

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

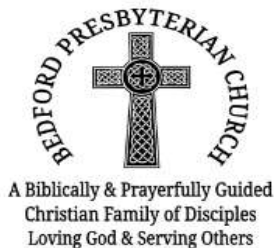


Week of July 21st

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

"The Lamb Has Overcome"

Carol Cymbala

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

All: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hymn

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Hymn 317

***Prayer of Confession:**

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for adopting us into a family of brothers and sisters who walked this life of faith long before us. None of our pains, heartaches and failures are unique to us. Many of Your beloved children have experienced exactly what we're going through, much more and much worse. Forgive us for thinking otherwise. Forgive us for becoming weighed down by the burdens of life and by the sin that so easily entangles us. Forgive us for the hopelessness and unbelief that we allow to overtake us when we fail to keep our eyes on Jesus. Wash us anew with a fresh sprinkling of the blood of Christ and fill afresh with Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name 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

Hebrews 12: 1-3

Praise Song

"You Are My All in All"

Hymn 427

Sermon

Running the Race of Life

In just a few days the games of the Thirty-third Olympiad will be held in Paris, France, July 26 through August 11. It will be the third time that France has hosted the Olympics. They were held in Paris in 1900 and then again 1924. The award winning film, *Chariots of Fire*, was based upon the 1924 Olympics, featuring two runners, one a Jewish sprinter and the other a Scottish Christian runner who went on to be a missionary to China. This year's games will feature not only the city of Paris, but also sixteen other French cities. Additionally, at least one event will be held in the South Pacific on the island of Tahiti in French Polynesia. All things considered, the Olympic games this summer should be spectacular, watched by millions and millions of people around the globe. Thinking about this upcoming athletic competition, I could not help but be reminded of the passage of Scripture that was read just a few moments ago, especially verses one and two in the twelfth chapter of the book of Hebrews.

Speaking of this somewhat mysterious book in the New Testament, we are unsure as to who wrote it. No one is identified as its author. Some think the author was Paul. Others, including the seminary professor under whom I studied this book, thought the writer was Apollos, an evangelist from Egypt who was well versed in the Jewish way of life as recorded in the Old Testament. Throughout its thirteen chapters numerous references to Old Testament worship practices are mentioned. Nevertheless, whoever wrote the book of Hebrews, he was inspired by God and offers in these three verses important insights that are not only reflective of what will be transpiring at the Olympics in a few days, but also directly and personally applicable to our own lives as Christians. Let's see what this brief passage of Scripture has to say to us today.

Verse one begins by reminding us that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Who are these people? Like a huge colosseum that can seat thousands of people for athletic contests here on earth, the writer of Hebrews suggests that there is a great grandstand in glory filled with the saints down through the ages. Sitting in that grandstand are people like Moses and Elijah, Amos and Hosea as well as saints throughout the ages such as Saint Francis and Patrick of Ireland. In addition, there are countless multitudes of believers down through the centuries, some of whom may even be relatives and friends whom you have known not so long ago. Here's what they are doing. Like modern day fans they are cheering for their team and guess who's playing on that team? If you don't know, let me tell you. It's you and me. Because we are the athletes who are playing on God's team. We're playing on the field of life and we're facing opponents who are well trained and fiercely competitive. So let's find out what we need to do to be winners.

Here's the first thing. **Dress down!** Have you ever watched a game in which children have to put on and then take off a lot of extra, baggy clothing as they participate in a relay race? It's a hoot with the kids falling all over themselves as they try to win the contest. The Olympics are just the opposite. If anything, the athletes are wearing outfits that are sometimes on the verge of being too revealing. They are light and form fitting. Those competing in the games do not want to wear anything that will get in the way of their performance. For that very reason, here is what the writer of Hebrews tells us, "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" (Hebrews 12:1). What are some of the things that can get us all tangled up—debt, work, possessions, social media? A person head over heels in debt can't give much to the Lord or spend much time serving Him while working eighty hours a week. An abundance of possessions can also get in the way and how about all the time we spend viewing and participating in social media? For kids it has been estimated at five hours a day. I suspect adults are not far behind. Here's what Paul had to say, "You were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians

4:22-24). This means getting rid of those things that are slowing us down, dragging us into a wasteful and sinful way of life. Like an Olympian athlete, you need to **dress down**.

Here's the second thing. We need to **run hard**. The writer of Hebrews expresses it this way, "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1). Olympian athletes give it their all and God's people need to do the same. Christianity is not a spectator sport. It requires doing and being our best. When we stumble, it means getting back up and continuing to run, even though it's hard and we are hurting. Do you remember the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain? A British athlete, Derek Redmond, was competing in the 400 meter race. He had been plagued with multiple injuries during his Olympic career. Nevertheless, Derek was determined to compete and he was one of the fastest runners in that event. He started strong, but just after crossing the halfway mark, he grabbed the back of his right thigh. He had torn his hamstring. Even though he was grimacing in pain, he did not give up. He continued onward, hopping on one leg. He was determined to cross the finish line. The crowd stood to their feet and began cheering him on. Then something marvelous took place. Derek's father ran out onto the field, embraced his son and together they crossed the finish line. For us as Christians perseverance is the name of the game, fighting through the challenges and the difficulties that confront us. When we do, we have One who stands beside us, helping us to finish the race. Not giving up, crossing the finish line is what it's all about. As we are reminded in James' letter to fellow believers, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him" (James 1:12).

Finally, we must not only **run hard**, but we must **watch the coach**. Hebrews 12:2 states, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Any good athlete will tell you that watching and paying attention to the coach is the key to success. John Wooden was probably one of if not the greatest basketball coach of all time. His teams at UCLA won ten national NCAA championships in twelve years, a feat unequalled in the annals of basketball history. How did he do that? He was a great basketball player himself and a rigorous student of the game he coached. He lived and knew the game of basketball. He was also a role model for the players he coached, teaching his teams not only how to play basketball but how to live. He stated on one occasion, "I have always tried to make it clear that basketball is not the ultimate. It is of small importance in comparison to the total life we live. There is only one kind of life that truly wins, and that is the one that places faith in the hands of the Savior." Like John Wooten, we too have a coach, the Lord Jesus Christ. We need to keep our eyes on Him, receiving His wisdom and guidance as we play the game of everyday living. After all He too played the game of life right here among us as a human being. He showed us how to live in the here and now and how to be assured that we will be standing on the winners podium at the award ceremony in heaven. Writing to Christians in the ancient city of Philippi, Paul delivered this word of encouragement to his fellow believers, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). In other words, we are to follow the example that Jesus lived before us and make it a part of our own lives. Or to express this thought in athletic language, "**Watch the coach.**"

Here's one final thought. Every four years the Olympic Games have their origin at Mount Olympus in Greece. The Olympic Torch is lit at that location and then carried by runners to the sight of the Olympic Games. The Olympic flame must be kept alive by those who carry it. Over hill and dale, through water and high mountains it is carried relentlessly and courageously by a team of runners to its final destination. We too are a part of a team of runners, a team of Christ's followers who have been carrying the torch of God's light and love for nearly two thousand years. Like those Olympic runners, we too must not fail in our mission. We must hold up the light of Christ through all kinds of adversity and dangers. We must not allow the encumbrances of the world to weigh us down, we must not grow tired and weary, we must keep

our eyes focused on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. We must run and run hard until we pass the torch of Christianity to those who will lift it high and carry it triumphantly onward.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"I Fix My Eyes on You"

Tommy Walker

Affirmation of Faith

Walk and Not Faint

Bruce Prewer

This we have come to know, this is what we have heard: the Eternal is an everlasting God, creator of heaven and earth, who does not grow weary or faint; whose wisdom is unsearchable, giving energy to the meek and strength to those who have none.

Even youths shall faint and grow weary, young athletes shall fall exhausted; but those who love the Lord Jesus and patiently put their trust in God, shall renew their strength; they shall soar with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, knowing that You bring restoration and wholeness to our lives, we surrender all our worries, fears and burdens at Your feet. We offer these gifts with a humble heart that we, too, have the faith to reach out and receive Your healing touch. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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**

"We Look to You, Jesus"

Gillette

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Postlude on 'Lancashire'"

Jason D. Payne

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my husband Walter Benton and his parents, Aubrey and Mildred Benton, by Linda Benton

July 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 <i>Happy 4th of July, office closed</i>	5	6
7 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <i>10 am Worship</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>10 am Worship Guest Speaker Potluck Ice Cream</i>	29	30	31			

Joys- July 21st

Joy- Christy celebrating son's birthday

Joy- Ann Marie thanks everyone for their prayers

Concerns- July 21st

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Jerry Dillion-(nephew) health issues

Benton: Judy (friend) son in critical condition

Connie Thomas (friend) broke hip and arm in fall

Jill (friend) fell, broke her arm

Boone: Roslyn Reynolds, (friend) upcoming surgery

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Compter: Jennie & Seth (both friends) have health issues

Scott and Robin Umphlet, Scott is ill after a trip abroad.

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

Ann Marie- not feeling well

Foster: Ron (brother-in-law) in home

Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia

Tom

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Goode: Rodney & Connie Groggins (husband's cousins) Connie Alzheimer's, Rodney caregiver, health issues

Julie Parks (friend) knee replacement this week

Goodman: John Ramsey (nephew) open heart surgery

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Grubb: John suffering from bad cough

Hann: Alice's brother, congestive heart failure, cancer

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kibbey: Dick home after surgery

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Barbara (Al's sister) intense headaches

Gayle- home, no visits at the time please

McManis; Charlotte doing better

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

Riley: Christine stroke, Elks home

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii with health issues

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
Sonya and family on passing of father

Stetson: Nick, Tiffany, Savannah- Savannah, back in hospital

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

Van Dyke: prayers for Jeff, son, looking for new job
Prayers to solve evil in country

Webb: looking for caretaker for aunt

Weeks: Edith, home, waiting for test results

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 July 21st

Sunday: 10 am Worship

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10 am Worship with Rev. Hein Vermaak

Potluck Ice Cream Social

July Birthdays

Larry Compter- 18

August Birthdays

Fred Scheurer- 2

Tinkie Avery -10

Edith Weeks-17

Michelle Goode- 18

Ann Fowler-27

William Hopkins-29

Donna Henderson- 31

August Anniversaries

John & Betty Salley- 2

Ron & Barbara Saunders - 6

Barry & Tricia Schubert -7

Lester & Helen Heinrich -10

David & Donna Henderson- 17

Potluck and Ice Cream Social!!!!

Let's end the month of July on a delicious "high note." We are having a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall on Sunday, July 28. Bring your favorite dish for everyone to enjoy, but skip the dessert. The Fellowship Committee will be serving your favorite flavor of ice cream.

Guest Speaker

On July 28th, Reverend Hein Vermaak will be our guest speaker. Hein and his family recently immigrated from South Africa. Please give a warm welcome as he shares God's Word with us.

The Men's Breakfast will resume on September 7th at 9am.

So gentlemen mark your calendar and come enjoy great fellowship and food!

Pray for Rain

We serve an almighty God. He controls the forces of nature as evidenced throughout the Scriptures. The time has come for us to ask the Lord to send rain as well as moderating temperatures. Farmers' fields and neighbors' gardens are drying up. They need life giving refreshment from on high. Pray for rain and make it a regular petition in your prayer time.