

# Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2022 (178 Years)



## Week of July 31<sup>st</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.



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**

*"I Want to Walk as Child of the Light"*

Burkhardt

### **Welcome and Announcements**

- Prayer time meets in the Anna Latimer room following service.
- Farmers Market Prayer Table will be this Saturday.
- For other announcements, be sure to read the emailed version of the weekly bulletin.

**Minute for Missions**

Nominating Committee

Linda, Tricia

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: We gather here for the light of God's glory to shine in our hearts.

**All: We gather here to experience the presence of Christ.**

One: We gather here so that the Spirit may renew the image of God within us.

**All: We gather here in hope and expectation, in confidence and joy. Let us worship God.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"*

Hymn 93

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, we recognize You as the one who says, "Let light shine out of darkness." We know there are areas of darkness in our own lives and in situations in the world around us. Shine Your light into our hearts. Help us to walk in the light of Your grace and goodness as Your Spirit leads and guides us to faithful living. Forgive us when we veil Your Gospel by wandering from Your way and bring us back to the light of Your love. Remind us, that we are now Your lights in this world. May our words and actions be consistent with Your will and purpose made known to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

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 to the Father"*

Bill Rutledge

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

### **Introduction to Scripture**

**Scripture**

John 3: 17-21, 8:12

**Praise Team**

*"Light of the World"*

Cash/Bergthold

Are you afraid of the Dark? As a child I was very afraid. Now I realize that it was due to horror films I had watched, especially one titled **The Cyclops**, about a gigantic one-eyed man who could empty entire cattle cars of beef into his hungry mouth. This fearfulness dramatically impacted my daily chore of taking the garbage out to a can sitting in front of the house, which if I forgot to do in daylight would have to be done after dark. So, garbage bag in hand, I would very quietly open the back door, stealthily sneak down the back steps, click open the yard gate and gently lift the can lid before ... throwing the garbage in, slapping the lid down, slamming the gate shut behind me and dashing back up the stairs into the house ... all while imagining Mr. Cyclops rising from out of the backyard trees to snatch me up for an evening snack.

These days I actually like being out after dark, first because I now refuse to watch horror films, but more importantly because I have the light of Jesus shining in my heart. With Jesus, the light of the world, living in me I never have to fear the darkness ever again. While this may sound sabbily religious, it is basically what today's message is all about: Jesus as the LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

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The Apostle John opened his gospel account by first describing Jesus as "THE WORD," Who before the beginning of the world was both God and with God and through whom all things were made.

His next description was of Jesus the "**LIGHT OF THE WORLD**," shining in the darkness and bringing life to all, with the darkness never being able to overcome it. John loved this image of Jesus as THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, using it often both in both his Gospel account and his first letter to the Churches.

In fact, have you ever realized that the most popular verse in our Bible – John 3:16, about Jesus being sent to save our world – was framed within a discussion between Jesus and Nicodemus about living in darkness or coming to the light.

Chapter three of John's Gospel has Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a noted teacher of the law coming to visit Jesus "**by night**." Now he may have done so because nighttime was a convenient opportunity to gain a personal audience with Jesus, or because he wanted to hide this visit from other Pharisees who were seeking to discredit Jesus. But, from the conversation that follows, we must also see his nighttime visit as symbolic of a man, who while thinking otherwise about himself, had long lived in spiritual darkness, but was now beginning to come into Jesus' light.

So, Nicodemus was coming to Jesus intellectually as well as physically "in the dark." There were important concepts in Jesus' teachings that Nicodemus did not understand. Jesus had told him that, "*no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again, born from above,*" and Nicodemus couldn't wrap his mind around that. Isn't this a bit ironic, because Nicodemus was a prominent teacher of the Hebrew Bible and aren't such teachers in the business of dispelling darkness with the light of God's word? Supposing that Nicodemus knew the scriptures almost as well as himself, even Jesus was surprised at his lack of understanding that everyone – you and me included – needs a second, spiritual, birth into God's family: "*Are you the teacher of Israel,*" he asked, "*and yet you do not understand these things?*"

Of course, it isn't the **darkness of ignorance** that the Apostle John wants to talk with us about, rather, it is the **darkness of sin**. In today's scripture lesson, John writes, "*This is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.*"

All who do evil hate the light  
and do not come to the light  
so that their deeds may not be exposed"  
John 3:20

**Evil is the real problem.** Under cover of darkness, spiritual darkness, evil enlists the human heart in its battle against the light. You see the darkness – the evil – in our world does not simply ignore the light, it has long and – thankfully – unsuccessfully waged war against light that has

been given to us in Jesus. That is what John meant about *THE LIGHT shining in the darkness and the darkness not overcoming it.*

And we all nod our heads in agreement. Looking around at our society, we observe darkness at work everywhere. "It's a shame," we say, "what other people do." "Ain't it awful" we concur. But we need to be careful here. It's all too easy to see the darkness out there in other people and not see the darkness here in ourselves.

When we think about sin as darkness, we want to think of really dark sins -- the kind of which other people are guilty: criminal acts, embezzlement, murder, that sort of thing.

But notice, when John describes brazen sin, perpetrated by obvious sinners – as he next does in chapter 4 – he doesn't use the imagery of darkness. When John wants to show us bold-faced sinners, such as the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well, he uses a different image. Here was a woman who has already gone through five husbands, and, as Jesus points out, "The one you have now is not your husband" (4:18).

But in describing her condition, neither John nor Jesus uses the word darkness; instead her condition is one of **thirst**. As He points to the well where she has come to draw water, Jesus tells her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I give them will never be thirsty" (4:13-14). When it comes to the hard sins, the really notorious sins, Jesus, in the words of an old hymn, "**looks past the sin and sees the need.**"

But back here in chapter 3, notice that when John is using the image of darkness to reveal sin's deceptive grip on the human heart.... it is in Jesus' conversation with an upstanding community leader, a very religious person, a teacher of the law no less!

May I suggest here, where John is describing the darkness of sin, that you and I are expected to see ourselves implicated. It's not just the hopeless sinner who is in view here; it is the respectable sinner as well.

but those who do not believe  
are condemned already,  
**because they have not believed**  
in the name of the only Son of God

John 3:18

So John is describing what the darkness does to us! It robs us of faith. It delivers us into the worst sin of all, which is **the sin of unbelief**. John writes ...

He then goes on to say, "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God **It is not gross sin, you see, that disqualifies us from a life with God; it is not believing.**

Now, it's not that such people do not believe in anything. They do; they believe in something. We all do. What we believe in is whatever serves as the core truth around which we center our lives. There's something or Someone -- however undefined -- around which everyone of us builds our life and from which we take our cues for action. This is the basic definition of **faith**.

Several years ago, author Richard Foster described what he thought were the three most likely forces at work in the lives of modern Americans. His list was: **Money, sex, and power.** These three may very well be the essential building blocks of our own, all too common, American civil religion and we have a lot of latitude in how we use them.

Take money, for example, it can be the most important thing in my life whether or not I have much of it or even want much of it. The same with sex and power; I can err on either side of an obsession. In the name of power, I can seek to control everybody else, or I can see to it that everybody else controls me. And the way I chose to play it exposes my most basic beliefs about what is true in life. If I insist on being the master, it shows that I believe that power is the safe way to navigate through life. If I choose to be the slave, it shows that I believe subservience is the best path to security.

Whatever I make into the central value of my life becomes the core of my faith. The only trouble is, outside of God my faith is misplaced. And the outcome my misplaced faith is at best restrictive or at its worst destructive: a restrictive faith, because it may prevent me from living in the freedom for which I was created, or destructive because it places not only my life, but also the lives of others at risk.

Do you see how darkness has deceived us? And yet we love it! John writes, "*People loved darkness rather than light,*" We are prone to take refuge in the darkness! Why? Because we fear that the light will expose us, and once exposed, we will be condemned.

For all who do evil hate the light  
and do not come to the light,  
so that their deeds may not be exposed.  
John 3:20

But this is an unfounded fear. ***Christ was not sent into this world "to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*** Jesus does not judge us; what judges us is our own misplaced faith. In the language of John, we "***are condemned already, because....***" Why? ***because we have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*** He alone is able to secure us in this life and in the life to come.

It is said that Thomas Moore looked out his window one day to see a convicted felon on his way to the gallows and remarked, *there but by the grace of God go I.* His listeners thought he was making some pious statement about how his religion had made of him such a good man .... But in reality what he was saying is that we are all sinfully guilty and headed to the gallows were it not for the intervention of God's grace in our lives. *For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (3:17)*

So what Jesus and John hoped for Nicodemus and for me as well, is that if – in the Light of Jesus – I can see that the best of my goodness is no different from that of a condemned criminal. But, I can also see how God's grace can transform even me, so I can release my hold on the darkness and embrace Him in whom the light of life shines.

For Nicodemus and for us, it is just like that time in the wilderness when the people of God were being assaulted by poisonous snakes. They cried out in their anguish, "*What shall we do?*" God told Moses to make a bronze image of a snake and mount it on a pole in the midst of the camp. Then, whoever was bitten had but to look in faith upon that image to find relief.

Jesus tells Nicodemus that "*just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes may in him have eternal life.*"

This Son of Man is none other than Jesus, and in time Jesus was "lifted up," literally, on a cross. That's what Scripture means when it says in the most famous Bible verse of all that God "**gave us his only Son.**" He gave him up. He sacrificed Him out of love for you and me. And we have but to look to Him in faith – to change our mind about the core value in our lives, relying no longer on how much or how little money or power we have or anything else but instead, relying only on Him, on Jesus Christ, as the only One who can secure us, not just in this life but for eternity. As the Apostle John wrote in his opening lines: *in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.* (John 1:4)

Making decisions in the dark can lead to some regrettable consequences. Back in the days before electricity, a tightfisted old farmer was taking his hired man to task for carrying a lighted lantern when he went to call on his best girl. "Why," the farmer exclaimed, "when I went a-courtin' I never carried one of them things. I always went in the dark." "Yes," the hired man said, "and look what you got!"

I love the way light works. The tiniest candle can illumine the darkest cavern. One thing I know for sure: I need the light of Jesus in the dark cavern of my heart. While we don't know how their evening conversation ended, there is evidence that Nicodemus came to feel this way as well. How about you?

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD**

### ***Worship Song***

*"Here I Am to Worship"*

Tim Hughes

### ***Creedal Statement***

1 John 1: 4-7

This is the message we have heard from Jesus and proclaim to all, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

### ***Doxology***

*"Doxology"*

Hymn 44

### ***Sharing of Joys and Concerns***

### ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

Light of the world, You have created us to reflect Your light so that others may be able to see in the darkness. Thank You for the ways Your light shines in us and for the time we have been given to share Your light. Help us to realize how much the light grows when we share it. Give us the courage to also share the light of our time, talent, and treasures to whomever You place in our path. Amen.

### ***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.

### ***Closing Hymn***

*"O Word of God Incarnate"*

Hymn 670

## ***THE SENDING FORTH***

### ***Benediction***

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

### ***Postlude***

*“Christ is the World’s Light”*

Hymn Tune



**Today is the 50th Anniversary  
of the first Ordination of women to serve at BPC  
Eunice Barnes being the first elected female Deacon  
and Sarah Duis as the first elected female Elder**

## Concerns- July 31<sup>st</sup>

- Avery:** Tinkie, hospice care, Frank, cancer returned
- Barnes:** Kim Hedrick- (friend) cancer  
Joey Hedrick- (Kim's husband) cancer
- Benton:** Kim- sister's neighbor- thyroid cancer  
Faye McDaniel (friend) husband has severe health issues  
Tracey Thomas- (daughter's friend) chemo, lupus
- Blair:** Steve Arrington- (friend) pneumonia, possibly covid  
Marshall Dunlap- (friend) cancer
- Boone:** Don Bartz- (brother-in-law) undergoing tests  
Sarah Walker- (daughter) arthritis in neck  
Michael Bamber (friend) throat cancer, lymph nodes
- 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
- DeHart:** Dawn's mother radiation treatments
- Diddams:** Dick- back in hospital with sepsis
- Easter:** Ruby Key (friend) cancer
- Fleming:** Steve Trombecky- heart condition, in hospital  
James Anthony- (son) recovering from bypass surgery  
Steven Hall-(friend) loss of son
- Foster:** Ron- (brother-in-law) to get out of hospital and into home  
Ellen- trouble breathing  
Howard & Lynn (brother) difficulty with legs, wife dementia
- Goodman:** Charles- health issues, heart monitor, dialysis  
Betty- recovering from shoulder surgery  
John Wright (nephew) heart issues
- Grigg:** Danny Miller (co-worker) cancer relapse
- Heinrich:** Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder  
Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems
- Kuhn- Kibbey:** 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  
Gayle Mauser- health issues, still struggling
- McManis:** Charlotte, stroke, recovering  
Francis (sister) passed away keep family in prayers  
Janet (sister) nursing home  
Melissa (daughter) covid
- 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

**Narwid:** Ed- recovering at home, improving  
**Neal:** Janet- palliative care  
**Nichols:** JC (nephew's son) mitochondrial disease  
**Noell:** Becky, upcoming heart procedure, August 1  
**Poindexter:** Heather- rheumatoid arthritis  
**Saunders:** (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)  
Scott- (son-in-law) terminal brain cancer  
**Scheurer:** Jim Hedrick- (friend) cancer  
Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer  
Sonny (son) doing well  
**Smith:** Dorothy Smith- (John's mother) pray she comes to the Lord  
Katherine Tabor- (friend) stage 3 cervical cancer  
**Stetson:** Clay Ramsey- thyroid cancer  
Nick & Tiffany, baby doing well, Tiffany improving  
Kaleb, (Nick's son) recovering from wound tear  
**Stevens:** Jackie Landis- heart problems  
Duncan Elliston- (fireman)  
Bill Gray- loss of leg, cancer  
Jessica Canfield- (friend) struggling after surgery  
Smith Farris- (friend) recovering from surgery, pneumonia  
Tom Richardson- (friend) hospital, afib  
**Van Dyke:** Donna Mannel (friend) MS  
Nancy- lymphoma, prayers for remission, treatments  
**Winberry:** Chris- severe heart issues, improving  
Tom & Dee-(brother) COPD, maybe hospice, prayers for family

**Prayers for our nation and our President**

**Prayers for those dealing with loneliness**

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

**Russian invasion ends and not resort to nuclear weapons. Nations to stand up for freedom.**

**Prayers for new residents to come to worship with us**

**Prayers for our constant responders**

## AUGUST 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>10 am Worship Communion Prayer Time</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <i>Farmers Market Prayer Table</i>
<b>14</b> <i>10 am Worship 5 ¢ a Meal Offering Prayer Time</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>10 am Service Session Prayer Time</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Book Club, 4 pm</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Cancer Group, 6 pm</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>10 am Service Prayer Time</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

## 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 July 31<sup>st</sup>

Sunday: 10 am Worship  
Summer Potluck Luncheon  
Prayer Time following service  
Sunday: August 7<sup>th</sup>  
10 am Worship  
Communion  
Prayer Time following service

### July Birthdays

Jay Gould – 31

### August Birthdays

Fred Scheurer- 2  
Pat Clarke- 4  
Tinkie Avery -10  
Edith Weeks-17  
Ann Fowler-27  
William Hopkins-29

### August Anniversaries

John & Betty Salley -2  
Ron & Barbara Saunders - 6  
Barry & Tricia Schubert -7  
Lester & Helen Heinrich -10

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### **Something More SUMMER BOOK CLUB Returns!!**

Hot lazy summer days are good times to exercise your mind with the reading and sharing of some good books. For this reason the SMSBC is returning on Tuesday, **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at **4 pm**. Along with stimulating discussion – led by Ellen Foster and her faithful assistant John Salley – we will also share a **potluck picnic supper** of whatever you bring. We have chosen a Max Lucado book: *In The Eye Of The Storm* .

Since this is an older publication, it is available in multiple formats and on the used market from \$0-\$10

