

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

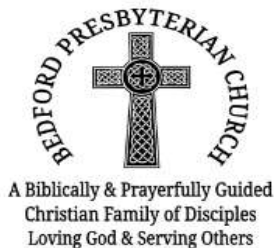


Week of February 11th

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.



*Bedford Presbyterian is a Biblically and
Prayerfully Guided Christian Family of
Disciples, Loving God and Serving Others*

The Approach to God

Prelude "Awesome God" arr. Johnson

Words of Welcome

***Posting of the Colors** "To the Colors"

***The Pledge of Allegiance**

***Hymn** "My Country 'Tis of Thee" Hymn 731

Cub Scout Report Pack Leader Johnny Toler

***A Scout Is** (responsive reading)

Leader: The Scout Law is a guiding light to millions of Scouts and young adults throughout the world today, but the principles of this law have been brought to us from ancient days. All of the points of the scout law find their source in the Bible. Such as ...

People: A Scout is trustworthy.

Leader: The Bible teaches, he who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (Luke 16:10)

People: A Scout is loyal.

Leader: The Bible says, You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge ...but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. ... (Leviticus 19:18)

People: A Scout is helpful.

Leader: The Bible says, if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. (Matthew 5:41)

People: A Scout is friendly.

Leader: Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Romans 12:10 & Psalm 133)

People: A Scout is courteous.

Leader: Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)

People: A Scout is kind.

Leader: A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. (Proverbs 12:10)

People: A Scout is obedient.

Leader: Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. And the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

People: A Scout is cheerful.

Leader: A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken...All the days of the poor are hard, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast. (Proverbs 15:13-15)

People: A Scout is thrifty.

Leader: Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise. Without having any chief or officer or ruler, it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest. (Proverbs 6:6-8)

People: A Scout is brave.

Leader: Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.' (Deuteronomy 31:6)

People: A Scout is clean.

Leader: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessings from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. (Psalm 24:3-5)

People: A Scout is reverent. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion. As God's word commands us, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength... and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30, 31)

**Gloria*

"Glory to the Father"

Bill Rutledge

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

James 2: 1-13

****Worship Song***

"How Great is Our God"

Chris Tomlin

Sermon

Putting Your Faith to Work- Pandora's Box

We've all heard this saying, "Be careful. Don't open Pandora's Box." The saying comes from Greek mythology and describes what happened when Pandora opened the box that had been entrusted into her care. In the original telling it was not a box, but instead a great big urn. When Pandora opened it, all the ills and misfortunes that plague humanity were released into the world. I'm pretty sure that James was not thinking of Pandora's Box when he wrote the passage of Scripture that was read this morning. However, perhaps he should have because showing favoritism is like opening a Pandora's Box of troubles and woes. Favoritism is defined as "the showing of more kindness and indulgence to some person or persons than to others." It is also described as "being unfairly partial." All of us, I am sure, have seen or been made aware of situations where favoritism was shown. Whether at home, at work, or even in the church, it can bring about great harm. Showing favoritism is most assuredly like opening Pandora's Box. These are some of the things that can emerge when people feel that they have been unfairly treated: jealousy, resentment, aggression, anxiety, depression and lots of bad behavior.

You have probably seen some of it in the work place when the boss gives promotions to those who are his friends. Or the child who receives special attention by his or her parents when the other siblings are all but forgotten. Yes, favoritism can even worm its way into the life of a church. In fact, Paul describes just such a situation in his first letter to the Corinthians. In the early days of the church, Christians would gather together for what has come to be known as love feasts. Everyone would bring something to share, sort of like a covered dish dinner. Then at the conclusion of the dinner, the church family would celebrate the Lord's Supper together. Unfortunately things had gone terribly wrong at Corinth. Here is what Paul had to say about the way that celebration was being conducted in their church. "It's not the Lord's Supper you are concerned about when you come together. For I am told that some of you hurry to eat your own

meal without sharing with others. As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk. What? Is this really true? Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace the church of God and shame the poor? What am I supposed to say about these things? Do you want me to praise you? Well, I certainly do not!" (1 Corinthians 20-22) In other words, the wealthier and more well to do folks in the church were excluding the poorer members from sharing in the bounty that should have been shared with everyone. It was a clear case not only of discrimination, but of favoritism. As is clearly indicated, Paul disapproved of this kind of behavior. Furthermore, there were repercussions. Paul accused those who were pursuing this kind of behavior of profaning the Lord's Supper, partaking of it in an unworthy manner. As a result he told them, "That is why some of you are weak and sick and some have even died." (1 Corinthians 11:30)

Perhaps it was just such a situation that led James to speak about favoritism in his letter to fellow Jewish Christians. Let's see what he had to say. He begins by giving us an example reflecting the days and times in which he lived. Let's take a look at verses one through four. In the ancient world wearing a ring was a sign of wealth and prestige. The more rings you wore the higher your standing on the social ladder. It was easy therefore to welcome those kind of folks with open arms as opposed to those of lesser stature. Their financial standing could be beneficial to the life of a church. James, however, had a problem with that kind of prejudice. He rightly called it the kind of discrimination which was motivated by greed. Look what these rich people have to offer as opposed to those who are needy and will drain our resources. Perhaps he was remembering what had happened right there in Jerusalem in the early days of the church. A dispute had arisen. The Greek speaking widows, women who had no means of supporting themselves since that were not natives of Judea, would be left out in the daily distribution of food. Like the situation in Corinth, it was an obvious example of favoritism, showing more regard for the one group of people as opposed to another. The formation of the deacons in Acts, chapter six, had solved the problem, but it was a reminder of what could happen. Therefore, James spoke about it in his letter.

Then in verses five through nine, he went on to remind his readers that God had "chosen the poor in eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom." He was, in fact, reflecting what Jesus had to say as well as what Jesus did. Jesus loved everyone, but he had a special place in His heart for the poor and the lowly. Yes, on occasion He ate in the homes of the wealthy and spoke about the Kingdom of God with those who were well educated and well to-do like Nicodemis. However, if you examine the Scriptures, you find Him spending most of His time with those on the sidelines of life—the hungry, the sick and the forgotten. When Jesus returned to Nazareth and spoke in the local synagogue quoting the prophet Isaiah He said, "He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor," (Luke 4:18) In fact, in referring to the royal law, James was reminding his readers that Jesus said that caring for one's neighbors was the second great commandment. Not only that, if you remember the parable of the Good Samaritan, one's neighbor is not only the person who lives next to you, but any person who needs your love and attention.

Then to wrap things up James says that showing favoritism makes an individual a law breaker. Even if he keeps all of the other laws, he or she is still a law breaker if this one is broken. Sort of like driving down the road. You may stop at every red light and use your turn signal every time you make a turn. But if you get caught for speeding, even if you have kept all of the other laws about good driving, you're still a law breaker. So realizing that we're all prone to step over the line now and then, even with regards to how we treat others, its better, James says, to be merciful instead of judgmental, looking down on those who are less fortunate and perhaps even less deserving than we are. Otherwise, we too might find ourselves in the judgement seat of the accused when we stand before God.

So what does this have to say to you and me, especially as we prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper. One memory from my early days in seminary speaks eloquently to what James is saying to us. A fellow student was the pastor of a country church. Not too far from the church there was a small, Native American Indian reservation. It was an impoverished community with a lot of children. The pastor's heart went out to them and he invited them, especially the children, to come and be a part of their Sunday school. The tribal group took him up on his offer and sent a number of their children to the church one Sunday. After the service was over and the children had returned home, the leaders of the church came to the pastor. They said, "We don't want those kind of children to come to our church. You should not have invited them." In response, the pastor replied, "In that case, you will need to call a new pastor. I will not be a part of a congregation that discriminates against those who so desperately need the love of Jesus." I'll always remember his courageous stand against those whose favoritism was so un-Christlike. And that's why I'm glad to be a part of a church that opens its arms and embraces all of those who are in need. May it be never be said of us that we play favorites at Bedford Presbyterian.

***Worship Song**

"Captive My Heart"

Terry MacAlmon

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.

***Closing Hymn**

"Be Doers of the Word of God"

Carolyn Gillette

***Benediction**

Postlude

"Postlude on 'Ellacombe'"

Payne

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my husband,
Sampson C. Boone III, by Christy Boone.

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	5	6	7 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	8	9	10
11 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	12	13	14 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	15	16	17
18 <i>10 am Worship</i>	19	20	21 <i>Deacon's 1:30 pm Something More, 3pm</i>	22	23	25
25 <i>10 am Worship</i>	26	27	28 <i>Something More, 3pm Lenten Lunch 12 pm MSUMC</i>	29		

Joys- February 11th

Joy- Michelle Goode thanks everyone for their prayers during her illness

Concerns- February 11th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) colon cancer

Mark- (nephew) open heart surgery, caregiver of special needs adult

Benton: Tracey Thomas (daughter's friend) transplant problems

Blair: Ecumenical youth group

Boone: Linda Cole- heart transplant

Don Bartz- (brother-in-law) in hospital, pneumonia

Karen Mann- (friend) stroke, in rehab

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) cancer

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Donnie (husband) upcoming back surgery MRI

Compter: two brothers- unbelievers

Prayers for friends to come to the Lord

Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure

Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities

Vicky-(friend) recurring lymphoma

May- (friend) breast cancer

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

Garrett Winslow

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith

Lory Graham- (friend) health issues, wife caretaker

Brenda Wilkerson- UVA- seizures

DeHart: Dawn's mother gall bladder surgery

Michael Rutter- septic shock, amputation

Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Fleming: Dominick (Ann Marie's brother) heart surgery successful

Foster: Ron (brother-in-law) in home

Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia

Tom- home

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- (friend) physical therapy

Those held hostage in Gaza

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn- Kibbey: Phyllis Smith (friend) heart attack

Dot- fell broken ribs, vertebrae, long recovery

Lambert: Margaret caring for brother, strokes, doing better

Mausser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Barbara (AL's sister) intense headaches

Gayle- doing better

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Kyle Coble- (cousin) leukemia

Rev. Pam Ledbetter

James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung

John Hargett (friend) slow recovery may never walk

Ron- pacemaker, at home

Ann Ortega- tumor near pancreas

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)

Scott- (son-in-law) doing well

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer

Sonny (son) doing well

Smith: Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) that she comes to the Lord

Stetson: Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer

Nick, Tiffany, Savannah- Savannah back in hospital

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Two firefighters who suffered falls

Webb: Shawn caretaker to aunt and grandma

Prayers for our nation and our President

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Russian invasion ends and not resort to nuclear weapons.

Prayers for new residents to come to worship with us

Prayers for Ukraine

Pray for World Peace

Prayers for Israel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Activities for week of February 11th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Scout Sunday

5¢ a Meal Offering

BCM Collections/Donations

Wednesday: 3 pm Something More

Thursday: Choir Practice 10:30 am

Sunday: February 18th

10 am Worship

February Birthdays

Heather Poindexter -12

BJ Poindexter -13

Ken McManis -13

John Salley -23

Janis Easter - 26

Richard Overstreet -27

Karen Overstreet -28

February Anniversaries

Jim & Judy Harris - 13

Inclement Weather

It's that time of year when the weather can throw us some curves. When inclement weather creates circumstances that are potentially dangerous, we will send out a "Grace Note" announcing that Sunday worship services and/or other activities are cancelled. We will also send notification to WSLS, WSET and WDBJ. As always, however, use your best judgement when venturing out during inclement weather. We want everyone to be safe and secure.

Forty Days of Love

**Join us on Wednesday beginning February 14th at 12pm at
Main Street United Methodist Church for Lenten Lunches.**

Lunch is provided by area churches for a \$5 donation with a time of Music, prayer and a message from a local pastor.

BPC will be hosting on February 28th with Rev. Parker bringing the message, Bill Rutledge providing the music and David Grigg will be preparing the meal. If you would like to volunteer to help with the preparation of the meal, please contact David Grigg.

Clerk's Corner

- Our 2024 Nominating Committee is Bill Yodis (Chair), Tricia Schubert, Barbara Nichols and Dianne Fain.
- Venus Gould was recently installed as a Deacon. Thank you Deacons for the amazing working you are doing. Michelle Goode will be installed as an Elder on March 10th.
- Keep our Pastoral Nominating Committee in prayer: Judy Blair, Nick DeWitt, James Fleming, Deanna Rutledge, Dave Stetson, Paul Van Dyke (Chair) and Shawn Webb. They are meeting weekly and have reviewed 59 ministers.
- Congregational giving in 2023 was 147% above budgeted amount! Thank you for your generosity. We were able to bless the following organizations: Bedford Christian Ministries - \$2700, Bedford Pregnancy Center - \$1500, Patrick Henry Family Services - \$600, Massanetta Springs - \$500, Society of St. Andrew - \$2700, Shepherds Table: \$4823.84, Heart of Christ - \$3000, Covered - \$700, Roanoke Rescue Mission: \$600, Cool Spring Presbytery Camp - \$500, and Christmas Station - \$300.
- Our projected budgeted expenses for 2024 exceed budgeted income by \$9,746.55. We are trusting in the Lord to provide!
- Thank you all for your input on a recent survey to determine if we should move our worship time from 10 am to 11 am. Based on the results of that survey, our worship time will remain unchanged.
- Rev. Parker will be speaking at one of the upcoming Lenten lunches. Bill Rutledge will lead music and David Grigg will be preparing the meal. David would love some help in the kitchen. Stay tuned for date.
- Virginia Free Clinic will not be renewing their lease of the Center Street property. The Department of Social Services, for Opioid Counseling, is now interested in using the facility.
- Need a piano? We have several. Please see John Blair.

