

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)



Week of October 6th

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

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Marianne Kim

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

All: For the Lord Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.

One: God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

All: Sing praises to God, sing praises.

One: Sing praises to our King, sing praises.

All: For God is the King of all the earth and we will praise Him.

Hymn

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

Hymn 56

***Prayer of Confession:**

Father, we confess our prayerlessness before You. Your word calls us to pray without ceasing, but at times we go days without praying. Forgive us when we continue to allow sin in our lives that keeps our prayers from being heard. Your word says that there is power in the fervent prayer of a righteous man or woman or child, yet we doubt that our prayers have any effect at all. The ways we pray and don't pray, speak volumes about what we think about You, about ourselves, and about how things work in Your kingdom. Lord, all we can humbly ask once again is: “Teach us to pray!” Help us, Holy Spirit. Answer us, Father. Because we ask all this in Jesus' name, 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

Personal Testimony

Larry Compter

Choir Anthem

“10,000 Reasons”

Mark Hayes arr.

Sermon

REACHING OUT TO EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF GOD

How many of you have ever heard of a man named Frank Laubach? If not, you are not alone. Let me introduce him to you this morning. He is known as “the Apostle to the Illiterates.” While serving as a missionary in the Philippines in the early 1900’s, he realized that many people living in the remote areas could not read. So he developed a literacy program called “Each One, Teach One.” It was so successful that it had a world-wide impact, even right here in America. Millions of people have been taught how to read using the literacy techniques inspired by Frank Laubach.

Frank Laubach is also known for his devotion to prayer. He really believed that prayer could make a difference. He wrote a book in 1946 called *Prayer, The Mightiest Force in the World*. Years ago I acquired a copy of it, a little paperback volume of just 124 pages. As I read it, three short sentences captured my attention. Dr. Laubach boldly proclaimed, “Prayer is the mightiest power on earth. Prayer’s power has been proven many millions of times. Enough of us, if we prayed enough, could save the world.”

Now let me ask you, is that true? Do you really believe that prayer is powerful? Do you really believe that prayer can change the course of human affairs? Do you really believe that prayer can transform people’s lives, or are we simply expressing hoped for outcomes when we pray? Expressed simply and straightforwardly, do you believe that prayer is powerful?

The people of the Bible knew that prayer was powerful. There are literally hundreds of accounts where people prayed and God responded in a powerful and at times, in a miraculous manner. For example, in the New Testament there is this account in the twelfth chapter of the book of Acts. Peter had been arrested by King Herod who was going to execute him the next day. Meanwhile, the church was earnestly praying for his release. That night an angel appeared to Peter waking him up. The angel told him to get up and when he did his chains fell off. He was then escorted by the angel through locked doors that swung open until Peter found himself standing outside of the prison where he had been confined. Only then did he realize that what he had experienced was not a dream, but in actuality a miraculous escape from jail.

These and countless other passages of Scripture in both the Old and New Testament provide vivid accounts of the power of prayer. Additionally there is one verse of Scripture which I want to call to your attention this morning. Do you remember our study of the book of James, especially verse 16 in chapter 5. James says, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” This means that prayer releases power to bring about positive consequences. This past week we’ve seen just the opposite. The power of water was destructive. But that same power can also be constructive. Take, for example, the water rushing through the turbines at Smith Mountain Lake. That power produces electricity which lights our homes. So what we are talking about here is the kind of power that makes life better. This is the kind of power that is released when righteous people pray.

But what kind of people possess that kind of prayer power. James describes them as righteous individuals. They are righteous with regards to their relationship with the Lord.

Proverbs 15: 29 declares, “The LORD is far away from the wicked but hears the prayers of the righteous.” James echoes that sentiment emphasizing that effective prayers require the confession of sin in our lives. Regarding prayers for the sick, he says, “Therefore confess your sins one to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” When I was a little boy the pastor of the church we were attending visited our home. Wanting to do the right thing, I went to the kitchen and filled several glasses with water that I could serve to the minister and my mother. There was only one problem, the glasses had not been washed. They were still stained with a residue of milk from breakfast. I was gently admonished to return to the kitchen and clean the glasses before offering the

minister a glass of water. The same is true when we step into the presence of the Lord. Psalm 51:10 declares, "Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me." We should never approach God in prayer with a dirty, sin filled life. We should also come before Him with a right spirit if we desire our prayers to be powerfully answered.

James does not mention this requirement for prayers that are answered in a powerful way, but he does allude to it earlier in his letter. He says, "You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures" (James 4:2-3). What are the wrong motives that he is talking about? Some of them are the worldly pleasures which we are tempted to crave and pursue. But looking a little deeper, it is that inherent desire to treat God as a grandfatherly provider whose duty it is to give us what we want. That, however, is not the purpose of prayer. The real purpose of prayer is to ask for that which God desires, specifically what will bring glory to His name, what will advance His kingdom, what will bring more people into the circle of His love, what will show the world that He is a powerful God who is anxious to care for those who call upon His name.

In closing, I want to call to your attention to an old friend of mine. His name was Charlie. When I met him he was getting up in years and he had a blood condition which required frequent hospitalizations. I could spend a long time describing the kind of person he was. Let me simply say that he was a kind and generous individual who loved people and who loved the Lord with a bit of gentle humor that everyone warmed up to. Above all he wanted to be a witness and that's precisely what he did. Yes, we prayed for his healing and yes, he had prolonged periods of remission. Most importantly, however, was his desire to introduce others to the love of God through his life, even when he was in the hospital. That was the focus of his prayer life and the focus of the way he lived. You know what, his prayers were powerfully answered, not because he was healed, but because healing of another kind was extended to those who cared for him. The doctors and the nursing staff almost looked forward to his arrival, because they sensed that he was a man of God who knew the Lord and wanted them to know Him as well.

So cast aside, in fact, remove those things in your life that are displeasing unto the Lord and start praying about the things you know God would like to see happen in your life and in the lives of others. Once you do, you will become a real prayer warrior, one of those whose prayers are both powerful and effective.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

<i>Communion Hymn</i>	<i>"Here Is Bread"</i>	Graham Kendrick
<i>Communion</i>	<i>"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"</i> <i>"Amazing Grace"</i>	J.S.Bach
<i>Doxology</i>	<i>"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"</i>	Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dear Father God, thank You for Your Son Jesus Christ our Savior and for the salvation that we have received through trusting in His death and resurrection. Our hearts overflow with grateful thanks and praise for Your amazing sacrifice. There are still so many who are lost and in need of salvation. Empower us to pray for them. Give us the faith to believe that our prayers can be effective in changing the lives of all who do not yet know You. Bless these tithes and offerings and use them to bring salvation to many. 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.

****Closing Hymn***

"What a Mighty God"

Hymn 674

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Prelude in C"

Jules Massenet

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our collective families who have gone before us in Christ. Ron & Margaret Morris

October 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	3	4	5 <i>Men's Breakfast 9 am</i>
6 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	7	8	9 <i>Deacon's Meeting 1pm</i> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	10	11	12
13 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	14	15	16 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	17	18	19
20 <i>10 am Worship</i>	21	22	23 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	24	25	26
27 <i>10 am Worship Session</i>	28	29	30 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	31		

Joys- October 6th

Joy- Dave Stetson shared Lori's thanks for all the support on her painting at Goose Creek

Joy- Eunice Barnes shared Jay is 93 today! Happy Birthday Jay!

Joy- Lana thanks everyone for their prayers and being there when needed

Concerns-October 6th

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

Neighbor lost husband and moving

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 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- in hospital

Prayers for everyone on dialysis

Froberg: 10 week old great niece cranium, surgery went well

Goode: Amy (niece) biopsy

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

Lambert: Margaret, sciatica pain

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
Margaret's brother in NC, prayers for those impacted by storm

Narwid: Ed- not doing well

Nichols: son-in-law throat surgery

Riley: Christine stroke, Elks home

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii with health issues
Granddaughter broken leg

Salley: Jillian Salley complicated pregnancy

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
John- psoriatic arthritis

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: family of Dr. Wells, son COPD, Covid and in hospice, daughter-in-law just passed

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 October 6th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Communion

Wednesday: 1 pm Deacons
Something More 3 pm

Sunday: October 13th
10 am Worship
5¢ a Meal Offering
BCM donations/collections

October Birthdays

Scarlett Stevens - 6

Lori Stetson - 9

Philip Parker - 11

Libby Monk - 21

Jim Barefoot - 28

Ann Marie Fleming - 28

Linda Benton -30

October Anniversaries

James & Ann Marie Fleming - 28

Paul & Nancy Van Dyke - 30

Walking Hand in Hand with God through Prayer

We're heading into the second half of our prayer emphasis. This coming Sunday we will be "Reaching Out to Hear the Voice of God through Prayer." During our Wednesday afternoon sessions, we will discuss how the Word of God and prayer are connected to one another.



Bedford Hiking Club heads to the very top!

Join us on Saturday, **October 26th** as we take in the last of the fall colors from the top of Apple Orchard Mountain, the highest point on the Virginia AT. This easy 2 mile circle walk – up the trail then back down the service road – travels along one of the most beautiful sections of the AT bringing you to an open meadow, beside the radar dome, featuring scenic views of the Shenandoah valley and mountain ranges all the way back to Roanoke. Since this is such a short walk, why don't you pack a picnic meal to enjoy up on the meadow.



For those who want to carpool, we will leave from the church at 9a. or you can meet us at the pull off beside the radar station driveway around 9:30 (*just let me know if you choose this option*). In case of rain the hike will be rescheduled for November 2. For more info, contact jtsalley@gmail.com.