

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

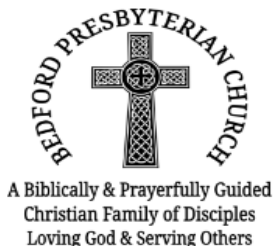


Week of September 15th

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

Mission Moment

When God’s People Pray

Promo Video

Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord, my soul.

All: With all of our being we praise His holy name.

One: Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget none of His benefits.

All: He pardons all of our wrongdoing and heals all of our ills. He rescues us from death's pit and crowns us with love and compassion. He satisfies us with all good in the prime of life and our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

One: Praise the Lord, my soul.

All: With all of our being we praise His holy name.

Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Hymn 71

***Prayer of Confession:**

Bless the Lord, oh my soul and may we never forget Your gracious benefits, for You are the divine physician that is able to touch every part of our lives with Your redeeming love. Lord, we live in a fallen world and each one of us needs Your healing touch in so many ways, for none of us are exempt from the ravages of sin and none of us are immune from sickness and suffering. So we come to You today to ask for Your healing touch in every area of our lives. Forgive us for our sins and fill us anew with Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name we pray.

***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

Personal Testimony

Michelle Goode

Anthem

“Come to Jesus”

Mark Hayes

Sermon

REACHING OUT TO TOUCH THE HAND OF GOD

In 1965 a movie by the name of *The Agony and the Ecstasy* was released. It portrayed the contentious relationship between Pope Julius II and the great artist and sculptor Michelangelo during the painting of the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican. The pope had in mind a fresco portraying the twelve Apostles on the vaulted ceiling of the chapel. Michelangelo reluctantly began work on this commissioned painting, but his artistry was uninspired. Displeased with what he had drawn, he scratched it out and fled from Rome. Awakened by a beautiful sunrise at the mouth of the cave where he had been hiding, it was like viewing the dawn of creation. That became the vision for what he would paint on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. He would create a magnificent mural of the creation and in the center of that painting he would portray the hand of God reaching out to touch the finger of mankind.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could reach out and touch the hand of God? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could walk hand in hand with the Lord each and every day? Is that too much to ask? Is that something which we mere mortals can never expect to experience this side of eternity? Perhaps so, but maybe not. Perhaps there is a way to reach out and touch the hand of God. Perhaps there is a way to commune with Him, to enjoy His friendship and His companionship. Perhaps there is a way we can enter into a personal relationship with Him. It's called **PRAYER**. Beginning today and continuing in the weeks to come both on Sunday mornings and during our Wednesday afternoon Something More sessions, we're going to reach out to touch the hand of God. We're going to discover how we can walk hand in hand with God through prayer. So let's get started by asking this question, "Why do people pray? Why do people want to talk to God? Why do they want to get His attention, to grasp His hand and hopefully His heart in order to speak with Him?"

There are four primary reasons. Let me share them with you along with Scriptural references that will illustrate why we as human beings pray to God. The first is **protection**. We pray for protection from all kinds of things like illness, adversity, or enemies. Psalm 140:1, for example, declares, "Rescue me, O LORD, from evil men; protect me from men of violence." Hezekiah, one of the ancient kings of Judah, may have prayed a similar prayer. He was facing the army of the Assyrian Empire which was besieging Jerusalem. Later he petitioned God for healing because a serious disease threatened his life. Chapters 19 and 20 in the book of 2 Kings in the Old Testament describe how God heard Hezekiah's prayers and protected both him and his people from harm.

A second reason why people pray is for **provision**. We need God's assistance to meet our daily needs. Jesus was aware of that when He taught His disciples to pray saying, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). I suspect that all of us have faced a situation like this, an immediate need that overwhelmed our available resources. In my own life years ago it involved a dental emergency. My dentist said that my teeth needed immediate and expensive attention. Embarrassed because I could not pay for the work that needed to be done, I told the dentist that I would have to think about it. Arriving back home, I cried out in despair, "Lord, what am I going to do?" Little did I realize that the God was already addressing my need. I returned to the dentist's office a few days later. Before I could even address my financial difficulties, he said, "Philip, we'll work this out, you just pay me what you can, little by little."

A third reason why people pray is for **wisdom**. Have you ever asked God to give you wisdom and discernment about an important decision? How about wisdom regarding the governance of a nation. I suspect that all of us have heard about Solomon's request for wisdom in the pages of the Old Testament. Newly crowned as the king of Israel, Solomon went to a revered worship center to present an offering unto the Lord. Remaining there that night, he fell asleep and had a dream. In the dream God told him to ask for whatever he wished. In response, Solomon asked for wisdom. He said, "Give Your servant a

discerning heart to govern Your people and to distinguish between right and wrong” (1 Kings 3:9). Even though all of this took place in a dream, it was nevertheless a real prayer, because dreams are like a window into our souls. They often describe the issues and needs that we are struggling with.

The fourth reason why people pray is for **fellowship**. In Psalm 84, verse 10, the writer declares, “Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.” The man who wrote this psalm just wanted to enjoy a time of intimate fellowship with his God. It was better than anything else this world has to offer, be it good or bad. Have you ever felt that way, longing to experience God’s presence? When you get right down to it, that’s probably one of the most profound reasons why people reach out to God in prayer. As Saint Augustine, one of the greatest theologians in the early centuries of Christianity once wrote, “Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.”

Hopefully, in the weeks to come our hearts will be uplifted as they find their rest in God through prayer. Under no circumstances, however, should anyone believe that we can cover all there is to know about prayer in such a brief period of time. Countless volumes have been written on prayer and the lives of some of God’s most ardent disciples have been devoted to the study of prayer. At best, we will but touch the hem of a meaningful prayer life with God. Nevertheless, we will do our best, just as the woman did who struggled so courageously, pushing through the multitudes, to touch the hem of Jesus’s robe.

Her story is told in the gospel of Mark, chapter 5, verses 21-34. Jesus had been summoned to the home of Jairus, a religious leader in the community. His daughter was seriously ill and the synagogue ruler hoped that Jesus could heal her. In the crowd accompanying Jesus to the home of Jairus, there was a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhaging malady that had afflicted her for twelve years. She had seen many doctors and none had been able to help her. If anything they made her condition worse. Hearing about Jesus and His ability to heal people, she thought to herself, “If only I can reach out and touch the hem of His garment. I will be healed. The bleeding will stop.” Pushing her way through the crowd, she was finally able to reach out and touch the edge of His robe. In that moment a surge of healing energy swept through her body. She knew that she had been healed. Then much to her surprise and embarrassment, Jesus stopped and turned to the crowd who was walking with Him. “Who touched my clothing?” He said. His disciples who were walking with Him immediately replied, “A lot of people have touched you, a whole multitude. What are you talking about?” Jesus paid them no mind, but kept looking all around at the sea of faces in the crowd. Realizing that Jesus was talking about her, the woman came and fell at Jesus’ feet. With fear and trembling she told Him her story. Lifting her up to her feet, He said, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Sometimes prayer is more than a word. It’s an action. It’s something that we do. It’s like reaching out to take the hand of God. It’s an act of faith. It’s a cry for help to the One who can bring new life and hope into our weary lives. That’s what happened a long time ago in the bedroom of an elderly widower. His wife had died six months earlier and he was bereft with grief. She had been the source of his joy and strength in life. They were inseparable. Now she was gone. It was almost more than he could endure. Each evening before retiring for the night, they would kneel beside their bed, holding hands, as they prayed. Now that too was gone. But old habits die hard. Before slipping between the covers, he got down on his old, wobbly knees and reached out to take his wife’s hand. “Lord, Jesus,” he prayed. “I’m so weary and I miss my dear wife, Alice, so much. Can you find it in Your heart to comfort an old, lonely widower who feels so terribly alone?” In that moment he sensed God’s presence. Someone was holding his hand just like Alice had done.

PRAYER IS REACHING OUT TO TOUCH THE HAND OF GOD!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Medley

“Touch Me, Lord” with “Spirit of the Living God”

Louis Collins

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.

Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord, thank You for Your presence here today. No matter where we are or what we're doing, You have given us the ability to call on You and to feel Your presence. Thank You for not being a distant God, but one who desires for us to draw closer and closer as You pursue our hearts. Bless these offerings and use them to make Your presence known in the lives of many. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

***Hymn**

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

Hymn 93

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

“A Joyous Acclamation”

Lani Smith

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory
of my husband Charles and son Skip, by Betty Goodman

We would like to thank the Flemings and Dianne Fain for
replacing the curtains in the choir room.

September 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <i>10 am Worship</i> <i>Communion</i>	2 <i>Labor day</i> <i>Office closed</i>	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Men's Breakfast</i> <i>9 am</i>
8 <i>10 am Worship</i> <i>Rev. Hein Vermaak</i> <i>5¢ a Meal</i> <i>BCM collection</i>	9	10	11 <i>Deacon's</i> <i>Meeting 1pm</i>	12	13	14
15 <i>10 am Worship</i>	16	17	18 <i>Something</i> <i>More, 3 pm</i>	19	20	21
22 <i>10 am Worship</i>	23	24	25 <i>Something</i> <i>More, 3 pm</i>	26	27	28
29 <i>10 am Worship</i> <i>Session</i>	30					

Joys- September 15th

Joy - Michelle Goode was joyful of Operation Christmas Child meeting and our opportunity to give

Joy- Eunice Barnes rejoiced that it has been 8 weeks since Jay fell and he is fully healed

Joy- Claudia Froberg thanked all for prayers and surgery for her great niece went well

Joy- James Fleming said the Saturday's Men's breakfast was a blessing and thanked the Griggs for the good food

Joy-Jan Easter was happy to have her host student from South Korea with her today

Joy-God's presence and love in this sanctuary

Concerns-September 15th

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

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 went well

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, upcoming surgery

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

Vermaak: prayers as he begins Associate Pastor position at Bedford Baptist

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 15th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Wednesday: Something More 3 pm

Sunday: September 22nd

10 am Worship

September Birthdays

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

Gerald & Tammy DeWitt 19

WALKING HAND IN HAND WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER

Our six week emphasis on prayer begins today. We'll discover what It means to reach out and touch the hand of God, like the woman who was healed when she touched the hem of Jesus' robe and like the senior adult who felt God grasp his hand as he grieved the loss of his wife. On Wednesday afternoon at 3 pm, our Something More sessions will resume. Meeting together in the fellowship hall, we will view the first of six video presentations on prayer, hosted by Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York City. A light dinner will be served as we view and then discuss how our own lives can be strengthened through prayer. Donations will be received for the cost of the meal and the participant's guides. Your signature on one of our sign-up sheets at the front and rear of the sanctuary will help us to know how many people are planning to attend.

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.