

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)



Week of March 2, 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

"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here"

J.S. Bach

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;

All: We will come before Him with joyful songs.

One: Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His;

All: We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

One: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise;

All: We give thanks to You, Oh God, and praise Your holy name.

One: For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;

All: Your faithfulness, Oh God, continues through all generations.

Hymn

"Rejoice, Ye Pure of Heart"

Hymn 113

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

You stand beside our walls with a plumb line in your hand, Lord—walls of our own making. What once were straight, strong walls of protection--sanctuaries against all that might harm us--are now crooked, and broken walls of separation that we have used to conceal ourselves from You and from one another. We know that your perfect judgment finds us wanting. Free us, Lord, we are our own worst enemies. Level our feeble fortresses and rebuild us in your image. By the strength of your love and your forgiveness, lead us from darkness into your marvelous light. 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 Patri**

"Glory to the Father"

Bill Rutledge

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Amos 7:7-9

Praise Song

"Rejoice"

Tommy Walker

Sermon

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND

Last Sunday the sermon ended with a quote from the book of Hosea, "They sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind" (Hosea 8:7). It was a profound harbinger of what was about to happen to Israel. The seeds of worthless worship, oppressive behavior and decadent prosperity had been richly sown in the land of Israel and they produced a crop of unrelenting despair and hopelessness.

Hosea, another of God's prophetic voices, began his ministry about ten to fifteen years after Amos had visited Israel. Unlike Amos he was no stranger to this northern kingdom. He lived there. But he was treated no better than Amos. Furthermore he lived during a time of increasing political and military instability. After the death of King Jeroboam II in 748 B.C., the country fell apart politically and militarily. Six kings ruled in quick succession, often being assassinated while they reigned. Furthermore, the

Assyrian Empire began to assert its dominance, conquering the neighboring countries and demanding financial tribute from the northern kingdom of Israel. When they refused to pay, the Assyrians invaded the country. After a lengthy siege, the capital city of Samaria fell in 722 B.C. The country of Israel ceased to exist. Those who were not slain during the invasion were deported to foreign lands never to be seen again. They have become known as the "Ten Lost Tribes." Only little Judah, comprised of the remaining two tribes that Moses had led out of Egypt, maintained their freedom and that was only by the miraculous intervention of God. Approximately forty years after Amos had issued his dire prophetic warning of divine judgment, everything that he had said came to pass. Just as Hosea had warned, "They had sown the wind and were about to reap a horribly destructive whirlwind."

So with this rather brief description of what happened to Israel in mind, let us imagine for just a moment that we are once again in a heavenly courtroom. The defendant, the ten northern tribes of Israel, have been found guilty of all of the charges presented by Amos. The time has now come for them to be sentenced for their crimes. The judge, the Lord God Almighty, is now ready to pronounce judgement. Let us reflect upon what He said in the ninth chapter of Amos, verses 1-15.

- In verse one the Lord decrees that the temple at Bethel is to be destroyed. Bethel was the place that God had made a covenant with Jacob, the ancestor of the Israelites, centuries earlier during a dream. He had promised to bless Jacob and his heirs, to give them the country in which they now dwelled and to make them a blessing to all of humanity (Genesis 28:13-15). Striking the pillars of the temple meant that the covenantal relationship between the ten tribes of Jacob's ancestry and their God was now officially severed. Instead of being their protector, the Lord would now become their adversary.
- In verses two through four, the Lord tells the people of Israel that they cannot flee from the judgement that has been rendered against them. Even if they hide as high as the heavens or as deep as the bottom of the sea, He will find them and punish them.
- In verses five through six, God reminds the accused of who He is. He is not some minor deity with limited strength and power. He is the ruler of the universe.
- In verses seven through ten, the Lord says that He has maintained a watchful eye over Israel and found them to be a sinful people who will now be sifted like grain. Like harvested seed, almost none will be planted in the land of their ancestors. Most will be bagged up and banished to far off lands from which they will never return.
- In verses eleven through fifteen, however, a merciful reprieve is issued for those who can trace their heritage back to the family of David. In the future peace and prosperity will be restored to a remnant of Israel living in the land of their forefathers.

Now what does this say to us, God's people living in the twenty-first century? There are a number of things which deserve our attention.

1. First, God loves us. However, that love is a relational love. It is a love which is established when we enter into a personal relationship with the Lord. However, when we turn our backs on God and declare that we want to live as if He has no further claim upon our lives, then we have placed ourselves in serious jeopardy. That's what happened to Israel. They had cast God out of their lives through their idolatrous worship, their oppressive behavior towards one another and their decadent lifestyle. They were neither repentant nor interested in really loving God or one another.
2. Second, God loves us. But that does not mean that He will not punish us. God's love always contains a measure of discipline. What happens when a parent does not discipline their children? More often than not they turn into monsters. Loving parents cannot allow that kind of behavior to take hold of their children's lives and neither can God. Quoting the book of Proverbs, the writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews declares, "My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by Him; for the Lord disciplines those whom He loves

and chastises every child He accepts” (Hebrews 12:5-6). God punished Israel and punished them severely because His love for them compelled Him to do so.

3. Lastly, God loves us. Even when He is punishing us, He is looking for a way to redeem us and restore our relationship with Him and one another. It is for that reason that the book of Amos ends on a more hopeful note. Not all of the Jewish people in northern Israel were lost. A precious few found safety among their brethren in the south. Centuries later one of them, Paul, could trace his heritage all the way back to the tribe of Benjamin, one of those tribes who were carried away into exile by the Assyrians. (Philippians 3:5). More than one lost soul, someone who has violated all of God’s laws and lived a life in absolute rejection of everything that the Lord stands for, has found his way back to God. I remember quite clearly the testimony of a Sunday school teacher in the Presbyterian church where I served as a youth minister during my years in seminary. He was an incorrigible sinner until the Lord Jesus Christ saved him, delivered him from his past, and transformed his life into a beautiful example of what it means to be a Christian.

Having spent six Sundays in the book of Amos, you may now be eager to wish a “fond farewell” to this prophetic book in the Old Testament. However, don’t be too anxious to say goodbye. Here’s why. In the days of the early church there were some who said that a person could not become a Christian unless they first became a Jew. It was such a contentious issue that a church council was held. People from all of the churches in the Middle East came to Jerusalem to debate this controversy. Both Paul and Peter were invited and they argued that people are saved by God’s grace in Christ Jesus, not by keeping the rules and regulations of the Jewish way of life. James, the half brother of Christ, was the chief elder of the church in Jerusalem. He was highly respected. After hearing everything that had been said, he recommended that Gentiles, people like you and me, be welcomed into the household of the Lord without adopting Judaism. Turning to the Old Testament for Scriptural support, he quoted, “After this I, (referring to God) will return and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—even all the Gentiles over whom My name has been called.” From which book of the Old Testament was he quoting? He was quoting Amos 9:11-12. Had it not been for Amos, that rough shod prophet from Tekoa, the doorway to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ may never have been opened to folks like you and me. As we prepare to celebrate the Lord’s Supper this morning, that, my friends, is something for all of us to think about and something for all of us to be eternally grateful for.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

<i>Anthem</i>	<i>“Behold the Lamb” (Communion Hymn)</i>	Mark Hayes arr.
<i>Communion</i>	<i>“Bread of the World” “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”</i>	Instrumental
<i>Doxology</i>	<i>“Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow”</i>	Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called His children! Heavenly Father, we give You thanks for the grace and mercy that we have found in Your Son, Jesus Christ. We give You these offerings today to say that we love You and ask that You use us to bring many more people into Your family. We pray these things in Christ’s name and for His glory, 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.

***Hymn**

"There is a Redeemer"

Hymn 117

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

"To God be the Glory"

Larry Shackley

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in remembrance
of Gerda Schubert, a very special lady.

March 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>Men's Breakfast 9 am</i>
2 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	3	4	5 <i>Lenten Lunch, 12 pm</i> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	6	7	8 <i>Spring Ahead one hour</i>
9 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	10	11	12 <i>Lenten Lunch, 12 pm</i> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	13	14	15
16 <i>10 am Worship</i>	17	18	19 <i>Lenten Lunch, 12 pm</i> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	20	21	22 <i>Winter Fun & Games, 1 pm</i>
23 <i>10 am Worship</i>	24	25	26 <i>Lenten Lunch, 12 pm</i> <i>Something More, 3 pm</i>	27	28	

Joys- March 2nd

Joy- Lana thanks all for prayers, doing well, prayers for continued healing

Joy- John and Betty opening their home to Lana and Daisy

Joy- Stetson's- Savannah surgery went well, living without ostomy bag. Lily granddaughter is spending time with them

Joy- Michelle shared Valentine Tea was a blessing prays that Operation Shoebox will be a blessing.

Concerns- March 2nd

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

Friend's son in rehab

Brunot: Jim's brother Bill, completed chemo

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) in remission

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Compter: Jeannie, Seth (both friend) health issues

Bob (friend) doing better

Laurie: mother has cancer

Michael (brother) congestive heart failure, lump on lung

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

Frank Sicillano (brother-in-law) cancer in pain

Granddaughter, doing better

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

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

BJ Parker's niece hospital, complication from flu

Goodman: Friend Betty is near death

Grigg: Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Grubb: John cancer, doing well

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
Elisa- (daughter-in-law) family needs
Margaret having health issues

Rutledge: friend in Hawaii health issues

Saunders: Ron, home recovering from double pneumonia
Son-in-law, cancer not spreading

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,
Morgan (nephew) life decisions
Cook at Shepherd's Table, baby in NICU

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Matt- lung cancer, still suffering
All Virginia towns impacted by hurricane
Chief 'Hops' cancer that is spreading, UVA

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 March 2nd

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Communion

Wednesday: Something More 3 pm

Sunday: March 9th

10 am Worship
5¢ a Meal Communion
BCM donations/collections

March Birthdays

Sonya Smith- 2
Sally Cram - 3
Eunice Barnes - 12
Maggie DeWitt - 17
Nick DeWitt - 18
Ronnie Saunders – 24

Lenten Lunches

This year Lenten Lunches will be served each Wednesday at noon, beginning on March 5th, at the Main Street United Methodist Church. Lenten Lunches are an opportunity to enjoy a delicious lunch along with inspiring music and a devotional on the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our church will be in charge of the lunch on March 12. We will need eight to ten volunteers to assist David Grigg in preparing and serving the meal. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the sanctuary for those who wish to volunteer or you can call the church office

A Journey to Jerusalem

During the Lenten season, we will be going on “A Journey to Jerusalem,” beginning on Sunday, March 9. We will be meeting some of the people and places that Jesus visited during those last days of His earthly ministry. Join with us in the Gospel of Matthew as we journey with Jesus on His way to the Cross.

Smith Mountain Lake Gives

SML is an annual online fundraiser held in March for charitable organizations in Bedford and Franklin counties. Bedford Christian Ministries is participating this year. BCM helps families with food, clothing, household goods, and utility/rental assistance. It is one of the outreach ministries of our church. This year our church family can assist in two additional ways. We can make a donation to SML Gives and we can tell our friends and neighbors about this special opportunity to support BCM. Go to the BCM Facebook page and search for SML Gives for additional information. Donations can be made at www.smlgives.org from March 17-19.

Winter Fun and Games

The next Winter Fun and Games will be held at the Bedford Presbyterian Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 22nd from 1 to 4 pm. Please bring your favorite board game and some snacks for all to share. Any questions or comments, please contact Deanna.