



BEDFORD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"Heathers" by Lizzie Harper

September 3, 2023

Ordinary Time

Prelude

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

J. S. Bach

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome and Announcements

*Opening Sentences

Leader: God remembers and visits us and restores us to the community of faith.

People: We assemble with high expectations that God has much good in store for us.

Leader: The god gifts God bestows on us here are for our use in reaching out to others.

People: We want to use our talents in the service of Jesus Christ.

*Opening Hymn 473

For the Beauty of the Earth

Confession

Ever-present God, we have been protective of the gifts you have entrusted to us. We look for our own advantages rather than the well-being of others. We withdraw from those we consider less worthy than we, and court the attention of people who might enhance our position. What will it profit us if we gain the whole world but forfeit the fullness and goodness of life in you? We need your forgiveness and the gift of new life in Christ.

Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Sung Response

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some times I feel discouraged,
And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again. (Refrain)

***Passing of the Peace**

You may stand and greet one another.

Blessing of the Students and Teachers

*The children are welcome to stay for the service or they may leave
for Sunday Spirit.*

Epistle Lesson

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of

God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16: 21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Sermon

Follow the Light Rev. Courtney Steininger

Offering

Offertory

Fugue for the Trompette

F. Coupetin

***Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: We lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise...

Breaking of the Bread

***Communion**

Prayer after Communion and the 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 514**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice* J. S. Bach

*Please stand, if able

Announcements

Please fill out the pew pads and pass them to your neighbor.

A decorative border featuring various herbs and vegetables, including red chili peppers, green olives, purple garlic bulbs, and green leafy herbs, arranged in a repeating pattern around the central text.

Cooking for the food pantry SERVES: OUR COMMUNITY
PREP TIME: JUST SHOW UP

Next session: Wed, Sept. 6th	1) Help us prep food from
Continues every	Nativity Farm with the
other Wednesday.	Westchester Local Food Project
1 - 3 pm	2) Socialize while we cook
BPC Kitchen	3) Serve our community!



Lift every voice and **Ring!**



Please let Courtney know if your child would like to ring in worship on Welcome Back Sunday! Rehearsal will take place at 9:30 before worship on September 10th!

JOYFUL NOISE

We would love to have kids of all ages join us to sing throughout the year. Songs will be posted online and then rehearsed the morning of the performance. Our first performance this fall will be September 17th.

Contact Don Hiller-Dupont for more information.




A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a black cover and a white page. The page contains text about a training session. The background of the entire image is yellow with various colored pencils scattered around the notebook.

Answering Tough Questions About God

Training for Sunday Spirit Teachers &
Everyone Who Talks to Kids with Big Questions

Sunday, September 17th after church

Please RSVP to Courtney at
Courtney@bedfordpreschurch.org

A purple, multi-pointed star graphic.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th - 10 am
at the church

Leadership Retreat

Session, Deacons & Vision Committee
Members

JOIN US

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

**Sunday, September 10 is our annual
Welcome Back Sunday. We will
Bless the Harvest and then have our
Welcome Back Picnic.**



Sunday, September 10th

















BEDFORD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEP 3 - 9, 2023

Probable State of the Weather (with Moon Cycle)

Bedford Village, NY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
  Sunny 86°	  Mostly Sunny 89°	  Mostly Sunny 88°	  Partly Cloudy 88°	  Showers 87°	  Showers 81°	  Showers 77°

ON THE FARM

The harvests continue to be incredibly plentiful, and we have been able to donate both produce and meals to the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry. We continue to harvest beans, zucchini, and tomatoes, as well as corn, which we have used in our cooking. Additionally, Jorge and Edwin have been working on a trail to take you directly from the parking lot to the learning garden. Take a walk through the woods rather than going through the playgrounds in order to access the farm!

OTHER NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our volunteer hours at the farm are Thursday evenings from 5pm to 7pm. Please join us! If you are unable to volunteer during that time, let Courtney know or volunteer at any of the other Westchester Local Food Project gardens in the area.

We will continue to hold cooking events every other Wednesday through the rest of the growing season. If you don't want to support Nativty Farm with labor in the garden, please come chop vegetables and help us prepare meals for the Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry!

WHAT WE ARE READING

The six weeks starting September 1st mark a season of Creation for the global church to celebrate our Earth and continue to pray for its care. Enjoy this prayer for our planet from the Chinook Psalter,

*The garden is rich with diversity
With plants of a hundred families
In the space between the trees
With all the colours and fragrances.
Basil, mint and lavender,
Great Mystery keep my remembrance pure,
Raspberry, Apple, Rose,
Great Mystery fill my heart with love,
Dill, anise, tansy,
Holy winds blow in me.
Rhododendron, zinnia,
May my prayer be beautiful
May my remembrance O Great Mystery
Be as incense to thee
In the sacred grove of eternity
As I smell and remember
The ancient forests of earth.*

THIS WEEK'S TO DO LIST

Continue to water plants and harvest!

Bulletin & Weekly E-NEWS Announcements

To sign up for our weekly E-NEWS that has live links to all of our announcements, please go to the BPC website at **bedfordpreschurch.org** and select either '**Contact**' at the top **or** **E-NEWS** just below it. To have information entered into the Bulletin and/or the E-NEWS, please email Jessica at **Office@bedfordpreschurch.org** & Elyssa at **Elyssa@bedfordpreschurch.org** by the end of the day Tuesdays for entry into that week's media.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Sunday, September 3rd

10 am	Worship, Communion and Blessing of the Backpacks
11 am	Lemonade on the Lawn

Monday, September 4th – OFFICE CLOSED – Happy Labor Day!!

9 am	NO Yoga
------	---------

Wednesday, September 6th

12 pm	Cooking with the Interfaith Food Pantry
-------	---

Thursday, September 7th

10 am	Bible Study. Please contact Alan McDougall at alanmcd@verizon.net
5 pm	Nativity Farm Work Session

Saturday, September 9th

10 am	Session & Deacon Retreat
-------	--------------------------

Sunday, September 10th

10 am	Worship
11 am	Welcome Back Picnic

Our Leadership

Session

Clerk of Session Brian Hiller-Dupont, President Michelle Gosh,

Linda Burpee (Mission),
Jessica Cunningham (Personnel and Stewardship),
Danielle Gamar (Christian Education),
Maria Andrea Laverde (Nativity Farm),
Suzanne Millette (Finance),
Sarah Ryan (Property & Maintenance),
& Bart Tyler (Members & Friends and Stewardship)
Moderator Reverend Carol Howard

Deacons

Chair Kim Lapple, Sarah Alley, Marcy Carlson,
Kathy DiBiasi, Michele Eames, Pat Ferguson, &
Diane Palmento

Staff

The Reverend Carol Howard, Pastor

The Reverend Courtney Steininger, Minister of Christian Education

John Lettieri, Director of Music

Jessica DeAlto, Office Manager

Elyssa Michaels, Director of Congregational Life & Digital Ministries

The Reverend Thomas A. Hughart, Pastor Emeritus

Office@bedfordpreschurch.org www.bedfordpreschurch.org
P.O. Box 280, 44 Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506
914-234-3672