

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2020 (176 Years)



Week of September 27th

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 for those that are uncomfortable to attend service yet.

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.

Please be in prayer for the end of the coronavirus and healing for those affected by it.



Bedford Presbyterian Church
serving Christ since 1844

A Biblically Guided Christian Community,

Loving God, Loving Others,

Serving the World & Growing Disciples

The Approach to God

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And Also with you

Prelude

"If God Himself Be for Me"

Bill Rutledge

Words of Welcome and Announcements.

- A reminder that Communion will be on October 11th
- All announcements are printed at the back of this bulletin.

Call to Worship:

One: We gather to worship God who alone can heal us and make us whole.

All: Open our hearts that You may transform our lives with Your healing touch.

One: We gather to worship God who alone speaks the Word that calls forth life.

All: Open our minds that You may transform us with Your authoritative Word.

One: We gather to worship God in spirit and in truth.

All: Open our spirits that You may transform us by Your powerful Spirit.

Introit

"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

Praise Team

Prayer of Confession:

All-loving God, we confess that sometimes we offer You only half our heart. We confess that we too often hold back, willing to commit only a limited portion of our time, our energy, our resources, our vision and our gifts to witnessing Your goodness and Your good news in the world. We confess that the example of the woman who ministered to Jesus often makes us uncomfortable because it is so abundant, so abandoned, so excessive. Remind us, all-loving God that You gave everything. Remind us that You created us in Your image and filled us with Your spirit so that we, too, can give everything. Grant us the courage to be people wholeheartedly Yours! Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

God has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?' (Hebrews 13:5-6)

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

"Glory Be to the Father"

Proclaiming the Word of God

Time for all God's Children

Worship Song

"You Are My Hiding Place"

Praise Team

Scripture:

Daniel 3:1-30

Sermon:

Tested By Fire

Imagine being exiled from the country in which you were born, required to embrace a culture completely alien to everything that you had known, forced to serve in a government ruled by a foreign king. That's precisely what three Jewish lads were subjected to when they were taken away in captivity by Nebuchadnezzar, the ruler of the Babylonians. Even their names were changed. They were now known as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—names which indicated that they now served the gods of the Babylonians, not the God of their Hebrew ancestors. Talk about your world being turned upside down, that's what had happened in the lives of these three men. Nevertheless, they had remained true to the God of Israel, and they were willing to stand up tall and straight for Him no matter the consequences.

Those consequences were soon upon them after Nebuchadnezzar erected a huge golden statue on the plain of Dura. It may have been a statue of the king himself or perhaps of the god whom he believed had led them to victory against his nation's enemies. In any case, its erection had a singular purpose. Bowing down and worshipping the statue was a visible demonstration that Nebuchadnezzar was the supreme ruler over all of his subjects. Anyone who disobeyed him would be severely punished. In other words, he and he alone would dictate the standards of behavior and belief which everyone had to obey.

For Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, this was so to speak a "bridge too far." Crossing that bridge would be a denial of their faith, and they were simply not willing to go there. When the royal orchestra began to play, they were not willing to bow down to an idol of gold. When they were brought before the king, they were not willing to bend under the pressure of royal authority. Even when they were threatened with annihilation in a fiery furnace, they would not surrender their allegiance to God in exchange for freedom. They told the king, "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." That is the kind of faith that God's people need today, the kind of faith that does not cave in, even in the face of sustained adversity.

Years ago I had the opportunity to hear the testimony of an individual who faced just such a time of testing. It took place during his last year in high school, which at first glance might appear to be not nearly as life threatening as what Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had faced. But stay with me for a few moments and I think you will recognize the similarities. Larry Phillips was a star athlete on his football team. If I remember correctly, he was the starting quarterback. The previous year the team had won most of their games. They expected going into the new fall

season that this was going to be the year when they won the district championship and perhaps even the state title. Larry was a devout Christian and after giving careful consideration to what he felt was God's will for his life, he decided that the Lord had some other things for him to do during his senior year rather than playing football. The disbelief and then the outrage beginning with the coaching staff and continuing throughout the school was intense. He was immediately ostracized by everyone. Even though it was emotionally painful, he would not bow down to the idol of a perceived football championship, and he would not bend under the pressure of friends and teammates who tried to force him to change his mind. He remained true to his convictions even though it was one of the most difficult and lonely times in his life. He refused to be burnt in the fiery furnace of their rejection.

Now what about you and me in this age of politically correct speech and life styles? Where should we stand in a world that is becoming increasingly secularized, a nation that has abandoned its Christian heritage. Let's be honest, America was founded upon the principles of the Christian faith. For example, in the 1800's if you wanted to be a lawyer, you studied the works of Sir William Blackstone, the foremost authority on legal jurisprudence. His writings were based upon the Scriptural doctrines found in the Bible. Not only that, but schools and frequently courts of law had the Ten Commandments inscribed upon the walls of their buildings. Additionally, the Founding Fathers of our nation not only embraced but emphasized the importance of the Christian faith. Writing to the Militia of Massachusetts in October of 1798, John Adams said, "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." In light of what is happening today in cities all across America, his warning has become prophetically fulfilled.

So, what are we to do? Bow down and bend to the dictates of those who want to force their values and beliefs upon us? Or should we stand true and unbowed just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Perhaps we need to be reminded of what Jesus said so long ago. Speaking of the events that would transpire before His return, He said, "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:9-13). His words were echoed in what Paul had to say to Timothy in his second letter. He wrote, "You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings—what kind of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:10-12).

So make no mistake, unless you run and hide you will face persecution even right here in America. It's already beginning to take place. Just recently I read about a Naval chaplain that was court-martialed for praying in Jesus name. Had not the US Congress reversed this decision, he would have lost everything including his 16 year career and pension. Speak too loudly, stand

up for your beliefs and there will be consequences. Just recently the General Assembly in Virginia based laws regarding gender discrimination. Churches now face significant penalties if they are found to be in conflict with these new laws.

Golden statues on the plain of Dura. New anti-Christian laws and polices enacted by secular governmental bodies. It's like a time warp reaching out from the past into the present. But have no fear, for God will not only deliver you but He will honor you just as He did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Remember my story about Larry Phillips and how he stood up for Christ? Because of his testimony and the way it was expressed through his life, guess who was invited to be the speaker at his high school class reunion. So here's God's promise to us. If you don't bow and you don't bend to those who want you to forsake your beliefs and your God, you will never burn! Your conscience will not be scorched because you failed to remain true to the Lord, and you'll not have to worry about the flames of a fiery hell separating you from God for all of eternity.

Response to the Word of God

Worship Song

"I Will Bow to You"

Bill Rutledge

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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 will 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

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Let us, O Lord, offer our lives, our hearts and our gifts to serve You. As our vision is renewed, so renew our acts of kindness, our dedication to show Jesus to the world and our desire to make our spheres of influence better reflect the glory of God. Amen.

Lord's Prayer *Now let us pray together the prayer our Lord taught us*

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.

The Sending Forth

Benediction

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 15:5)

Postlude

"How Firm a Foundation"

Bill Rutledge



***Communion will be held on Sunday, October 11th
Please have your juice and bread ready!***

Joys- September 27th

Eunice- thank you for prayers for passing of brother

Concerns- September 27th

Barnes: Kim Hedrick- (friend) health issues

Eunice- sciatica

Sonya Forte- (daughter) broken wrist

Benton: Linda Crawford- (friend) cancer, good test results

Blair: Katy Neel- (LHS student) lymphoma- chemo

Glen Murgacz- (friend) terminal brain cancer

Rhonda Witt- (neighbor) hospitalized with blood infection, home now

Boone: Jim Hedrick - (friend) recovering from partial lung removal

Roy Graeber- (Sammy's cousin)- recovering from intestinal surgery

Judy Jockets- (sister's friend) lung cancer

Jim Cutler- (LHS teacher) stage 4 lung cancer

Carey: Laura- prayer outreach ministry, boldness and protection

Chryssikos: Linda Arendt- (neighbor) disabled

Compter: friends exposed to Covid

Elizabeth- (friend) nearing end of life, not a believer

Bob- (friend) Parkinson's

Michael Compter-(brother) heart failure

Cram: Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Ryan- (grandson) searching for his faith

Diddams: Lois- problems with medications

Paul (brother)- loss of wife, not doing well

Dills: Katy Neel- lymphoma- chemo

Fleming: family dealing with addiction and self- esteem

Steve Trombecky- (friend) home recovering

Christina- (daughter) lives in Covid hotspot

Peter Klaus- (brother) motorcycle accident

Foster: Joyce Abbott- (former member) cancer

Andre Nemenek- (Shepherds table cook) prostate cancer

Mike Milton- (friend Donna Cone's brother) tested positive

Marian Kelly- (friend) breast cancer, mother's caretaker

Goodman: Randall Sales-(SRHS coach) cancer

Katherine Saunders- (Hugh's daughter) hospice

Alec Epperly- granddaughter) difficult pregnancy- in hospital

Gould: cousin in Texas has virus

have cousins in Lake Charles, LA

Griggs: Danny Miller- (co-worker) bladder cancer

Harris: Judy- doing better

Jim- recovering from knee surgery

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Koch: Doris- stroke

Kuhn- Kibbey: Nancy Milton- (friend) cancer, Alzheimer's

Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration

Grandson- alcoholism

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Norma Jean- (Gayle's sister) medical issues

Meyers: Scouts needing new meeting place and Scout Master

Mitchell: Bill- cancer, chemo and injections

Monk: Libby- hurt her hip and in pain

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Rev. Pam Ledbetter-(friend) home, doing well

Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home

Neal & Win Holland- in Australia, whole family has Covid

Richwine: Joan- sciatica

Salley: Emily Salley- (sister-in-law) recovering, good test results

West Coast dealing with fires, Gulf hurricane aftermath

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)

Scott- (son-in-law) chemo and radiation

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick-(friend) cancer, partial lung removed

Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer

Sonny- (son) colon cancer

Smith: Dorothy Smith (John's mother) moving into assisted living, prays she comes to the Lord

Kathi McCarl- (friend) had back surgery, not lucid after surgery

Stetson: David Wykle- lymphoma

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Mike Elliston- asthma

Richard Taylor- (brother-in-law) home recovering

Toney: Karen Hyde-(friend) bladder cancer

Cal Rice- (former pastor) bone cancer, refused treatment

White: Robert- pacemaker and defibrillator implanted

Wilkerson: Ricky Wilkerson-(Dan's cousin) cancer

Prayers for those dealing with loneliness

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Prayers for an end of the coronavirus and healing for those infected

Prayers for our divided country and the violence occurring

Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different

Three new ways to support Bedford Presbyterian Church ministries

CREDIT CARD! -- Go to the Bedford Presbyterian Website and look for the DONATE button. Donations through the website will be charged a 2% processing fee by the Presbyterian Foundation.

For more information:

<https://www.bedfordpresbyva.org/donate.html>



SHOP ONLINE! – on your web browser or cell phone app shop at Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com). Register Bedford Presbyterian as your charity of choice and Amazon will .5% of your entire eligible purchase price to the church.

For more information: <https://smile.amazon.com/>



SHOP IN THE STORE – Link your Kroger Card to Bedford Presbyterian Church as your charity of choice and a percentage of all your purchases will be contributed to the church.

For more information:

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>



**A reminder that early voting is available Monday- Friday
from 9am – 5pm at the gym across from the
Water Authority on Falling Creek Road**

**Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.
You can mail your pledge or contribution (also 5 ¢ a meal and Heifer) or you
can drop by the office, Mon-Thurs between 8 am - 4pm.**

Activities for week of September 27th:

Sunday: 10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker
11:30 am Prayer Time in the fellowship hall

Monday: Quilters- 6 pm

Tuesday: NO Something More

Sunday: October 4th
10 am Worship with Rev. Philip Parker
11:30 am Prayer Time in the fellowship hall

Would you prayerfully consider helping to lead our Church?

Our Church nominating committee has several openings and is now prayerfully looking for 6 people to serve in leadership positions for class of 2023 (a 3-year term). If the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about the possibility of serving in any of these areas, please talk with: Paul Van Dyke, Russell Stevens, Sonya Smith, Dot Kuhn, or the pastor

Elder in charge of Discipleship

Elder in charge of Finance

Elder in charge of Worship

Deacon

2 Trustees



Happy Birthday!

Jay Barnes – 29

