

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

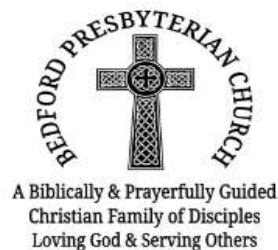


Week of April 7th

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

“Christ Alone”

Teresa Wilhelmi

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Christ is risen! He greets us with a word of peace.

All: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore Him!

One: Christ is risen! Locked doors and doubting hearts cannot keep Him away.

All: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore Him!

One: Christ is risen! He comes to bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

All: We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore Him! Alleluia!

Hymn

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

Hymn 289

***Prayer of Confession:**

One: Christ is risen. Yet we often act as if He is still in the tomb. Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace of new life through Christ.

All: God, forgive our doubts and disbelief. You show up in our lives, yet we fail to notice You and demand more proof. We expect more when You have already given us enough. Forgive our lack of faith. Forgive our lack of gratitude. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us to new life in Christ. Amen.

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

One: Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said, “Peace be with you.” Receive Christ’s peace and know that you are forgiven.

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: 13-16

Worship Song

“Is He Worthy”

Choir

Sermon

Here Today Gone Tomorrow

On Thursday evening, March 26, at 1:28 am, the unthinkable happened. A huge cargo ship slammed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge in the Baltimore Harbor. In a matter of seconds, the bridge collapsed and six workers on that bridge lost their lives. Fortunately, word of the impending disaster had been received in time to close the bridge to vehicular traffic; otherwise, the loss of life could have been much worse. This tragedy, which will take months, if not years to rectify, is a poignant reminder that what seems rock solid today can disappear all too quickly. In other words, “here today and gone tomorrow.”

James was well aware of this truth and that’s why he wrote the passage of Scripture which was read this morning. But why did he feel compelled to bring this word of warning? The answer is rooted in a common business practice which was taking place throughout the Roman Empire during that time. New cities were being established. A savvy business man could move to one of these boom towns and make a fortune buying up cheap land or starting lucrative businesses. It was like those by gone days of the Wild West here in America. Not only was there a lot of money to be made, but an opportunity to claim a lot of bragging rights. A successful businessman could say, “Look at me. I’ve done quite well for myself. You ought to see what I am planning for the future.” Evidently, some of James’ fellow believers had gotten caught up in these enticing business ventures, some of which, quite frankly, were a bit risky. Not only that, these entrepreneurs had begun to think of themselves as being almost invincible. In their own eyes they had become the gurus of real estate investment.

In response, James decided to take a little wind out of these men’s sails of self-assurance. So he wrote to them saying, “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why you do not even know what will happen tomorrow? What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes” (James 4:13-14). Once again, why did James throw cold water on their dreams and aspirations? There are two reasons, two reasons that are just as true today as they were back then.

Here’s the first one. **Tomorrow is uncertain.** The book of Proverbs reminds us, “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1). Or how about this old folk saying, “Don’t count your chickens before they hatch.” Or the lines of the Scottish poet, Robert Burns, which reads, “The best laid schemes o’ mice an’ men, gang aft a-gley an’ lea’e us naught but grief an’ pain for promised joy.” Take for example, the location of my first fulltime pastorate. It was located in a place known as Hamptonville. In the 1800’s a man by the name of Colonel Hampton had laid out the streets and avenues for a beautiful town that would be named in his honor. Everything had gone quite well until the state of North Carolina decided to move the main highway a few miles to the east. Hamptonville was cut off from the major thoroughfare. It remained a small, unincorporated village. Or consider for a moment the story that Jesus told about the foolish farmer. He had prospered so greatly that he decided to build bigger barns to house his abundance, instead of sharing his wealth with those in need. On the very night that he bragged about all of his accomplishments, his life would be taken and he would have to stand before his Creator in heaven. “Who then,” Jesus surmised, “would receive all that the foolish farmer had stored up for himself?” Then he added a James like warning, “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God” ((Luke 12:13-21). Yes, have no doubt about this truth, tomorrow is uncertain. None of us knows what the next day may bring.

Here’s the second reason why our lives are like the mists of the morning. **The flesh is frail.** Years ago, Peter Marshall, a well-known Presbyterian pastor preached a sermon to the graduating class of midshipmen at the Naval Academy. His message was taken from this same passage of Scripture in the book of James. He had chosen another topic for his sermon, but at the last moment, led by the Spirit of God, felt compelled to instead bring a message that reminded the graduates that they were like the

morning mist which vanishes away. That sermon probably seemed a little out of place and a bit forlorn for those young men in the strength and vitality of their youth. Nevertheless, it was prophetic. Little did they or even Peter Marshall realize that in a few months those sailors' dreams of serving in a peacetime Navy would be shattered by a call to arms in the Pacific, a war from which some of them would never return. In Psalm 103, verses 15 and 16 we find these words, "As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more." Yes the flesh is frail. We are given no promises about tomorrow.

In light of all of this, then, what should we do? James provides us with an answer. Instead of relying upon our own dreams, hopes and aspirations for the future, we should simply say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will do this or that" (James 4:15). He then goes on to declare in the next verse that boasting about anything else is evil and sinful, especially if it is directed at accomplishing something which is hurtful or harmful to others. In other words, instead of always pursuing our own desires, a better approach is simply this. **Trust in the Lord.** Seek His wisdom and guidance instead of just relying upon your own plans and preferences. Take, for example, these statements from the life of Saint Paul. In 1 Corinthians 4:19 he says to the church in Corinth, "But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing." And again at the end of this letter, he declares, "I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits" (1Corinthians 16:7). Paul knew that if we are sensitive to the Lord's guidance, He can redirect our lives in ways that are beneficial to us and others as well as to the work of His kingdom. You will perhaps remember this story from the book of Acts. Paul and his companions wanted to go to an area that we would call today northern Turkey to preach the gospel. However, the Lord directed them to Macedonia instead (Acts 16:6-10). As the story of the early church continues in the book of Acts, that decision turned out to be a very fruitful one for the growth of Christianity as it moved triumphantly westward.

So what does all of this have to say to us this morning? When we make our plans, especially important ones that will have a direct bearing upon the future course of our lives, it's always wise to call upon a Spiritual Adviser from on high. By the power of His Holy Spirit, God can give us a gentle nudge as to whether to proceed or perhaps hold back and move in another direction. With that in mind we should always remember that **tomorrow is uncertain** and the **flesh is frail**. Therefore, a little extra guidance regarding the future and our place within that future is always welcome, especially from someone who truly loves us and cares about us.

Two little girls had enjoyed each other's company playing with one another all day long. Having grown up in Christian homes, they ended their day of play with this prayer, "We've had a good day today Lord. What's Your plan for tomorrow?" Years ago, people sometimes concluded their letters with two letters, "D V." They stood for the Latin phrase "Deo Volente" which being translated means, "If God allows," or "God willing." Whether we should conclude our correspondence with those same two letters or simply inscribe them upon our hearts, they are good ones to live by—"Deo Volente, if the Lord allows."

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song	<i>"Jesus, What a Beautiful Name"</i>	Tanya Riches
Communion	<i>"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"</i> <i>"In Remembrance of Me"</i>	<i>Instrumental</i>
Doxology	<i>"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"</i>	Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Risen and redeeming God, You have given us more than we could ever give You in return. You are gracious and generous in Your love. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into Your world, guided by The Spirit of the Risen Christ. 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***

"Day by Day"

Hymn 449

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"The Day of Resurrection"

Brian Glycannon

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and with honor and gratitude to Him for 46 years of marriage, by Lori Stetson.

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</i> <i>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- April 7th

Joy- to see Russell Stevens in service

Joy- Christy Boone for all who helped at Shepherds Table

Joy- Margaret Lambert thank you for prayers, niece is doing better

Concerns-April 7th

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

Donna- (friend) husband in hospital

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 April 7th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Communion

Wednesday: 3 pm Something More

Thursday: Choir Practice 10:30 am

Sunday: April 14th

10 am Worship

5¢ a Meal Offering

BCM collection/donation

April Birthdays

James Fleming- 11

Sherry Parker - 18

Tricia Schubert - 23

Al Mauser - 24

Richard Tate - 29

April Anniversaries

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.

Neal Memorial

The Memorial for Harold Neal's son, Gregory, will be April 13th with graveside services at 1pm and the Memorial service at BPC at 2pm.

A reception will follow, finger foods will be needed, please contact Scarlett Stevens if you can help.