

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)

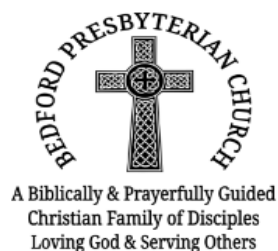


Week of July 13, 2025

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

"In the Garden"

arr: Mark Hayes

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

One: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

All: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of Your love.

Hymn

"Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God"

Hymn 140

Prayer of Confession: *(in unison)*

Heavenly Father, two thousand years ago You poured out Your Spirit upon Your church. We know there needed to be only one Pentecost, but in light of that great event and in keeping with Your promises, we plead with glad expectancy: Fill us with the Holy Spirit so that onlookers will question our sobriety and sanity. Restore to us the joy of our salvation. Fill our hearts and mouths with Your praises. Forgive us for being satisfied with a correct theology of the Spirit, but with little evidence of the Spirit's power and presence in our lives. We're tired of playing church... being lukewarm... being petty... being bored and boring one another... being more preoccupied with ourselves than with Your cosmic story of salvation and hope. Heavenly Father, we need You more than ever. Give us Your Spirit in abundance. In the powerful and loving name of Jesus we pray. 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 19:1-7

Worship Medley

"The Celebration Song"
"He Is Good"

Chambers

Sermon

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

After His resurrection and just before His ascension into heaven, Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for a special gift that would be bestowed upon them. He told them, "For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). Ten days later during the Feast of Pentecost that promise was fulfilled. Jesus's disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. A mighty wind swept through the place where they were meeting and they were anointed by flames of fire. Immediately thereafter they began praising the Lord, declaring the wonders of God in a multitude of different languages. What took place on that day and what does it mean for us as Christians in the twenty-first century? Should we also expect to experience such a marvelous outpouring of God's Spirit upon our lives?

These are important questions, but before we attempt to answer them, there's some background information that may prove to be helpful. When the Bible talks about being "baptized by the Holy Spirit" or "filled with the Holy Spirit," the Scriptures are describing the same experience. Imagine for just a moment standing beside a cool mountain spring on a hot summer day. You're really thirsty. So what do you do? You take a cup and submerge it in that stream of refreshing water. Once it's filled up, you lift it to your lips and drink. The same thing happens when God's people are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. Like an empty cup they are submerged into or baptized by God's Spirit. Then they are filled with the life-giving power of His presence.

Being filled or baptized by the Holy Spirit had always been a part of the religious life of the Jewish people dating all the way back to the days of Moses. Take, for example, what happened when Moses needed a little help with his leadership responsibilities (Numbers 11:16-25). God took a portion of His Holy Spirit which He had bestowed upon Moses and shared it with seventy of the elders among the Israeli people. God imparted His presence into the lives of these men in such a way that they were filled with a prophetic ecstasy that everyone could witness as a sign that God had filled them with His Spirit. The same is true of other Jewish leaders in the Old Testament including David and Solomon and prophets like Elijah and Elisha. In fact, when Elijah was getting ready to turn over the reins of prophetic leadership to Elisha, Elisha asked for a double portion of his predecessor's spiritual power (2 Kings 2:9-10).

Sometimes the thought of being baptized in the Spirit and being baptized for salvation can be confusing. Both are unique and separate experiences. Being baptized for salvation is an outward, physical demonstration that a person has accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. I still remember the baptismal service that our church held in the creek near the home of John and Judy Blair. Those who had recently accepted Christ as their Savior were immersed in the flowing waters of Big Otter Creek. It was a joyous experience for each of those who were baptized as well as for those who watched from the shoreline. Equally joyous but for the most part exclusive of water is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It can happen at any time and any place that the Lord chooses. On the day of Pentecost it probably took place in the Upper Room where Jesus had celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples. For others it has taken place in various locales. As some of you may remember from a previous sermon, the famous evangelist Dwight L. Moody was filled with the Holy Spirit on the streets of New York City. Whereas baptism by water represents our salvation, the washing away of our sins as we are immersed, the baptism of the Spirit represents our wholehearted devotion to God. He fills us with His Spirit so that we can accomplish what He wants us to do. Sometimes new Christians are so devoted to Christ that God saves them and fills them with His Spirit at the same time. But that is not the usual way it happens. We have to grow in Christ and become open to His lordship in our lives. That is evidently what had happened when Paul visited the city of Ephesus. When he asked the church's leaders if they had received the Holy Spirit when they were baptized, they said, "No, only the baptism of John." Paul explained that this was a baptism for the repentance sins. Then placing his hands on them, these leaders of the church in Ephesus received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and were filled with His presence, just like followers of Jesus had been filled with the Holy Spirit's presence on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 19:1-7).

So what about us? Is the baptism, the filling of the Holy Spirit, something that we should be seeking? Will that experience alter the way we live? Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit something which is reserved for those who are the super saints in the Kingdom of God? Let's see what the Scriptures say, including the passage that was read this morning.

- **The baptism/filling of the Holy Spirit is a joyous experience.** In the Bible it is frequently referred to as prophesizing, praising God, speaking in unknown tongues and sometimes as unintelligible speech such as is described in the twelfth chapter of 1 Corinthians. Modern day expressions tend to accentuate this last possibility, coupled sometimes with outlandish behavior. For that reason

many Protestant denominations have shied away from this manifestation of the Holy Spirit. In reality, being filled with the Holy Spirit can be such a momentous event that it simply overwhelms our ability to speak coherently. It's like those deliriously, joyful events in life in which we either can't speak at all or our words come out in a rush of sounds and syllables that are almost impossible to understand. Simply stated, being filled with the Holy Spirit is being overwhelmingly happy in the Lord.

- **The baptism/filling of the Holy Spirit is a transforming experience.** It changes who we are, our outlook on life. We begin seeing things from God's perspective instead of our own. His presence within us guides our thinking and actions. An example from the American frontier following the great spiritual awakening in the early 1800's serves as a vivid example. The presence of the Holy Spirit was so powerful that most of us would probably feel a bit uncomfortable if we could go back in time and witness those revivals. Nevertheless, one year after those revivals that lawless portion of the frontier had been completely transformed. Previously, life in that section of Kentucky was so vile that many thought it irredeemable. Now there were churches and schools and peaceful households that had been freed from the curse of alcoholism.
- **The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a requested experience.** The Holy Spirit is a perfect gentleman. He will not give you what you do not want. He will not force His way into your life. Speaking about the power of prayer, Jesus told His disciples on one occasion, "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). Our heavenly Father desires to fill our lives with His Spirit and that is a good thing. It is available to every believer who has entrusted their lives into the care of the Lord Jesus Christ. It enables us to live more meaningful lives, lives that are filled with His love and lives that draw other people unto Him.

Returning for a moment to the passage of Scripture that was read today, what were the followers of Christ doing when the Holy Spirit fell upon them? They were praying, praying for boldness to proclaim the Word of God, praying that He would stretch out His hand to heal the sick and perform miraculous signs and wonders. It didn't take God long to answer that prayer and I suspect that when God's people pray the same kind of prayer today, His response will be just as powerful and just as immediate.

Remember those transistor radios of another generation? Every teenager wanted one and one way or the other most teenagers got one. Just having one was very desirable. However, just having a transistor radio was not of much value until you turned it on. The same is true of Christianity and the Holy Spirit. When you become a Christian, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your life. But you will never enjoy the full benefits of being a Christian until you have invited the Holy Spirit to become a dynamic part of your life. Like turning on a radio, only then will He be able to speak to you and move and work through you in ways that would otherwise be impossible. Then and only then will you be able to join with the heavenly hosts in a song of joyful and exuberant praise to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"Mighty Wind"

Andrae Crouch

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, pour out Your Spirit upon us, that our hands and our hearts and these offerings may further Your work in this place and 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*"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"*

Hymn 132

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

James Denton

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of my Mom's birthday and the birth of our country. Colleen Palmer

July 2025

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

Joys- July 13th

Joy- Paul Van Dyke was thankful for Bill Mitchell stepping in at last minute to help

Joy- Betty Salley was thankful for answered prayers. John's lymphoma is "lazy", and only requires routine bloodwork

Joy- Lori Stetson was thankful that Savannah's surgery went well and she is home again. Continued prayers.

Joy- Judy Blair was celebrating Rev. Henderson's 56th year in ministry

Concerns- July 13th

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

Those affected by floods

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, abandoned

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

DeWitt: travel mercies

Dwyer: Bill recovering from knee replacement

Easter: Jim (brother) now cancer free

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

Goode: Prayers for goals with Christmas boxes
Sandra Grover- breast cancer
Heber Himmelwright was just diagnosed with Guillain–Barré
Lindsey Blanton is battling leukemia again.

Goodman: Grandson traveling to Brazil for mission work

Grigg: Chris Mays- diabetic complications

Grubb: John cancer, doing well

Harris: Jim, back pain
Judy- prayers for family on passes of sister-in-law

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Kuhn-Kibbey: David Rutledge, (son) remission, doing well

Mausser: 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

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 July 13th

Sunday: 10 am Worship

5¢ a Meal Offering

BCM donations/collections

Wednesday: End Times Seminar 5 pm

Sunday: July 13th

10 am Worship

July Birthdays

Janet Yodis – 13

Larry Compter- 18

Nancy Van Dyke - 22

Jay Gould – 31

Holy Spirit Sermon Series

During the remaining Sundays in the month of July, we will continue to discover what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit and how He desires to bless our lives. Each of the sermons and services in this series, which began on June 29, are available online at our church's website for your review and study—bedfordpresbyva.org.

The remaining sermons in this series are:

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit—July 13
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit—July 20
- The Fruit of the Holy Spirit—July 27

End Times Seminar

During the month of July, an End Times Seminar will be offered on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm.

Worksheets will be prepared in advance. The seminar will be similar to the prayer seminar last fall

Updated Pictorial Directory

It's time to update our pictorial directory and we need your help. We need to take some new photographs and to make sure that the information for each family in the directory is accurate.

Both members and friends of our church family are encouraged to participate. A copy of the current directory has been placed at the back of the sanctuary. Check out the page that contains information about you and your family to make sure it is accurate. If you wish, a new photograph of you and your family can be taken. Contact Bill Mitchell to have your picture taken or you can submit a picture of you and your family for the directory.