

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)

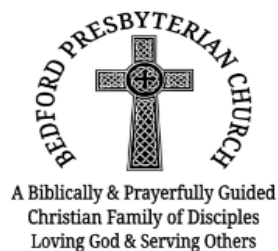


Week of June 15, 2025

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

"This Is My Father's World"

Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come to God who loves us like a father.

All: See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.

One: Come to God whose arms are open and waiting.

All: We come to God who welcomes and forgives us.

One: Come to God who has chosen to live with us and in us.

All: We come to God who sees us as we really are and loves us anyway.

One: Come, praise our loving nurturing God!

Hymn

"Abba Father, We Approach Thee"

James Deck

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

O God, Father that You are, You know what is best for us. Too often we choose our way rather than Yours. Have mercy upon us when we turn from You. Forgive us when we do not trust in Your fatherly love and direction for our lives. Have mercy upon us indeed and teach us anew how to follow You, Father that You are. We pray this through Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, 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

Ode to Fathers

Video Clip

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Introduction to Scripture

Philip

Scripture Reading

Genesis 17:1-8

Hymn

"This Is My Father's World"

Tommy Walker

Sermon

Father Abraham

Do you have a nickname, a special name that you acquired in addition to the name that was given to you by your parents? In the church where I served years ago, there were a number of people, especially men, who had nicknames. There was a "Chink" who was a plumber, a "Jiggs" who worked for the Coast Guard and a dear friend who was known as "Pug." People acquire nicknames for a number of reasons, but I suspect that on many occasions nicknames are a reflection of endearment, indicating a special relationship between the person who bears the nickname and the one who gave it to them. Such is certainly the case with one of the most well-known individuals in the Old Testament. His nickname was Abraham and the

person who gave him that name was God. For a few moments this morning, let's reflect upon how Abraham acquired his nickname and how it might be related to the holiday we call "Father's Day." Almost everyone knows something about Abraham, but that does not mean that they know much more than just his name. So let's do a little Biblical research. Abraham first appears in the eleventh chapter of the book of Genesis as one of the distant ancestors of Noah. However, his name is not Abraham but a simpler, shorter name, Abram. It means "exalted father." Since he was the eldest son, there may have been an expectation that he would grow up to be the leader of his father's clan, a man of authority and prominence with many children. Such, however, was not the case. Moving from Ur of Chaldees near the Persian Gulf, Abram's family moved west and north to the hill country of Haran. In that new locale Abram met the Lord. It was the place where he and the Lord entered into an agreement. If Abram promised to obey the Lord and move once again, God would bless him. He and his ancestors would become a great nation, they would receive divine protection and through them they would become a blessing to all of humanity. Abram agreed and moved with his wife to a land known as Canaan, or what is known today as modern day Israel. There was only one problem. He had not lived up to the name given to him by his father. He didn't have any sons or daughters. It's hard to be an "exalted father" if you don't have any children.

That all changed after he acquired his second name, his nickname, his name of divine endearment. In the passage of Scripture that was read today, the Lord met with Abram once again. The first agreement known as a covenant was reaffirmed with additional provisions. Not only would Abram be an "exalted father," but now he would become the "exalted father of many nations." His new name would now be Abraham. As a physical sign and demonstration of his faith and commitment to God, both he and all of the males in his household would be circumcised, a practice which continues to this day among the Jewish people. Furthermore, even at a ripe old age Abraham finally became a father. You are probably familiar with two of his sons, Ishmael, who was born to Hagar, and Isaac, who was born to Sarah. However, here's something you may not know. After Sarah's death, Abraham took another wife named Keturah, who gave him six more sons. Each of these became the founders of a whole host of peoples in the Middle East. Indeed, the nicknamed Abraham became the "father of many nations."

But being a father and especially a godly father beloved of the Lord is more than just having a lot of children. Being an exalted father of one or a whole multitude of children means possessing the character traits which makes you worthy of possessing that title. Now Abraham was not perfect by any means. At times his trust in the Lord wavered a bit. Instead of waiting for the promised son that God would give to him through Sarah, he surrendered to her urging and had a child by her handmaid, Hagar. That proved to be a big mistake. Nevertheless, Abraham possessed a number of character traits as a father that we would do well to emulate. Let's briefly take a look at some of them.

- **Abraham was generous.** He and his nephew Lot had many herds and flocks, too many to graze beside one another. In fact, their herdsmen were quarreling with one another all the time. They needed to separate. So Abraham said to Lot, "You select the land where you wish to graze your animals and I'll take what's left. Lot looked at the well-watered Jordan valley and chose that land. Abraham graciously selected the much drier hillsides to the west (Genesis 13:1-18)
- **Abraham was courageous.** Later, when Lot and his entire family were kidnapped, Abraham led a rescue operation against a much larger coalition of foreign enemies. Not only did he attack and disburse these marauders, but he also made sure that Lot and his family were safe and sound, escorting them back home, a decision which ultimately proved to be disastrous. (Genesis 14:1-16).
- **Abraham was compassionate.** He cared about people, especially Lot and his family who were once again facing a dangerous situation. Abraham was glad that he had not moved into the Jordan valley. The people who lived there were wicked. When God told Abraham that He was going to

destroy that morally corrupt society, Abraham pleaded with God saying, “If there are fifty righteous people in Sodom, will you not spare it?” When the Lord agreed to this proposal, Abraham continued to bargain with God until the Lord said that He would spare the city if there were only ten righteous people living within its walls. Abraham was a compassionate person who cared about people, including his nephew, Lot, and his nephew’s family. He was willing to plead for their deliverance (Genesis 18:16-33).

- **Abraham was obedient.** I’m sure that most of you know this Biblical story. Years later, after the promised son, Isaac, had been born, God told Abraham to take his son who was now a young man and offer him as a sacrifice unto the Lord. Abraham’s heart was broken, but he was obedient. Even as he was raising his hand to slay his own son, God’s angel told him to stay his hand and instead sacrifice a ram caught in a nearby thicket (Genesis 22:1-19).
- **Finally, Abraham was Faithful.** There are numerous passages of Scripture in the Bible which speak about the faith of Abraham, like the description of Abraham’s faith found in the New Testament, Hebrews 11:8-19. Nowhere, however, is Abraham’s faith more clearly identified than in that nighttime encounter with God, long before the birth of Isaac. The Lord said to Abraham, “Can you count all the stars in the heavens. So shall your offspring be.” In response the Bible simply says that Abraham believed what God had said to him and that it was credited unto him as righteousness, written in the ledger books of heaven that Abraham was in right standing with the Lord of all creation (Genesis 15:1-6).

Abraham became the “exalted father of many nations” because he possessed the character traits that God is looking for in men who wish to be godly fathers. God is looking for fathers and grandfathers today who are **generous**, who know how to give of themselves and of their financial wealth, even if it costs them. God is looking for fathers who are **courageous**, who stand by their convictions even when the world tells them to abandon what they know is right. God is looking for fathers who are **compassionate**, fathers who care about those who are straying from the truth, praying earnestly, especially for those sons and daughters within their own families. God is looking for fathers who are **obedient**, who desire to serve the Lord whole heartedly. Most importantly of all, God is looking for fathers who are **faithful**, who never waiver in their devotion unto the Lord. Standing on the front porch after a fierce hailstorm destroyed all of their crops, a father with bowed head began to sing, “Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.” His son who was watching his father as he gazed upon that scene of devastation said years later, “That was the finest sermon I ever heard.”

Today, we need fathers, and we need grandfathers who have received a new name, just like Abraham did. In fact, we need Christians, Christians of all ages, both men and women who have been blessed with a new name, “**Exalted Servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.**”

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn

“He Knows My Name”

Tommy Walker

Affirmation of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. By His love God created the world and made everyone in His own image, male and female, of every race and people. But we rebel against God and hide from our Creator and are deserving of His condemnation. Still, God, in His mercy and grace, has chosen to redeem us from our sin. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our Heavenly Father, creator and keeper of us all, thank You for our fathers. For those fathers still living, bless them today and bless us as we continue to enjoy their presence in our lives. Bless the gifts we bring this day and use them to show the world Your father's heart. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who came to show us what You are really like. 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.

Worship Song*"When Jesus Called You Father"*

Carolyn Gillette

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

Joys- June 15th

Joy- Thankful for the Youth testimonies, for John & Judy escorting them and for the congregations support.

Joy- We welcome new members John & Susan Routt

Concerns- June 15th

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

Jim's mother fell

Cindy's brother- health issues

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

Tom Winslow friend having complicated back surgery

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

Travel Mercies

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) remission, 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, fell broke all right side ribs

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

Webb: Prayers for family on passing of Shawn's uncle Robert Chryssikos

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 15th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Father's Day

Sunday: June 22nd

10 am Worship

June Birthdays

Hugh Saunders - 19

Betty Salley – 25

June Anniversaries

Jim and Joy Barefoot - 21

David & Kathy Grigg - 21

Philip & Sherry Parker - 28

Father's Day

Today is Father's Day. It's a day to recognize and celebrate the importance of fatherhood.

Fathers play a vitally important role in the lives of their children. They are the role models which their children see and hear. When they are present, supportive and actively involved in the lives of their children, they are a blessing. When they are absent or abusive, the consequences can be devastating for their offspring. Now more than ever, we need godly fathers, fathers who love the Lord and who share that love with their children.

Next Sunday

Next Sunday, June 22nd, will be a special day in the life of the church. We will be dedicating the magnificent painting that has been hung in the fellowship hall. Created by our gifted artist, Lori Stetson, it portrays her interpretation of what it would be like to live in "The Peaceable Kingdom." After the morning worship service the congregation will be invited to the fellowship hall where Lori will speak about the painting and the inspiration that guided her in its creation.

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 _____

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