

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

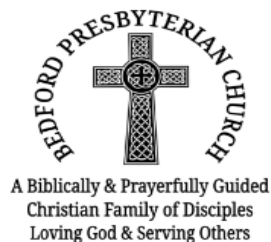


Week of October 13th

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

"To God be the Glory"

Larry Shackley

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come, all who need help!

All: Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.

One: Come, all who long for salvation!

All: Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.

One: Come, all who desire blessing!

All: Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.

One: Let us praise His name.

Hymn

"The God of Abraham Praise"

Hymn 16

***Prayer of Confession:**

Dear Heavenly Father, so often our time spent in prayer becomes a one-sided conversation. We talk and talk, not giving You a chance to say what's on Your heart. We realize that we haven't intentionally taken time to listen to You. Your Word says we should be "quick to listen". Teach us to listen as well as we pray. As we embrace those quiet moments with You, may we hear from You in fresh new ways. As we listen for Your still small voice may we become better listeners for others. Thank You for reminding us to be still and simply listen. 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

Bill Rutledge

Praise Song

"I Stand in Awe"

Hymn 53

Sermon

REACHING OUT TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD

Elijah looked out upon a cold, gray dawn. It had been a long, difficult journey to the mountain of God. Filled with anguish and dread, the aged prophet had been so exhausted during his journey that the Lord had sent angelic visitors to provide food and drink along the way. Having traveled for many days, Elijah had finally reached Mount Sinai, the place where God had given the Ten Commandments to Moses. Looking down upon the desert landscape, the weariness that Elijah felt was more than just physical exhaustion. He was worn out, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. He had been serving the Lord for many years. He had confronted a wicked king and his pagan wife, Jezebel. He had hidden from arrest because he was blamed for having caused the drought that had plagued the land. He had even led a religious revival on the slopes of Mount Carmel. Nothing, however, had really changed. The people were just as wayward and just as idolatrous as before. They gave lip service to the God of Israel while continuing to worship at the pagan altars of Baal and Asherah. Now Jezebel had put a price on his head. She said she was going to kill him and no one had come to his defense. He felt alone, isolated, separated from everything and everyone, even his God.

Having now returned to the place where the Lord had revealed Himself so powerfully to Moses and the people of Israel, would God once more speak to a weary old prophet in the same thunderous voice as He had centuries earlier? Elijah was accustomed to those kind of divine revelations. Had that not been true when he addressed God on Mount Carmel? He had asked God to send fire to consume the sacrificial offering and the Lord answered with a flame of fire from heaven that consumed not only the sacrifice, but even the rocks on which it had been placed. Now that he was at the holy mountain, perhaps the Lord would speak to him once more in that same way. He waited with heightened anticipation. A great wind began to whip across the slopes of the mountain, but Elijah could not sense a divine presence within that storm. Afterwards an earthquake shook the mountain, but God was not a part of that rocky upheaval either. Then a fire, a bolt of lightning came crashing down out of the heavens just like it had at Mount Carmel. But God's voice was not evident even there. It was only after all of the uproar was over that Elijah heard a voice, a gentle whisper, an awareness of a divine presence in the quiet tranquility that followed the sound and fury of all of those natural phenomenon.

Gathering his cloak around himself, Elijah went out and stood at the mouth of the cave, waiting to hear what the Lord would say to him. It came in the form of a question, "Elijah, what are you doing here?" Elijah's answer revealed the depth of his despair, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left and now they are trying to kill me too" (1 Kings 19:14). Elijah was literally at the end of his rope and he didn't know how much longer he could hold on. It was evident, however, that the Lord thought he could handle one last assignment. He was to pick a successor who would take up the mantle of prophetic leadership and he was to appoint two new kings, one for Syria and one for Israel. Then the Lord shared one last thing with Elijah, "There were yet 7,000 people who had not bowed down to Baal, who had not abandoned the Lord" (1 Kings 19:18). God was telling Elijah, "You are not alone, even though you feel that way." He was also telling him that it was time to end his pity party and get back to work.

So what does this rather lengthy account about God speaking to an Old Testament prophet have to say to us today, especially with regards to hearing the voice of God? It tells us that God speaks to His people in a multitude of ways. The first way is through his creation. Psalm 19 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim the work of His hands" (Psalm 19:1). Elijah, of course, knew this to be true

because he was a man who lived in the outdoors. God had spoken to him through the forces of nature and that had been his expectation when he arrived at Mount Sinai. But is the same true today? Years ago I met a young man who told me about meeting the Lord during a windstorm. Trying to find himself after a life of drugs and petty larceny, he was hiking the Appalachian Trail. Befriended by a group of Christians who had encouraged him to open his heart to Christ, he was still wrestling with that decision when the storm hit. The swirling winds on that mountain side were like the inner storm of feelings and emotions that were raging within him. The next morning the storm had calmed down and so had his anxieties. God had spoken to him during that stormy night and now He possessed the kind of inner peace that can only come from the Lord.

The Lord can also speak to us through His Word. Saint Paul wrote, "All Scripture is inspired, God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). God's Word is like a winsome voice falling upon our ears.

Elijah, of course, knew that as well. After all he was a spokesman for God. He delivered divine messages from God for His people. That was his job. He was a prophet. Today, of course, we have the written Word of God, a message that covers a span of nearly 2,000 years and God still speaks very clearly to us through its pages. A young man had finally found a job during the Great Depression. He was hired to be a dishwasher in a large hotel. His payment was a room in the attic of the hotel and leftovers from meals in the establishment's restaurant. Arriving after his first day on the job, he walked into a little room late that night seeing nothing more than a bed and a small nightstand. On that nightstand was a Gideon Bible. Alone and not knowing what to do with himself before going to bed, he opened the Bible and began to read. On his knees later that night he met Jesus Christ and gave his life to Him. The Lord had most assuredly spoken to him.

Yes, God can speak to us through His creation and through His Word. There is, however, a third way in which He can speak to us, just like He did to Elijah. He can speak to us spiritually. Within each of us there is a second pair of ears, spiritual ears which are capable of hearing the voice of God. Unfortunately, sometimes we don't pay attention to what our spiritual ears are hearing. We're either not listening very carefully or we're letting a noisy world distract us. If we are really alert to what our spiritual ears are hearing, there will be times when we might actually hear God's voice, like the Old Testament story of Samuel hearing God calling his name. At other times God's voice may be more like an impression, a strong inclination to do this or that. Make no mistake, God does speak to His children. Years ago I was called to the home of one of our new Christians. She had just joined the church. When I arrived the police were just leaving. She had been mugged at a local shopping center. The thief had knocked her down and stolen her purse. Thankfully, except for a few bruises, she was okay. This is what she told me. She said, "Getting ready to go shopping, I had this strangest feeling. It was like someone whispering in my ear, 'Stay home. You shouldn't go shopping today.' Unfortunately I didn't listen to that little voice inside of me and now this has happened." She was convinced that she had received a divine warning which she regretfully didn't obey.

Let me close with this illustration. A man started constructing a little building, not much bigger than a small room, in the backyard of his home. His neighbors were curious. Some thought it was going to be a tool shed. Others surmised it might be an exercise studio. They became so curious that one day they all got together and asked him, "What are you building in your back yard?" The man replied, "This is going to be my listening room, the place I go to commune with God."

So let me ask you this morning, "Do you have a listening room, a place where you and the Lord can spend some time together?" I am reminded of what Jesus said on one occasion with regards to prayer. He told His followers that they should not be like the religious hypocrites who liked to be praised for their lengthy

prayers. Instead He told them, “When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Matthew 6:6). In the past, this kind of place for spending time with God was known as a “prayer closet.” It might even be called a listening room, somewhere either inside or outside your home that is set aside for your time with the Lord. Wherever and whatever it is, what kind of reward do you suppose Jesus was talking about when He encouraged His followers to pray in secret? How about the inner joy and peace you’ll experience, knowing that in this place of personal solitude you may not only feel God’s presence, but also hear His voice speaking to you in the quiet stillness of that occasion.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

“Speak to Me”

Tommy Walker

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the Son of the living God, and that His grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child. It is He who constantly communicates to us that God is ever near.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen

Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father, in the Name of Jesus, we thank You that You desire to speak to us every day—guiding us in spirit and in truth to obey Your Word and enjoy an abundant life. We thank You that You have called us Your friends and that we may come boldly to your throne of grace to find help whenever we have a need in our lives. Thank you for the blessings that you shower upon us. Receive our tithes and offerings and use them for Your glory. In Jesus’ name. 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**

“God Has Spoken by the Prophets”

Hymn 667

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

“Postlude on Hymn to Joy”

Mark Rippe

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and with Blessings to our Lord and to my husband, Philip, on his birthday, by Sherry Parker.

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 Ecumenical Youth CC, 6pm</i>	21	22	23 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	24	25	26
27 <i>10 am Worship Congregational meeting Potluck</i>	28	29	30 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	31		

Joys- October 13th

- Joy-** Ellen thankful for prayers, continued prayers for Tom
Joy- Happy Birthday Scarlett, thanks for all you do
Joy- James Fleming, Men's Breakfast was a blessing
Joy- Larry Compter praised God for safe travels
Joy- Michelle Goode thanks God for 75 free Christmas shoeboxes

Concerns- October 6th

- Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care
Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer
Jerry Dillon (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 arm
Nicole- (stepdaughter) in Asheville helping Helene victims
Blair: Philip Davis recovering from surgery for melanoma
Boone: Roslyn Reynolds, (friend) upcoming surgery
Mark Luft (neighbor) fell, rehab, family issues
Tammy (friend) open heart surgery
Neighbor lost husband now moving
Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission
Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots
Compter: Jeannie, Seth (both friend) health issues
Scott and Robin Umphlet, Scott is ill after a trip abroad.
Family of Will Betonhauser on passing
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
Easter: Ruby Key (friend) cancer
Jim (brother) cancer
Fleming: Dominick (Ann Marie's brother) heart surgery successful,
Foster: Ron (brother-in-law) in home
Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia
Tom- in hospital, moving to Oakwood
Prayers for everyone on dialysis
Froberg: 10-week-old great niece, cranium surgery went well
Goode: Amy (niece) biopsy
Goodman: continued prayers for those effected by Helene
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

Kuhn-Kibbey: Dot reinjured her back
Lambert: Margaret sciatica pain, arthritis
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
Riley: Christine stroke, Elks home
Rutledge: friend in Hawaii 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
Van Dyke: Prayers to solve evil in country
Marilyn (92 yr old neighbor) fell, broke leg
Watkins: family of Dr. Wells, son COPD in hospice, daughter-in-law passed away
Webb: to find 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 13th

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

Wednesday: Something More 3 pm

Sunday: October 20th
10 am Worship

October Birthdays

Libby Monk - 21
Jim Barefoot - 28
Ann Marie Fleming - 28
Linda Benton -30

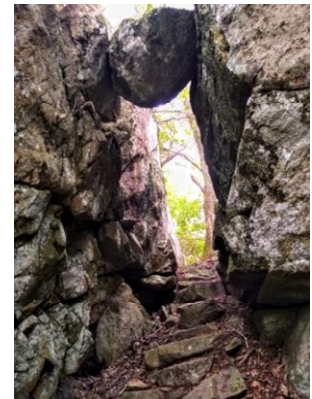
October Anniversaries

James & Ann Marie Fleming - 28
Paul & Nancy Van Dyke - 30



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.

Congregational Meeting

**October 27th following service to approve the Session nominees.
Please plan on staying after service for the meeting and then join us for a
Potluck Luncheon.**

Clerk's Corner



- Keep our Pastoral Nominating Committee in prayer: Judy Blair, Nick DeWitt, James Fleming, Deanna Rutledge, Dave Stetson, Paul Van Dyke (Chair), and Shawn Webb.
- Rev. Parker has agreed to continue to serve as our Interim Pastor for another year. Thank you!
- The 2024 Nominating Committee has completed their work.

We will have a congregational meeting on October 27th to approve proposed slate. Then you might as well stay and enjoy our potluck, "Fall Favorites".

- Yard Sale raised \$1600. Thank you everyone who contributed and worked. \$1000 for Samaritan's Purse for their Operation Christmas Child program; \$300 to Bedford Domestic Violence Center; and \$300 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
- Monthly Men's Breakfast continues to meet the 1st Saturday of each month. Please get the word out. If you haven't been yet, you are missing out. See James Fleming if you have any questions.
- Our church is hoping to pack 100 Operation Christmas Child boxes at a packing party in November. Stay tuned for date and see Michelle Goode with any questions.
- Woodpeckers or something else have caused damage to our steeple structure. John Blair is getting estimates to have it repaired. Recommendation is to have it wrapped in metal, so this doesn't happen in the future.
- The Suds and Showers ministry at the Community Center has supported 10 people. Warming Shelter will reopen as temperatures drop. St. John's is covering the cost of water and electricity for this ministry.
- All approved IT acquisitions have been purchased and installed. Thank you, Paul Van Dyke.
- First Fruits for Aug were \$909.50 and First Fruits for September was \$1,076.33.
- Ann Marie Fleming submitted an application for a Church redevelopment grant from the Presbytery. The grant of \$5000 was approved and the funds used to refresh a defibrillator left by the Free Clinic and offset costs of our new computers.
- Important Dates: October 27th - Congregational Meeting and Potluck; December 1st - Stated Session Meeting; December 15th - Abendmusik (will need finger foods for reception afterwards).

Disaster Relief

With a second hurricane impacting our nation this week, disaster relief has become an immediate need, especially in the South. Clean-up efforts are continuing both here in Virginia, North Carolina and states further south. We can help through organizations such as the Red Cross, Samaritan's Purse, and our own Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Reach out to any of these agencies' websites and they will provide instructions on how to assist financially and personally. Also, we have received word from one of members, Linda Benton, about another way in which we can reach out to those in need. That information was shared as a Grace Note this past week and will be repeated once more in the coming week.

Hand in Hand with God through Prayer

This coming Sunday we will be concluding our emphasis on prayer. The title of the sermon is "Reaching Out to Know the Mind of God." On Wednesday we will also conclude our prayer video series led by Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle.