

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)



## Week of September 8<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**

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

Marriane Kim

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: We will extol You, our God and King and bless Your name forever and ever.

**All: Every day we will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.**

One: Great are You Lord and greatly to be praised; Your greatness is unsearchable.

**All: To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn**

*“Immortal, Invisible, the Only Wise God”*

Hymn 48

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

You alone, God, know who we are. You know us in our lying down, and You know us in our waking. You know us when our hearts burst with joy and You know us when despair weighs down on us. You, God, know us through and through. Forgive us when we deny the truth about ourselves. Forgive us when we hide behind masks and facades. Forgive us when we pretend that we are something we are not. Give us the strength to acknowledge who we are so that we might grow and deepen and become the persons You would have us to be. 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**

Luke 12: 1-3

**Praise Song**

*“He Is Good”*

Hernandez/Nelson

**Introduction:**

I can remember in June 2022 when we in South Africa were legally allowed to take off our masks in public, which feels like a life-time ago. But to be honest, while most people were excited that these masks are a thing of the past, there are so many people walking around with masks on...

Under normal circumstances, if someone had to hide their face every time they leave the house, that would be rather suspicious! But so often people wear Spiritual masks & Emotional masks.

**Pretending**

There are two kinds of masks I want to talk about: The kind we wear to pretend that we are something we are not (projecting), and the Kind we wear to hide who we are (Hiding).

Even though these might sound similar, they are very different. They do have something in common though, they both entail pretending you are something that you are not. But pretending something is true doesn't make it true. Pretending you are something you are not doesn't make you that thing. You cannot fix what you pretend isn't broken and God cannot bless what you are pretending to be. So, what are these masks we are wearing, and how can we take them off?

**Projecting:**

Let's start with projecting, which is pretending you are something you are not. This is a trap in our spiritual lives. This could happen if we feel inferior. We start pretending to be more spiritual. But Jesus warned us about this. In fact, this is an area where Jesus spoke harshly against wearing a mask. 15 times in Matthew, 1 time in Mark and 4 times in Luke Jesus condemns the Pharisees for wearing a mask. *The word "hypocrite" in the New Testament translates to "stage-player, actor or pretender"?* So 20 times, it is recorded that Jesus spoke against their actions, because they were pretending to be something they are not.

Matthew 6:5 - "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full."

Spiritual projection doesn't bring you any closer to Jesus. The only reward is your pride. But when we come to Him in humility; James 4:6 - "But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble."

How can we take this mask off: humility. It's OK not to have all the answers and even to make mistakes. Even the disciples, the people who travelled with Jesus, who witnessed His ministry and teaching, who ate with Him and walked in His footsteps had the humility to be honest.

Luke 17:3-5 - "So watch yourselves. If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them. The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

Jesus didn't respond by throwing them out of the group and finding more spiritual people to hang out with. Instead, He said even a little faith can do great things, it can enable you to live according to the standards that Jesus was setting.

**Hiding:**

There are many reasons we might do this, but I want to touch on 2 of them: Shame and Insecurity.

Shame: Sometimes, even after we accept the amazing gift of life and salvation that Jesus gives, we keep on reminding ourselves of what we once did, or when we made that mistake. But we are not called to live in the shadows of our past, but in the light of Christ.

Ephesians 4:22-24 – “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.”

Your new self is created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. This is where your mind should be. This should be your focus and goal. The mask that hides shame is taken off by a heart and mind that is focused on God.

**Insecurity:** Maybe in who you are and who God created you to be.

Psalms 139:13-14 – “For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well.”

God created you to be you, because He wanted a you. We are so incredibly valuable, that Jesus was willing to die for us, so that we can know Him. But not just did He create you for a relationship and make a way for you to be saved as well as give you the strength to put off the old self to pursue your true design in Him, He made you with purpose.

Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

We should never underestimate our call! We are not all called to do the same thing and we shouldn’t view your calling by comparing it to someone else’s

If the mouth had to stop working because it couldn’t see as well as the eyes or smell as well as the nose, the body would starve and die. But if we all live our calling as we were made, the whole body is strengthened. If you don’t know what you are called to, start on your front line: What should you do there where you are to give God glory? Who should you influence there where you are?

You are God’s masterpiece, and you are positioned to be used. So let us take off the masks of projection and hiding and be who God made us, so that He may be glorified and the whole world may be blessed.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

**Medley**

*“Never” with “My Savior’s Love”*

Tommy Walker

### **Affirmation of Faith**

God’s Unconditional Love

Romans 8: 38-39

For we are convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

God, we are in awe of Your love for us. You are so great, and we are so small, yet You love us completely. We affirm today that nothing can separate us from Your love. There is nothing we need to do to earn it and nothing we can do to lose it; You love us without condition. Because of that fact, we live confidently and peacefully knowing we have always been and will always be fully loved by You.”

**Doxology**

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Hymn 34

***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

God, we give thanks for Your presence in our lives. Your presence has broken our chains and enabled us to be all You created us to be. Bless these offerings, that they may be used to advance Your kingdom and glorify Your name. And may our faith continue to grow stronger each day, bringing us closer to You. 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***

*"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"*

Hymn 591

**THE SENDING FORTH**

***Benediction***

***Postlude***

*"Toccata"*

Theodore Dubois

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in honor  
of John Grubb's birthday by Linda Benton.

# September 2024

| SUN   | MON  | TUE | WED  | THU | FRI | SAT   |
|---|--|-----|--|-----|-----|---|
| <b>1</b><br><i>10 am Worship</i><br><i>Communion</i>  | <b>2</b><br><i>Labor day</i><br><i>Office closed</i> |     |  |     |     | <b>7</b><br><i>Men's Breakfast</i><br><i>9 am</i> |
| <b>8</b><br><i>10 am Worship</i><br><i>Rev. Hein Vermaak</i><br><i>5¢ a Meal</i><br><i>BCM collection</i> |  |     | <b>11</b><br><i>Deacon's</i><br><i>Meeting 1pm</i> |     |     |   |
| <b>15</b><br><i>10 am Worship</i>   |  |     | <b>18</b><br><i>Something</i><br><i>More, 3 pm</i> |     |     |   |
| <b>22</b><br><i>10 am Worship</i>   |  |     |  |     |     |   |
| <b>29</b><br><i>10 am Worship</i><br><i>Session</i>   |  |     |  |     |     |   |

### Joys- September 8<sup>th</sup>

**Joy** - Christy Boone- thanking everyone who helped with Shepherds Table

**Joy** - Lori Stetson- Savannah is home

**Joy** - Ellen- thanking the wonderful church family for their prayers, calls, foods and visits

**Joy** - Russell- Todd Stone doing better and wife is fine

### Concerns-September 8<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

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

Jerry Dilion-( 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

Tammy (friend) open heart surgery

**Blair:** Philip Davis recovering melanoma surgery

Arrington- pancreatic cancer, 6 months to live

Judy- back problems

**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 severe 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- home doing better

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

**Froberg:** 10 week old great niece cranium, surgery

**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

**Grubb:** John- cancer, more testing

**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  
**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  
Marcus Walker- (brother) laid off from job  
**Stetson:** Nick, Tiffany, Savannah- Savannah home  
Morgan (nephew) life decisions  
**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Earl Carter- health issues  
Todd Stone- arthritis and wife melanoma surgery  
**Van Dyke:** Prayers to solve evil in country  
Marilyn (92 yr old neighbor) fell, broke leg  
**Watkins:** Joy- traveling mercies to horse nationals  
**Webb:** looking for caretaker for aunt

**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 September 8<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Hein Vermaak  
5¢ a Meal Offering  
BCM donations/collections

Wednesday: Deacon's 1 pm

Sunday: September 15<sup>th</sup>  
10 am Worship

### **September Birthdays**

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

## **GUEST MINISTER**

Please welcome Reverend Hein Vermaak who will deliver the sermon this morning. He and his family were with us in July. This Sunday Reverend Parker and his wife will be attending the anniversary celebration of Calvary Baptist Church, the congregation where he served for thirty years prior to his retirement.

## **WALKING HAND IN HAND WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER**

Prayer is much more than asking God for the things we need and want. Like a personal relationship with a friend, it's an opportunity to spend time with our heavenly Father. In the same way that we use our five physical senses, such as hearing and seeing, to communicate with one another, we can reach out to God using our spiritual sensitivities. We can see and hear and feel His presence in the same way that Adam and Eve did when they walked with the Lord in the Garden of Eden. That is why we have named this upcoming sermon series, "Walking Hand in Hand with God Through Prayer." The time has come for us to reach out and take His hand in ours as we journey down the road of life together beginning on Sunday morning, September 15th.

### **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.