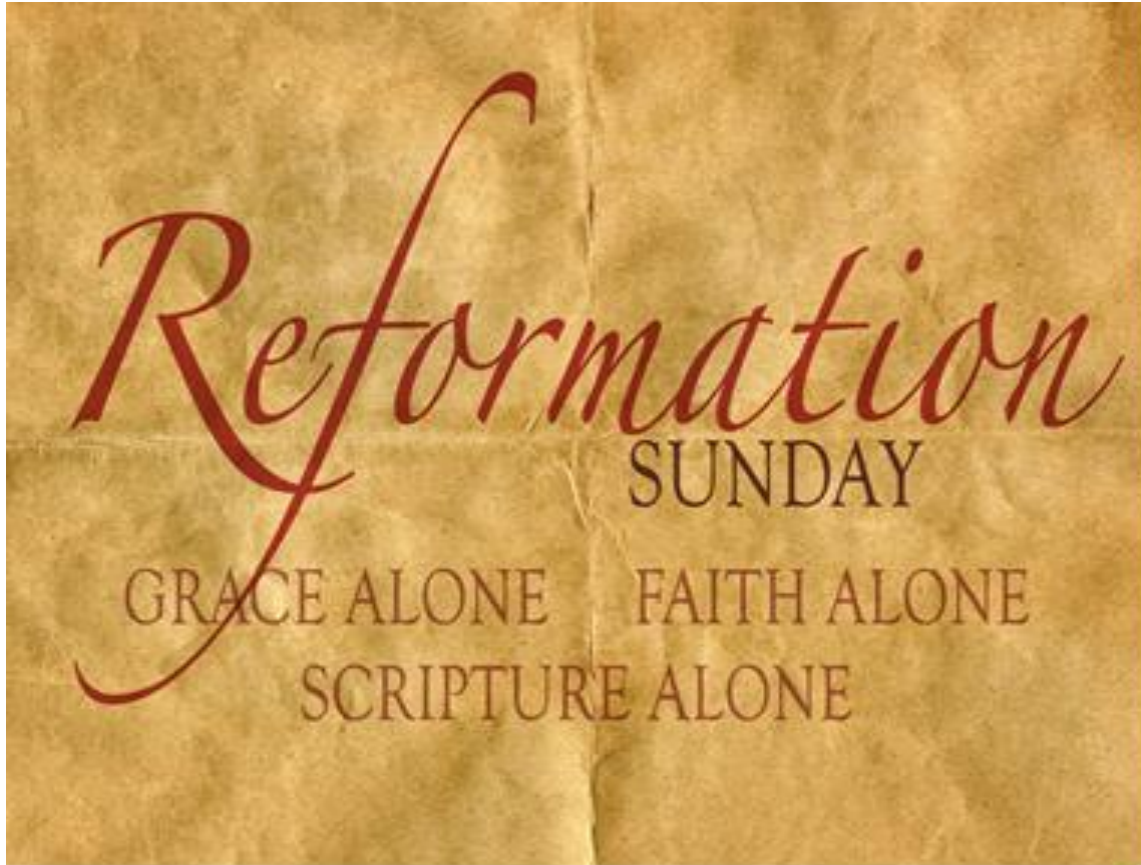


Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

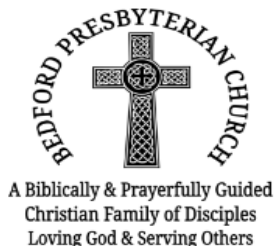


Week of October 27th

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

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

All: So we will not fear, even if earthquakes come, and the mountains crumble into the sea.

One: Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

All: The Lord Almighty is here among us; the God of Israel is our fortress.

Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Hymn 507

***Prayer of Confession:**

Behold, Lord, we are empty vessels that need to be filled. O Lord, fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us and make us fervent that our love may go out to our neighbors. We do not have a strong and firm faith; at times we doubt and are unable to trust You altogether. O Lord, help us. Strengthen our faith and trust in You. In You we have sealed the treasures of all we have. We are poor; You are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. We are sinners; You are upright. With us there is an abundance of sin; In You is the fullness of righteousness. Help and forgive us, O Lord, for our only hope is in You. 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

Ephesians 6: 10-12

Praise Song

"Reformation Hymn"

Anderson/Kauflin

Next Thursday we will celebrate Halloween. Hundreds, probably thousands, of children and parents will descend upon Bedford for the evening's festivities. They will arrive, some from as far away as Lynchburg and Roanoke, in all manner of costumes. They will be dressed in both funny and scary outfits that disguise their identities and bring delight to those who greet them at the front doors of their homes. They will parade up and down the brightly lit streets of downtown Bedford boldly declaring, "Trick or treat." Even now the residents of our town are preparing for this annual event, spending considerable sums of money on candy and other treats. Homes are festooned in all manner of Halloween decorations from imaginary graveyards to giant inflated dragons and scary skeletons. Aside from a few stomach aches from eating too much candy, it will be a mostly safe and fun filled evening, with lots of adults making sure that things don't get out of hand. There is, however, another side to Halloween that we need to take into account as we prepare for this occasion, which is ranked as one of the fifteen most popular holidays in America.

First of all, Halloween is a holiday with a pagan origin. It dates all the way back to pre-Christian celebrations in Europe, especially England and Ireland. It grew out of the Celtic culture in which Druids were the religious leaders. It was their belief that October 31st marked the end of the year, a time when the harvest had been gathered and the days were growing shorter and darker. On that night the souls of those who had died during the past year were released from their graves to wander about in the land of the living along with a whole host of evil spirits. Departed family members could even revisit their earthly homes for one last time before being judged by the Lord of the Dead. This divinity would assign them a new future existence either as an animal or as a human being depending on whether they had been good or bad.

As you can easily imagine, for people of that pre-Christian era, Halloween was a scary night. Huge bonfires were lit to keep the evil spirits away. Various sacrifices were performed, and gifts of food would be prepared to placate the spirits of the dead so that they would be spared of any harmful tricks like a spoiled harvest or sickness and death. Goblins and ghosties were abroad and no one wanted to encounter one of these unearthly denizens. Although the fear of such frightening encounters began to gradually subside over time, many of the practices remained. People dressed up to look like evil spirits and roamed from house to house, demanding food in exchange for leaving the home unharmed. They also carved demonic faces on hollowed-out turnips and put lighted candles inside of them.

To counteract this persistent paganism, the Christian Church decided to transform this holiday into something that was more Christ like. During the Middle Ages, they discouraged this heathen celebration and replaced it with a Christian holiday. Instead of honoring an ancient practice that was now deemed to be evil, they instead called God's people to a special remembrance of the saints, the hallowed ones, those who had lived godly lives. It was like the church was saying, "All right, if you must have a day to celebrate the dead, then celebrate those who died and are now with the Lord."* This new holy day was to be held on November 1st and was known as "All Saints' Day" or "All Hallows Day." The evening before thus became known as "All Hallows Evening" from which the name Halloween is derived. Unfortunately, All Saints' Day is not observed with the same zeal as Halloween, which brings me to this second observation.

Halloween has become a celebration of that which is evil. It has taken us back to the days of the Druids. Yes, I know that for most of us it is a time for children to dress up and go trick or treating. I have handed out my share of candy over the years and have even participated in church events known as "Trunk or Treat" parties. The kids come to a church and get their treats from adults handing out candy from the trunks of their cars. However, let's be honest. There is a darker side to Halloween than we sometimes want to admit. The decorations that are sold in the big box stores are not friendly, warm-hearted caricatures. They have a sinister appearance—ghosts, witches, vampires, skeletons and a conglomeration of hideous monsters. These are not the kind of things that any of us would like to meet on a moonless night. They are meant to be frightening. Additionally, many times parents accompany their children when they go trick or treating, because it might not be safe otherwise and all candies have to be scrutinized before consuming. On more than one occasion children have been poisoned by the Halloween candy they ate.

Furthermore, Halloween is a special occasion for those who consider themselves to be witches and Satanists. They consider it to be a particularly potent time to cast spells and to participate in rituals such as “drawing down the moon,” basically honoring the moon as a female goddess. To make matters worse film makers exploit this holiday with an endless assortment of horror movies, venerating and delighting in that which is evil. What kind of an impact do these movies have on those who watch them, especially young people? Is it good or not so good. To be perfectly honest, Halloween is a lot more than a harmless holiday.

However, there is one good thing that Halloween accomplishes. It reminds us that we are facing a powerful adversary. He goes by many names such as Satan, the devil and Beelzebub. He was present in the Garden of Eden, tempting Adam and Eve to sin against God. His presence is also noted throughout the pages of the Old Testament, leading the Lord’s people astray. The prophet Daniel, for example, was informed of the devil’s influence in the governments of his day and time. The angel Gabriel told him that he was hindered in delivering a message to the prophet because the demonic prince of Persia stood in his way. We all know that Satan tempted Jesus during His sojourn in the wilderness following the baptism by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. Later Jesus said of him, “He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is not truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44). As such, Satan has led and is continuing to lead a rebellion against God, evidenced throughout the book of Revelation in the New Testament. Peter warned fellow believers in his first letter, “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). In his letter to Jewish Christians, James says, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Finally, with great earnestness and conviction Paul tells us, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:10-12).

So in response, what should we do with regard to all these warnings. For one thing, we should take them seriously. Those who wrote the Bible considered Satan to be a truly worthy and dangerous adversary. So should we. Even though some people consider him to be nothing more than a figment of our imagination, we should never let him hide behind that false assumption. He is real and deeply involved in the affairs of mankind. When he offered Jesus in the wilderness all the kingdoms of the earth, Satan was not making an idle promise. He had influential power then and he still does today. Secondly, we need to follow the Scriptural advice to stay away from those things which introduce us to the dark side of life. Handing out candy on Halloween will not necessarily lead us astray, but there are some aspects of this holiday that could very well lead us to places and practices which are spiritually dangerous, like Ouija boards and seances. Finally, we have a duty and a responsibility to lead those who are dabbling with the forces of evil to forsake the darkness and embrace the light. Years ago, I met a lady who lived near the church. She was a Spiritualist. She believed that the spirits of the dead as well as other spiritual entities could communicate with the living. I invited her to attend our church and after attending for a while she realized that she no longer needed those spiritual guides from her past to be a part of her life. She accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior and became a Christian.

As we all know pumpkins are part of Halloween. So in closing let me share this story with you about a special Halloween pumpkin. A ten year old little girl was asked by another classmate, “What is it like to be a Christian.” The girl replied, “It’s like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts open the top and scoops out all of the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.”

THAT’S WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

*The Christian Perspective on Halloween,

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Praise Song

"You Are My All in All with So Worthy"

Hymn 427

Affirmation of Faith

The Five Solas of the Reformation

One: Sola Scriptura (By Scripture Alone)

All: We believe that Scripture alone is our ultimate written authority for faith and practice. The Bible is completely trustworthy and teaches all that is necessary for our salvation.

One: Sola Fide (Through Faith Alone)

All: We are saved from sin by faith in Jesus Christ. We are justified and declared innocent, not by our own works or merits, but by trusting in Him alone.

One: Sola Gratia (By Grace Alone)

All: We believe that we are saved, not by our own works, but by God's grace, His unmerited favor toward us shown in Jesus Christ.

One: Solus Christus (By Christ Alone)

All: We know God, and come to God, and are saved by God through Jesus Christ alone. Only He and His sacrificial death can atone for our sin.

One: Soli Deo Gloria (For the Glory of God Alone)

All: What is the chief end of mankind? It is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." This is our all-consuming purpose.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and most merciful God, from You comes every good and perfect gift. We give You praise and thanks for all Your mercies. Your goodness has created us, Your bounty has sustained us, Your discipline has chastened us, Your patience has borne with us, Your love has redeemed us. Give us a heart to love and serve You and enable us to show our thankfulness for all Your goodness and mercy by giving up ourselves to Your service, and cheerfully submitting in all things to Your blessed will; through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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**

"The Church's One Foundation"

Hymn 544

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Postlude on 'Aurelia'"

Mark Rippe

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

November 2024

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

Joys- October 27th

Joy- Seeing, Maggie, Ella, Nick and Owen in church

Joy- Sonya's brother Marcus has accepted job

Joy- John Smith is feeling much better

Concerns- October 27th

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.

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 and those in paths of storms where centers are gone.

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

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

Stetson: Nick, Tiffany, Savannah- Savannah, home
Morgan (nephew) life decisions

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Earl Carter- health issues
Matt- lung cancer
All Virginia towns impacted by hurricane

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: Family on passing of 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 27th

Sunday: 10 am Worship
 Congregational Meeting
 Potluck Fall Festival Luncheon

Wednesday: Something More 3 pm

Saturday: Men's Breakfast 9am
 Daylight Savings Time ends

Sunday: November 3rd
 10 am Worship
 Communion

October Birthdays

Jim Barefoot - 28
 Ann Marie Fleming - 28
 Linda Benton -30

October Anniversaries

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

November Birthdays

Paul Gillespie - 5
 David Grigg -5
 Tom Foster - 7
 Judy Harris - 13
 Gerda Schubert - 13
 Bill Rutledge - 23
 Dianne Fain - 29
 Barry Schubert – 30
 Lynne Palmer - 30

November Anniversaries

Dick & Lois Diddams - 25

**Daylight savings Time Ends November 3rd
 Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before
 retiring for the night!!!**

Thank you for your continued support

BPC Financial Snapshot						
General Operations Contribution Income				General Operations Expense		
	Forecast	Actual	YTD Ahead/(Behind)	Monthly Expense Target	Actual Expenses	YTD (Over)/Under Spent
Sept 2024	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 25,287.00	\$ 8,682.95	\$ 17,034.05	\$ 13,652.14	\$ 50,836.74