

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)

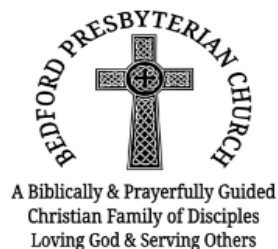


Week of June 29, 2025

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

"He Hideth My Soul"

arr: Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Minute for Missions

Heart of Christ

Barbara Nichols

Call to Worship

One: Blessed are You, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

All: Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,

One: For everything in heaven and earth is Yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all.

All: Wealth and honor come from You; You are the ruler of all things.

One: In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

All: Now, our God, we give You thanks and praise Your glorious name.

Hymn

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Hymn 106

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at Your power and glory. We are eager to worship You and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear You calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of Your Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget Your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of Your ever-present love and strengthen us to proclaim Your gospel throughout the world. 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

Acts 1: 1-8

Worship Song

"He Is Good"

Hernandez/Nelson

Sermon

Who is the Holy Spirit?

I have always been a fan of science fiction. Therefore, I couldn't wait to see the new film that was being advertised in 1977. Sherry and I drove to the movie theater and after the previews, sat back to enjoy the film. It began with a stirring musical introduction followed by a series of words that marched up a blackened background of outer space. I nudged Sherry in the side and said, "This is going to be a good one." And so it was, a block buster summer movie that broke all kinds of attendance records. In case you haven't guessed, the movie we saw was "Star Wars." I can still hear the music and even repeat a portion of the message inscribed on the screen, "A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far, away...."

I was entranced by that movie and still am. In fact, I have a video copy of the film. Come over one evening and we'll watch it together along with a bag of popcorn and sodas. What was it about this film that so captivated my interest and attention? Was it the visuals, the futuristic technology or the actors? All of those things were great, but there was something else that really captured my attention. It can be summed up in the most memorable and oft quoted line from the movie, "May the force be with you."

This movie was built around the theme of an invisible power which was present and available for use by the characters in the film. It was like a vast energy field radiating throughout the universe, holding it all together, but also available to be used for good or evil by those who knew how to access its power. It was never described as being divine, but it did possess divine like capabilities. To be perfectly honest, it was more in line with Hindu theology than Christianity, especially the notion of "karma". But it did serve one vitally important purpose. It awakened people to the possibility that the universe and our little place here on earth within that universe is more than simply a collection of matter and energy. Could there be something of a more spiritual nature interacting with the physical realm in which we live? The Bible boldly declares there is, the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit.

Beginning this morning and continuing for the next four Sundays, we're going to take a look at this almost forgotten aspect of God's nature and character. For example, take a look at the Apostle's Creed. It spends a great deal of time describing God the Father and especially God the Son. But the description of the Holy Spirit is quite brief. It is reduced to one brief sentence, "I believe in the Holy Spirit." Nothing is said about who the Holy Spirit is or what He does. He just exists. Nevertheless, the Bible is filled with an overwhelming number of references to the Holy Spirit, beginning in the book of Genesis and continuing all the way to the book of Revelation.

So this morning let's begin by trying to come to a better understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and what He is up to in this world of ours. This is a simple definition that I came up with years ago and I believe that it's a good place for us to begin. The Holy Spirit is the presence and the power of God at work in the world. We are introduced to Him in the second verse of the book of Genesis. Genesis, chapter one, verse two declares "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Do you understand the picture that is being painted for us? The earth was a watery sphere of matter devoid of any recognizable structure or life, waiting for the presence and power of God to begin shaping it into something that would be winsome and beautiful. We come away with the mental portrait of an artist shaping a lump of clay into something that will eventually be attractive and useful.

Perhaps that's what Dorothy Sayers, an English dramatist and writer, had in mind when she came up with one of the most interesting descriptions of the triune nature of God. She said that God the Father is like an author who is contemplating, thinking about something which He desires to write. God the Son, Jesus Christ, is the self-portrait of the heavenly Father, the tangible expression of who He is, written in the flesh and blood of humanity. God the Spirit is like an author actually sitting down and beginning to compose this description of Himself which everyone will be able to read and understand. In other words, the Holy Spirit is the hands and feet of God at work in the world, a presence uniquely revealed in Christ Jesus, but also active and involved with humanity both before and after His advent. Although this description of the Trinity is inadequate, like all such descriptions are, it nevertheless corresponds with what Paul said in his first letter to the Corinthians. He's talking about Christ and how He was God's secret plan for our redemption from ages past. But now we have been made aware of this secret because "God has revealed it to us by His Spirit" (1 Corinthians 2:10). In other words, from the very beginning the Spirit of God was an integral part, an essential part, of His triune nature.

So when we talk about the third person of the Trinity, speaking of Him as the "Holy Spirit," what do we mean? The word "holy" means special, one of kind, separate and distinct from everything else. The word

“spirit” is the same word that is used in the Bible for that force of nature which we call the “wind.” In the Gospel of John, Jesus actually told Nicodemus that God’s Spirit is like the wind. He said, “The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going” (John 3:8). So as stated earlier, the Holy Spirit is the presence and the power of God at work in our world. We can sense His presence like a gentle breeze and we can also experience His more intense presence as He moves and shapes the world in which we live.

As we were reminded in the passage of Scripture that was read this morning, Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit after His departure into heaven. On the day of Pentecost that promise was fulfilled. Like a mighty wind, the Holy Spirit swept into the place where they were meeting and they were filled with the Spirit of God. The lives of Jesus’ followers were dramatically transformed. The book of Acts records some of the marvelous, even fantastic things which took place--from miraculous escapes to miracles of healing. One account in Acts 19:12 says that during Paul’s extended ministry in Ephesus, even pieces of cloth that he had touched were taken to the sick and they were healed. For that reason some Biblical commentators say the book of Acts should not be referred to as the “Acts of the Apostles,” as is often the case in some translations, but rather as the “Acts of the Holy Spirit.”

Personally, I believe they are correct because the ministry of the Holy Spirit has not come to an end. It did not stop after the original Apostles died during the first century of Christianity. The ministry of the Holy Spirit has continued throughout the centuries of Christianity and it is still very much a part of the world in which we live today. Furthermore, the ministry of the Holy Spirit can and, indeed, should be a part of our lives as Christians right here and right now. So in conclusion, let me share some observations with you that are worthy of being remembered and treasured.

- The Holy Spirit is divine. He is as much a part of God’s nature and character as God the Father and God the Son. Without Him the divinity of God would be diminished. The Lord would not be the God who is revealed to us in the pages of the Bible.
- The Holy Spirit is eternal. He’s been the dynamic part of God’s being from the beginning. At the moment in which the earth and all of the universe was created, the Holy Spirit was there shaping and molding the world in which we now live.
- The Holy Spirit is personal. He is not an inanimate force of nature that can be harnessed to meet our demands and desires. He is the personal presence and power of God at work in the world and at work in our lives as Christians. As Jesus promised in the Gospel of John, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26). If the Holy Spirit is a Counselor, He is a person, someone with whom we can establish an ongoing relationship.

In closing I am reminded of Jim Cymbala, the pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, the one whose videos we watched during last year’s prayer emphasis. I met him years ago during a Franklin Graham Crusade. I wish I could tell you that he was a very impressive, charismatic speaker that commanded everyone’s attention. Just the opposite. He was a rather quiet, shy individual who spoke to us without any of the intensity or fervor that I had expected. Nevertheless, I knew that he was the pastor of a vibrant church in the heart of a decadent, crime ridden part of New York City. His congregation occupied a beautifully restored theater that seats hundreds of people. The church’s choir was known all around the world. Even more importantly, if you will remember from the video series, countless numbers of drug addicts, prostitutes, and other people living on the edge of oblivion, had been redeemed and saved by Jesus Christ, restored to meaningful and purposeful lives. How did that happen? Both he and his church family would be quick to tell you that their lives and the life of their church has been immersed in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

So let me ask you, "Is that what we need in our lives as individuals and in the life of our church? Harkening back to that thematic declaration in the Star Wars movie, do you think we should revise it, maybe just a little bit. Instead of saying, "May the force be with you," perhaps a better declaration might be, "MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU."

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Holy Spirit, Come"

Tommy Walker

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

Gracious God, we come today with joy for Your presence; we come with praise for Your glory; we come with gratitude for Your love. As we offer these gifts to You, send Your Spirit upon us, that our hands and our hearts may do Your work in the world. As we offer our lives to You, bless us with Your strength, that we may join with You to share Your gospel throughout the world. 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

"Come, O Spirit Dwell Among Us"

Hymn 329

THE SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on "Hymn to Joy"

Mark Rippe

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

July 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> <i>Fourth of</i> <i>July</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> <i>10 am Worship</i> <i>Communion</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> <i>10 am Worship</i> <i>5¢ a Meal</i> <i>BCM collection</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> <i>10 am Worship</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>		

Joys- June 29th

Joy- The Barefoots celebrated 65 yrs of marriage

Joy- Betty Goodman celebrated her 90th birthday and Betty Salley's birthday is on the 25th

Joy- Lori Stetson sharing her many gifts with us

Joy- Michelle Goode thankful for safe travels and improving health

Joy- Deanna Rutledge thankful for church family coming to rescue when their car died

Joy- Barbara Compter shared prayers answered as friends family left Israel

Concerns- June 29th

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

Jean (friend) family having strife

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

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

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

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
Friend lost wife
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 29th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

Sunday: July 6th

10 am Worship

Communion

July Birthdays

Lois Diddams - 2

Helen Heinrich - 4

Ryan Johnson- 6

Margaret Morris - 9

Charlotte McManis- 11

Janet Yodis – 13

Larry Compter- 18

Nancy Van Dyke - 22

Jay Gould – 31

BPC Financial Snapshot – May 2025

General Operations Income			General Operations Expense		
Forecast	Actual	YTD	Budget	Actual	YTD
Ahead/(Behind)			(Over)/Under		
\$18,810	\$14,297	(\$4757)	\$21013	\$10,428	\$42,155

Holy Spirit Sermon Series

Beginning this morning and continuing in the weeks to come, we will be examining what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit. We will be taking a look at who He is, His ministry with us as individuals and as members of the Christian Church, how He enters and becomes a part of our lives, how He blesses us with special gifts and abilities, and how He helps us to acquire the character traits and disposition of the Lord Jesus Christ. This will be one of the most important sermon series that has been presented to our church family during the pastorate of our interim minister. Listed below are the sermon titles for each Sunday:

June 29—Who Is the Holy Spirit

July 6—The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

July 13—The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

July 20—The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

July 27—The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

End Times Bible Study

Several of our members have asked about what the Bible tells us about the future, especially in light of the events that have recently transpired between Israel and Iran. Our interim pastor is willing to offer an “End Times Bible Study” during the month of July, meeting at a special time, probably on Wednesday afternoons or evenings. If you are interested in attending, please meet at the front of the sanctuary immediately following the morning worship service today.