

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

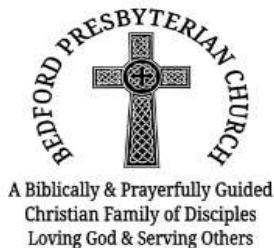


Week of March 10th

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

"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"

Bill Wolaver

Words of Welcome

Minute for Missions

Bedford Pregnancy Center

Lori Lewis

Call to Worship

One: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

All: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and God will exalt you.

One: O Lord, help us through our worship to draw near to you that we may be cleansed and purified from our sins.

All: We come to You, O Christ, for You are the way, the truth and the life.

Hymn

"We Come, O Christ, to You"

Hymn 110

***Prayer of Confession:**

O God, we want to have our cake and eat it, too: we want to be a friend of the world and still be Your friend. Yet, Jesus taught us: "No one can serve two masters." Give us strength and courage to get our priorities straight: help us to seek Your kingdom first. Help us to live faithfully and joyfully in the world and to be friends with the people You call us to serve. Help us also to remember that our best relationship is the one we have with You, We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 4: 1-10

Worship Song

"We Will Draw Near to You"

Mystrom/Harros

Sermon

Submission to a Higher Authority

If you have ever served in the Armed Forces, especially the Marine Corps, there is one individual that you met early on, the staff sergeant. He was that mild mannered military officer who gently encouraged recruits to have a good time as they served the nation. That's the way it was, right? Wrong! That staff sergeant was just the opposite. He was loud, harsh and demanding. He required absolute obedience. Any infraction of the military code of behavior was met with immediate discipline. You did not want to get on the wrong side of the staff sergeant. During those weeks of enlistment training, he could make a recruit's life just plain miserable.

Reading today's passage of Scripture I could not help but think that James would have made an excellent staff sergeant for new recruits of Christianity. He certainly does not mince any words in describing his expectations for service in the Kingdom of God. So let's pretend this morning that we have lined up in military formation to receive an address from Staff Sergeant James and see what he has to say to us. And let's be sure to not only hear his words but to discern their meaning for our lives as God's people serving in the army of the Lord.

And just in case you're saying to yourself, "I didn't sign up to join the Armed Forces of the Lord. I'm just an average Christian trying to do my best," let me remind you of what Paul said to Timothy. In 2 Timothy 2:3-4, he tells Timothy and by inference all of us, "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer." So let's straighten up our formation, get our minds off of other things and pay rapt attention to what Staff Sergeant James has to say to us.

The first thing is directly related to our old way of life as civilians. Even though we have joined up with the Lord, that doesn't mean that we have turned aside from our old ways of life. In fact, many people sign up to be Christians without realizing that a change in attitudes and behavior is required. That's precisely what James is addressing in the first three verses of chapter 4. He writes, "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your own pleasures." Let's be honest. These words are harsh and condemnatory. We're not a bunch of raw recruits in a bar room brawl. However, there have been times when Christians have acted in just such a way with fist fights actually breaking out during a business meeting. Thankfully those kind of things are not a part of our church family. But let's look a little deeper.

When Christians come at life from a worldly point of view, striving to get what they want without considering what others desire or what is genuinely needful, things can become difficult. That's especially true with regards to prayer. A prayer offered for personal gain and pleasure, especially if it is offered at others expense, will always receive a divine rejection. God's silent distain will be overwhelming. Why, because the motives for such prayers are all wrong. Those prayers are all about getting what we want, not about what He wants. God will not be stiff armed into giving what is harmful and inconsistent with the way He wants us to live with one another. In military terms, He is not going to lay aside His code of conduct for human behavior to benefit selfish, uncaring pursuits.

Here's the second thing that James is telling us. Friendship with the world, a disorderly, self-centered way of life makes us an enemy of God. Take, for example, a business relationship between two partners. One is committed to the commercial enterprise which they established. There are a definite set of plans and priorities that he wishes to pursue. The other partner, so to speak, is out to lunch. He really doesn't care that much about what's happening, except for his pay check and a lot of time off to pursue personal

interests. Before long, there are going to be disagreements and two partners will be at odds with one another. Eventually, they will see themselves as enemies of one another. More than likely the business relationship will be dissolved.

Thankfully, the Lord doesn't want that to happen. That's what James is talking about in verses four and five. In the Old Testament when people turned away from the Lord, it was described as adultery, like a marriage partner abandoning their spouse to seek the love and affection of another. James is saying that adopting a worldly way of life is just like committing adultery. It puts that person's relationship with the Lord in jeopardy. Here's why. When we become Christians, the Lord establishes an ongoing relationship with us through His Holy Spirit. In other words, God longs to be a part of our lives, to help us live them successfully. He jealously desires for us to be faithful in upholding that relationship. He is like a parent who loves his children and who is grieved and heart-broken when they turn aside and adopt a way of life just the opposite of what he wishes for them. Not only is that way of life destructive, like drug and alcohol abuse, but is in fact a state of rebellion. Harkening back to the military illustration, it means that God's people can go AWOL. Examining the membership listing of most any church and taking a look at the lifestyle of those who infrequently or rarely if ever attend, one would have to conclude that a lot of Christians are AWOL.

Realizing this was a problem even in his own day and time, James offers some recommendations for consideration. We should think of them as recommendations of that staff sergeant to his enlistees. He's given them a hard time during their training, but he has truly come to love them and desire the best for them, even when they have to stand before the commanding officer of the battalion for serious infractions which they have committed. This is what Staff Sergeant James has to say in verses seven through ten.

- When you stand before your commander, don't be arrogant. An attitude of genuine humility is required.
- Clean up your life inwardly and outwardly, put things in order and be properly prepared to meet your commanding officer.
- Don't be giddy and disrespectful. A grief stricken countenance is much more appropriate than a haughty attitude. Let there be a true expression of sorrow and regret for what you have done.
- At the conclusion of your meeting with the commander, a slight bow with a firm salute will indicate your willing submission to his authority. In response, he will lift you up. He will restore you to a place of honor as you continue to serve him.

In 1725 a child was born in Wapping, a town near London, England on the Thames River. The child's mother was a devout Christian and she prayed that her son would become a clergyman. Unfortunately, she died when her son was but six years old. A few years later the little boy went to live with his father, a sea captain. Possessing a rebellious nature, he rejected all authority over his life, including his mother's faith and his father's guidance. Forced into the British Navy, he deserted, was imprisoned, and finally dishonorably discharged. He continued a life of self-indulgent hedonism, becoming so vile that even his shipmates would have nothing to do with him. Involved in the slave trade, he was himself enslaved briefly in Africa. Finally, on board a ship floundering in a storm off the coast of Ireland, he cried out to the Lord remembering a verse of Scripture he had learned as a child, Luke 11:13. The comforting words of Jesus spoke to his heart, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Gradually turning aside from the sins of his past and committing his life to the lordship of Jesus Christ, he began to study the Scriptures and was eventually ordained as a minister in the church of England. He served a church in Olney for 16 years before being called to a congregation in London. Along with William

Wilberforce, a member of Parliament, he became an advocate for ending slavery in the British Empire. Along with his oratorical gifts, he was also a song writer and composed numerous hymns that were sung in the churches he served. One of the most memorable has also become one of the most beloved hymns in the English language, "Amazing Grace." Who was this man? He was John Newton who said of himself near the end of his life, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior." It took a long time, until he was 39 years old, but finally John Newton came to the realization that the only way to live a life that has any worthwhile meaning or purpose requires just one thing, **submission to a higher authority.**

When you and I stand before our Commanding Officer, the Lord Jesus Christ, at the gateway of Glory, I hope and pray that each of us can say unto Him, "Having served You in submissive obedience to the best of my ability and with the help and guidance of Your Holy Spirit, I request the honor of being admitted into Your presence for all of eternity."

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)"

John Newton

Affirmation of Faith

WE BELIEVE that our lives are held within the encircling love of God who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

WE BELIEVE that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that His grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

WE BELIEVE in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

WE BELIEVE that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

WE BELIEVE that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

WE BELIEVE that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ our Lord. AMEN

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, we are amazed that You desire to be near us. Help us to desire Your presence more than anything in our lives. We thank You for being so generous with us, and You call us to be generous in sharing Your love with others. Accept these tithes and offerings that we bring to You: may they help those who lack daily food; may they give warmth and shelter to those in need; May our giving encourage in us a living and generous faith.

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***

"Enjoy You Forever"

Junko

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Forty Days and Forty Nights"

Robert Lau

The flowers are given to the Glory of God, to all my wonderful friends and in honor of Roy's and my wedding anniversary, by Sally Cram.

Bedford Hiking Club Strolls Into Spring

Saturday, March 30th @ 9 am. Get your hiking boots out from under the bed and come join us for a spring walk up to Matt's Creek Shelter on the Appalachian Trail. We'll see where last fall's fire damaged the trail and witness new life returning to the burn site.

This is an easy out and back 4 mile walk with less than 200' of elevation gain, but there is some uneven footing to pay attention to. This trail is also good for dog walking. We will carpool from the church at 9a.m. or meet you at the James River Foot Bridge by 9:45.

(please email me if you plan on meeting us up there: jtsalley@gmail.com) Cancelled if raining.



March 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	4	5	6 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	7	8	9
10 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection Session Daylight Savings Time begins</i>	11	12	13 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	14	15	16
17 <i>10 am Worship</i>	18	19 <i>First day of spring</i>	20 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	21	22	23
24 <i>10 am Worship Palm Sunday</i>	25	26	27 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	28 <i>Maundy Thursday 7 pm</i>	29 <i>Good Friday</i>	30
31 <i>10 am Worship Easter He Is Risen!!</i>						

Joys- March 10th

Joy- David Grigg thanks all that helped at the Lenten Lunch

Joy- Compter- David came through surgery, Joe, successful surgery, thankful for youth helping spread gravel

Joy- Congratulations to Maggie and Ella for doing well in talent show

Concerns-March 10th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Benton: Tracey Thomas (daughter's friend) more surgery

Blair: Ecumenical youth group

Boone: Christy, thyroid surgery in May

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) cancer

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Donnie (husband) recovering from back surgery

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- came through surgery

Joe- (friend) successful surgery, long recovery

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

Garrett Winslow – struggling, autism

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

friend in CO, second surgery

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: 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
Ann Ortega- tumor near pancreas

Monk: Libby's mother, stroke, Oakwood

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Nichols: prayers for family on passing of nephew

Riley: Christine, stroke, Oakwood

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
Lori- health issues

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Two firefighters who suffered falls
Russell- gall bladder surgery

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 10th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Session
5¢ a Meal Offering
BCM collection/donation
Wednesday: 3 pm Something More
Thursday: Choir Practice 10:30 am
Sunday: March 17th
10 am Worship

March Birthdays

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 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.

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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.