

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2024 (180 Years)

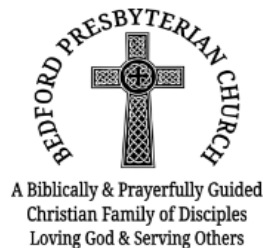


Week of January 5, 2025

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

"What Child is This"

Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Congregation, what is your source of comfort and encouragement?

All: Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

One: With joy receive these words of greeting from God: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age.

All: We love You, Lord, for You hear our voices; You hear our cry for mercy.

One: How can we repay the Lord for all his goodness to us?

All: We will bless the Lord with all our hearts and will sing praise to His holy name.

***Hymn**

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymn 84

***Prayer of Confession**

We come to you this day, gracious Lord, exhausted from all the activities of the season. It seems that we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse. We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had. Lord, forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering. Give us peace and strength to renew our commitment to you. Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you by serving others. Help us move forward in our compassion and not collapse in our witness. Heal us, merciful Lord, for we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

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"

Bill Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Scripture

Matthew 26: 26-29, 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

Praise Song

"We Adore You"

Tim Light & Don Chapman

Sermon

Remembrance and Expectation

On Tuesday evening at midnight we celebrated the beginning of a new year. Today, on the first Sunday of this new year, we have gathered together to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Is there a connection between what are doing today and what took place on Tuesday evening at midnight? This morning let's see if we can answer that question. More importantly let's see how the answer to that question can impact our relationship with the Lord.

Let's begin by taking a look at why the first month of the calendar year is called January. Its origin dates all the way back to the days of the Roman Empire. They named the first month of each year in honor of "Janus." He was a divinity portrayed as a god with two faces, one looking backwards and one looking forwards. He was also associated with the passage of time, the ending of the past and the beginning of the future. Sometimes he was even thought of as a doorway. Accessing his presence was like stepping over the threshold from one room where you had previously been standing to a new room which you were now entering. The first month of the year was, therefore, a time to remember the past while at the same time looking forward with eager expectation to what would be taking place in the future. So that's how we came up with the name of January for the first month of each year.

In doing so, we adopted a name and a tradition that dates all the way back to the days of the Romans. Like them we celebrate it in much the same way as they did. In the days leading up to the new year, we reflect upon those events which have taken place during the last twelve months. There are numerous TV shows, for example, that do that very thing. My wife likes to watch the Sunday Morning Show with Jane Pauley when she gets home from church. This past Sunday it closed with a time of remembrance for those notable individuals who have passed away in 2024. The beginning of the new year is also a time of joyous expectation. What happens at midnight on New Year's Eve? We celebrate. We shoot off fireworks. We have a New Year's Eve party and everyone makes a lot of noise when the clock strikes midnight. Even if we decide to stay home, we can watch the ball drop in Times Square and celebrate vicariously with the millions of people welcoming the new year's arrival in New York City. So for a lot of people, the new year is a time of joyous expectation. They're looking forward to what the future holds in store for them.

But how about us, God's people? Is the dawn of a new year just another secular holiday or are there other reasons why it should be a part of our celebrations as Christians? The answer is yes, especially if you look into the pages of the Old Testament. God commanded the Jewish people to celebrate the new year as a reminder that He was their King. It was called Rosh Hashanah. They were to blow a shofar, a ram's horn (Leviticus 23:23-25), perhaps a reminder of the trumpet blasts that shook Mount Sinai when the Lord gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments and when He set them apart as a special people, holy unto Himself. As such, it was a time for prayer, good deeds, and for amending mistakes during the past year. It was a time of remembrance. Have you ever noticed that over and over again in the pages of the Old Testament, God's people were told to remember and reflect upon all of the ways that God had blessed them in the past. It was also a time of renewal and expectation, looking forward to the Lord's blessings in the future. Festive meals with delicious sweets symbolized the hoped for blessings that the Lord would bestow upon His people in the year to come.

We would do well to follow in their footsteps. So let's begin with a time of remembrance. Let's take a few moments to reflect upon what the Lord has done for us this past year, both individually and as a church family. Yes there may have been some mistakes and some losses. There always are, but how about the blessings? Remember that old gospel song which goes something like this, "Count your many blessings name them one by one." Do that for yourself and you will "be amazed at what the Lord has done." So this morning let's count the blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon our church family in 2024.

Having reviewed the blessing of the past, what about our expectations for the future? What kinds of things would we like for the Lord to bestow upon us in 2025? Speaking I believe for all of us, here are some things that I think we can all agree upon. We would like the Lord to deepen the ties of Christian fellowship which bind us together. They are already strong, but there are some among our fellowship who have not yet experienced our loving care and concern for one another. We would like for the Lord to bless us with additional membership. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see all of these pews in our sanctuary filled each Sunday morning. We would like the Lord to bless us with dedicated volunteers who are eager to serve in the various ministries of our church. As the old saying goes, many hands make for light work. I suspect almost everyone would like the Lord to bless us with a new pastor. We need someone who has been called by God to lead our church into a better and brighter future. Most importantly of all, however, we need the Lord to bless us with an outpouring of His Spirit upon this place and His people. That and that alone will bring to fruition all of the other blessings that we might hope for.

At the beginning of this sermon, I asked if there was a connection between two very different celebrations, the celebration of the new year and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Is the answer their proximity to one another, just days apart, or is there another far more important reason? For me the answer can be summed up in two words, "remembrance and expectation." That's obvious with regards to the passage of time marked by the beginning of a new year. Just about everyone reminisces about what took place in 2024 as they think about what life will be like in 2025. But how about the Lord's Supper? In Paul's account of the Lord's Supper as well as in the Gospel descriptions of the Lord's Supper, there is an underlying assertion that something is taking place which involves both a recollection of the past and a hopefulness about the future. We are told to commemorate this meal in remembrance of what Christ did for us. We are also informed to expect His return when He comes into His kingdom. We, therefore, have something to remember as well as something to look forward to. The same is even true with regards to our church. The same Christ who has watched over us in the past will also be with us as we move forward into the future. Yes, on this first Sunday in January it's a time for both remembrance and expectation.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn	<i>"Here Is Bread"</i>	Graham Kendrick
Communion	<i>"Gesù Bambino"</i> <i>"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"</i>	Instrumental
Doxology	<i>"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"</i>	Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Great God of our lives, You have been faithful in years past. We thank You for Your goodness towards us and for Your grace which has sustained us. Above all, we thank You for Jesus Christ, who is the foundation of our hope and the one who leads us in Your way. May Your purpose be seen in our lives and Your grace and hope shine bright in this world. We ask no other prayer, other than that You would be with us in this new year that has dawned. Lead us into greater service as we seek to take Christ to others. Through Jesus Christ the Lord, 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	<i>"On This Day of Celebration"</i>	Carolyn Gillette
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THE SENDING FORTH

**Benediction*

Postlude

"Postlude on Hymn to Joy"

Jason Payne

The flowers are given to the **Glory of God** and in loving memory of Audie Lambert,
by Margaret Lambert



January 2025

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

Joys- January 5th

Joy- Christy Boone, joyful over the turnout for Christmas Caroling

Concerns- January 5th

Avery: Tinkie, hospice care

Barefoot: Jim, home, continues 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

Boone: niece undergoing radiation treatments

Brunot: Jim's brother Bill, completed chemo

Concern about drones in New Jersey

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Compter: Jeannie, Seth (both friend) health issues

Bob (friend) in hospital with Covid

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: Jim (brother) cancer

Fleming: Dominick (Ann Marie's brother) heart surgery successful,

Previous Pastor heart surgery went well

Foster: Ron (brother-in-law) in home

Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia

Prayers for family on Tom's passing

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

Bob- (Ellen's brother) heart surgery went well, home

Goode: (friend) Tommy Atkinson stroke

Goodman: Friend Betty is near death

Grigg: Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Grubb: John cancer, recovering from surgery

Hann: Alice's brother, congestive heart failure, cancer

Harris: Jim, back pain

Judy- shoulder replaced

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn-Kibbey: Dot reinjured her back

Sarah McCabe Oakes,(friend) amputation leg, pelvis

Lambert: Margaret sciatica pain, arthritis

Linton: Candy (Parker'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
Granddaughter had a seizure

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

Saunders: Gloria, fell in ICU

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 is back in hospital in LA

Morgan (nephew) life decisions

Cook at Shepherd's Table, baby in NICU

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Earl Carter- health issues

Matt- lung cancer

All Virginia towns impacted by hurricane

Chief 'Hops' cancer that is spreading

Wilson Stevens- double pneumonia

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 January 5th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Communion

Wednesday: Something More 3 pm

Saturday: Men's Breakfast 9 am

Sunday: January 12th

10 am Worship

Session

Installation of New elders and deacons

5¢ a Meal Offering

BCM donations/collection

January Birthdays

Christy Boone - 8

Cynthia Brunot- 13

January Anniversaries

Bill and Janet Yodis - 24

Something More resumes this Wednesday at 3:00 pm. Bring all of your questions about Christmas and the first Sunday of 2025. We'll take a look at them together