

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)



Week of September 22nd

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

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Larry Shackley

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come, let us praise the Lord.

All: May our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

One: God, the All Powerful, has done great things for us.

All: His name is Holy.

One: His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

All: Let us glorify the Lord. Let us rejoice in God, our Savior.

Hymn

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

Hymn 113

***Prayer of Confession:**

Heavenly Father, You command us not to worry. You tell us that You watch over the birds of the air and that we are so much more important than they are. Yet we confess that we have little faith. We worry about the same things that the world worries about. We get stressed over the uncertainties of life rather than praying about them.

Lord, forgive us for our doubt and fear. Help us to remember Your promise that if we seek Your kingdom first, You will take care of all our needs. Give rest to our minds by fixing them on Your power and perfect wisdom. Give peace to our hearts through knowing that You are with us, ready to answer when we call upon Your name.

***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

Sherry Parker

Praise Song

"Rejoice!"

Tommy Walker

Sermon

REACHING OUT TO FEEL THE PEACE OF GOD

Last Sunday we discovered that prayer is reaching out to touch the hand of God. Today let's take a look at how prayer helps us to experience the peace of God. In a world filled with so much violence we often hear these words, "Pray for peace." Places like Israel and Ukraine immediately come to mind. Praying for peace expresses our heartfelt desire for the cessation of armed conflict. But sometimes, praying for peace refers to situations a little closer to home. In fact, sometimes in our homes. Such was the case with Hannah, a woman who lived a long, long time ago in the land Israel. Her desire for peace had nothing to do with physical violence. It had everything to do with the kind of inner turmoil that can destroy a person's life. Let me share her story with you. It is found in the first two chapters of the Old Testament book of 1 Samuel.

Hannah was the wife of Elkanah, a kind and loving husband who was devoted to her. There was just one problem. He had another wife named Peninnah. Just to set the record straight, in those ancient days in the land of Israel having more than one wife was permitted, but not encouraged. It often created a tumultuous relationship between the two wives and that was certainly true with regards to Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah was the mother of a whole brood of children. Hannah was the mother of none. That was the problem. Children were considered to be a blessing from the Lord. Not being able to bear a child meant that you had somehow missed out on God's blessings. No wife wanted to be labeled with that horrible word, "barren." To make matters worse, Peninnah never missed an opportunity to ridicule Hannah about her childlessness, especially when the family went to Shiloh for the annual religious festivities. On the last day there was always a feast, and portions of the celebratory meal were given to everyone. Peninnah always received a huge platter of food because she had many sons and daughters, a lot of mouths to feed. Looking over at Hannah's much smaller portion, she couldn't help but voice a few condescending remarks for everyone to hear.

Angry and humiliated, Hannah was reduced to tears. This taunting had been going on for years. It had to stop. She was being torn apart emotionally by the continuing denigration of that other wife. She had to find some peace, some way to deal with the hurt and pain that was tearing her apart. She did the only thing she could think of. She went to the Tabernacle to pray. This tented sanctuary was the holiest place in all of Israel. Perhaps God would help her. Kneeling in front of the tented shrine, she prayed with hysterical fervor, pouring out her heart before the Lord. She was so animated in her prayers that she caught the attention of Eli, the elderly priest in charge of the Tabernacle. He walked over and scolded her, thinking she was drunk. She assured him that she was not that kind of woman. Explaining why she had come to pray, Eli sensed her deep distress and as God's representative, offered words of comfort. He said, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant what you have asked of Him" (1 Samuel 1:17). Deeply appreciative and feeling a lot better, she returned to her family, and they all went back home the next day. She had entrusted all her anxious desires to be a mother into the hands of God, and Eli's blessing had granted her the assurance that God was at least going to listen to her prayers. Now He was in charge of whatever would come to pass and that brought her peace, a sense of well-being that could overlook the insults of Peninnah.

Now, let me ask you a question. Have you ever felt like Hannah? Have you ever faced a situation where you faced the same kind of stress and anxiety as she did? It may not have been childlessness. Perhaps it was the possibility of lost employment, persistent family strife, discord in the workplace, or unresolved personal issues dating all the way back to your childhood. There are a thousand reasons why our lives can be tormented by so much stress and inner turmoil that the possibility of inner peace and a feeling of being whole and genuinely hopeful seems like a million miles away. Perhaps Saint Paul was thinking about that very thing when he wrote his letter to the Christians in Philippi. They too had reason to be anxious and fearful. Being a Christian often meant facing persecution, ill will from a pagan society and worse. So he

included these words of encouragement in his letter to them, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known unto God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7).

What is Paul saying to us? To begin with he’s saying, “Don’t be a worry wort. Don’t allow yourself to dwell in a constant state of anxiety.” Unfortunately that’s where some people have chosen to live. Encouraged by a friend to entrust all her cares and worries into the care of Christ, one dear lady responded, “Oh, but I don’t want to ever come to the place where I can’t worry!” That woman had failed to realize that worrying is faithless. It reveals our lack of trust in God. It is also fruitless. It doesn’t change anything. Finally, it’s futile. It doesn’t help us or anybody else. Just the opposite, like this little limerick reminds us, “The worried cow would have lived till now, if she has saved her breath; but she feared her hay wouldn’t last all day, so she moored herself to death.”

Then like a doctor’s prescription, Paul tells us what to do, “In everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.” Tell God about what you are facing instead of stewing and brewing over the situation. Years ago, I had a push lawn mower that wouldn’t start. I worked on it for hours, totally frustrated. Finally, I came to my senses. Instead of continuing to worry over something I could not fix, I picked it up and carried it to a repairman. We need to do the same thing. We need to pack up our worries and anxieties and take them to God through prayer. Furthermore, we need to be specific. We shouldn’t beat around the bush. We need to tell God everything, just like a patient speaking with a doctor. Finally, we need to be thankful, because God is going to address our concerns and administer his healing balm. We must never forget what 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us, “Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances.”

Now here’s the best part. When we entrust our worries and anxieties into the care of God, He bestows upon us a special gift, His peace. It’s the kind of peace that transcends anything that this world has to offer. Jesus told His disciples, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27). This is kind of peace that a child experiences when a little one crawls up into the lap of a loving father, pouring out all of his or her anxieties and hurts. Just being there provides a sense of security and well-being. Everything is going to be alright, no matter what happens, because a loving father protects and cares for his children. Paul also states that God’s peace is like a soldier standing guard on the wall of our lives. When troubles come, the Spirit of Christ says, “Move on. You will gain no entrance here!”

Fortunately, when we offer this kind of prayer, things have a way of working themselves out. Upon returning home, Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son by the name of Samuel. Dedicated unto the Lord at an early age, Samuel became the last and the greatest of Israel’s judges, guiding the nation as it transitioned from a tribal confederation into a unified nation under the leadership of King David. Not only that, God granted her a number of other children as well. How about you and me, living right here and now in this twenty-first century? Can God grant us the same kind of peace that Hannah experienced? Can He grant us the same kind of peace that Paul talked about in his letter to the Philippians?

You have already heard one example this morning. Walking alone on the beach, the Lord filled my wife’s anxious heart with the reassurance of His love and watch care, even as she faced a time of uncertain employment. Let me share another example with you, one which many of us can relate to. It’s from a story in Guideposts titled, “What Prayer Can Do: Blanket of Peace.” Lying down on the hospital gurney, the nurse spread a thin blanket over Nancy King and told her, “You’ll have a short wait before we can do the procedure. Just try to relax until then.” Nancy had already been diagnosed with a cancerous tumor following a recent colonoscopy. Now the doctors wanted to see if it had spread to other parts of her body.

Since Covid restrictions were still in place, her husband had not been allowed to be there in the room with her. She was all alone with her fears. Crying out to the Lord, she prayed, "Help me get through this and whatever comes next." Worst case scenarios ran through her head. What if surgery couldn't help? What if there was nothing the doctors could do? Then, out of nowhere, a feeling of peace descended upon her. She said, "It settled over me like a blanket, covering me, smothering my fears." Looking down, she realized that her left hand was bunched up in the folds of the blanket that the nurse had spread over her. It reminded her of the woman who had touched the hem of Jesus' robe. "This must be what the hem of that robe felt like," she thought, rubbing the edge of the thin blanket. The sensation of the fabric calmed her nerves and made the Lord feel even closer. By the time the nurse returned to take me to the procedure, she was ready to face whatever came next.

Fortunately, the cancer had not spread, and the surgery was successful. She had reached out in prayer and experienced the peace of God. May the same be true for you and me when we face those times in our lives when in prayer we too need to reach out and grab hold of the peace of God.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Medley

"Still" with "Peace"

Hillsong

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

Loving Heavenly Father, thank You for Your peace that surpasses all understanding and guards our hearts in Christ Jesus. Help us to rejoice in every situation knowing that You are with us and ready to save. It is with joy that we offer our tithes and offering this day. Bless them and use them for Your glory.

****Hymn***

"Like a River Glorious"

Hymn 435

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Postlude on Marion"

Mark Rippe

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

September 2024

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

Joys- September 22nd

Joy - Michelle Goode shared about gleanng opportunity and Support for Christmas Child

Joy- Nancy- celebrating son Jeff's birthday and new job

Joy- Barbara Nichols has new Great-granddaughter, Eleanor Ann Louis

Concerns-September 22nd

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

Family of Dr. Paul Rhodes on passing

Boone: Roslyn Reynolds, (friend) upcoming surgery

Mark Luft (neighbor) fell, rehab, family issues

Tammy (friend) open heart surgery

Rebekah Overstreet's family

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
Nichols: son-in-law throat surgery
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 22nd

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Wednesday: Something More 3 pm

Sunday: September 29th

10 am Worship

Session

September Birthdays

Ron Morris 24

Jay Barnes 29

October Birthdays

Kathy Grigg - 5

Scarlett Stevens - 6

Lori Stetson - 9

Philip Parker - 11

Libby Monk - 21

Jim Barefoot - 28

Ann Marie Fleming - 28

Linda Benton -30

October Anniversaries

Richard & Belvia Tate - 3

Jay & Venus Gould - 5

James & Ann Marie Fleming - 28

Paul & Nancy Van Dyke - 30

Walking Hand in Hand with God through Prayer

This morning we begin our second week emphasizing the power and the importance of prayer. The theme for this Sunday is "Reaching Out to Sense the Peace of God." We want to also invite everyone to participate in our Something More sessions on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm. We will be viewing and discussing the second video presentation, "The Amazing Power of Prayer," featuring Pastor Jim Cymbala and the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in New York City. Special materials have been prepared—sermon manuscripts, prayer helps, and links to the video presentations—are available on our church's website, Bedfordpresbyva.org.

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 were 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.