

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

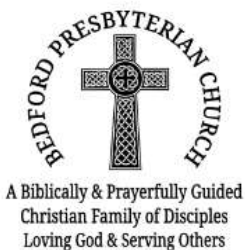


## Week of June 9<sup>th</sup>

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**

*“Fairest Lord Jesus”*

Faye Lopez

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise His holy name.

**All: For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime;**

One: You have turned our mourning into dancing! You have clothed us with joy that we might sing praise to You and not be silent.

**All: O Lord our God, we will give You thanks forever!**

**Hymn**

*“Sing Praise to the Father”*

Hymn 142

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

Almighty God, You know what is inside each person's heart. We confess that we do not. We often fail to recognize the internal struggles and doubts of our brothers and sisters. Even worse, we ignore their struggles because we don't know what to do or say to help them. Forgive us for not caring. Holy Spirit, give us discernment, grace and tenderness. We want to see those who are struggling or wandering so that we may offer a listening ear, and encourage them to come to the You. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen

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

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**

James 5: 19-20

**Hymn**

*“Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty”*

Hymn 19

## **Sermon**

### Putting Your Faith to Work

While we were having dinner the other day my wife, Sherry, asked me, "Since we have finished with the book of James, what will you be preaching on this coming Sunday?" I replied, "Well, we're not quite finished yet. There's one last sermon that I need to preach on the last two verses in chapter five." In response, guess what Sherry said, "NUTS!!" Perhaps you're thinking the same thing, "Nuts. When will we ever finish these sermons on the book of James? Seems like this sermon series has been going on forever." If those have been your sentiments, and you've grown a bit weary of brother James, let me assure you. We're done! Today is the very last sermon on the book of James. Today, I promise that we will conclude our study of this New Testament letter.

Here's why. The book of James is a down to earth workingman's handbook on how to live the Christian way of life. It's not filled with a lot of flowery statements or ivory tower theological thinking. At times it can be quite confrontational. In fact, it reminds me of one of my supervisors when I was a student chaplain at Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem, North Carolina. My supervisor didn't cut his students any slack. He had high expectations and at times he was brutally honest in his evaluations. On one occasion he invited me into his office and said, "Ok Parker. What's it going to be? Do your work and fulfill your assignments, or ship out? Think it over and tell me your decision tomorrow morning." I thought it over and decided it was time to go to work.

I suspect that's what James had in mind when he wrote those last two verses at the end of his letter. Like everything else he had written, these last two verses were direct and to the point. They were quite different from the way that Paul concluded his letters, sending greetings to various individuals and sharing personal prayer requests. Nevertheless, these last two verses were a concluding summary of everything that James wanted to say to his fellow believers. He was saying to them, "I've given you a whole list of instructions and guidance on how to live the Christian way of life successfully. I've told you to persevere during adversity, to control your wayward tongues, to be doers of the word and not hearers only, to not let wealth become an idol, to refrain from being boastful and finally to make sure that you are a part of a singing, healing and praying church. Now, go out there into the world and put into practice what you have learned." In other words I want you to start **PUTTING YOUR FAITH TO WORK!**

With that in mind, let's take a look at how James concluded his letter, because what he had to say applies to our lives just as surely as it applied to the lives of those who first read it nearly two thousand years ago. Here's the first thing that he wants to say to them and to us, "**Do not wander from the truth.**" I am reminded of what I learned years ago about sheep. They can wander off. They don't intend to. It just sort of happens. They have their heads down nibbling grass along a hillside and when they look up, the rest of the flock has moved on and they don't know where they are. They're out of touch with the rest of the sheep and frequently an easy prey for those who would do them harm. Because as the Scriptures tell us, we are like sheep, the same thing can happen to us. Indeed, that is what happened during the Covid pandemic. We became isolated, cut off from our fellow believers, hunkered down in our homes and when it was finally over, we had lost touch with one another and sometimes even with God. Before the pandemic 75 percent of Americans said that they attended church at least once a month. Afterwards the percentage had declined to 68 percent, a seven percent decline.

As James points out, wandering away is not just about church attendance. He's talking about wandering away from the truth. Now what does that mean? Is he talking about wandering away from the truth of the Gospel, the message of God's love revealed in the Scriptures? Certainly and today there are an increasing number of people who have wandered away from the truth of God's Word. They no longer believe that the Scriptures are inspired and they have rejected the doctrines and beliefs which are at the very heart of Christianity. In fact, the fastest growing segment of religious life in America today are the

“religiously unaffiliated,” otherwise known as the “NONES.” In the past ten years, 2013 to 2023, their ranks have grown from 21 percent to 26 percent. Wandering away from doctrinal and scriptural truth has always been a problem for God’s people down through the centuries, but to be perfectly honest, it’s now at an all-time high.

However, even though preserving doctrinal truth is vitally important, that’s not what James was talking about here. True to everything else that he said in his letter, James was talking about wandering away from the Christian way of life, failing to practice the moral and ethical teachings of Christ. His entire letter had been devoted to that theme. It wasn’t just believing the truth, but putting that truth into practice that was all important. And to be perfectly honest it still is. We can intellectually understand and give mental assent to all of the teachings in the Scriptures, but if we don’t put them into practice what good are they? Furthermore, Christians who don’t practice their faith are a hindrance to the work of God’s kingdom. Years ago I came across this quote attributed to Mahatma Gandhi, the man who secured the independence of India through peaceful non-violence. He said, “I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” One of the primary reasons for people rejecting Christianity is the example, or should I say, the lack of a good example by God’s people. When we are not true to our beliefs in the way we live and treat others, we have failed and sometimes have failed miserably at putting our faith into practice.

This brings me to this concluding observation. James says, “Whoever turns one sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins” (James 5:20). In other words, we have an obligation to care for one another and especially so when a fellow Christian is headed in the wrong direction. Several years ago Paul and Nancy Van Dyke did a masterful job compiling our church’s history and presenting it to us in a 246 page book. It described the life of our church from its origins to the present day. Among a number of things that were presented was the fact that the church took seriously what James had to say in these last two verses. When in 1870 a member, in fact an elder in the church, was cited for “rumors and reports prejudicial to Christian character,” the leaders of the church confronted him about these accusations. It was later reported that “his remorse and promise of repentance avoided censure.” The purpose of church discipline was not to punish, but rather to restore a wayward fellow believer.

Church discipline for the most part has gone by the wayside in most churches. It’s seen as harsh and mean spirited, but is it really? Have we come to the point that we have taken the position that everyone can believe and do as they wish, even if it brings harm upon themselves and others? Looking back over my ministry, there are a number of people that I wish I had done more to bring them back into the truth of a Christian way of life. One of them was a young man who died of a drug overdose.

Death, whether physical or spiritual, is a terrible consequence of wandering away from the truth of how God desires for us to live with Him and with one another. For that reason, James reminds us that undertaking such endeavors covers a “multitude of sins.” Peter says the same thing in the first letter that he wrote to fellow Christians, “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8). When we love another person so much that we help that individual to find his or her way back to God, then we have become champions in the sin removal business. God has wiped the slate clean in the life of the repentant sinner and who knows, He may have removed a few indiscretions from our own lives as well.

So start putting your faith to work each and every day for yourself and for others. Everyone will be a whole lot happier and when you pick up the book of James to remind yourself as to how we should live the Christian way of life, you won’t have to say, “NUTS.”

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

**Hymn**

*"Make Me a Servant"*

Hymn 576

### ***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***

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your amazing love. Thank You for the truth that Your love covers a multitude of sins. Help us to love one another in the same way that You love us. It is in that love that we offer these gifts to You now. Bless them and make them a blessing for Your glory and for the furtherance of Your kingdom. 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.

**\*Closing Song**

*"Lord, Speak to Me"*

Hymn 593

## THE SENDING FORTH

***Benediction***

***Postlude***

*"Since I Have Been Redeemed"*

Mark Hayes

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in thankfulness for all the wonderful things the Deacons do, Dot and Dick Kibbey

# June 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b> <i>Men's Breakfast</i>
<b>2</b> <i>10 am Worship Communion Session</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>6</b> <i>D-Day ringing of the bells 6:44pm</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Deacons 1pm  Something More, 3pm</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Bedford Hiking Club</i>
<b>16</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <i>10 am Worship Fellowship Picnic</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Something More, 3pm</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>						

### Joys- June 9<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** Russell Stevens shared Matt Scott's surgery was successful

**Joy-** Russell also thanks everyone for their prayers

**Joy-** Christy thanks everyone that helped with Shepherds Table

### Concerns- June 9<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

**Barefoot:** prayers for missionaries especially in Haiti

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

**Benton:** Judy (friend) son in critical condition

**Boone:** Rosalind Reynolds, (friend) upcoming surgery  
Grieving loss of dog

**Callahan:** Mary Jane (friend) in remission  
Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

**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

**DeHart:** Dawn's mother gallbladder surgery  
Michael Rutter- amputations

**DeWitt:** assistants husband broke leg using roto tiller

**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  
Prayers for everyone on dialysis  
Ellen, possible kidney transplant

**Goode:** Rodney & Connie Groggins (husband's cousins) Connie Alzheimer's, Rodney caregiver, health issues  
Cynthia: (friend) physical therapy

**Goodman:** for those impacted by Midwest storms

**Grigg:** Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments  
Chris Mays- diabetic complications

**Grubb:** John suffering from bad cough

**Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder  
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

**Mauser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems  
Steven-(son's boss) going blind  
Barbara (Al's sister) intense headaches  
Gayle- doing better

**McManis;** Charlotte

**Monk:** Libby's mother, Mary Duncan, Bedford Nursing Home Oak

**Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders  
Forensic scientists who deal with crime  
Rev. Pam Ledbetter  
James Morgan (cousins husband) spot on lung

**Narwid:** Ed- not doing well

**Nichols:** Vicky (daughter) fell, broke shoulder

**Riley:** Christine stroke, Elks home

**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 in hospital

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Deputy Chief Matt Scott, surgery went well

**Webb:** prayers for Shawn's great aunt

**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 June 9<sup>th</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
5¢ a Meal Offering  
BCM collection/donation

Wednesday: 1 pm Deacons  
3 pm Something More

Saturday: 9 am Bedford Hiking Club

Sunday: June 16<sup>th</sup>  
10 am Worship

### June Birthdays

Gloria Saunders- 11  
Dave Stetson - 12  
Hugh Saunders - 19  
Betty Salley – 25

### June Anniversaries

BJ & Heather Poindexter - 11  
Jim and Joy Barefoot - 21  
David & Kathy Grigg - 21  
Philip & Sherry Parker - 28

### Bedford Hiking Club Marches up Matt's Creek!

**Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> @ 9a.m.** (Rain date: June 22). Let's get together for another walk, this time up to Matt's Creek Shelter on the Appalachian Trail. This is an easy out and back 3 mile walk crossing the James River Foot Bridge, then along the James River on a level trail - with a few rocky spots. Finally a gentle climb up alongside Matt's Creek to the Shelter (less than 200' of elevation gain). We'll see



where last fall's fire damaged the trail and witness new life returning to the burn site. While the majority of through-hikers have already passed by, we may still meet a few. This is also a good dog walking trail. Let's carpool from the church at 9a.m. Or you can meet us at the James River Foot Bridge by 9:40 (*please email me if you plan on meeting us up there: [jtsalley@gmail.com](mailto:jtsalley@gmail.com)*).



## June Fellowship Picnic at the Van Dykes

Rain or shine on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> following the Worship Service, Nancy and Paul will be hosting a summer at the lake picnic at their residence, 1108 Benni Ct., Moneta (see below for directions).

Wear your casual attire to church and then come on down, either individually or by carpool. The trip takes about 30 minutes. Nancy will be here to greet you at the front door when you arrive. Enjoy each other's fellowship while the food on the grill is prepared.

The main course is a very special Smith's all beef, natural casing hot dog. It is a classic food from a small manufacturer in Nancy's hometown of Erie PA. Nancy will be making a Coney Island sauce, a secret recipe that she obtained from an Erie restaurant as a hotdog topping. Hamburgers are also great with the secret sauce and will be provided. In addition, they will be providing the rolls, condiments, potato chips, paper plates, utensils, and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, including serving ware.

There is a wide variety of activities available. These include:

- Swimming or floating (bring your swimsuit, towel and a float, if you wish).
- Boating with a sailboat, a rowboat, a kayak and a paddle boat available. Rev. Parker is also bringing his sailboat and will be taking people out. Swimsuit required.
- Or, lounging on the patio or boat dock.
- There will be boat excursions available for one-hour rides on the lake in groups of six, available on the hour from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Captain Vic, a Virginia Dare boat captain will be providing this for us using his SeaRay. We have covered his fee. Tips for Captain Vic are at your discretion. Sign-up sheet is available at the church office or in the sanctuary on Sundays.
- In the unfortunate event that it rains, we will be indoors for a more traditional fellowship.

We recommend a good sun hat, sunglasses and suntan lotion. Our property faces the afternoon sun.

Contact information:

- Nancy cell: 336-816-0025, email: [nancy.s.van.dyke@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.s.van.dyke@gmail.com)
- Paul cell: 540-676-1651, email: [paul.van.dyke.jr@gmail.com](mailto:paul.van.dyke.jr@gmail.com)

Directions:

1. Take 122 South to White House Road (where the Downtown Moneta shopping center is.)
2. Turn Left onto White House Road.
3. Travel 6 miles to Airport Road and turn right onto it.
4. After 1 mile turn left on Buccaneer Road.
5. Stay on Buccaneer for 1.3 miles passing the airport on Buccaneer
6. Turn right on Cutlass Road — there is a sign for the 40 Acres development at this corner. Note: do not turn on the first Cutlass sign you see, before the airport. That way is unimproved and is not recommended unless you have 4-wheel drive. The entire trip is on paved roads.
7. Turn left on Benni Ct. Our home is the blue/gray house at the end of the cul-de-sac.
8. We have a large driveway that can accommodate many cars. This is recommended for those where walking is an issue. Once it is full, you can park on the left side of Benni Ct (the wider shoulder).

## 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. They are meeting weekly.
- Welcome new members, David and Donna Henderson.
- Please don't believe everything you see on Facebook. An organization recently posted a "stay tuned for our new location" announcement, with a photo of our church. No such approval has been given. Organization is being asked to remove our photo.
- Our monthly potlucks are a wonderful time of Fellowship, but they are also a lot of work. When we also support funeral receptions and deal with illnesses, they may get skipped. Please see Scarlett if you would like to help with future Potlucks. The Van Dykes are hosting a get together in June and stay tuned to see what's planned for July.
- Monthly Men's Breakfast continues to meet monthly. Please get the word out. If you haven't been yet, you are missing out. See James Fleming if you have any questions.
- First Fruits for May of \$2,445.85 was distributed as follows: Bedford Christian Ministries - \$953.15; Shepherd's Table - \$462.70; Society of St. Andrew - \$500; and Support Murphree's - \$500.
- Session approved \$9,707.50 to update some of our computers and further improve audio/visual. We still have computers running Windows 7 and still need to make future acquisitions in the future. Session putting IT refresh on 5 year cycle.
- Ann Marie Fleming submitted an application for a Church redevelopment grant from the Presbytery. Grant would be used to purchase a defibrillator for the church and help with the cost of some of our new computers.
- Thank you John and Judy Blair for taking 4 youths to Montreat. The youth worked hard to raise funds and \$1,785 was used to offset the costs.
- Need a piano? We have several excess. Please see John Blair.
- Important Dates: June 23- get together at the Van Dykes; August 4th - Session Meeting