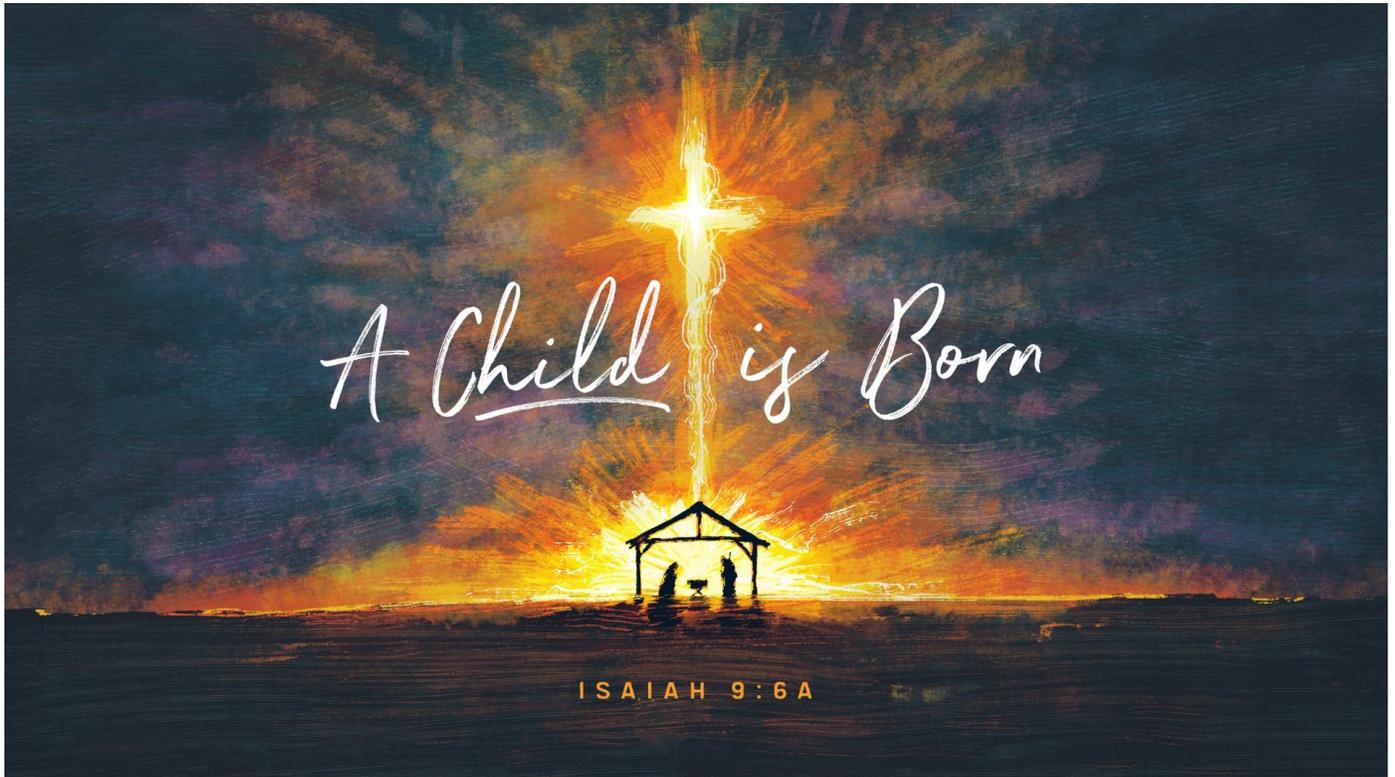


# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2021 (177 Years)



## December 24<sup>th</sup>

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.



*A Biblically Guided Christian Community,*

*Loving God, Loving Others,*

*Serving the World & Growing Disciples*

**Prelude**

*“Christmas Selections”*

Bill Rutledge

**Processional**

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

Hymn 182

**Lighting of the Advent Candle - Christ**

The Blairs

**Reader One:** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest ...

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (portions of Isaiah 9:2-7 )

**Reader Two:** This night is a night to remember. A night when home broke in on us. A night when we found that we were not forgotten or alone or abandoned. This night is the night when here and there became one, when past and future combined in a breathless present. This is a night when we are home, in ourselves, in this family, in the God who loved us enough to walk beside us.

We gather in the night to proclaim the light. We shrug off despair and embrace hope. We set aside conflict and choose peace. We push away despair by claiming joy. We overcome hate by rising into love. Because this night we know, even in the shadows of our doubts, we know that we are loved. That’s what it means to be home.

**Reader One:** We light these candles, hoping to become the light, hoping to radiate light by how we live. We light these candles to create a space called home in this place, in our place. We light these candles to declare that unto us a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord. Welcomed home by angels singing and shepherds kneeling. Welcomed home by those like us who have worshiped for thousands of years. Welcomed home again tonight, right here, right now, in us. It’s time to be home.

**Light the Christ Candle and all candles of the wreath.**

**\*Advent Hymn**

*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”*

Hymn 198

**Welcome**

**Evening Prayer**

God, our Heavenly Father, as we gather again this evening to celebrate the coming of Your son into our world. May we begin to see this world through Your eyes, may we learn to grieve over that which grieves You, and rejoice over that which gladdens Your heart. As you chose the lowly and the poor, to first receive the news of Your son’s birth, so may we be among those who worship You in meekness of heart. And as we sing the songs and tell the stories of that baby born so long ago who was Emanuel - God with us - remind us again that His coming was to seek and to save the lost. So may we also live our lives and speak of our faith in ways that will point those whom You love - home to Jesus. And in this way, may the spirit of Christmas live in our

hearts all year long so that through our joyous gifts of time, talent, and resources may continue to spread abroad the good news -- that Christ was born to save. Amen.

<b>Hymn</b>	<i>“Long Ago, Prophets Knew”</i>	Hymn 167
<b>A Divine Promise</b>		Rev. Philip Parker
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>“O Little Town of Bethlehem”</i>	Hymn 180
<b>A Fulfilled Promise</b>		Rev. Philip Parker
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>“Mary, Did You Know”</i>	Ella Blair
<b>A Transformational Promise</b>		Rev. Philip Parker
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>“A Christmas Alleluia”</i>	Choir & Congregation
<b>A Lovely Promise</b>		Rev. Philip Parker
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>“Holy Night, Silent Night”</i>	Choir
<b>*Invitation to Holy Communion</b>		Rev. John Salley

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

**They will come from east and west and from north and south to sit at table in the kingdom of God.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.**

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. He came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

(let us pray) Heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.  
(congregation sits)

**Serving of the Bread and Juice**

(after everyone has received communion)

The Grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all. Let us Pray. (unison)

**O Lord, whose presence overfills the vastness of the universe yet whose Spirit can live in each of our hearts, we know there is no limit on the ways you can reveal yourself to us or come to us. We live in hope for the promise of your ultimate return in Glory, and yet we pray that we will also keep alert for the many ways you come to us daily.  
MARANATHA! ("Come Lord, Jesus") Amen**

***A Shared Promise***

Rev. Philip Parker

***\*Hymn***

*"Silent Night, Holy Night"*

Hymn 186



## Concerns- December 24<sup>th</sup>

- Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care, Frank had medical procedure done
- Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer  
Joey Hedrick- (Kim's husband) cancer
- Benton:** Linda Crawford- (friend) not doing well, chemo  
Kim- sister's neighbor- thyroid cancer  
Carolyn- (friend) diagnosed with bone cancer
- Blair:** Tonya Blair's friend (Shelly Longnecker) recurring cancer  
Troops deployed to South Africa  
Steve Arrington- (friend) pneumonia, possibly covid  
Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer
- Boone:** prayers for family of cousin that passed away  
Don Bartz- (brother-in-law) waiting on PET scan results
- Compter:** two brothers- unbelievers  
Prayers for friends to come to the Lord  
Bob- (friend) Parkinson's  
Michael Compter- (brother) heart failure  
Steve & Mary- (friends) Steve disabilities
- Cram:** Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems  
Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care  
Ryan- (grandson) searching for faith  
Nancy Holmes- (friend) stage 4 ovarian cancer, chemo, surgery  
Gayle Mauser- health issues, still struggling  
Roy- more medical testing
- Fleming:** family dealing with addiction and self-esteem  
Their children- having difficulties  
Dominic- (Ann Marie's brother) doing better
- Foster:** Joyce Abbott- (former member) doing better  
Howard- (Tom's brother) problem with legs  
Phyllis Smith's daughter has covid
- Goodman:** Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis  
Mike Virts- (nephew) may have liver transplant
- Gould:** Lyle- (son) passed away, prayers for family
- Graboyes:** Leslie's mom, passed away, prayers for family  
Leslie's dad- fell broke hip, recovering from surgery  
Brenda (friend) passed away, prayers for family
- Grigg:** Danny Miller (co-worker) cancer relapse
- Harris:** Judy- having difficulty swallowing, eating
- Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder  
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems
- Hopkins:** Mark- colon cancer, chemo
- Kuhn- Kibbey:** Nancy & Jeff Milton (friend) both in memory care  
Dot- idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, wet macular degeneration  
Dick- macular degeneration, taking shots
- Mauser:** Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems  
Steven-(son's boss) going blind  
Barbara-(Al's sister-in-law) intense headaches
- McManis:** those suffering from starvation in foreign countries  
Areas hit by tornados especially hospitals

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

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home

Kyle Coble- (cousin) lymphoma

**Nichols:** JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease

**Parker:** Danny Holdren, pastor at Peaks, ill

**Poindexter:** Heather- rheumatoid arthritis, looking for rheumatologist

Brett- friends 4yr old, brain infection, recovering from surgery

**Rutledge:** Sherry (friend) covid complications

**Saunders:** (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)

Scott- (son-in-law) terminal brain cancer

**Scheurer:** Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer

Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer

Sonny (son) colon cancer, recovering from surgery

**Smith:** Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord

Bill Walker- (Sonya's dad) referred to cardiologist

**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer

Katy Dubinski-(daughter) friend Michelle, depression

Kaleb- (grandson) pneumonia, possible feeding tube

**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems

Duncan Elliston- (fireman)

Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer

Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery

**Toney:** Wesley-(grandson) Crohn's disease, another blockage

**Van Dyke:** Donna Mannel (friend) MS

Eleanor- (Nancy's mom) stable, nursing home, pray for Salvation

**Winberry:** Chris- severe heart issues

**Prayers for Afghanistan citizens**

**Prayers for our nation and our President**

**Prayers for those dealing with loneliness**

**Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation**

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

**Prayers to speak and listen to those who are different**

**Prayers on ways to help Massanetta, who are hosting 50+ Afghan immigrants**

**Prayers for those that were affected by the tornados**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

### **Activities for week of December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Monday: Cubs

Tuesday: No Something More, will resume January 4<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm

Sunday: January 2<sup>nd</sup>

10 am Worship

Communion

Prayer Time following service

### **December Birthdays**

Jade Creasy - 28

Gayle Mauser - 30

### **January Birthdays**

Gerald DeWitt - 4

Christy Boone - 8

### **January Anniversaries**

Bill and Janet Yodis – 24

**With a heartfelt thank you to the congregation from  
Rev. John Salley, Rev. Bill Rutledge and Lana  
for all of the gifts that were showered on us this Christmas.  
We are truly blessed to have such a caring and loving church family.**

## Biblical Book Notes

We are coming to the day when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. On this topic and so many others, the church library has good reads to offer! The following books will be available at the back of the Sanctuary for checkout, or browse the library collection anytime. If you cannot make it in person, contact Lynne Palmer, your church librarian, who can arrange for home delivery.



- Rick Warren, **The Purpose of Christmas**. In this brief and readable gem, Warren reminds us that this is a time for celebration, salvation and reconciliation.
- Fulton Oursler, **The Greatest Story Ever Told**. Oursler invents a fictionalized narrative to flesh out New Testament events with imaginative dialogues. In this book Jesus emerges as "the compassionate, forceful Son of God, sent into the world to bring new life and hope..."
- J. Vernon McGee, **Ruth and Esther, Women of Faith**. This book highlights the relationship of the Book of Ruth to redemption.

## ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH HIS CREATION



How does God make Himself known unto us through His creation? This will be the subject of a class that Reverend Parker will be teaching, beginning on Sunday, **January 9th at 9:00 am**. The class will meet in the fellowship hall. During this class we will explore how God has revealed Himself through His creation in the pages of the Bible and down through the centuries of Christian history. We will also explore how God can reveal Himself to us when we spend time outdoors. Please sign up by contacting Rev. Parker or calling the church office.