

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

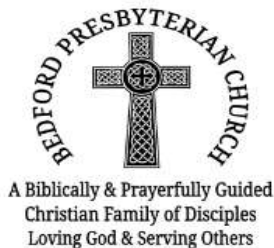


Week of February 18th

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

One: The Peace of Christ Be With You

All: And Also With You

Prelude

"Come Just As You Are"

Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We are called to a life of faith.

All: However we may answer that call, God is listening.

One: We are called to a life of renewal.

All: Whenever we lose our way, God is patient and forgiving.

One: We are called to a life of service.

All: For both our needs and our talents, God inspires and strengthens.

One: We are called to a life of love.

All: God forever loves us and abides with us, as we are and where we are.

Hymn

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Hymn 87

***Prayer of Confession:**

One: Gracious and forgiving God, as we journey through Lent, turn our hearts towards You, that we may love You more faithfully and follow You more actively.

All: We confess before You now that we do not always love others as you ask us to. We offer words in place of action. Lord, have mercy.

One: We confess that we love our own comforts more than we should.

All: We reserve our time and our abilities, for our own benefit. We hold back our money and material gifts despite the needs of others. Lord, have mercy.

One: We confess that we struggle to love You with all our heart, mind and soul.

All: We chase our own plans instead of seeking Your purpose. We follow other values that pull us away from Your word. Lord, have mercy.

***Assurance of Pardon** (*responsive*)

One: Friends, believe in 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"

Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

James 2: 14-26

(page 230)

Anthem

"Sing to the Lord"

Medema

Sermon

PUTTING YOUR FAITH TO WORK, BOTH AND, NOT EITHER OR

Years ago I came across a book called *The Gospel According to Peanuts*. It features all of those beloved Peanuts characters including my all-time favorite, Snoopy. I've always had a special place in my heart for that little white pup sitting on top of his dog house. When I read the passage of Scripture that is the focus of today's sermon, I could not help but think of him, especially when I read verses 15-17. What James has to say is perfectly illustrated by a little cartoon strip in the book. Snoopy is sitting outside in the snow as Charlie Brown and Linus walk by. Charlie says to Linus, "Snoopy looks kind of cold doesn't he?" Linus replies, "I'll say he does. Maybe we'd better go over and comfort him." So Charlie and Linus walk over to Snoopy and say one after the other, "Be of good cheer, Snoopy. Yes, be of good cheer." Then they walk off leaving Snoopy shivering in the cold with a great big question mark lingering over the scene. Although Snoopy doesn't say anything, the question mark speaks volumes. You can't help but imagine Snoopy thinking to himself, "Thanks for the kind words, but where's the blanket?"

James, as we have already noticed, uses a very similar illustration to talk about the importance of faith and deeds. Sharing a word of encouragement to someone who is cold and hungry, but doing nothing to relieve that person's suffering is useless. In fact, it's worse than useless. Not only is it mean spirited, but it conveys the fact that the comforting words were really quite empty. If they were sincere, the person who had spoken them would have done something. He or she would have made sure that the person in need was both warm and well fed. James concludes that the same is true with regards to faith and deeds. Having faith that doesn't express itself in how we live is rather empty. In fact, that kind of faith calls its very existence into question. Or as James says in verse 17, "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

James then proceeds to create an imaginary scene in which he is speaking to a person who vehemently believes that faith and faith alone is all that is required. This individual says, "I believe in God. Isn't that good enough?" In response, James chuckles to himself and responds, "So you believe there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder" (James 2:19). In other words, belief in God is something that even demons can achieve, but that doesn't mean they are anxious to serve the Lord. Just the opposite, they're scared to death of Him.

James then goes a step further and shares two Biblical examples about how our faith, our belief in God must be confirmed by what we do. The first example is Abraham. He recites the well-known story about Abraham and Isaac. Abraham trusted the Lord so wholeheartedly that he was willing to sacrifice his very own son if that's what God wanted him to do. Of course, as we know that didn't happen, but his willingness, says James, confirmed that "his faith and his actions were working together and his faith was made complete by what he did." (James 2:22) That's why Abraham was considered to be righteous in the sight of God and why he became known as a friend of God. James then moves on to the example of Rahab, the prostitute in Jericho. She had placed her faith in the God of the Israelites and put that faith to work by hiding the spies that Joshua had sent into the city, as well as helping them to escape. Finally, James concludes this section of his letter by reminding everyone in verse 26, that a body without breath, without the spirit of life within it, is nothing more than a corpse. Likewise, faith without deeds is dead.

Now what does all of this mean for you and me? It appears that we have the makings for a grand argument between James and Paul and indeed, there may have been some friction between the two of them as evidenced in the fifteenth chapter of the book of Acts. In fact, one of the earliest controversies that arose in the Christian church was about whether a person could become a Christian without obeying the laws given to the Jewish people by Moses. Paul said, "Faith alone is sufficient." James was a bit more guarded. Keeping the law, at least its most basic tenants, was a way of validating one's faith. So, on the surface it would appear that we have two divergent ideas as to what it means to be saved. However, upon

further examination, both James and Paul are really saying the same thing. Simply put, this is what they are telling us.

First, you can't work your way into heaven. There is nothing you or I can do to earn God's favor. It is a gift that He bestows upon us when we place our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul says it best in his letter to the Ephesians, "For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) That's simple enough, simple enough for anyone to understand. Nevertheless, I've run into folks every now and then who beg to differ. In particular I remember a couple who attended the church where I served in North Carolina. I shared the plan of God's salvation with them. They responded by saying, "You're wrong. We're good people and God will let us into heaven because of all the good things we have done for Him." I could not convince them otherwise and shortly thereafter they stopped coming. Trying to get to heaven on your own would be like jumping in the Atlantic Ocean at Virginia Beach and swimming to England. No matter how good you might be, you'd never make it. The same is true with regards to trusting in good deeds to somehow earn you enough credits to gain God's acceptance. It's impossible.

Here's the second thing that James and Paul are telling us. **You can't talk your way into heaven.** Remember that verse of Scripture in the book of Philippians we examined during the sermon series awhile back. Paul says, "Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). Sounds like Paul is contradicting himself. Not so. He's saying the same thing that James has been saying in the passage of Scripture that was read this morning. We are saved by God's grace, but once that has been accomplished, we need to forsake the ways of the world and begin living like Christians. Our lives ought to be a testimony to our faith. Yes, there will be times when we fail and must ask for forgiveness, but with God's help we've become a changed person. How we live and what we do for others must reflect that change. Otherwise, we've just been talking about faith without it really taking hold of our lives. Just like that couple who wanted to work their way into heaven, I've run into some people who want to talk their way into heaven. They make a profession of faith, attend a few Sundays and then you never see them again. Furthermore, upon examination, you discover that their lives are just as worldly and sin filled as they were before. They thought that salvation was like buying a train ticket to glory. Once you have the ticket, you can live any way you wish until the whistle blows and the train leaves the station. Not so according to Jesus. He said in His Sermon on the Mount, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Doing the will of our heavenly Father means for starters, "Loving Him and loving one another." It means living the Christian way of life, a life that honors God and a life that is filled with charitable deeds for others. In other words, you just can't talk your way into heaven.

This past Wednesday, we celebrated Valentine's Day. I hope you did something nice for your special valentine. Since it's a day in honor of love, let's picture in our minds that moment when a young man says to his girl, "I love you with all of my heart." I'm sure that makes her happy and she probably gives him a great big kiss, but that happiness is not complete until the day of the marriage. Otherwise that declaration of love is just words. It must be followed up by what he does if that love is true and genuine. In fact, imagining that scene in my mind, I'm reminded of an old song that goes something like this, "Love and marriage, love and marriage, go together like a horse and carriage. "This I tell you, brother, you can't have one without the other." The same is true with regards to faith and deeds. You really can't have one without the other. So it's always **BOTH AND**, never **EITHER OR**!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

“Speak, O Lord”

Getty/Townend

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 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. Amen.

Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: Our faith teaches us that we are not saved or justified through what we do, but only through the immensity of God's love. That does not mean however, that we are left alone to do nothing. Through the love and blessings we receive, we are called to respond with gratitude and service, affirming that even the smallest gift offered in love is sacred in God's eyes. Let us pray.

All: **Active and ever-working God, Stir our hearts that in our living we may show our faith. Inspire us to give, to feed the hungry in our communities. Raise us up to serve, to welcome the newcomer and nourish the regular. And awaken us to love, to heal the hurt and suffering in our world. Accept this offering as a sign of our faith in Your abundant love, and our hope in Your eternal grace. Accept our thanks that You strengthen us for the work You call us to, and support us in our times of struggle and need.**

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**

“Be Doers of the Word of God”

Carolyn Gillette

THE SENDING FORTH

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 18th

Joy- Eunice Barnes, what a joy to have the Scouts, Poindexter family and the Frobergs in attendance

Concerns- February 18th

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) more surgery

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

Ben Thomas (son) surgery, having cochlear implant

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

James- covid

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

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

Tom- home, referred to specialist

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

Mauser: 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, going home
Deputy Chief Matt Scott, spot on kidney

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Two firefighters who suffered falls

Van Dyke: continued prayers for Dot and Dick Kibbey

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 18th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Ecumenical youth group meeting from 4 to 6

Wednesday: 3 pm Something More

Thursday: Choir Practice 10:30 am

Deacons, 1:30 pm

Sunday: February 25th

10 am Worship

February Birthdays

John Salley -23

Janis Easter - 26

Richard Overstreet -27

Karen Overstreet -28

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 to volunteer to help
with the preparation of the meal, please contact David Grigg.

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Montreat Donations and Service Projects

We are blessed this year to have six youth who will be attending this year's Montreat Youth
Conference. This year's theme is "Planting Peace"...how timely! Last year we were able to raise
the funds needed to help with the cost of the conference with donations as well as service
projects. We are asking for your help again. If you would like to just donate to this wonderful
experience for these young people, you can write out a check to Bedford Presbyterian Church that
has Montreat Youth Conference written in the memo. If you have some yard work that needs to
be done or some other project that you think these young folks can help you with, please get in
touch with John and Judy Blair so they can schedule that with you. Thank you for the blessing of
giving these youth a wonderful life changing experience.

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Taming the Tongue

Have you ever heard this old saying, "Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never
hurt me?" The fact of the matter is words can hurt. They can destroy relationships and cause all
kinds of trouble. That's why James reminds us in his letter to keep a tight rein over our tongues.

Let's explore this important topic next Sunday as we examine James 3:1-12.



SHRED IT AND DRUG TAKE BACK

SAFEGUARD YOUR IDENTITY WITH THIS **FREE** EVENT



10AM TO 1PM

SAFELY DISPOSE OF EXPIRED AND
UNUSED MEDICATIONS

DATES / LOCATIONS

- 3/23** **BEDFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
- 4/20** **JEFFERSON FOREST HIGH SCHOOL**
- 5/18** **STAUNTON RIVER HIGH SCHOOL**

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY
THEFT BY PROPERLY DISPOSING OF
YOUR PERSONAL PAPERS



Friends of Bedford County



Animal Shelter

WE WILL BE ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR
THE BEDFORD COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
AND LOCAL CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

PET FOOD, CANNED GOODS, OR NONPERISHABLE
FOODS FOR THESE GREAT ORGANIZATIONS!

