

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)



Week of November 17th

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

"Fanfare on the 'Doxology'"

Larry Shackley

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Eternal God, maker of all things, all Creation dances before You.

All: The stars and planets circle in joy and wonder.

One: The seas wave and clap their hands.

All: The trees sway to the music of Your wind.

One: Every living thing is a song of praise to You.

All: And our hearts sing with thanksgiving.

One: How Beautiful is this world You have made!

All: We worship You with joy and wonder. Alleluia!

Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Hymn 40

***Prayer of Confession:**

Gracious God, Lord of mercy and grace, we are broken. We have not loved You with all our heart, mind and soul, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We come before You in need of forgiveness and healing: The healing of our bodies and souls, the healing of our relationships, the healing of our nation and the healing of our homes. We know that with You, nothing is impossible. Wherever there is division and hate, we pray that You will pour out Your grace and mercy so that we may be freed to serve and love and dream and be the people that Christ calls us to be. 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

Venus Gould

Anthem

"Is He Worthy"

Mark Hayes

Sermon

God and Family

More people will be traveling in the days leading up to and after Thanksgiving than at any other time of the year, probably even surpassing the Christmas holidays. This year 55 million Americans will be traveling 50 miles or more during Thanksgiving. Most of them will be driving, 49.1 million. About 4.7 million will take to the air and 1.55 million will be traveling by bus, train and yes, a few will be sailing on cruise ships. So get ready, especially if you plan to join this holiday human migration. Buy that plane ticket. Pack your bags. Make sure the car is gassed up and ready to go and check the weather. It's going to be hectic at the airports and on the highways. Above all else, remember this before you head out. You will not be alone.

But why all this fuss and bother? What is it about Thanksgiving that creates such an overwhelming desire to go traveling? For one thing, some people may think of themselves as following in the footsteps of the Pilgrims. After all they too did a bit of traveling. Way back in 1620, they took upon themselves a most daunting journey. Leaving from Plymouth, England, 102 passengers and 30 crew set sail across the stormy North Atlantic. Arriving at Cape Cod on November 11th, it was a tempestuous trip. Crowded below deck on a rather small ship, the *Mayflower*, it's a wonder that any of them survived. If you think your travel plans for Thanksgiving are a bit challenging, I can promise you that they will be nothing compared to what those Pilgrims experienced.

So are modern day Americans trying to emulate these stalwart souls from our nation's past when we head out of town for Thanksgiving? Probably not, but there is one thing that we have in common. The Thanksgiving holiday is a family affair. Most of those traveling to the New World on the *Mayflower* were members of one of the families on board. And most of those traveling across America during this Thanksgiving will also be seeking to be a part of a family. Of all the institutions that God has created, the family was the first one and perhaps the most important one. Before there were governments and before there were religious organizations, there were families. So this morning, let's look at what it means to be part of a family. It is the glue that holds the human race together and it is the reason why we seek to be a part of a family gathering at Thanksgiving. More than any of the other holidays we celebrate in America, Thanksgiving is a family affair.

With that in mind, here are some things to think about. Just like government and the church, God created the family. Turn in your Bible to Genesis 1:27. It reads, "So God created humankind in His image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them." Furthermore, God blesses them and tells them to be fruitful and multiply and fill all the earth. Then in chapter 2 of the book of Genesis the story is repeated in a more personal way as God creates Adam and then secures a companion for him in the person of Eve. Thus the first family is formed, a husband and a wife along with their children. Moving to the New Testament, Jesus reaffirmed this relationship when dealing with the subject of marriage and God's desire for that relationship to last for a lifetime. He said, "Have you not read that the One who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'" (Matthew 19:5). In spite of all those modern notions that a family can be composed of any number of people living together in whatever kind of relationship they want to have with each other, such as polygamy, the Bible in both the Old and New Testament clearly declares that in God's sight a family is one man and one woman and their children. That's God's definition of a family.

Here's something else to consider. Families have a unique purpose. Fathers and mothers are responsible for raising their children to become mature and responsible adults when they grow up. This involves sharing the knowledge, the wisdom and the values of one generation with those who will be coming after them. This is especially true with regards to bestowing a family's religious convictions and beliefs. Moses had this clearly in mind when he told the children of Israel, "Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise"

(Deuteronomy 6:6-7). In other words, everything that we are, everything that we hold near and dear, will be lost if we don't share it with our children. Do you remember what Paul said in his second letter to Timothy, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure lives in you" (2 Timothy 1:5). In modern day America parents all too often want to ask others to do for their children what they should be doing. We send them to church to learn about God. We send them to school to get an education. We involve them to a whole host of recreational teams so they can be coached by the experts. Without ever realizing what is happening, our homes can become way stations where the kids have a place to eat and sleep before they head out to their next event or activity. That's not what God intended. Years ago I preached a sermon called "Laboratory for Learning." I was referring to the home as a place where children learn how to live, receiving instruction, guidance and a whole lot of love and personal time and attention from their parents.

There is one final thought that deserves our attention. Families are the foundation upon which all of the other institutions that God created are built. When families crumble, everything else also crumbles. Nations collapse, societies unravel and the religious life of a people is torn asunder. We need look no further than the sad conclusion to the reign of King Solomon in the Old Testament. Under his leadership the nation reached unparalleled heights of glory and power. During his reign, the magnificent temple in Jerusalem was completed. The borders of the nation were extended all the way from Egypt in the south to the Euphrates River in the north. Israel became a world power in the ancient Middle East. Then we read this verse of Scripture from the closing years of his reign. "Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, 'Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant'" (1 Kings 11:11). Why did God say this to Solomon? In the preceding verses, the answer becomes all too obvious. Solomon married a multitude of foreign wives, and they led him astray. He began worshipping and honoring a multitude of foreign deities who introduced him and all of Israel to a pagan lifestyle that was odious and harmful. Instead of marrying a godly wife and raising godly children who were morally and intellectually astute, he adopted the cultural trends and values of the nation's surrounding him. He became a playboy monarch. Consequently, after his death the kingdom was torn from the grasp of an immature son, Rehoboam and divided into two weak, oft invaded kingdoms, Judah to the south and Israel to the north. It was a sad reflection upon this well-worn truth. As the family goes, so goes the nation.

Now for just a moment, let's take a look at modern day America and compare it to the America that you and I grew up in. When I was a child, most families were composed of a father, a mother and their children. Single parent homes were the exception, certainly not the way it is today. Most families went to church. The church that I attended as a child built a new addition for all the children that were attending on Sundays. Morally and socially there was a code of behavior and societal expectations that reflected the teachings of the Bible, especially the New Testament. It was a wonderful time in which to grow up. Today many churches are increasingly empty, especially with regards to children and today's culture in no way resembles the way of life that was normal when I was a child. We have followed in the footsteps of Solomon with regards to family life and the consequences are all too obvious.

So where do we go from here with regards to this third institution which God created, the family? The answer is obvious and it applies not just to those of us who are sitting in this sanctuary today or hearing the message at home online. It applies to our entire nation. It's time to return to God. It's time to turn aside from all of the modern day, anti-Christian, cultural trends that have pushed family life in America into a quagmire of confusion and strife. It's time to embrace what the Bible says about families and their relationship with the One who created them. It's time to remember and to embrace this word of wisdom from the pages of the Old Testament. Speaking of families and especially with regards to those children who are growing up in these families, Proverbs 22:6 declares, "Train up your children in the way they should go and when they are old, they will not depart from them."

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

"The Family Prayer Song"

Hymn 605

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our tithes and offerings along with our heartfelt thanks and praise for all that You have done for us. We thank You for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life and for the mystery of love. We thank You for the blessing of family and friends and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. Above all, we thank You for Jesus, who has saved us and called us into Your family of love from where we may eternally glorify You and enjoy You forever. In Jesus' name we pray. 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**

"Happy the Home When God Is There"

Hymn 607

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"Trumpet Voluntary"

Gordon Young

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Dianne Fain's birthday from her children.

The funeral for Christine Riley will be here on November 17th at 2 pm, a reception will follow the service.

If you can bring finger foods to share at the reception, it would be greatly appreciated.

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 <i>Shoebox packing</i>	15	16
17 <i>10 am Worship Christine Riley funeral</i>	18	19	20 <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	21	22	23
24 <i>10 am Worship Potluck</i>	25	26	27 <i>Thanksgiving Office Closed</i>	28	29	30

Joys- November 17th

Joy- Betty Goodman welcomes 18th great grandchild

Joy- Judy Blair- sister Carol, doing well

Joy- Stetson's, Nick and family safely in California

Concerns- November 17th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barefoot: Jim, in hospital, improving

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Jerry Dillon (nephew) health issues

Jody Lineberry- leukemia treatment unsuccessful

Benton: Nicole- (stepdaughter) in Asheville helping Helene victims

Blair: Philip Davis recovering from surgery for melanoma

Sandy(sister) back issues

Boone: niece undergoing radiation treatments Joy- Michelle Goode- Christmas Box packing

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

Dan- cataract surgery

Dwyer: Nancy's husband, Bill having knee transplant

Easter: 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- home

Prayers for everyone on dialysis and those in paths of storms where centers are gone.

Goode: Amy (niece) biopsy

Goodman: Friend Betty is near death

Grigg: Beth Falwell- starting cancer treatments

Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Grubb: John cancer

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

Sarah McCabe Oakes, amputation of pelvis and leg

Lambert: Margaret sciatica pain, arthritis

Linton: Candy (Parkers's friend) health issues from car accident

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: Prayers for family on Christine's passing

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii health issues

Salley: Jillian Salley pregnancy doing better

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-safe arrival to CA

Morgan (nephew) life decisions

Cook at Shepherd's Table, has baby in NICU

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,

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 November 17th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

2 pm Christine Riley Funeral & reception

Wednesday: Something More 3 pm

Sunday: November 24th

10 am Worship

November Birthdays

Bill Rutledge - 23

Dianne Fain - 29

Barry Schubert – 30

Lynne Palmer - 30

November Anniversaries

Dick & Lois Diddams – 25

November 24th Potluck

Our November 24th Potluck will be 'Favorite Casseroles'. So bring your favorite casserole or dish and join us after service for great food and fellowship.

BEDFORD COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Is scheduled for Sunday, November 24th at 3pm to be held at Bedford Baptist Church. Area pastors will lead the service and Associate Pastor Hein Vermaak will bring the message. The Thanksgiving offering will go to Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries in support of North Carolina flood victims still recovering from Hurricane Helene.