

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

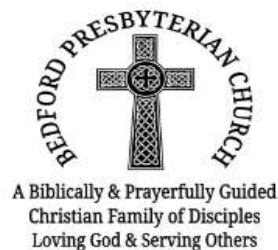


## Week of March 3<sup>rd</sup>

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.



*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**

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

Faye Lopez

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: Who is wise and understanding among us?

**All: Those who seek wisdom and understanding each and every day. Those who delight in God and meditate on His law.**

One: Come, learn more about the wisdom from above, a wisdom that yields a harvest of righteousness.

**All: O God, we draw near to You, the only wise God. To You be honor and glory forever.**

**Hymn**

*“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

Hymn 48

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

O God, we live our lives as best we can—dealing with difficult relationships and situations, putting failures and disappointments behind us and moving into each new day with as much energy, goodwill and optimism as we can muster. But here, right now, we seldom have the right answers, we seldom seek Your higher wisdom in our lives, we just move ahead. Forgive us for not asking for Your insight. Fill us with Your wisdom, that we may live lives of goodness and peace. Amen.

**\*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 3: 13-18

**Anthem**

*“The Perfect Wisdom of God”*

Getty/Townend

## **Sermon**

## Two Kinds of Wisdom

Solomon has always been thought of as one of the wisest men who ever lived. One Old Testament account is particularly illustrative of that assertion. Two women who lived in the same house were brought before him. Each of them had given birth to a child. During the night one of those children died. Now both of the mothers along with the child which was still alive had been brought before the king. Each of them were claiming that the child was theirs. How was the king to decide to which mother the child belonged? Summoning one of his servants, the king said, "Bring me a sword." Then he instructed one of his soldiers, "Take this sword, cut the child in half and give one half of the child to each of the mothers." The real mother was filled with compassion and cried out, "Don't kill him. Give the baby to the other woman." The other woman said, "Go ahead, cut the child in half so that neither of us shall have him." The child's life was spared and the king decreed that the child should be given into the care of the rightful mother, the one who had been willing to give him up. In response, this is what the Scriptures tell us, "When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice" (1 Kings 3:28).

Wisdom, the ability to make a decision that reflects reality, a decision that is actually true and righteous, can sometimes be very challenging. That's why Solomon was held in such high regard following his discernment regarding the identity of the true mother and that's why James addresses the subject of wisdom in his letter to fellow believers. He wanted them to make wise decisions, especially when they were in positions of leadership within the life of a church. Let's see what he had to say. Basically it can be broken down into four observations. First, there are two kinds of wisdom. Second, both have a different origin. Third, each has a different set of character traits. Fourth, each creates a different outcome.

Like me, you may have thought that wisdom is simply wisdom. It's the ability to discern what is right and wrong and come up with the right course of action. But that, says James, is not necessarily so. He states that there are two kinds of wisdom, heavenly wisdom and earthly wisdom and that both are traits of human beings. Heavenly wisdom is dependent on a set of values and beliefs that rise above our most basic human passions and pursuits. It takes others into consideration as it makes important decisions. Earthly wisdom, on the other hand, is relegated to the more self-serving pursuits of humanity. In its most basic form it's simply the survival of the fittest. Or to put it another way, it's getting ahead in this world no matter what you have to do and no matter how many people you have to step on to get there. It can best be illustrated by a man who is considered to be a wise businessman, even though he has taken unfair advantage of his competitors, even putting some of them and their employees out of business. Another example would be a dictator who is considered to be quite savvy, even though he has imprisoned and murdered thousands of people to arrive at the pinnacle of power. Speaking of earthly wisdom, James says, "Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven, but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil" (James 3:15).

This observation about the two kinds of wisdom naturally leads to the second one. Where do these two wisdoms have their origin? Where do they come from? Heavenly wisdom, of course, comes from the one who resides in heaven, the Lord God Almighty. It's the kind of wisdom that Psalm 111:10 declares, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." Going back to Solomon for just a moment, do you remember how he obtained his wisdom? He had a dream one night in which the Lord told him, "Ask for whatever you want and I will give it to you." Instead of asking for wealth or power or even long life, Solomon asked God for a discerning heart to govern his people. God was so pleased by this request that He granted Solomon not only great wisdom, but a lot of other things as well (1 Kings 3:1-15). In other words, Solomon's wisdom was a gift from God. The same is true for earthly wisdom. It too is a gift but from a different source. It comes from the devil as James rightly points out in verse 15.

This brings us to James' third observation. Earthly wisdom and heavenly wisdom have different character traits. Speaking of earthly wisdom, James informs us in verse fourteen that it is derived from "bitter envy and selfish ambition." It's the kind of passion that arises in our hearts when we scheme to get what we want and then brag about our accomplishments. We want everyone to admire what we have done, even though we know there is no truth in what we would like others to praise us for. It produces an empty sense of accomplishment. Heavenly wisdom on the other hand possesses an entirely different set of character traits. James describes them in this way, "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere" (James 3:17). It is the kind of wisdom that has no ulterior motives, which always desires harmony, which is considerate and open to another's suggestions, which is full of kindness, desiring what is best for everyone, never showing favoritism or condoning hypocrisy. It's the kind of wisdom that makes life a blessing instead of a burden.

Speaking of blessings and burdens, there is one more observation about these two kinds of wisdom. What kind of outcomes do these two kinds of wisdom produce? When they are fully utilized, what happens? Here's what transpires when earthly wisdom takes charge. James says that there is disorder and wickedness of every kind. In other words, things go from bad to worse. Strife and discord become rampant. Things fall apart. On the other hand, heavenly wisdom produces a harvest of righteousness, a harvest of accomplishment and satisfaction, a harvest of right relationships one with another.

I have used this illustration before, but I can think of none better which so vividly portrays what James is speaking about regarding the two kinds of wisdom and how they are employed in everyday life. When my mother graduated from high school, she went to work for the Nestles Milk Company in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The company sold evaporated milk. Each month the salesmen would come to the office where my mother worked to report their sales. They were a boisterous, loud, self-centered mob, strutting around, bragging about all of the cases of evaporated milk they had sold. Everyone wanted to be the top salesman, the best, the most cunning, the most shrewd purveyor of evaporated milk. They were rude and obnoxious. They turned the office upside down and transformed it into a hostile work environment. They were the epitome of earthly wisdom. Fortunately there was a corporate manager who also visited the office from time to time. He was a kind, quiet gentleman who spent time with the employees, asking how they were doing, eager to hear their suggestions as to how things could be improved. He possessed a kind of gentle, humble wisdom that brought out the best in everyone. The employees at that Nestle Milk Company office looked forward to his visits. They loathed the arrival of the salesmen.

At the beginning of this passage of Scripture, James raised a question which he then proceeded to answer, "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom" (James 3:13). I count it a privilege to serve as the interim pastor of a church which exemplifies the kind of heavenly wisdom that James encouraged us to pursue.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

**Hymn**

*"I Stand in Awe"*

Hymn 53

**Communion**

*"You Satisfy the Hunger Heart"  
"In Remembrance of Me"*

Instrumental

**Doxology**

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Hymn 34

### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

You are the generous one, full of mercy and goodness for Your creation. Send Your wisdom with these gifts, that they may reach those who need Your love and grace. Bring about a harvest of goodness through these gifts sown in peace. 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***

*"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

Hymn 569

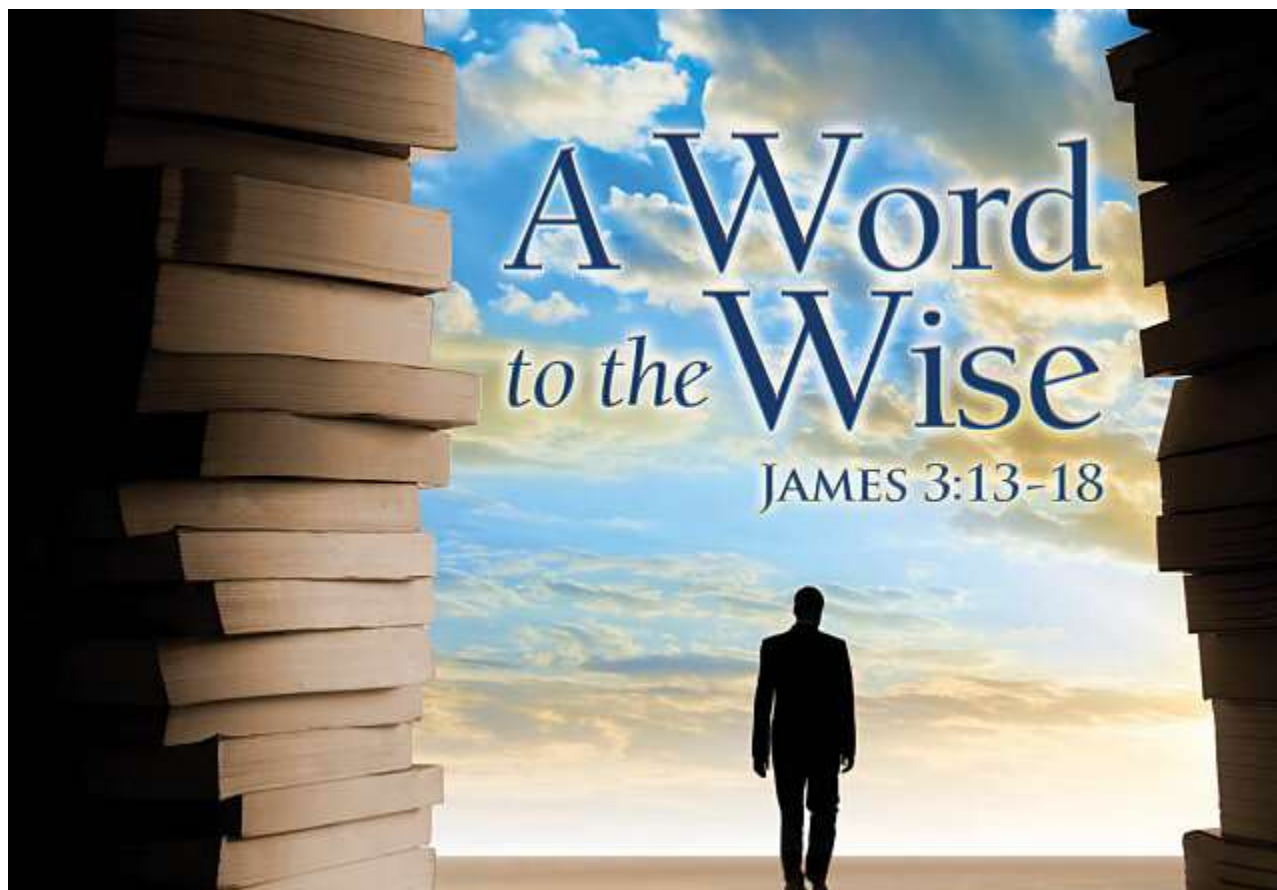
### **THE SENDING FORTH**

#### ***Benediction***

#### ***Postlude***

*"Ach Gott, Vom Himmel Sieh Darein"*  
*(Oh God, Look Down from Heaven)*

Pachelbel



# March 2024

| SUN  | MON       | TUE       | WED   | THU                                     | FRI                             | SAT       |
|--|-----------|-----------|---|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
|  |           |           |   |   | <b>1</b>                        | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>3</b><br><i>10 am Worship<br/>Communion</i>                                 | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br><i>Something<br/>More, 3 pm</i> | <b>7</b>                                | <b>8</b>                        | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>10</b><br><i>10 am Worship<br/>5¢ a Meal<br/>BCM collection<br/>Session</i> | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b><br><i>Something<br/>More, 3pm</i> | <b>14</b>                               | <b>15</b>                       | <b>16</b> |
| <b>17</b><br><i>10 am Worship</i>  | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b><br><i>Something<br/>More, 3pm</i> | <b>21</b>                               | <b>22</b>                       | <b>23</b> |
| <b>24</b><br><i>10 am Worship<br/>Palm Sunday</i>                              | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br><i>Something<br/>More, 3pm</i> | <b>28</b><br><i>Maundy<br/>Thursday</i> | <b>29</b><br><i>Good Friday</i> | <b>30</b> |
| <b>31</b><br><i>10 am Worship<br/>Easter</i>                                   |           |           |   |   |                                 |           |

### Joys- March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Joy-** Michelle Goode, good tests results, brother-in-law doing better

**Joy-** Christine Riley moved to Oakwood. Doing better

### Concerns-March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**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

Debbie (friend) passing of husband

**Blair:** Ecumenical youth group

Harvey Clarke- passing of Weebie

**Boone:** Christy, thyroid surgery in May

**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

David- child, multiple heart surgeries, having complications

Joe- (friend) eye 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

**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,

Cynthia- (friend) physical therapy

Those held hostage in Gaza

Larry (brother-in-law) heart attack

**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:** brother 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

**Monk:** Libby's mother, stroke, Lynchburg General

**Narwid:** Ed- not doing well

**Riley:** Christine, stroke

**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 March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
Communion

Wednesday: 3 pm Something More

Thursday: Choir Practice 10:30 am

Sunday: March 10<sup>th</sup>

10 am Worship

Session

5¢ a Meal Offering

BCM collection/donation

### March Birthdays

Sally Cram - 3

Eunice Barnes - 12

Jagger Creasy - 14

Maggie DeWitt - 17

Nick DeWitt - 18

Ronnie Saunders - 24

### March Anniversaries

Richard & Elizabeth Creasy -24

## Forty Days of Love

**Join us on Wednesday beginning February 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

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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.