

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

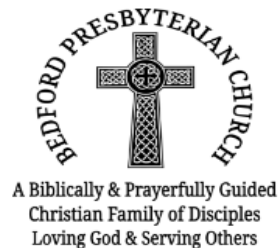


## Week of August 25<sup>th</sup>

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**

*“Redeemed”*

Larry Shackley

**Words of Welcome**

**Minute for Missions**

Operation Christmas Child

Debbie Harvey

**Call to Worship**

One: Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise from the ends of the earth,

**All: You who go down to the sea and all that is in it you islands and all who live in them.**

One: Let the wilderness and its towns raise their voices;

**All: Let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice.**

One: Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountaintops.

**All: Let them give glory to the Lord and proclaim His praise in the islands.**

**Hymn**

*“Glory, Glory, Lord”*

Bob Fitts

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

Gracious and Loving God, we bow our hearts in Your presence, recognizing the weight of our wrongs. In this moment, we earnestly seek the grace of repentance. Your Word shows us the path back to You, yet we have wandered. We lay our rebellious ways before You, longing for the sweet relief of Your forgiveness.

As the psalmist cried out for a clean heart, so do we. We ask not only for the erasure of our sins, but for the transformation of our spirits. May our repentance be sincere, bearing fruit in every deed and thought. We trust in Your unfailing love and the redemption that flows from Your merciful throne. Through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, 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**

Mark 1: 15, Ephesians 2: 8-9

**Hymn**

*“Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”*

Women’s Trio

## **Sermon**

### Repentance and Faith

How many of you have a coin in your pocket or purse this morning? If you do, take it out and look it over. How many sides does it have? Is each side different or the same? The answer is obvious. Each coin has two sides and each side is different from the other and yet what you are holding in your hand is a single piece of United States currency. Would that coin be a valid form of currency if it only had a design on one side? I've checked and the answer is no. Here's the reason why. United States currency requires an imprinted image on both sides called the obverse and the reverse or in more colloquial usage "heads and tails." If it doesn't, it's not real. It's a counterfeit piece of money. Now why do you think I started this sermon with this rather obvious illustration about a coin? Here's the reason why. The fourth part of God's plan of salvation is like a coin. In order to be real, to be genuine, it must possess two things. Like a coin it must have two sides and this is what they are—repentance and faith. Otherwise what you possess is counterfeit. It's of no value. Like someone trying to steal a piece of candy from a vending machine with a false coin, it will not grant you access to God's salvation. In fact, this is what Jesus said at the beginning of His earthly ministry, "The Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). In other words, if you want to enter the Kingdom of God, there are two things you need to possess. Failure to possess either one will deny you entrance.

So this morning let's take a look at why faith and repentance are such an important part of God's plan of salvation. But before we do, let's review what we have learned thus far. Here it is in a nutshell. God loves us, but sin has separated us from God and from His love for us. That is why He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into our world to save us. Christ and Christ alone can deliver us from our sins. So far, so good! God has provided a way for us to establish a relationship with Him that will last for a lifetime and for all eternity. What if anything should be our response? Quite simply all we have to do is say, "Yes. Yes, I want to be saved. Yes, I want my sins to be forgiven. Yes, I want to be a child of God and have a home in heaven for all of eternity." All we have to do is say "yes" to God and we do that in two distinctive ways. Remember the opening illustration about the coin. Our "yes" is like that coin. On the first side you'll find the word "**REPENTANCE**" inscribed upon it. On the reverse side you will find the word "**FAITH**" in great big bold letters. Let's take a look at each of these two words and see how they apply to us as we seek to understand God's plan of salvation for each and every one of us.

The word "repentance" means to turn around and head in a different direction, like a driver making a U-turn. One old-timey evangelist illustrated the meaning of repentance in this way. Coming down from the pulpit he started walking up the center aisle of the church towards the back doors. As he did he shouted, "I'm lost and going to hell. I'm lost and going to hell." Then he turned around and headed back down towards the pulpit shouting just as loudly, "I'm saved and going to heaven. I'm saved and going to heaven." Repentance is an about face in life. If we want to become a Christian, we must be willing to repent, to not only be sorry for our sins, but to earnestly desire to remove them from our lives. It's seeing them for what they really are, a blight, a cancer that is destroying our lives. It involves a distaste for what we have been doing that compels us to flee from that which once attracted us and held us in its sway.

The story of an elderly man in one of the churches I have served vividly illustrates the meaning of repentance. Harry was an alcoholic. Having fought in the South Pacific during World War II, he returned home with haunting combat memories that drove him to drink, a habit that had become a major part of his life for decades. He was not a mean alcoholic. He never physically abused his wife or children. He just removed himself from their presence. At the family's request, I visited with him one day. We were sitting outside his old shed in the warm afternoon sunshine of a fall day. He listened politely as I spoke with him, but did not indicate that any change in his life would be forth coming. I left thinking to myself, "This man is going to die an alcoholic and there's nothing I can do about it." Fortunately there was something God could do about it. One Sunday morning at the time of invitation at the end of the worship service, he

came forward. I had not seen him at the back of the sanctuary. He professed Christ as his Savior and from that moment on never drank another drop of, beer, whiskey or other alcoholic beverage. With God's help he had turned away from a sin that had ruined his life and separated him from his family. Turning away and rejecting the sins of our past, disgusted at what they have wrought in our lives, is the first side of that salvation coin which we need to possess. As Peter said to the crowds which for the first time heard the good news of God's salvation on the day of Pentecost, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" (Acts 2:38).

Here's the second side of that salvation coin. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul said, "For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is a gift which we receive when we place our trust and faith in Jesus Christ. It is a grace gift from the Lord. We don't earn it or deserve it. There is nothing we can do to gain it on our own. In fact, just the opposite is true. Let me share this illustration with you. A young person is swimming at one of our state parks in Virginia. The individual is swimming way beyond the safety zone. Realizing that this was a foolish thing to do, he also begins to realize that he is reaching the point of total exhaustion. With the remaining strength he possesses the distressed swimmer cries out for help. Gasping for air he frantically waves his arms splashing about, trying to get someone's attention. Seeing what's happening, the life guard on duty springs into action. He jumps into the water and swims out to the drowning swimmer. Arriving at the swimmer's side he tells him, "Stop trying to save yourself. Stop thrashing around in the water. Just relax and trust me. I'll carry you safely to shore."

Without a life guard, the swimmer would have drowned. Without trusting, having faith in, believing that the lifeguard could save him, the rescue would have been difficult if not impossible. In fact, when I took a life-saving course as a Boy Scout, I was told, "If a drowning victim keeps splashing around and won't listen to your instructions, knock them out before you pull them to shore. Otherwise they will drown both of you." Sometimes the same is true for those whom God is trying to save. They are so determined to do things in their own misguided way that God has to almost knock them out to get their attention. Remember Saint Paul? He was an obstinate, hard headed Jewish rabbi who wanted nothing to do with that new sect who called themselves followers of "the Way," an earlier name for Christians. In fact, he was one of the religious leaders who were persecuting them. Now he was on his way to the city of Damascus in Syria. He had been sent to arrest the followers of Jesus who were living there. As you will remember, it was while he was on his way to this city, perhaps on the road crossing Mount Hermon, that the Lord got his attention. He literally knocked Paul off his horse with a burst of light that blinded him for three days. That and a word from the resurrected Jesus as to why Paul was persecuting Him and His followers, brought this Jewish rabbi to his senses. He became one of if not the most devoted follower of Christ in the first century.

Perhaps some of you may have had a similar experience. I have known of a number of God's people that the Lord had to almost bop them on the head and drag to the altar of repentance and faith before they were truly saved. Remember that coin illustration that we talked about? In order to be real and genuine, it must have something inscribed on both sides of it. With regards to salvation that something is **repentance** and **faith**. Without repentance and faith, we will not be found acceptable when we stand before the Lord in glory and we will not be the beneficiaries of His blessings here on earth.

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn*

"Ke Akua Man E"  
(How Great Thou Art)

Bill & Deanna

### ***Affirmation of Faith***

We know that in the past we were spiritually dead because of our sin. We followed the ways of this world and we were also ruled by the selfish desires of our hearts. In so doing, we made God our enemy and deserved to be punished like everyone else.

But God was merciful! We were spiritually dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much that He made us alive with Christ and His gift of undeserved grace is what saves us. God did this so that in the future world He could show how truly good and kind He is because of what Christ Jesus has done for us.

We believe that we are saved by faith alone in God, who treats us much better than we deserve. This is God's gift to us and not anything we have done on our own. It isn't something we have earned, so there is nothing we can brag about. God planned for us to do good things and to live as He has always wanted us to live. We believe this is why He sent Christ to make us what we are. Praise be to God!

### ***Doxology***

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Hymn 34

### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

Dear Heavenly Father, we are grateful for Your grace and mercy in our lives. Despite our shortcomings and failures, You have shown us undeserved kindness and forgiveness. Thank you for extending Your grace and mercy to us each and every day. Receive these tithes and offerings and the love and gratitude in which they are given. 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***

*"Go"*

Leon Patillo

### **THE SENDING FORTH**

### ***Benediction***

### ***Postlude***

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

Diane Bush

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in memory of our parents,  
Jerome & Rosabelle Salley and Joe & Ann Solon,  
by John & Betty Salley

# September 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <i>10 am Worship</i> <i>Communion</i>						<b>7</b> <i>Men's Breakfast</i> <i>9 am</i>
<b>8</b> <i>10 am Worship</i> <i>5¢ a Meal</i> <i>BCM collection</i>			<b>11</b> <i>Deacon's</i> <i>Meeting 1pm</i>			
<b>15</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>						
<b>22</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>						
<b>29</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>						

### Joys- August 25<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** Linda Benton shared joy to attend granddaughters wedding

**Joy-** seeing Judy Harris in church

### Concerns- August 25<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

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

Jerry Dillion-( nephew) health issues

Jody Lineberry – leukemia treatment unsuccessful

**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

Mark Luft (neighbor) fell, rehab, family issues

**Blair:** Philip Davis recovering melanoma 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:** Lucile Kesterson (Dawn's mother) aging memory issues

Julian Kesterson (Dawn's stepdad) nursing home, multiple falls

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

Maggie- English teacher server liver problems

**Easter:** Ruby Key (friend) cancer

Jim (bother) 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- in hospital

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

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

Shawn Webb- find caretaker for aunt

Lloyd (husband) back problems

Jackie Meador- shoulder replacement

**Goodman:** John Ramsey (nephew) open heart surgery

**Grigg:** Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Chris Mays- diabetic complications

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

**Harris:** Jim- back pain

**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- home

**McManis;** Charlotte doing better

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

**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

**Overstreet:** Family of Rebekah Overstreet on her passing

**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

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

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Earl Carter- health issues  
Todd Stone- arthritis and wife melanoma surgery

**Stoddard:** Prayers for family on passing of Mike Stoddard

**Van Dyke:** prayers for Jeff, son, looking for new job  
Prayers to solve evil in country  
Marilyn (92 yr old neighbor) fell, broke leg

**Webb:** looking for caretaker for aunt

**Weeks:** Edith, upcoming surgery on 29<sup>th</sup>

**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 August 25<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
Aloha Sunday  
Potluck

Sunday: September 1<sup>st</sup>  
10 am Worship  
Communion

### **August Birthdays**

Ann Fowler-27  
William Hopkins-29  
Donna Henderson- 31

### **September Birthdays**

John Grubb- 1  
Bill Yodis- 2  
James Harris 12  
Sandy Scheurer 12  
David Henderson- 12  
Deanna Rutledge 16  
Dick Kibbey 17  
Christine Riley 18  
Harold Neal 19  
Barbara Saunders 20  
Dick Diddams 21  
Ron Morris 24  
Jay Barnes 29

### **September Anniversaries**

Jay & Eunice Barnes 11  
Gerald & Tammy DeWitt 19

## Thank you for your continued support

BPC Financial Snapshot						
General Operations Contribution Income				General Operations Expense		
	Forecast	Actual	YTD Ahead/(Behind)	Monthly Expense Target	Actual Expenses	YTD (Over)/Under Spent
July 2024	\$ 16,170.00	\$ 11,879.22	\$ (582.44)	\$ 17,034.05	\$ 12,996.55	\$ 39,277.77

### God's Plan of Salvation

God loves us but sin has separated us from both Him and His love. To remedy that situation God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to atone for our sins so that our relationship with God might be restored. Is there anything else we need to do? Yes, there is! We must be repentant and we must have faith. This morning we'll explore these two spiritual truths as we look forward to a glorious conclusion to this sermon series next Sunday.

### Walking Hand in Hand with God through Prayer

Beginning on September 15th, we'll be going on a six week prayer journey. Prayer is more than asking God for what we need. It's an opportunity to get to know Him and build a personal relationship with him. On Sunday mornings we will be reaching out through prayer to experience His presence as we worship together. On Wednesday afternoons during our Something More sessions at 3 pm, we will be viewing and discussing a prayer video series hosted by Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle. A light dinner will be served. This is an opportunity for all of us to draw closer to the Lord through prayer. Plan to attend and invite your friends.

### Leadership in the Life of our Church

Each year the Nominating Committee endeavors to find leaders from within our congregation who are willing to serve our church family. This year we need leaders in key positions including Finance and Property. The Nominating Committee needs your help. Using the first inside page of the church directory as a guide, please ask yourself and the Lord, "Where can I make a meaningful contribution that meets my gifts, talents, and abilities?" If you feel you have a calling, please feel free to explore possibilities with Bill Yodis, who chairs our Nominating Committee, or the Interim Pastor. Together, with God's help, we can build a strong and vibrant church.

### Roanoke Pops- December 6th at 7:30 pm

It's that time of year again. Members and friends of BPC have been attending the Roanoke Pops Christmas Concert at the Salem Civic Center for quite a few years now. It is a wonderful fellowship event of fun and food, as we listen to the glorious music of the orchestra, choirs and guest vocalist. Our very own Bill Rutledge is a member of the Roanoke Chorus! We all bring an appetizer to share, which is always a treat! Wine and spirits are sold at the Civic center [you may not bring your own]. I will be sending out a list of what you can purchase in advance of the concert. We have been able to reserve three tables again this year. The date is December 6th, tickets are \$60.00 each. Deadline to reserve your seat is Sunday, October 27th. Please get in touch with Judy Blair to reserve your seat and get information on how to go about payment.