

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2023 (179 Years)



## Week of September 24<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**

*"Though I May Speak"*

Dale Wood

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice!

**All: Today we choose to rejoice. Today we choose to Worship and give thanks.**

One: Seek the peace of God that will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**All: Today we choose God's peace; today we place our trust in God.**

One: Turn your hearts away from the distractions and disappointments of life that will always flow in and flow out like the tide. Set your affections on things above and worship the Lord who loves you and cares for you.

**All: We come to worship God who alone is excellent and worthy of praise!**

**\*Hymn**

*"Come, People of the Risen King"*

Getty/ Townend

**\* Prayer of Confession**

Merciful Savior, You are lovely, holy, pure, tender-hearted, compassionate and forgiving. Everything that we need and desire is in You, yet we often fill our minds with everything else but You. We focus our thoughts instead upon things that only produce anxiety, grumbling and complaining. Jesus, You are the truest and noblest, most right, pure, lovely and praiseworthy reality we can imagine, so we set our gaze and affection on You. Help us to think with Your mind; overflow our hearts with Your beauty and grace; and focus our eyes to see what you see. So very Amen we pray, in your excellent name.

**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 4:2-9

**Worship Song**

*"We Worship You"*

Tommy Walker

## **Sermon**

### A Nugget of Joyful Peacefulness

When Sherry and I were married, one of the best wedding presents which we received was the “Better Homes and Gardens New Cook Book.” It literally saved us from starving or existing on a diet of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. It contained a wealth of easy to fix recipes that could be prepared with simple ingredients. Both of us were in school at that time and there was no extra money. Sherry would go to the grocery store in the little town of Wake Forest, North Carolina, where we lived and count out the items she put in the grocery basket. She estimated that each item would cost 50 cents. That meant that with our weekly grocery budget of \$10.00 she could purchase 20 items. When was the last time you bought a week’s worth of groceries for ten dollars? In any case we survived and although she won’t admit it, my wife is a pretty good cook. The “Better Homes and Garden New Cook Book” helped us to not only avoid starvation, but also created an atmosphere of genuine peacefulness. When I came home from working as the youth pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Raleigh and asked, “What’s for dinner?” I was frequently introduced to a new recipe that came from that treasured cook book.

Wouldn’t it be nice if someone could come up with a cook book for peacefulness? Not the kind that offers suggestions for the next tantalizing dish for dinner, but the kind that helps us to live peacefully with one another. Let’s be honest, one of the biggest problems we’re facing in America today is getting along with one another, whether we’re talking about our families, our work relationships, even chance encounters on the highways. We’ve all heard the term “road rage” and I’m sure you know what that means, anger aimed at another driver which sometimes escalates into violence. If you are in law enforcement, another term that is frequently mentioned is domestic violence. It can become one of the most dangerous situations imaginable not only for the family that is in an uproar but also for the investigating law officer. He or she must try to step in and bring calm to a potentially dangerous situation. Whether we like it or not, America has become an increasingly violent nation. All you have to do is turn on the TV and listen to the evening news to become aware of what is happening all around us.

I became aware of this problem as a young pastoral care chaplain. I was attempting to help a couple who were obviously at odds with one another. I listened very carefully to their complaints about each other and the fact that their complaints with one another had sometimes turned violent. As the counseling session came to an end, I offered what I thought was good advice as to how they could live more peacefully with one another. Later that day I spoke to one of my fellow chaplains remarking that the couple seemed to be a lot calmer when they left. “Funny thing,” he replied. “I saw a couple just like the one you described inside a telephone booth on the edge of our property arguing with one another. The woman had grabbed the man’s long hair and was attempting to yank him out of the booth.” “Oh no,” I thought. “That was the couple I had just tried to help. Now they’re fighting again. Didn’t the wife realize that her husband was an ex-Marine. Pulling her husband’s hair was probably not a good thing to do.”

Unfortunately, that kind of behavior takes place all too often. We need some help, a cook book for happy and joyous living at home, on the job, with our friends, and sometimes even in church. Fortunately, help is available and it's found in chapter four of Paul's letter to the Philippians. In fact, it's sort of like a recipe for joyful peacefulness. You take all of its various ingredients, mix them together, add the spice of the Holy Spirit's blessings and you have a dish that will quell the discord of just about any group of people, especially if they claim to be Christians. In fact, that is precisely what Paul was attempting to do. Two people, two ladies in the church, were at odds with one another. They were both good people, people who had worked side by side with Paul and with the other leaders in the church at Philippi. They were dedicated Christians, whose names were written in the book of life. Nevertheless, they were upset with one another and their animosity towards each other was creating an uproar in the life of the church. In response, he made some recommendations that would help them and indeed anyone who wants to lower the level of anguish, anxiety, and all too often anger that seems to take hold of our lives all too often. Let's see what he had to say.

Here's the first thing, verse 4, "Rejoice in the Lord always." In other words, let the world know that you love the Lord and are happy to be a part of His family. You can say it, you can sing it, you can live it as an ongoing expression of your joy in the Lord. With that in mind, let me introduce you to Jonathan Edwards, known as the father of the First Great Spiritual Awakening in the 1700's. Not only was he a respected pastor but also a gifted theologian, a missionary to the Mohawk Indians, a Christian mystic, and a keen observer of nature. He and his wife, Sarah, were the loving parents of 11 children. Those who stopped by their home were amazed. The members of the family spoke and even sang to one another with such joy that it was like listening to a chorus of song birds in an aviary. Jonathan Edward's family had discovered and put into practice what Paul encouraged his fellow Christians to do, "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19). When was the last time you were so happy in the Lord that you just had to break out in song? Try it sometime, sort of like singing in the shower, even if you need a bucket to carry the tune. It will be a blessed experience.

Here's another thing you can do, verse 5, "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." When our daughter, Joy, was a first grader, we placed her in a Christian elementary school. Her teacher was the gentlest person that I have ever encountered. She never raised her voice. The children, including my rather rambunctious little girl, followed her around like ducklings with a momma goose. Sometimes the best way to bring order and discipline, even to a difficult situation is to foster a little gentleness. Remember what it says in the book of Proverbs, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).

Now pay special attention to verses 6 and 7. I memorized these a long time ago and I dispense them like a doctor prescribing medications. It's one of the best ways to deal with the worry and anxiety that we all face in today's world. At times, everything seems to be going the wrong way and sometimes those wrong ways affect us personally. That's when we start worrying and spend anxious, sleepless nights tossing and turning. Here's what Paul had to say, "Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." In other words, take some time to tell the Lord what's going on in your life and be sure to thank Him for what He's going to do about it. Then rest easy and stop worrying. Why? Listen to verse eight. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Here's the word picture that Paul is talking about. The Lord Jesus Christ will stand guard over your life like a soldier on the wall of a castle, so that worry and doubt cannot gain entrance and bother you. Isn't that marvelous! A truck driver constantly worried that someone would break into his trailer and steal his cargo when he had to sleep during his trips across America. It was bothering him so much that he couldn't get a good night's rest. Fortunately, the truck driver was a Christian and he remembered the verse that I just quoted. He claimed it as his own. One night shortly thereafter he had a dream. The Lord said to him, "Jim stop worrying. I'll look after your cargo until you wake up in the morning."

Now here's the last ingredient in our recipe for joyous peacefulness. Take a look at verse eight. "Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Isn't that a wonderful verse of Scripture? It's a reminder that we should focus our attention on those things that are uplifting and positive, not on those things that are negative and degrading. Now let me tell you a little secret. When I get down in the dumps and have a negative attitude, here's what my dear wife, Sherry, tells me, "Stop that! Think about something good. Focus on the positive." You might say she gets a little "Pauline" with me.

Here's the final word from Paul, verse 9, "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." Sounds like good advice to me. Or in recipe language—if you want to create a tasty dish of peacefulness, mix in a pint of joyful spirit, add a good portion of gentleness, withhold any hint of worry or anxiety, and be sure to add lots of positive thoughts and attitudes. Once all these ingredients have been blended together you will have a feast of joyful peacefulness that everyone can enjoy!!

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

**Worship Song**

*"The Peace of Christ"*

Tommy Walker

### **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)

Generous God, You have blessed us beyond measure. We pray that You will pour out Your favor, not only on the monetary gifts we've given, but upon our very lives offered to You in a spirit of gratitude. Let our lives be focused on using our tangible gifts and our living witness to share and strengthen the faith of many. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. 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**

*"Rejoice the Lord is King"*

Hymn 342

## THE SENDING FORTH

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*"Hymn of Praise"*

James Denton

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in  
memory of family members that have gone before us, Ron & Margaret Morris.**

## Concerns- September 24<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

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

Ruth (sister) broke back, surgery

Teresa Stanley's mother-home recovering

**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

**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

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

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

**Gould:** Jay- allergic to medication

**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 may never walk

**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

**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

Those impacted by fires in Hawaii

Berry family- memory issues

**Van Dyke:** 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**

**People Impacted by Morocco earthquake**



## 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> <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	<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> <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <i>10 am Service with Rev. Philip Parker</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	<b>28</b> <i>Cancer Support</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Activities for week of September 24<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

Wednesday: Something More, 3 pm

Sunday: October 1<sup>st</sup>

10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker

Communion

### September Birthdays

Ron Morris 24

Jay Barnes 29

### October Birthdays

Kathy Grigg - 5

Scarlett Stevens - 6

Lori Stetson - 9

Philip Parker - 11

Libby Monk - 21

Jim Barefoot - 28

Ann Marie Fleming - 28

Linda Benton - 30

### October Anniversaries

Richard & Belvia Tate - 3

Jay & Venus Gould - 5

James & Ann Marie Fleming - 28

Paul & Nancy Van Dyke – 30

## Thank you for your continued support

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET FORECAST 2023	ACTUAL AUGUST 2023	ACTUAL YTD 2023
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME	\$ 196,609.00	\$ 25,449.69	\$ 137,287.81
-- CONGREGATIONAL GIVING FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 24,198.00	\$ 127,833.28
-- MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ 51,609.00	\$ 1,251.69	\$ 9,454.53
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSE	\$ 202,875.70	\$ 9,651.12	\$ 115,648.93
BUDGETED SPENDING (OVER) UNDER INCOME	\$ (6,266.70)	\$ 15,798.57	\$ 21,638.88

## **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.