

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

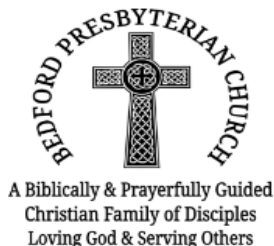


## Week of November 24<sup>th</sup>

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**

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

Larry Shackley

**Words of Welcome**

**Minute for Missions**

Samaritans Purse

Michelle Goode

**Call to Worship**

One: Give thanks to the Lord; call on His name; make His deeds known to all the people!

**All: For He is the Lord, our God, faithful to a thousand generations!**

One: Sing His praises; tell of His wonderful works and glory in His holy name! Let those who seek the Lord rejoice!

**All: For He is the Lord, our God, faithful to a thousand generations!**

One: Search for God and for His strength. Never stop looking for Him.

**All: For He is the Lord, our God, faithful to a thousand generations!**

**Hymn**

*"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"*

Hymn 721

**\*Prayer of Confession:**

Patient Lord, we are rushing headlong into the holiday season. Forgive us when we treat the "holidays" as a task and a burden. Help us move past the busyness of the season into the attitude of gratitude we should display for all the many wonders and blessings You have poured upon us. Forgive us when we grumble and gripe about the work we have to do and fail to relish the delight in having family and friends together. Remind us that there are those for whom this day holds little delight and hope. Help us reach out to them with love and compassion. In Jesus' Name, we pray. 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**

Leviticus 23: 33-36, 39-43

**Praise Song**

*"It Is Good"*

Paul Wilbur

## **Sermon**

### A Boothful Thanksgiving

How would you like to have a Boothful Thanksgiving? A Boothful Thanksgiving? What kind of a holiday is that? If you were Jewish, living in the days of Jesus, it very well might be a wonderful holiday that you would be eagerly awaiting. It would occur after all the crops from your fields had been harvested, including the grapes from your vineyards. It would be a time to celebrate with friends and family and it would also be a time to do something special. It would involve building a booth or tent on the flat roof of your home. For an entire week you and your family would spend a great deal of time eating and sleeping outdoors. Because it was still rather warm in the early fall, it would provide you with an opportunity to savor the light evening breezes as the children enjoyed their rooftop adventure. But why? The answer is found in God's Word. It was read this morning from the book of Leviticus and is referenced in many other places throughout the first five books of the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Jewish people were commanded to celebrate three important festivals each year. Each had an agricultural and a spiritual meaning. The first was Passover. Celebrated in the spring, it marked the time of year when lambs were born. It also commemorated the exodus of the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. The second was Pentecost. It was celebrated early in the summer when the fields of barley were ripe unto harvest. This holiday signaled the beginning of the harvesting season which would take place throughout the summer. It also commemorated the giving of the Mosaic Law to the people of Israel on Mount Sinai. Lastly there was the Festival of Booths or Tabernacles. It took place early in the fall and was a time of thanksgiving for all of the crops that had been gathered and stored away for the winter. It was also a time to celebrate God's provision for His people during the forty years that they wandered in the wilderness. Yes, like their ancestors who lived in tents during that desert sojourn, families would build a tent-like dwelling of palm branches on the rooftops of their homes. They would spend an entire week living in these makeshift dwellings, especially when they bedded down for the night.(you already said living in so leave the bedded down out)

So, what do you think? Should we build some booths or tent like tabernacles outside of our homes to express our gratitude unto God during this upcoming Thanksgiving holiday? Anybody want to volunteer to put up a tent and live in it for a week? Probably not. Nevertheless, this ancient festival of the Jewish people does have some things to say to us as we prepare our own thanksgiving celebrations this week as well as what the Pilgrims in New England experienced during their first thanksgiving celebration.

First of all, this yearly festival reminded the Jewish people of their past. Their ancestors had wandered in the wilderness for forty years. In spite of the fact that they were often disobedient and rebellious, failing to trust the Lord, God never gave up on them. Throughout all of those years of wandering, He continued, for example, to feed them with a divine "manna" that was provided each and every day with the exception of the Sabbath, the day of rest. Not until they had successfully entered the Promised Land and began to partake of its bounty did the manna cease to appear. In chapter five of the book of Joshua, verse 12, we find these words, "The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan."

Likewise, the Pilgrims, who landed in the New World in November of 1620, knew that God had taken care of them. Having consumed most of their provisions before their arrival, they faced a bleak winter without food or shelter. However, their needs had been met by a friendly Indian named Squanto who taught them how to hunt and fish. They also discovered stashes of corn that had been buried in an abandoned Indian village. This became the corn which was planted the following spring. Having built a stockade and a common storehouse, they were nevertheless unprepared for the sickness that set in upon them. Nearly half of their number died that winter, but those who survived knew that had it not been for the Lord, all of them would have perished. Now as they prepared for a thanksgiving celebration with their friends, the Patuxet Indians, it was a time to briefly reflect upon their not too distant past. God had protected and watched over them during that first year in America.

Second, the festival of booths was a time for the Jewish people to celebrate the present. It was a time to relax and enjoy the bounty of the crops that had been harvested, especially the grapes which would be fermented and turned into wine, a drink that was safer to drink than water and which brought an added measure of joy as it was consumed. It was a time to celebrate with friends and family, a time to relax and enjoy each other's company after so many months of backbreaking labor. It was also a time to gather for worship to thank the Lord for His blessings. In fact, some people even made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to present an offering unto the Lord in the temple.

Likewise, the Pilgrims had a thanksgiving celebration in the fall of 1621. The harvest of Indian corn had been excellent. They had also learned how to catch the fish that were so plentiful in the bay and they had learned how to hunt in the forests surrounding their settlement. Best of all they did not have to fear an attack from the Indians. They had made peace with their Native American neighbors, a peace that lasted for forty years. For three days they enjoyed each other's company. The Indians taught the Pilgrims how to make popcorn and the Pilgrims in turn introduced to the Indians to fruit pies. Their festivities were not restricted to just eating, however. There were shooting contests with guns and bows and arrows, military drills, foot races and even wrestling matches. It was quite a celebration. Best of all it was a time to give thanks unto God as William Brewster, the governor, led them in prayer.

Third and finally, for both the Jewish people in the Holy Land and the Pilgrims in New England, it was a time to look forward to the future. A few weeks earlier the Jewish people had celebrated the dawn of their new year, Rosh Hashanah. It was a solemn occasion celebrated at the temple, the once a year occasion when the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies to offer a sacrifice unto God. It was a time to secure God's blessings for the coming year. For the Pilgrims it was also a time to pray for God's blessings in the coming year, especially when they welcomed a boatload of new settlers, thirty-five additional colonists who arrived with no food, no clothing, no tools, not even any bedding. The Pilgrims realized that their bountiful harvest would soon be consumed. It would be half rations for everyone until the next summer. Nevertheless, even in those once again difficult circumstances, they could look forward to the future with a spirit of hopefulness and faith. They had planted an outpost for the Lord in a new world where they could honor and worship Him freely.

All of this brings me to this concluding question, the same one that I asked at the beginning of this message. Do you want to have a Boothful Thanksgiving? Now to be clear, that doesn't require pitching a tent in the front yard of your home, although I would be glad to lend you one of mine. Nor does it require summoning a tribe of Indians to enjoy the Thanksgiving feast with you. However, there is one thing which all of us should endeavor to do. The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to remember and give thanks for all of the ways that the Lord has blessed and watched over us in the past, especially when things were difficult. It is also a time to celebrate and give thanks for the present and all of the ways God is blessing us right now. Finally, it is a time to look forward to the future and give thanks for all of the ways the Lord is going to prosper and sustain us in the future. That's what it means to have a Boothful Thanksgiving. Or in the words of Saint Paul, "In all things, give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

**Hymn**

*"My Heart is Filled with Thanksgiving"*

Getty/Townend

### **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God, the Father and Creator of everything, who gives us steadfast love and shares with us our joy and sustains us in our suffering. God's power is open to us; we trust him.

We follow Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Man. His death is our victory, His resurrection is our hope; in Him the Word became flesh; in Him we are offered forgiveness from sin, renewal from failure, reconciliation from brokenness, release from despair.

We are guided by the Holy Spirit, God's presence in the world. By the Spirit we are called into Christ's Church, to celebrate His love, to pray for the establishment of His kingdom and to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen.

Because we are His disciples, His pilgrim people, we joyfully covenant with each other to walk together in love, to pray for one another, to care for one another, to live in fellowship, in life, in death, in life beyond death. God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

**Doxology**

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Hymn 34

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering to bless your church, your people, your creation.

### **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.

**\*Hymn**

*"Let All Things Now Living"*

Hymn 22

## THE SENDING FORTH

### **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*"The Ashgrove"*

Dale Wood

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in memory of Christine Riley

# December 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <i>10 am Worship</i> <i>Communion</i> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <i>Men's Breakfast</i> <i>9 am</i>
<b>8</b> <i>10 am Worship</i> <i>5¢ a Meal</i> <i>BCM collection</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>Deacons'</i> <i>1 pm</i>  <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Candlelight Service 7 pm</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Christmas He Is Born!</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i>				

## Concerns- November 24<sup>th</sup>

- Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care
- Barefoot:** Jim, in hospital, continue to improve
- 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
- 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
- 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.  
Bobby- (Ellen's brother) heart surgery
- 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  
Elisa (daughter-in-law) family needs

**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  
Dave- Covid

**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 24<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
Favorite Casseroles Potluck

Wednesday: NO Something More

Sunday: December 1<sup>st</sup>  
10 am Worship  
Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

### **November Birthdays**

Dianne Fain - 29  
Barry Schubert – 30  
Lynne Palmer - 30

### **November Anniversaries**

Dick & Lois Diddams – 25

### **December Birthdays**

Nancy Dwyer - 4  
John Blair- 10  
Bill Mitchell - 17  
Shawn Webb - 18  
Gayle Mauser - 30

### **December Anniversaries**

Ken & Charlotte McManis - 3  
Al & Gayle Mauser - 12  
Roy & Libby Monk - 20

**Something More will NOT be meeting this week.**

**The 2025 Flower Calendar is out and ready to be filled in.**

### **BEDFORD COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

Is scheduled for Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Memorial Service for Anna Phillips (Shawn's great aunt) November 30<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.**