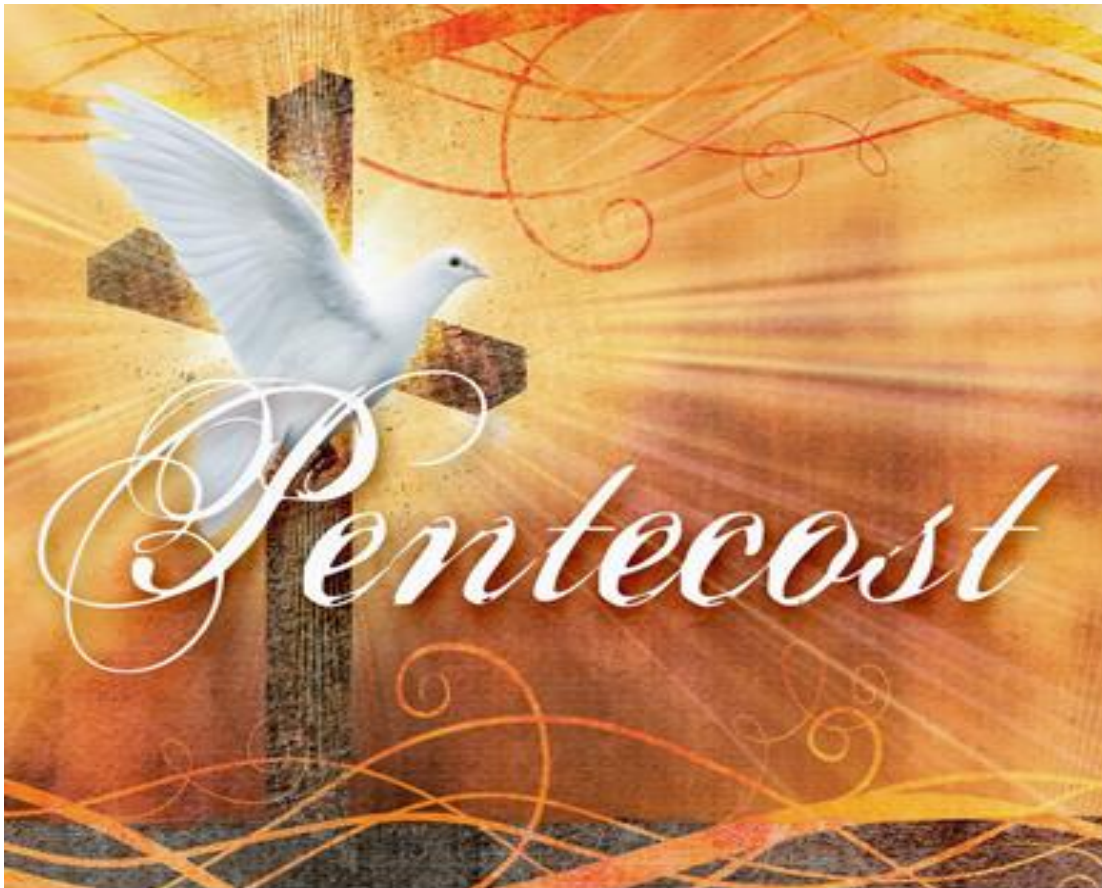


# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)

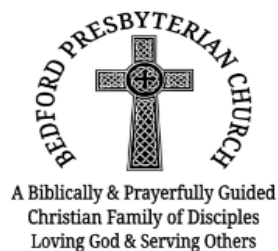


**Week of June 8, 2025**

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**

*"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"*

Marianne Kim

**Words of Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!

**All: For God has done wondrous things for us.**

One: Come, Holy Spirit! Fill us with the power of the rushing wind that we may faithfully serve You in all that we do.

**All: For Christ has called each of us and blessed us!**

One: Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today.

**All: Help us to boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ has risen! Amen**

**Hymn**

*"Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us"*

Hymn 329

**Prayer of Confession:** *(in unison)*

Lord God, You know us too well. You know that we would be like the disciples following the crucifixion and even the resurrection. We would rather hide and mutter and weep, than proclaim the power of Your love. The world is a difficult place. We fear so much. We want people to like us and so we hold back on our proclamation of our faith. We don't want to offend anyone. But Your love and presence are not offensive. They are empowering and healing. Bring Your holy fire upon us this day to ignite a spark of joy in our hearts and our voices. Bring the power of Your rushing wind through our spirits that we may be turned in new directions for service and witness. We pray this in Jesus' Name. 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**

Acts 2: 1-12

**Worship Song**

*"Mighty Wind"*

Andrea Crouch

**Sermon**

The Birthday of Christianity

Waiting is hard, especially when you don't know when the expected arrival of what you desire will actually show up. Years ago, when I was a little boy, Aunt Helen, who lived in Philadelphia, said that she was sending me a special Christmas present. It would arrive by mail. Each day I waited anxiously for the arrival of what had been promised, hoping that the mailman would show up at the front door with the longed for and eagerly anticipated gift. Perhaps some of those same kind of feelings took hold of the followers of Jesus as they awaited the promise of the Holy Spirit after His ascension into heaven. He had told them on numerous occasions to wait in Jerusalem for the gift that His heavenly Father would bestow upon them. He told them that even as John had baptized with water, they would be baptized, immersed in the Holy Spirit. Now ten days after Jesus had departed into heaven that promise was about to be fulfilled.

It was the day of Pentecost, one of the three special holidays celebrated by the Jewish people. It was called "Pentecost" because it took place literally fifty days after Passover, the celebration of the Jewish people's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Like Passover, this was a pilgrimage celebration. Jewish people came from all over the Roman world to the city of Jerusalem. The holiday marked the beginning of the harvesting of barley, so it was an agricultural celebration. But it was more than that. It also celebrated the giving of the Law when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments. God chose this holiday which marked the beginning of the harvesting season to inaugurate the beginning of the harvesting of those who would become the followers of Christ. Like the birth of a child, it marked the birth of a brand-new religion. It was the birthday of Christianity. Described in chapter two of the book of Acts, the events which transpired on that day can best be described by four words—prayer, presence, power, and proclamation. Let's take a look at each of them.

During the ten days between Christ's ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, what were the followers of Christ doing? They were waiting. But their waiting was not a time of anxious impatience. They were "praying." In the first chapter of the book of Acts, verses 13-14, we are told that after Jesus' departure, His followers returned to the Upper Room in Jerusalem. The apostles, along with the women who had accompanied Jesus to Jerusalem, including Mary, His mother, and His brothers, were constantly engaged in prayer. They knew that prayer was the most important thing they could do while they waited. Speaking about prayer, Jesus had said during His Sermon on the Mount, "Keep on asking and it will be given to you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). Persistence in prayer was and is the key to answered prayers.

Two elderly women, one blind and the other crippled, discovered the truth of that verse of Scripture. They lived on an island in northern Scotland. They were real prayer warriors. They continually prayed for an outpouring of God's Spirit on their island community and that prayer was answered in a powerful way. A Spirit filled revival transformed their church and then swept throughout the northern regions of Scotland shortly after World War II. It was the fulfillment of what Jesus had said, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him" (Luke 11:13). The followers of Jesus prayed continually and they prayed earnestly. On the day of Pentecost their prayers were answered.

That brings us to the second word, "presence." The presence of the Holy Spirit swept through the place where they were staying like a mighty wind. Each of them, about 120 in number, were anointed with tongues of fire as they were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Wind and fire have always been associated with the presence of God. In fact, the word, spirit, has three different possible meanings. It can refer to wind, a person's breath, or God's presence. Speaking to Nicodemus in chapter three of the Gospel of John, Jesus compared the Spirit of God to the sound of a gentle breeze. He explained to Nicodemus that we can't see the wind, but we know it's both present and real because we can both feel and hear it. The same is true with fire. It too is a sign of God's presence. When Moses brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, God led them by appearing as a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. In both the wind and the fire, the Spirit of God was definitely present on the day of Pentecost.

Furthermore, the apostles and those with them were baptized, immersed in the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus had promised. They experienced what it means to be filled with the "power" of God. When God touches a person's life with the Holy Spirit, that individual is able to do extraordinary things. For example, after telling King Ahab to head home in his chariot because a great rainstorm would soon descend upon them, the Scriptures tell us, "The power of the LORD came upon Elijah and, tucking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel" (1 Kings 18:46). On the day of Pentecost God also gave an extraordinary and powerful gift to those who were now filled with His Spirit. They became multi-lingual. They began to speak in languages they had never learned or known. That's why the Jewish pilgrims who

had come from a whole host of countries for the feast of Pentecost could understand what the Apostles were saying. They were speaking in their native tongues, the languages that they spoke back home.

God empowers us with His Holy Spirit. He gives us what we need to accomplish His work here on earth, like the physical strength He gave to Samson or the wisdom He gave to Solomon. On the day of Pentecost it was a gift of language. Each of the apostles and perhaps some of the other followers of Christ were speaking in such a way that everyone could understand them. The crowd of spectators who had been drawn to this scene by the sound of the rushing wind and who were now hearing a multitude of languages, said to one another, "We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues." This extraordinary gifting had created an opportunity for God to prepare their hearts for a message of hope and deliverance. The same is true today. There have been reports from various places on foreign mission fields around the world where God has empowered His missionaries with this same linguistic gift for the purpose of declaring the wonders of God.

This brings us to that last word, "proclamation." Amazed and perplexed by what they had seen and heard, the people who had witnessed these wonderous events began to ask one another, "What does all of this mean?" It was like the salesman who responded to this kind of an inquiry with this famous response, "I'm so glad you asked that question." The audience had been prepared by God to eagerly hear the very first New Testament sermon and guess who delivered it? It was none other than the great big fisherman, Peter. Beginning in verse 14 of the second chapter of Acts and continuing to verse 36, he delivered his very first sermon. Was it a great sermon? To modern ears it might seem a bit difficult to fully understand. But Peter was not preaching to us. He was speaking to the people of his own day and time, fellow Jews who knew and understood everything he said. In fact, they were so moved by Peter's message that when he concluded his sermon, they cried out to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers what shall we do?" Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ so that their sins might be forgiven and so that they too might receive the Holy Spirit. That very day, the birthday of Christianity, three thousand new Christians were added to the roll book of heaven.

Now, what about you and me? Are there any lessons in this account which are applicable to our lives? First of all, it's difficult, if not impossible to sense God's presence without prayer. Prayer is like turning on a radio. If you don't turn it on, you will never hear a thing. If you don't reach out to God, even if your prayer is not much more than a mumbled request or a pitiful cry for help, it's doubtful if you will ever experience the Lord's life changing presence. Second, God's presence is often serendipitous. It surprises us. Yes, the followers of Christ were certain that God would keep His promise, filling them with His Spirit, but they did not know when that would happen. It came upon them suddenly, perhaps when they least expected it and the same is often true for us as well. Third, God's presence is always powerful. It changes us. It transformed an uneducated shoe salesman into one of the greatest evangelists of the nineteenth century. Speaking about the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in his own life, Dwight L. Moody recounted an event that took place on the streets of New York. He said, "Right there, on the street, the fire of God seemed to come upon me so wonderfully that I asked God to stay His hand. I was filled with the sense of God's goodness, and I felt as though I could take the whole world to my heart." And that he did, preaching to thousands all across America and even traveling to Great Britain. Finally, being filled with God's Spirit means proclaiming the wonders of God's love, telling others about His goodness and salvation by what we say, how we live and what we do. It means joining that Spirit filled company of believers who were blessed by God with Pentecostal fire on the birthday of Christianity.

### ***RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD***

***Worship Song***

*"Holy Spirit Living Breath of God"*

Getty

**Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested by God with deeds of power, signs and wonders that God performed through Him among us. We believe that according to the plan and foreknowledge of God, this Jesus was crucified and killed by the hands of sinners. We believe that Jesus Christ was raised by God from the dead, freeing Him from death's power: it was impossible for death to hold Him.

We believe in Jesus, the Exalted One, ascended to the right hand of God, who received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, which He has given to us. We believe that through repentance we have been forgiven and have received the gift of the Spirit, a gift that is for us, for our children and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord calls to Himself. Thanks be to God!

**Doxology**

*"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"*

Hymn 34

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of wind and flame: set us on fire this morning as we celebrate the explosion of Your Holy Spirit coming into the world on the Day of Pentecost! Remind us that the gift You gave that day was not just the gift to speak in different tongues, but also the gift of hearing and comprehension. May Your Holy Spirit keep us attuned to the voices all around us, to those who need us to be bearers of Your love and compassion, and may these gifts we give help us, through Your church, meet those needs. In the holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen. (Acts 2:1-21).

**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**

*"On Pentecost they Gathered"*

Hymn 334

**THE SENDING FORTH****Benediction****Postlude**

*"Postlude on 'Aurelia'"*

Mark Rippe

**The flowers are given to the Glory of God** and in memory of my parents  
Fred and Gloria Wiepert, by Lynne Palmer

# June 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>D-Day Ceremony 6:15pm</i>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <i>10 am Worship Father's Day</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<b>30</b>					

### Joys- June 8<sup>th</sup>

**Joy-** John & Betty want to thank everyone for their cards and prayers.

**Joy-** Video from Pastor Ben and Tiffany was great

**Joy-** Great having Libby back in choir

**Joy-** Lisa Callahan shared Dr. Vann and family visited

**Joy-** McManis, great having Charlotte in church, grandchildren hiking and able to help someone in need.

**Joy-** Larry Compter thankful for prayers during their trip

### Concerns- June 8<sup>th</sup>

**Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care

**Barefoot:** Joy (wife) fell prayers for healing

**Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Jerry Dillon (nephew) health issues

Jody Lineberry- leukemia treatment successful

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

**Blair:** Dr. Cohen stroke

Bill Dwyer complications from knee surgery

Tonya- daughter-in-law, broke leg

**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) hospice

**DeHart:** Lucile Kesterson (Dawn's mother) aging memory issues

Julian Kesterson (Dawn's stepdad) nursing home, multiple falls

**Dwyer:** Bill recovering from knee replacement

**Easter:** Jim (brother) cancer

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

Michael Kay (friend) last stages of lung cancer

Prayers for 85 yr old sister caring for 59 yr old son with Downs syndrome

**Foster:** Lynn (sister-in-law) 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

**Froberg:** Keir- father in hospital

**Goode:** Prayers for goals with Christmas boxes

Sandra Grover- breast cancer

Safe travels

**Goodman:** Grandson traveling to Brazil for mission work

**Grigg:** Chris Mays- diabetic complications

**Grubb:** John cancer, doing well

**Harris:** Jim, back pain

**Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder  
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems  
**Kuhn-Kibbey:** David Rutledge, (son) throat cancer radiation,  
chemo  
**Mauser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems  
Steven-(son's boss) going blind  
Barbara (Al's sister) intense headaches  
Gayle- home  
**McManis:** for grandson leaving USMC  
**Morris:** all law enforcement, firefighters and first responders  
Forensic scientists who deal with crime  
Rev. Pam Ledbetter  
**Nichols;** Gracie Murphree blood pressure, multiple strokes  
**Rutledge:** friend in Hawaii health issues  
**Salley:** John diagnosed with lymphoma, continued testing  
**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

**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 June 8<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
Pentecost Sunday  
5¢ a Meal Offering  
BCM donations/collections

Sunday: June 15<sup>th</sup>  
10 am Worship  
Father's Day

### **June Birthdays**

Dave Stetson - 12  
Hugh Saunders - 19  
Betty Salley – 25

### **June Anniversaries**

Jim and Joy Barefoot - 21  
David & Kathy Grigg - 21  
Philip & Sherry Parker - 28

### **BCM needs**

Towels, Hand towels, Sheets - all sizes  
Coffee Makers, Mixers  
Blenders  
Electric can openers

### **New Pastor**

On Sunday, May 25, 2025, our church family called Reverend Ben Banner to be our next pastor. He and his wife, Tiffany and their two children will be moving to Virginia this summer.

Ben will assume his duties as our pastor at a date yet to be finalized during the months of August or early September. Copies of the brochure about Ben and his family are available at the church office and in the sanctuary. We rejoice and give thanks unto God that the Lord has blessed us with a wonderful pastor to lead and guide our church in the days to come. We are also thankful for the tireless efforts of our Pastor Nominating Committee who have labored so diligently to bring us to this decision in the life of our congregation.

### **After Easter**

This morning on Pentecost Sunday we will conclude our sermon series about the events that took place after the resurrection of Christ. After the morning worship service, we will take a picture of our church family on the front steps of the sanctuary and enjoy birthday cake celebrating the birth of Christianity.

### **Father's Day**

We will celebrate Father's Day on June 15th. All the dads in our church are encouraged to attend as we honor our fathers on this special day.

## The Banner Chat



Have any comments about our church or yourself that you would like to share with Ben and Tiffany? Have any questions that you would like to ask them?

Write your comments and questions below and return to the office or slip into the offering plate.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.