

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)

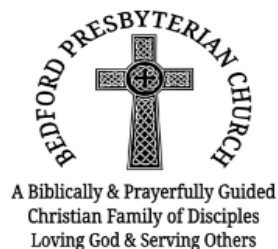


Week of June 22, 2025

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

"Sweet By and By"

arr: Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The heavens declare the glory of God!

All: There is so much beauty in this earth and in the heavens!

One: Day by day we are reminded of God's creative love.

All: Day by day we are blessed with large and small visions of God's glory.

One: Let us lift our voices in praise to our Creator God, whose artistry is reflected in the beauty of all creation.

All: Let us open our hearts and minds to the wonder of His works and offer our thanksgiving for His boundless creativity.

Hymn

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

Hymn 136

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we confess our sins, which separate us from You. We know how people who belong to You should live, but we fail to live that way. At times we have forgotten that we bear Your image. At times we have forgotten to live in response to Your sacrifice for us. At times we have ignored the voice of Your spirit. As a result, we have lived for ourselves rather than for You, making our lives diminished, our witness stifled, and Your image within us tarnished. According to the sacrifice of Your Son, forgive us, Father and by Your Spirit, guide us to live as people who know and love You. 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

Introduction to Scripture

Philip

Scripture Reading

Exodus 31: 1-1

Worship Song

"Holy Spirit Come"

Tommy Walker

Sermon

The Spiritual Gift of Artistry and Craftmanship

The church that I served in Portsmouth, Virginia, has a rich and wonderful history, just like our own congregation. Way back in the early 1900's, the Portsmouth congregation decided to sell the small, white framed church in which they were meeting and build a new larger sanctuary. The old building was sold and moved to a new location. The congregation then proceeded to build their new, larger all-brick sanctuary right where the old church had stood. This, however, created a problem for the growing congregation. Where were they going to meet while the new

building was being constructed? Their answer was a primitive structure, a tent like pole barn made out of tarpaper. They called it the Tabernacle.

In the book of Exodus in the Old Testament, we are told of another Tabernacle that God instructed His people to build as a place of worship. It too was a tentlike structure, but it was nothing like the simple, temporary building in Portsmouth. It was a moveable sanctuary that the people of Israel carried with them throughout their years of wandering in the wilderness. It was a portable sanctuary where God met with His people. Transported in wagons, it was an elaborate structure that could be set up and taken down whenever the people of Israel moved from one location to another. It was called the Tent of Meeting, a beautifully constructed structure made of woven fabrics supported by a wooden frame. It also included a number of special furnishings—two altars, one for incense and one for sacrifices, a table for the bread that was offered to God, a seven branched lamp stand and most importantly of all the Ark of the Covenant, a golden box in which the Ten Commandments were placed. Chapters 25 through 28 in the book of Exodus provide a detailed description of how this Tabernacle was to be built, even including the garments that the priests were to wear when they were serving the Lord.

All of the details about how this Tabernacle was to be built had been given to Moses at Mount Sinai. That was one of the things that God imparted to Moses during the forty days and nights that he met with the Lord on the mountain. There was only one problem. Who was going to make and build all of those things that were to be a part of this portable place of worship? God had taken care of that as well. He was not only the architect of the Tabernacle. He was the one who appointed the artisans and craftsmen who were to build it. In the passage of Scripture that was read this morning, we are told in verses two through five that God had appointed Bezalel to be the chief construction superintendent, providing him with all kinds of construction expertise and knowledge for the job. Or as God said in verse three, “I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.”

Being filled with the Spirit of God is a statement found in many places throughout the Bible. It meant that the Lord had empowered an individual with a special gift to accomplish the plans and purposes of God. For example, in the days of the Judges in the Old Testament, Samson received divine strength to defeat the Philistines and Deborah, another judge, was given prophetic guidance to lead the Israelites in their struggle against the Canaanites. Later David was filled with the Spirit when he was anointed by Samuel to be the next king of Israel. Later prophets like Elisha were given power to not only perform miracles but were given knowledge of what their enemies were secretly planning to do, even when they were miles away.

Moving to the New Testament, Jesus promised that His followers would be filled with the Spirit of God, and throughout the book of Acts the Apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit to do all kinds of things. In fact, Paul writing to the Corinthians and Ephesians, even composed a listing of the gifts of the Spirit such as teaching, evangelism, pastoral care, giving, administration, serving and showing mercy. However, there is one that both he and the other writers of the New Testament missed, the one that is revealed in the passage of Scripture from the book of Exodus that was read this morning, the gift of artistry and craftsmanship. Like all of the others it too is special and is a wonderful but often neglected gift from God. So let's spend a few moments examining this gift and indeed all of the others that have been given to us from our heavenly Father. Here's what we need to keep in mind.

- The gifts of the Spirit are given to us by God. They are given for the purpose of letting people know that the Lord is both real and capable of advancing the work of His kingdom here on earth.

- The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural. They are above and beyond what most of us are normally capable of accomplishing on our own. We are empowered by a presence greater than ourselves.
- The gifts of the Spirit are sometimes hidden. They are not revealed until a need arises for them to be made known. Who would have guessed that David, a shepherd lad, would become the greatest leader that the Jewish people had ever known.
- The gifts of the Spirit often reflect a natural talent of ability that resides within the life of the person to whom they are given. Each of us is born with talents and abilities that the Lord can strengthen and magnify.
- The gifts of the Spirit should be used but never abused. Samson unwisely used his giftedness for selfish purposes and in the end that giftedness not only destroyed his reputation but his life.
- The gifts of the Spirit are inspiring. They fill us with the very presence and joy of the Lord. They make life worth living. They fill us with a zeal to do and be our best, especially when we're exercising, using the gift or gifts that He has given to us.
- The gifts of the Spirit are given to us for the glory of God, not for the praise and admiration of mankind. They are a reflection of His presence in our lives so that others will acknowledge and welcome His presence into their lives.

With that in mind, let me conclude this message with a story that I heard years ago. There was a men's college dorm at a major university on the East Coast that was always spotless. Like most male dorms it was populated by a group of young men who were anything but neat and orderly. There was a distinctive difference between their rooms and the common areas, the hallways and meeting rooms which were maintained by the cleaning staff. In fact, the difference was so obvious that one young man in the dorm could not help but notice. He was intrigued by the difference between his room and the rooms cared for by the cleaning lady. So one day he asked her why she worked so hard to keep everything nice and clean. He said, "We're a messy bunch of slob. We leave our stuff and our trash everywhere. But you always clean it up and leave everything spotless. Why? This is what she said, "I learned a long time ago that this is my gift from the Lord, the gift of serving, helping others to have a little easier go of it in life. So when you boys mess up everything, I just remember what good old Saint Paul said in Colossians 3:23. Here's the way I like to remember it, 'Whatever you do in that dorm Bessie, do it with all of your heart. Don't do it just for those boys Bessie; do it for Me says the Lord.'"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Wonderful Merciful Savior"

Rodgers/Wyse

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father, who has revealed His love and kindness to us, and in His mercy saved us, not for any good deed of our own. but because He is merciful. We believe in Jesus Christ, who gave Himself up for us to free us from our sin and set us apart for Himself - a people eager to do good. We believe in the Holy Spirit, whom God poured out on us generously through Christ our Savior, so that justified by grace we might become heirs with the hope of eternal life. Amen.

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, we offer our gifts in gratitude this morning – not just for what You do in our lives, but for who You are in our lives. You are with us in the person of the Father, the God above us. You come to meet us as the Son, as God beside us. You empower us to do the work of kingdom-building by the Holy Spirit, God within us, providing strength and boldness that we would never find on our own. May these gifts be tools that make the transformation of the world a reality. We pray in the name of one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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*"Sing Praise to the Father"*

Hymn 142

THE SENDING FORTH***Benediction******Postlude****"Hymn of Praise"*

James Denton

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our son Kevin Gould,
by Jay and Venus Gould.

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> <i>Dedicaion</i> <i>Finger Food</i> <i>Fellowship</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 <i>10 am Worship</i>	30					

Joys- June 22nd

Joy- Nancy Van Dyke, congratulations on son receiving award

Concerns- June 22nd

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

Jeff Looney (nephew) stroke

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

Friends family in Isarel, their safety

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 recovering from 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, doing well
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
Neal: bladder cancer, health issues
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

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 22nd

Sunday: 10 am Worship
Dedication & Fellowship

Sunday: June 29th
10 am Worship

June Birthdays

Betty Salley – 25

June Anniversaries

Philip & Sherry Parker - 28

DEDICATION

This morning after the morning worship service, we will be dedicating the picture that Lori Stetson painted, and which is now hanging in the Fellowship Hall. Its title is "The Peaceable Kingdom." Lori will speak about the painting and the inspiration that guided her in its creation. Refreshments and finger foods will be served. The church family is invited to remain after the morning worship service and to be a part of this dedicatory experience.

Banner Chat

Ben and Tiffany want to get to know our congregation. It's an opportunity to share some information about yourself or to ask a question of the Banners. Fill out "The Banner Chat" form and place it in the offering plate on Sunday or drop it by the church office. We'll make sure that Ben and Tiffany receive your "chats" so that they can be in touch with you. Be sure to include your name and email address.

Holy Spirit Sermon Series

For some Christians the Holy Spirit is a mysterious being and at times somewhat frightening. We don't really know who He is or how He is a part of the Trinity. We are inclined to wish He would just go away and leave us alone. Fortunately, we have nothing to fear from the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit after His departure into heaven, and the Holy Spirit has been directly and personally involved in every great evangelical revival since the beginning of Christianity. In the weeks to come we will be taking a look at what the Scriptures tell us about the Holy Spirit and how He can become a vital part of our lives as Christians.

The Gifts of the Spirit

- The gifts of the Spirit are given to us by God. They are given for the purpose of letting people know that the Lord is both real and capable of advancing the work of His kingdom here on earth.
- The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural. They are above and beyond what most of us are normally capable of accomplishing on our own. We are empowered by a presence greater than ourselves.
- The gifts of the Spirit are sometimes hidden. They are not revealed until a need arises for them to be made known. Who would have guessed that David, a shepherd lad, would become the greatest leader that the Jewish people had ever known.
- The gifts of the Spirit often reflect a natural talent of ability that resides within the life of the person to whom they are given. Each of us is born with talents and abilities that the Lord can strengthen and magnify.
- The gifts of the Spirit should be used but never abused. Samson unwisely used his giftedness for selfish purposes and in the end that giftedness not only destroyed his reputation but his life.
- The gifts of the Spirit are inspiring. They fill us with the very presence and joy of the Lord. They make life worth living. They fill us with a zeal to do and be our best, especially when we're exercising, using the gift or gifts that He has given to us.
- The gifts of the Spirit are given to us for the glory of God, not for the praise and admiration of mankind. They are a reflection of His presence in our lives so that others will acknowledge and welcome His presence into their lives.