

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

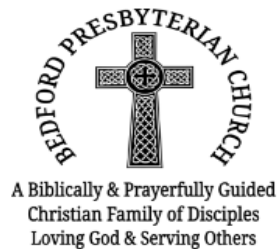
From 1844 to 2025 (181 Years)



Week of August 31, 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

Passing of the Peace

One: The Peace of Christ Be With You

All: And Also With You

Prelude

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Marianne Kim

Call to Worship

One: We gather together to worship God, who comes to us when we least expect it.

All: He calls us out of the safety of our ordered lives and invites us to join Him in the adventure of faith.

One: Let's worship God together!

Hymn

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

Hymn 56

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

God, You call us to step out in faith, to place our lives in Your hands and to wholeheartedly commit to following You. We confess that we find this difficult to do. It is not always easy to follow where You lead—to turn away from our own personal wants and desires, to let go of our safety nets and trust that You will provide for us in all things. Forgive us when we doubt You, God. Increase our faith. Open our eyes to see past our own interests and concerns, to Your broader vision for us and for our world. In Jesus' name 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

Scripture Reading

Matthew 14: 22-29

A Time for All God's Children

Men's Quartet

“Just a Little Talk with Jesus”

Cleavant Derricks

Praise Song

“I Want to Be More Like You”

Clint Brown

Sermon

In the Dust of Our Rabbi

Sermon by: Pastor Ben Banner

Matthew 4:19–20; Matthew 14:28

Main Idea:

Jesus doesn't just ask us to believe in Him — He invites us to follow Him. Discipleship means walking closely with Him, imitating His way, and becoming covered in the “dust” of our Rabbi.

1. The Preposterous Invitation

Jesus calls ordinary people — fishermen, tax collectors, outsiders — to follow Him. Unlike other rabbis, Jesus shows His belief in us before we believe in Him.

Read

Matthew 4:19–20 — “Come, follow me... at once they left their nets and followed him.”

Quote: “Before Peter ever believed in Jesus, Jesus showed that He believed in Peter.”

Reflect

Meditate on the fact that Jesus chose ordinary people to carry out His mission.

Pray: "Lord, thank You that You call me, not because of my greatness, but because of Your grace."

Respond

- How does it change your view of yourself to know Jesus believes in you?
- What is one "net" you may need to leave behind in order to follow Him more closely?

2. The Purpose of Discipleship

Following a rabbi meant living so close that you would be covered in his dust — watching, listening, imitating. Discipleship is not just learning about Jesus but becoming like Jesus.

Read

Matthew 14:28–29 — "Lord, if it's you... tell me to come to you on the water."

Quote: "The goal is to become more and more like Jesus, even in impossible moments."

Reflect

Meditate on what it means to "walk in the steps of Jesus."

Pray: "Lord, make me bold enough to step out of the boat and walk where You lead."

Respond

- Where is Jesus asking you to step out in faith this week?
- How can you practically imitate something Jesus did — in your words, actions, or priorities?

3. The Challenge for Us Today

Discipleship is not about fitting Jesus into our lives when convenient. It is about surrender — carrying our cross daily and living in step with our Rabbi.

Read

Luke 9:23 — "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Quote: "True discipleship is costly, but it is also the path to true life."

Reflect

Meditate on what "daily" means in this verse — not once, but every single day.

Pray: "Lord, give me courage to follow You fully, even when it's costly."

Respond

- Where are you tempted to follow Jesus only when it's convenient?
- What one step can you take this week to draw closer, so that you are covered in the dust of your Rabbi?

For the Week Ahead

Read: Matthew 4:18–22; Matthew 14:22–33; Luke 9:23–25.

Pray: Ask Jesus to help you follow closely enough to be "covered in His dust."

Act: Choose one practice this week (time, relationship, habit) to realign with Jesus' way.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

Worship Song

"I Give You My Heart"

Rueben Morgan

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. On the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Doxology*"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"*

Hymn 34

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord Jesus, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the distinct call You have placed upon our lives. Thank You for seeing us and for inviting us to be a part of what You are doing in the world. Use these offerings to help others come to know the joy of living in Your presence. 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*"O Lord, You Sent Your Friends Out"*

Carolyn Gillette

THE SENDING FORTH**Benediction****Postlude***"The Church's One Foundation"*

Phil Lenenbauer

The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents,
Joe & Ann Solon and Jerome & Rosabelle Salley,
by Betty & John Salley

September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <i>Labor Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>10 am Worship Communion</i>	8 <i>Scout kick-off 5:30 pm</i>	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>10 am Worship 5¢ a Meal BCM collection</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Centerfest Yard Sale</i>
21 <i>10 am Worship</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27 <i>Women's Bible Study, 10 am</i>
28 <i>10 am Worship</i>	29	30				

Joys- August 31st

Joy- What a joy to see Dot and Dick in church today!

Joy- Oncology report for John Salley was good, just needs to be tested every 3 months

Joy- Marcus (Sonya's brother) cancer is low risk

Joy- Thank you Fellowship Committee on the great potluck!

Concerns- August 31st

Barnes: Shannon Sledd (niece) cancer uterus, infection

Jerry Dillon (nephew) health issues

Jay's grandniece, husband pancreatic cancer surgery

Niece complications from surgery

Blair: Dr. Cohen stroke

Bill Dwyer complications from knee surgery

Brunot: Jim's brother Bill, completed chemo

Jim's mother fell

Cindy's brother- health issues

Uncle Dave is in ICU

Callahan: Mary Jane (friend) doing better

Steve Chaffin (friend) blood clots

Compter: Jeannie, Seth (both friend) health issues

Bob (friend) doing better

Laurie: mother has cancer

Michael (brother) home

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: Nick and Maggie as they start college

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

Harold Jackson- health issues

Friends cousin- serious car accident, injured eye

Foster: Lynn (sister-in-law) dementia

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: son-in-law health issues

Harris: Jim, back pain

Judy- sister-in-law has cancer

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems
Hopkins: son-in-law health issues
Kuhn-Kibbey: David Rutledge, (son) remission, doing well
Dot- not feeling well
Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems
Steven-(son's boss) going blind
Barbara (Al's sister) intense headaches
McManis: for grandson leaving USMC
Morris: Robert- recovering from surgery, doing well
Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and first responders
Forensic scientists who deal with crime
Rev. Pam Ledbetter
Neal: bladder cancer, health issues, Oakwood- 225
Nichols; Gracie Murphree blood pressure, multiple strokes
Rutledge: friend in Hawaii health issues
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
Marcus Walker (Sonya's brother) prostate cancer
Stetson: Nick, Tiffany
Savannah- bleeding may be go back in hospital
Morgan (nephew) life decisions
Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems
Matt- lung cancer, still suffering
Chief Hops not doing well
Wilkes: prayers for extended family

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 August 31st

Sunday: 10 am Worship, Rev. Ben Banner

Monday: Labor Day- office closed

Sunday: September 7th

10 am Worship, Rev. Ben Banner

Communion

August Birthdays

Donna Henderson- 31

September Birthdays

John Grubb- 1

Bill Yodis- 2

James Harris -12

Sandy Scheurer- 12

David Henderson - 12

Deanna Rutledge -16

Dick Kibbey -17

Harold Neal -19

Barbara Saunders- 20

Dick Diddams- 21

Ron Morris - 24

Jay Barnes- 29

September Anniversaries

Jay & Eunice Barnes-11

Gerald & Tammy DeWitt-19

The Annual Centerfest Yard Sale is a month away- Saturday, September 20th!!!

If you have anything to donate, please wait until Monday September 15th to bring to the church,

NO CLOTHES PLEASE.

Any funds raised will be used to defray costs for Operation Christmas Child.