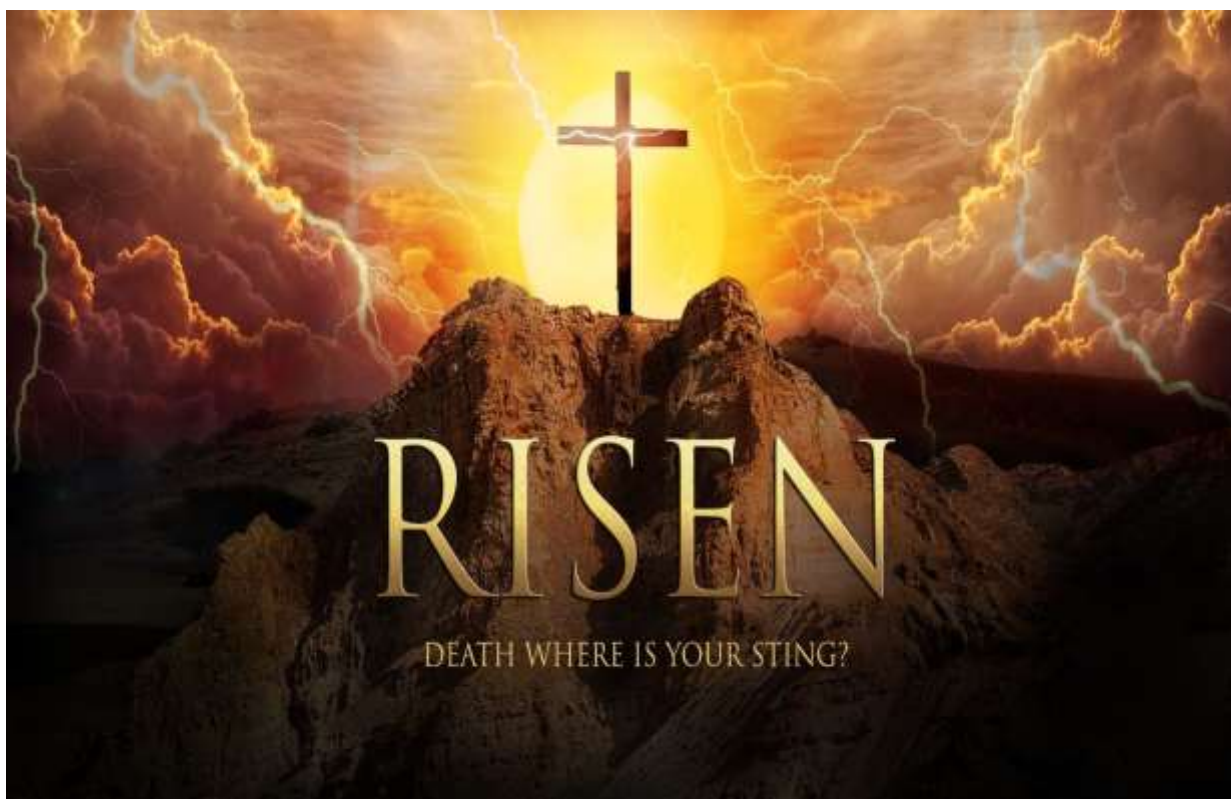


Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

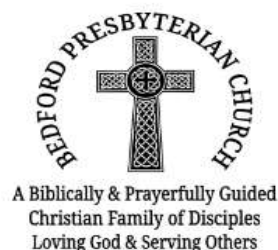


Week of March 31st

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

"In Christ Alone"

Jeff Bennett

Words of Welcome

Video Clip

"That's My King"

S.M. Lockridge

Call to Worship

One: This is the day: when tears are wiped away,

All: when shattered hearts are mended,

One: and fears replaced with joy.

All: This is the day the Lord rolls away the stone of fear,

One: casts off death's clothes,

All: and goes before us into the future God prepares.

One: Today we rejoice, for Christ is Risen!

All: He is Risen indeed!

Hymn

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Hymn 288

***Prayer of Confession:**

Gracious God, in raising Jesus from the grave, You shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear. We overlook the poor and the hungry and are slow to believe that Your realm of love and justice will prevail. Forgive us, God of mercy and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant in Christ, our risen Lord.

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

Come into the light of God's love! Christ is risen! Death has been swallowed up in victory! Know beyond all doubt that God's love is always with you, surrounding you, leading you, comforting you. Be at peace.

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"

Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Mark 16:1-14

Anthem

"All Heaven Declares"

Tom Fettke

Sermon

The Resurrection

Years ago I saw a most unusual stained glass window. It was so unique that it literally captured my attention. I have never forgotten it. The window was a large circular masterpiece of stained glass located high above the pulpit of an old historic church. Here is what I saw, a beautiful pastoral landscape in various shades of green and brown. In the foreground two angels are eagerly awaiting the dawn. Lying on an overhanging rock, their impatient posture clearly indicates that something momentous is about to happen, something which they have been called upon to witness. Following the direction in which they are intently gazing, one can just barely visualize a distant hill. On it stands three empty crosses as sunlight is just now beginning to shine over the darkened countryside. It's the dawn of a new day. It's the sunrise of a resurrection, a resurrection that was unexpected, unbelievable and finally undeniable.

On that first day of the week, the day we call Sunday, three women were on their way to a gravesite. Mary Magdalene, from who Jesus had cast out seven demons, accompanied by Mary the mother of James, one of Jesus' disciples and another woman by the name of Salome were on their way to the tomb of Jesus. It was very early in the morning. Bringing herbs and spices, they were going to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. They had not had time to do this last honor for Him on the day of His burial. His body had been hastily placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea on Friday evening, just before the beginning of the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a holy day, beginning at dusk on Friday evening and lasting for twenty-four hours until dusk on Saturday evening. Any and all forms of labor were strictly forbidden. But now the Sabbath was over and after impatiently waiting for the dawn of a new day, they were eager to get to the tomb. There was only one rather serious concern. Who was going to roll away the large stone which had been placed across the entrance to the tomb? It had taken several men to push it into place. How were they going to move it?

That's why they were so startled when they arrived at the tomb. The stone had been cast aside. Fearing that something very strange and awful had taken place, they tentatively stepped inside and were greeted by a young man sitting to the right side of where Jesus' body had been placed. They were both surprised and terrified. He said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is risen. See for yourself, He is not here. Now go and tell His disciples, including Peter, that He will meet them in Galilee, just as He told them." Bewildered and trembling, the women fled from the tomb and began running back into the city. They had come to anoint a dead man's body. But something completely unexpected had taken place. Jesus had been resurrected. He was alive.

However, Jesus' followers were not so ready to grasp that reality. It was just too unbelievable. When the women returned and told the disciples what they had seen and heard, they didn't believe them. Dead men did not arise from the grave, especially after they had been so brutally maimed by a crucifixion. Even when Mary Magdalene said that she had actually met the risen Lord, they refused to believe her. After all women could be hysterical at times, imagining things that just weren't true. Maybe they were just overwrought with emotion. Perhaps that angelic visitation at the tomb was nothing more than an hallucination. In any case, their hopes and dreams about Jesus being the Messiah, about His kingship as the new sovereign of a restored Israel had come crashing down during the chaotic events of the past Friday. He had been tried, condemned by his own Jewish countrymen and then brutally killed by the Romans. No legions of angels had appeared to rescue Him. There had been no miracles of divine deliverance. There had only been that horrible crucifixion on the outskirts of Jerusalem, a crucifixion that they had not even witnessed because they were so frightened. Perhaps they too would be arrested and dealt with in a similar manner. Only John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, had been there when He died. Now they were being assaulted by these reports of His resurrection. In fact, two of Jesus' followers, who were not even a part of the inner circle of His followers, had also arrived with this same preposterous story.

Cleopas and another disciple of Jesus had been on their way to a little village outside of Jerusalem called Emmaus. They had been commiserating about all of the events that had just taken place. Their leader and teacher, Jesus, had been put to death. As they walked along to Emmaus, the place where they lived, a stranger had joined them. That was not unusual. People often traveled together. It was safer that way, especially since there were bandits and thieves abroad. What truly surprised them was that this stranger didn't seem to know anything about what had happened. In fact, Cleopas asked him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have taken place there in these past days?" "What things?" the stranger asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified Him; but we had hoped that He was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning, but didn't find the body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said He was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see."

"How foolish you are," the stranger said, "and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them why all these things had to come to pass. Approaching the village of Emmaus, they asked Him to stay and have dinner with them. It was the customary thing to do. Then as this stranger took a loaf of bread and offered a blessing over it, their eyes were opened. They realized He was no stranger, but, in fact, the risen Lord. After vanishing from before their very eyes, they said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke with us on the road to Emmaus and explained the Scriptures to us (Luke 24:13-32)!" Immediately they decided to return to Jerusalem and tell the disciples what they had experienced. What had been unexpected and truly unbelievable had now become a reality that was undeniable.

Unfortunately, that was not the case with Jesus' inner circle. When the two from Emmaus returned and reported what they had experienced, the apostles, now eleven in number since the death of Judas, they remained skeptical. Even the report that Peter had met the Lord was just too good to be true. Their disbelief was like a roadblock standing in the way of the joy they should have been experiencing. Only after Jesus appeared to them while they were eating that evening did they begin to understand that He had indeed arisen from the dead. What was unexpected and at first unbelievable had finally become undeniable. Even then according to the gospel writer Luke, Jesus had to prove to them that He was not an apparition. At first the disciples were startled and frightened, thinking Jesus was a ghost. So He said to them, "Why are you troubled and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see, a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have" (Luke 24:38). In fact, even though they were filled with joy and amazement at His appearance, the disciples were still consumed by the unbelievable reality of what was taking place in their midst. Jesus had to prove to them that He was real by eating a portion of their dinner. Finally though, that evening and in the weeks which followed, the reality of the resurrection became undeniable as Jesus met with His followers before His ascension into heaven, an event which Paul said was witnessed by over 500 people.

Yes, the account of Christ's resurrection can be summed up in three words—unexpected, unbelievable and finally undeniable. But what does any of that say to us this morning? There are several things that come to mind. First of all, the resurrection really happened. It really took place. The gospel accounts clearly indicate that the resurrection of Christ was the furthest thing from the minds of His followers. They believed that when Jesus died, everything He had said and done had died along with Him. It was over. His life and His ministry were a failure. It took the resurrection to convince them otherwise.

Second, without the resurrection we are left with very little to look forward to when our lives come to an end. As Paul so forcefully proclaimed to the Christians in Corinth, "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:13-14). Simply put, Christianity stands or falls upon the acceptance or rejection of the resurrection. Without the resurrection of Christ, all we have are the words of a Nazarene teacher who was crucified and buried in a tomb just outside the city of Jerusalem. He may have been a good man, perhaps even one inspired by the divine, but nevertheless a mere mortal who died just like everyone does.

That, however, is far from the truth of what happened on that resurrection morn so long ago. Those angels in that stained glass window were not waiting in vain. They knew what was about to happen. They knew what it would mean for all of those who have entrusted their lives into the care of the Lord Jesus Christ. For He has boldly declared, "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"His Work is Finished"

Bob Fitts

Affirmation of Faith

This is the gospel which we have received, in which we stand and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, according to the scriptures. And that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, You have given immeasurable grace to us. May our offerings reflect the grace we have received and demonstrate lives committed to the service of our risen Lord. 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***

"Because You Live, O Christ"

Hymn 292

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Christ Lag in Todesbanden"

J.S. Bach

**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the Risen Lord by Becky Noell
and are in memory of her husband Jimmy.**

April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	4	5	6 <i>Men's Breakfast</i>
7 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	8	9	10 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	11	12	13 <i>Greg Neal Memorial</i>
14 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	15	16	17 <i>Deacons 1:30 pm Something More, 3pm</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>10 am Worship</i>	22	23	24 <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	25 <i>Cancer Group</i>	26	27
28 <i>10 am Worship Session</i>	29	30				

Joys- March 31st

Joy- Sally Cram son's cochlear implants are working

Joy- Lisa Callahan's husband Donnie, is doing well, friend Mary Jane is in remission

Concerns-March 31st

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Benton: Tracey Thomas (daughter's friend) more surgery
Joy (friend) loss of husband

Blair: Ecumenical youth group

Boone: Christy, thyroid surgery in May

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Donnie (husband) home

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

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 recovery is continuing

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

Ellen possible kidney transplant

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
Niece emergency surgery

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

Neal: Prayers for family on passing of son

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: Nick, Tiffany, Savannah- Savannah, back home

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Two firefighters who suffered falls
Russell- surgery delayed AFib

Van Dyke: continued prayers for Dot and Dick Kibbey

Webb: Shawn caretaker to aunt and grandma

Weeks: Edith- home, continued healing

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 31st

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Easter Sunday
He Is Risen!

Wednesday: 3 pm Something More

Thursday: Choir Practice 10:30 am

Sunday: April 7th
10 am Worship
Communion

April Birthdays

Margaret Lambert - 4
James Fleming- 11
Sherry Parker - 18
Tricia Schubert - 23
Al Mauser - 24
Richard Tate - 29

April Anniversaries

Dave and Lori Stetson - 1
Ron and Margaret Morris - 8
Russell & Scarlett Stevens- 8
Fred and Sandy Scheurer - 22
John and Sonya Smith – 30

Flower Calendar

The 2024 Flower Calendar is posted and ready for volunteers to sign up for two consecutive Sundays (an arrangement will last for two Sundays). Individuals can sign up or two individuals can share. The Calendar is located on the wall in the hallway on the right hand side of our Sanctuary.

ON THE AIR AND IN PRINT

There are many ways to be a part of the life of our church. Bulletins and sermon manuscripts are mailed by USPS upon request and are emailed to the church family and friends each week. Our worship services are live streamed each Sunday at 10 am and available later in the day on the church's website. "Something More," our discipleship ministry which meets on Wednesdays at 3 pm, is now available on Zoom. You can tune in and join in the discussion. Additionally, discussion questions for each session are now available on our church's website, bedfordpresbyva.org under the discipleship tab. Don't miss out on these opportunities to deepen your relationship with the Lord and His people week by week.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men of our church are invited to a breakfast fellowship on Saturday morning, April 6th at 9:00 am. Tim Black, mayor of the town of Bedford, will be our guest speaker. We hope the men of our church will attend and bring their friends. So that we will know how many to expect, speak to James Fleming or John Blair on Sunday or send them a text/email with your name and the number attending.

Clerk's Corner



- Keep our Pastoral Nominating Committee in prayer: Judy Blair, Nick DeWitt, James Fleming, Deanna Rutledge, Dave Stetson, Paul Van Dyke (Chair) and Shawn Webb.
- We are enjoying an increase in the number of visitors. They all tell us how welcomed they feel.
- Youth are doing yard work, raising funds to cover Montreat conference costs.
- Monthly Men's Breakfast will be starting soon.
- Thank you Fellowship Committee for the Soup and Pie Potluck and the Love Potluck. A lot of work goes into these. We will start doing potlucks every other month. If you haven't attended these potlucks, plan on joining us in April.
- Thank you John Blair for all the work scraping the loose paint on the sanctuary ceiling. He is going to try a temporary fix and see if the area can be painted.
- The Warming shelter was open 11 nights in a row in Feb.
- The Central Virginia Free Clinic has vacated the Center Street property because of a "lack of volunteers." Bedford's Department of Social Services is interested in renting the space to provide counseling services for the opioid epidemic. They have requested funds in the County budget.
- \$1,421.92 from First Fruits was distributed to the following charities: Cool Spring Presbyterian Camp - \$500, Massanetta Spring - \$500, and Pastor's Discretionary Fund - \$421.92
- At last Session meeting, Session authorized \$3,000 to improve Live streaming.
- Our projected budgeted expenses for 2024 exceeded budgeted income by \$9,746.55. Year to date, we are \$8,036.63 under budget. Thank you Lord!
- Need a piano? We have several excess. Please see John Blair.
- Important Dates: Easter - 31 March; Installation of Michelle Goode - 28 April; Next Session Meeting - 28 April.

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"Something More" will resume this coming Wednesday at 3 pm and will also be broadcast on "Zoom." Everyone is invited to participate in this ministry of our congregation.