of a prideful spirit begins to assert itself into the life of a church, the well-being of that congregation will soon be threatened. It appears that just such a thing may have been taking place in Philippi and Paul wanted to address this situation before it got out of hand. So like a good coach, he came up with a plan of action that he knew would bring joy to his own heart and hopefully to the hearts and lives of his beloved friends in that far off church family. His recommendation was essentially a diet of humble pie, or to put it in other words, an opportunity to experience joyful humility.

In verses two through four, he tells us what he had in mind. In fact, it's sort of like a listing of the character qualities of genuine humility. Let me read what Paul writes from a contemporary translation of this passage of Scripture, "Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, working together with one heart and purpose. Don't be selfish: don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, think of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing" (Philippians 2:2-4). That's pretty good advice. In fact, it's really a definition of what true humility is all about. When an individual, or for that matter an entire congregation possesses that kind of an attitude about themselves and one another, that church family will be a happy body of believers.

The same is also true in the realm of business enterprises. My mother shared this story with me years ago. She worked for the Nestle Milk Company in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, after she graduated from high school. She was a secretary. When the salesmen arrived at the company offices to hand in their monthly reports, it was always a contentious affair. Each salesman was trying to outdo the other, bragging about all of the cases of evaporated milk he had sold. Those salesmen were loud, argumentative, disruptive and discourteous. The secretaries dreaded their arrival and rejoiced at their departure. Then one day an older gentleman arrived. He was well dressed and obviously of executive status. The secretaries were alarmed. They were fearful that he would be even more demanding and abusive than the salesmen. Perhaps he had arrived to give them their pink slips. Much to their surprise, he was just the opposite. He spoke to each person individually in a gentle and respectful manner. He inquired about how things were going and complimented them on their hard work, promising a financial bonus in the days to come. After he left, they inquired as to who he was. They were told he was the owner. As such he didn't have to throw his weight like some high and mighty boss. Instead, he was acting more like a servant, genuinely interested in getting to know his employees and meeting their needs. He possessed an air of pleasant, even joyous humility as compared to those obnoxious salesmen.

Personally, I believe that's what Paul had in mind when he referred to Christ as the one whom we should seek to imitate. In verses five through eleven he provides us with a description of Jesus' life and ministry that is just as beautiful and profound today as when he was inspired to write it so long ago. It declares that Christ forsook every opportunity to build Himself up and in fact did just the opposite. He refused to demand equality with His heavenly Father even though it was His rightful possession. Instead He came to earth, became a human being and lived within the confines of that humanity, even though He was the Son of God. As a human being He took upon Himself the role of a lowly servant, even to the point of being obedient unto death, death on a shameful cross. That, my friends, is the definition of true humility. Christ knew who He was, where He had come from and the spiritual resources which He possessed because of His relationship with His heavenly Father. He could, therefore, afford to generously give of Himself. Being a servant didn't diminish His worth. Being abused and humiliated didn't lessen His value. If anything His servanthood was so outstanding, so beneficial to humanity, that it actually produced the opposite effect. Instead of being relegated to insignificance, He became the recipient of honor, glory and boundless authority. That's why Paul could conclude this section of his letter by declaring, "Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11). In other words, Christ's humility was and will be amply rewarded.

So what about you and me? What is God's Word saying to us in this passage of Scripture? It's telling us that humility is a very worthwhile character trait that every Christian should possess. For one thing, it keeps us from being too big for our britches. For another it opens the door to restored relationships when we offer a sincere apology for something that we have said or done which was offensive. It also helps us to develop a servant's heart, where meeting the needs of others becomes a desired priority, even when those needs are at times demeaning and repulsive. Finally, genuine, Christ-like humility signals the end of our search for personal significance and acclaim. We don't have to pretend to be anything other than what we truly are, a child of the King.

Eating humble pie may not be something that most people look forward to. Nevertheless, there are three things that we need to always keep in mind, three reasons for being joyfully humble. First, Jesus ate humble pie and we are His disciples. Therefore, we too should expect to receive a serving or two. Second, eating humble pie is good for us. It makes us stronger and better followers of Christ. Finally it prepares us for that glorious and wonderful banquet in heaven. For God's angel in the book of Revelation reminds us, "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9).

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

**Worship Song**

*"You Have Been Given"*

Bob Kauflin

### **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in Jesus Christ, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Doxology**

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow"*

Hymn 34

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving** (in unison)

God, You have shown us in Jesus the call to sacrificial loving, giving and serving. Following Your leadership, we make this offering as sign and symbol of our commitment to being faithful disciples in caring for the poor, comforting the sorrowing and advocating justice for the oppressed. Bless our giving and our gifts in Your service. Amen.

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

#### **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**

*"May the Mind of Christ My Savior"*

Hymn 464

## THE SENDING FORTH

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*"Sunshine in My Soul"*

Sweeney

### Joys- August 13<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** Linda Benton's friend Janice, just got married

**Joy-** Stetson- Savannah is doing well and thriving

### Concerns- August 13<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery

**Benton:** Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) having problems with transplant

Tom Wilson- (friend) melanoma

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

Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer

Ecumenical youth group

**Boone:** Linda Cole- heart transplant

Don Bartz (brother-in-law) enlarged hand

**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) reversal colostomy surgery

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

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

Michael Rutter- septic shock

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

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

Dallas (friend) going into the hospital with heart issues

**Fleming:** Family of Steve Trumbecki on his passing

**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

Rodney & Connie Groggins(husband's cousins) Connie Alzheimer's, Rodney caregiver, health issues

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

**Grubb:** John- heart issues, not feeling well

**Harris:** Judy- niece needs help after death in family

Jim- knee replacement

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

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

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

**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

**Parkers:** friends surgery and full recovery

**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) not feeling well

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

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Sharon Johnson (daughters co-worker) loss of husband  
Two firefighters who suffered falls  
Garland Robertson- neighbor terminal lung cancer

**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**



## August 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Communion Property Committee</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>Deacon's 3:30 pm</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Youth Outing</i>
<b>13</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Session 5¢ a Meal</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <i>10 am Service with Rev. Shawn Morrison</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Cancer Support</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Activities for week of August 13<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker  
5¢ a Meal Offering  
Session

Sunday: August 20<sup>th</sup>  
10 am Worship with Rev. Shawn Morrison

### August Birthdays

Edith Weeks-17  
Michelle Goode- 18  
Ann Fowler-27  
William Hopkins-29

### August Anniversaries

Lester & Helen Heinrich -10



**Bedford Community Blood Drive**  
**At the Bedford County Gym**  
**Monday August 14th, 12 pm to 6 pm**

**Next Sunday August 20th**  
**We Welcome Rev. Shawn Morrison to the**  
**pulpit as he delivers the message.**



**There will be a Dodgeball tournament on**  
**September 9th, at the Community center.**  
**If anyone is interested, please let the office**  
**know. Pre-register by August 26th**