

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



## Week of September 10<sup>th</sup>

We will continue sending out this combination of the newsletter and bulletin to keep you up to date on announcements, prayers, needs and scheduled activities.

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**

*"Brother James' Air"*

Dale Wood

### **Words of Welcome**

#### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Praise the Lord.

**All: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights above.**

One: Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His heavenly hosts.

**All: Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars.**

One: Praise Him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

**All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

**\*Hymn**

*"All Creatures of Our God and King"*

Hymn 23

#### **\* Prayer of Confession**

No matter how righteous we imagine ourselves to be, Lord, Your perfect Word reveals our imperfections all too clearly. No matter how hard we strive to fulfill the requirements of Your Law, we always fall short. We have forgotten that righteousness and perfection come not from rules and regulations, but from faith. Open our eyes to see that all we have accomplished is nothing compared to knowing Christ. Let us count everything as loss that we might gain heaven and be found blameless in Christ. In the name of the Savior we pray. 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 3:1-11

**Anthem**

*"I Want to Know Christ"*

Eggleston

## **Sermon**

## **A NUGGET OF JOYFUL POVERTY**

Along the highways of America is a common site from years ago and one which still occasionally appears along roadsides, is a collection of outdoor figurines and sculptures—bird baths and other assorted concrete creations that are being offered for sale. If you have ever stopped at one of these businesses you probably saw a statue of a gentle looking priest, perhaps with outstretched arms beckoning a bird or some other woodland creature to embrace his care. The individual portrayed in concrete is Saint Francis of Assisi. Born in Italy during the Middle Ages, he grew up the child of wealthy parents who were cloth merchants. While still a young man he went off to war, his city in constant conflict with other cities through the region in which he lived. Captured, imprisoned and nearly dead from illness, he returned home, much to the relief of his parents. However, they were shocked and dismayed by the transformation which had occurred in his life. Forsaking their wealth and privilege, he literally disrobed in their presence and adopted a life of poverty as a follower of Christ. He was a self-ordained priest, gathering around himself a group of followers who sensed God's calling to "go and repair my house." At first this consisted of literally rebuilding a little chapel that still stands to this day. Later, Francis realized that what Christ desired for him to do was to rebuild the spiritual life of the Roman Catholic Church. This he accomplished with undiminished determination, sending out his disciples two by two to proclaim the simple gospel message of God's salvation in Jesus Christ. Throughout his lifetime he had a unique relationship with nature, at times welcoming and preaching to the creatures that were drawn to him. For that reason the Catholic Church has named him the Patron Saint of Ecology and thus the impetus for those garden concrete creations honoring his life. What is of significant importance for us this morning is simply the fact that Saint Francis discovered a nugget of true spiritual gold, a nugget of joyful poverty. Forsaking everything that the world had to offer, including the benefits of a pampered life in his parents' household, he chose Christ and Christ alone. For him, the Savior was the joy of his life, a joy that we even now celebrate when we sing the song that he authored, "All Creatures of our God and King."

Writing to the Philippians, Paul could and indeed did join with Saint Francis in proclaiming the joy which emanates from a life totally dedicated to Christ. In the passage of Scripture which was read this morning he makes it perfectly clear that everything else when compared to Christ can be cast out and thrown aside as rubbish. Let's see what he had to say.

Beginning with the first verse in chapter three, a joyful emphasis is immediately apparent. He declares, "Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you" (Philippians 3:1). Why did he say that rejoicing in the Lord, being happy because of one's relationship with Christ, is a safeguard, something that protects us from harm? There were two reasons, both of which can be applied to our own lives in Christ.

Here is the first one—circumcision. Or to express it in another way—religious traditions and practices that get in the way of our relationship with Christ. Here's what Paul was talking about. In the early church there were a group of people known as Judaizers. Basically, they said that in order to be a Christian, a person must first adopt the Jewish way of life including the medical procedure known as circumcision. Beginning with Abraham and throughout all of the Jewish generations thereafter, it was an outward physical manifestation for men of the covenantal

relationship between God and His people. In other words, simply professing faith in Christ was not enough. You had to live and act like a Jew in order to be a Christian. For Paul this was a denial of everything he proclaimed. He minced no words in condemning this false doctrine. Listen to what he had to say in this more modern translation of verse two, “Watch out for those dogs, those wicked men and their evil deeds, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved” (Philippians 3:2, New Living Translation of the Bible).

Now those of you who have pet dogs, don't be upset with Paul. When he used the word “dogs” he was referring to packs of wild canines who roamed the cities and countryside in the ancient world and who were a menace to both life and limb. Like those wild animals, Paul considered these Judaizers to be just as dangerous. Here's why. They had turned Christianity into something you do instead of something, or should I say Someone in whom you can place your trust and belief.

Fortunately we don't have to worry about Judaizers today, or do we? Well they may not be peddling circumcision, but there are some other ways in which they can throw up roadblocks to a joyous faith relationship with Christ. For example, I remember a time when one's outward appearance was referred to as a way of determining whether a person was or was not a true Christian. For young men it had to do with the length of your hair. It could not touch the collar of your shirt. For young women it was about the length of your dress. It had to be so many inches below your knees. In some instances, I can remember twelve inch rulers being used to determine if the measurements were correct. Seems silly now, but years ago it was a practice that for some Christians was very important, almost more important than sharing the gospel message of God's salvation in Christ Jesus.

Along a more humorous note, let me share a story from the church that I served in Portsmouth. Most of the men who attended still wore a suit or sport coat to church on Sundays. It was a tradition from the past which reflected the long held belief that wearing your best to church was very important. One of the younger men in our church had a different take on this tradition. He felt that it got in the way of leading people to Christ. Our church was located in a difficult part of town and he wondered if people in the community didn't come because they felt out of place, not having the right kind of clothes to wear. So he took it upon himself to cast this tradition aside. He arrived every Sunday wearing a T shirt with a Biblical message inscribed upon it. I admired his courage because not everyone was impressed by this new fashion trend. In particular I remember one T- shirt that was my all-time favorite. Let me describe it for you—an old pair of tennis shoes with socks laying haphazardly within them, a cloud of smoke arising as if the shoes had suddenly been vacated and these words beneath the imprint “in the twinkling of an eye!” Get it? A pictorial description of the rapture. That T- shirt still brings a smile to my face and serves as a reminder that even traditions about what we wear to church on Sundays can become a hindrance to our faith relationship with Christ. And by the way, just in case you're wondering, I still wear a coat and tie on Sundays for two reasons. First, it's what I grew up with and it still feels comfortable. Second, the inside pocket in the jacket is a great place to hide the wireless microphone transmitter.

Now to the second reason why being joyful in the Lord is so important. It can save us from allowing our personal reputation, our status in the community and even our family's heritage from getting in the way of our relationship to Christ. Once again, let me share with you what

Paul had to say from the New Living Translation of the Bible. Paul stated, "If others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! For I was circumcised when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family that is a branch of the tribe of Benjamin. So I am a real Jew if there ever was one! What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. And zealous? Yes, in fact, I harshly persecuted the church. And I obeyed the Jewish law so carefully that I was never accused of any fault" (Philippians 3:4-6). Paul had every reason to be proud of his Jewish heritage, but if it stood in the way of his relationship with Christ, it had to be cast aside. Paul believed that the same was true for the Philippians and I'm sure he'd say the same thing to you and me.

Let's be honest. We live in a world of expectations, especially those who have risen in the ranks of society. There are expectations as to where you are to live, with whom you are to associate, and how you are supposed to live. Such was the case with a well-known socialite living in New York City, a woman by the name of Eleanor Searle Whitney. A gifted opera singer married to Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, she had everything—riding stables, yachts, summer homes and an exciting life. She enjoyed the distinction of being one of the best dressed women in America. She was active in many humanitarian causes, led a moral life and regularly attended church. But something was still missing. She was spiritually impoverished. All of the high society acclaim that this world has to offer could not satisfy a profound emptiness in her heart. That's when she decided to attend a Billy Graham Crusade in New York City. When Dr. Graham gave an invitation to receive Christ as Lord and Savior, a momentous struggle ensued within her soul. She thought, "What will my friends think if I go forward? How ridiculous it all seems!" But she returned and casting aside all of her doubts and reluctance, she walked forward during the service that evening and professed faith in Christ. She became a well-known evangelistic speaker, sang during several of Billy Graham's crusades and wrote a book about her spiritual journey called 'Invitation to Joy.' Describing her decision to follow Christ, she said, "I hung onto God and found He was enough."

That's precisely what Paul did, that's what he wanted the Philippians to do and that's what I believe he wants us to do. To paraphrase what he said in those concluding verses in today's passage of Scripture, I can even now hear him saying to us, "For goodness sake, don't let old, restrictive religious traditions and society's values and expectations stand in the way of your relationship with Christ. If they do get in the way, throw them out of your life like so much worthless rubbish. Even though the world may consider them to be valuable, you're better off without them. In fact, they can actually keep you from experiencing what it really means to know Christ, feeling the power of His resurrection at work in your life and sensing a fellowship with Him that sustains us when like Him, we suffer for being a Christian. Yes, rejoicing in the Lord is like possessing a nugget of joyful poverty."

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

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

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 shall 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.

### ***Doxology***

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow"*

Hymn 34

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

Dear God, may we know the riches of Your mercy and grace in and through Jesus, that we may keep in perspective all the things we value in this world and give You thanks for all good things here and in the life to come. In Jesus' name, 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***

*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

Hymn 261

## THE SENDING FORTH

### ***Benediction***

### ***Postlude***

*"Toccata"*

Dubois

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in honor  
of John Grubb's birthday by Linda Benton.

## Joys-September 10<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** the fellowship we share in this church family

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

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

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

Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery

Teresa Stanley's mother-car accident, in hospital

**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

Family of Bill May

**Boone:** Linda Cole- heart transplant

Don Bartz (brother-in-law) enlarged hand

Family of Tony Ware

**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, health issues

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

Cynthia- car accident

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

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

**Harris:** Jim- knee replacement trying to find rehab

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

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Kuhn-Kibbey:** Phyllis Smith (friend) - heart attack

**Lambert:** Cindy (friend) going through physical therapy

**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) slow recovery

Messier- family health problems

**Narwid:** Ed- not doing well

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

**Noell:** for students and teachers starting school

**Parkers:** friends surgery and full recovery

**Riley:** Christine- fell, broken nose and bruising

**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

Those impacted by fires in Hawaii

Berry family- memory issues

**Van Dyke:** Donna Mannel (friend) MS

Rick Anderson (niece's husband) home recovering

Granddaughter- adjusting to daycare

**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**



## September 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker Communion Aloha Sunday</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Labor day- office closed</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Frank Avery Memorial, 1pm</i>
<b>10</b> <i>10 am Worship Rev. Philip Parker 5¢ a Meal</i>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Deacons 3:30 pm</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Bedford Hiking Club</i>
<b>24</b> <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Cancer Support</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Activities for week of September 10<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

5 ¢ a Meal Offering

BCM offering/donation

Thursday: Deacon's, 3:30 pm

Sunday: September 17<sup>th</sup>

10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

### September Birthdays

James Harris 12

Sandy Scheurer 12

Deanna Rutledge 16

Dick Kibbey 17

Christine Riley 18

Harold Neal 19

Barbara Saunders 20

Dick Diddams 21

Ron Morris 24

Jay Barnes 29

### September Anniversaries

Jay & Eunice Barnes 11

Gerald & Tammy DeWitt 19

### **September 23<sup>rd</sup> - Bedford Hiking Club greets autumn from the mountain top!**

At 4,225' Apple Orchard Mountain is the highest point on the VA Appalachian Trail, but this easy, scenic, 2-mile loop with just two sets of stone stairs, has less than 300' of elevation gain. Along the path you will also find Old Man Oak, Guillotine Rock and the NORAD radar dome. The view from the top meadow is so nice, you might want to bring a snack and linger a while. For those who wish to carpool, we will leave from the Church at 10 A.M. Or, you can meet us at "Apple Orchard Overlook" parking – Parkway mile 76.5 – at 10:45, *but please let me know if you plan to do so.* (Rain date is Sept.30<sup>th</sup>). For more information contact John Salley @ 540-875-9940



## **Bedford Christian Ministries**

### **Household Needs**

Eating utensils (forks, spoons knives)

Pots and pans

Small appliances (coffee machine, toasters, irons, can openers, etc.)

Bath towel and wash cloths

Sheets in all sizes

### **Clothing Department**

Baby wipes and diapers

Gently used children shoes

New women's and girls' underwear

School clothing (boys and girls- ages 6-18)

### **Food and Pantry**

Sugar

Pop tarts

Cereal bars

Dish detergent

Clothes detergent

Small bottle of bleach



### **Roanoke POPS**

We are taking reservations for this year's Christmas Roanoke POPS Concert. It will be on Friday, December 1st at 7:30 pm at the Salem Civic Center.

Each ticket will be \$52. Do not send any payment at this time.

Call Judy Blair to reserve your seat 540-587-9416.