

THE CHURCH WINDOW



... letting out the light of Christ

Monthly Newsletter of the Bedford Presbyterian Church

FROM THE PASTOR **A WET AND WILD SUMMER**

As you are hopefully aware of by now, we are eagerly anticipating the kickoff to our summer Vacation Bible School program in just a couple of weeks. Those of you coming to worship on June 9 will think you have submerged under the sea as our volunteers dive into preparing for this year's splashy theme, "Scuba".

Our VBS theme is not the only reason I have water on the brain, though. I am also busy preparing to teach a class on worship to our presbytery's certified and commissioned lay preachers. The class will focus on the Sacrament of Baptism, one of the two Sacraments we observe, the other being the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. As a church, we baptize because Jesus himself was baptized and because he commissioned his followers to go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is considered the Sacrament of initiation. There was a tradition when I was in college, which was situated on a beautiful and idyllic campus with a small creek running through it. At some point during your first year of school, your classmates would bust into your room in the middle of the night, hoist you out of bed, and toss you into the creek. "Creeking", as it was called, was a far cry from baptism (water was the only commonality as the words uttered during a creeking were anything but holy), but once you were creeked, you knew that you had been accepted by your peers and that you belonged to the group. Christian baptism marks the beginning of our journey of faith. It is the first step we take behind Jesus as his follower, his disciple. Like the icy cold creek awakening you to the realization that you were a peer, the waters of baptism awaken us to the realization that we have been adopted, elected to take our place around God's family dinner table. Together with all those who have been baptized before us and all those who will be baptized after us, we comprise the church, the people called out and called together by God.

Baptism is also considered the Sacrament of solidarity. Jesus joined the ranks of sinful people streaming into the Judean wilderness to hear and respond to John's message of judgment and the need to repent.

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Jesus waded into the waters of the Jordan to receive the same baptism for the forgiveness of sins that everyone else there was receiving, even though he himself was without sin. In Christ's own baptism, we see God standing alongside the creatures God formed from the earth, creatures who sinned and estranged themselves from the creator. Just as God in Christ stood in solidarity with sinful humanity on the banks of the Jordan River, through our baptisms we are called to stand in solidarity with each other, especially with those who are different, strange, or even repulsive to us. Though we are different from each other, the water of baptism is the unifying element that catches us in a current flowing to common ground for the enrichment of our Christian faith and the sure footedness we need to do the will and work of God.

God works through the Sacrament of Baptism to call, renew, and help us. Our baptism is an important milestone in our life of faith. Many of us were baptized as infants, yet even those who wait until they are older can often forget the moment and its significance. I've often wished I could remember the day of my baptism, but since I was not even old enough to crawl, I've relied on hearing the stories told about the day of my baptism. I also rely on the reminders of my baptism. Reading the story of Jesus' baptism, or other baptisms recorded in Scripture help me remember my baptism. Seeing or participating in someone's baptism reminds me that I am baptized. We even have a liturgy to help us reaffirm the promises we made – or that others made for us – during our own baptisms. It begins with words of Scripture from 1 Corinthians 12: "Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." Together, we then profess our faith, hearing the words of faith that assure us that our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted into Christ, who has broken the power of sin and ushered in God's kingdom, of which our baptism made us citizens. As free and redeemed people, we recommit ourselves to turning from the ways of sin and renouncing evil and turning towards Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, as his faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love with God's help.

And then we all get sprinkled with water.

So, this summer, as you are jumping into a swimming pool, feeling the mist from the garden hose as you water flowers, dashing for cover from a spontaneous cloudburst, or even taking a shower, remember your baptism, the wet and wild ride of being a child of God and Christ's disciple. Remember your baptism and be thankful, and know that the Holy Spirit is at work within you and within us all.

Dripping with grace,
Pastor Jack



Prayers & Concerns

ABBY CUBBISON
ALICE & GARY STRATER
AMY M.
BARB THOMAS
BECKY H.
BEN HOUSEL
BOB SHIPPY
BUTCH COOPER
CINDY TURNER
DEBORAH STAHLMAN
FAYE LATSHAW
GAIL DATESMAN
GEORGE STOUT
JACKIE TANNER & BABY
JAMES TRITT
JASON DIETMAN
JUDY MILLER
KALEB MILLER
KELLY HILLEGASS
KEN NACE
LAURA HYDE
LISA CESSNA
LISA HILLEGASS
NANCY CESSNA
PASTOR RAY SHORT
PEGGY ANDERSON
RACHEL S.
REBECCA ABRINO
RICHARD JENKINS
ROD HORNER
RODNEY KAGARISE
SHARON HOLLINGSHEAD
STAN HOWES
STEVE ZIMMERMAN
TAYLOR DOWNS
TIMOTHY JAMES
TINA HOWES
TONY GOAD
A FRIEND BATTLING PROSTATE
CANCER

Special Friends & Members

Please continue to keep these elderly or ailing friends in your prayers - and maybe send them a letter or note to say you're thinking of them!

Bob Shippy - Rm 106

Faye Latshaw - Rm 122

Donahue Manor - 136 Donahue Manor Rd, Bedford, PA 15522

Anna Waltman - 120 Kittanning Care Drive, Room 123,
SW/Unit 2, Kittanning, PA 16201

Tina Howes - 260 Arandale Street, Bedford, PA 15522

Grace James - Rm 508

Glenora Faupel - Rm 216B

Pennknoll Village - 208 Pennknoll Rd, Everett, PA 15537

Patty Suggars - Rm 102, 220 Donahue Manor Rd,
Bedford, PA 15522 (Colonial Courtyard)

In Our Father's House

Robert Fleetwood

Born: December 4, 1945

Joined the Church: October 6, 1985

Entered the Church Triumphant: April 30, 2024

Jack Shoemaker

Born: May 27, 1933

Joined the Church: March 30, 1958

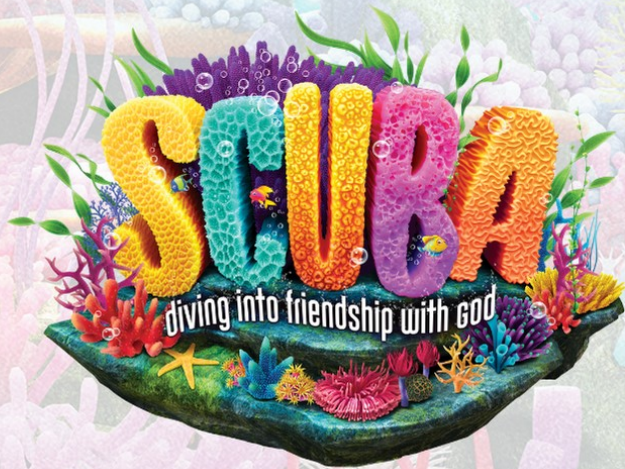
Entered the Church Triumphant: May 3, 2024

Our Mission

Bedford Presbyterian Church will reach beyond complacency, nurture connections as a community of disciples, sow seeds of compassion within the community where we are planted, and grow together in the light of Christ.

VBS: JUNE 9-12

dive below the surface to build a strong faith



Join us in this amazing undersea adventure where kids will experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Come discover what living water is really all about! Enjoy games, music, snacks, stories, & crafts! Scan the QR code or visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/vbsbedford> to register today!



NEWS & EVENTS

CELEBRATE A
Season of Growth

**Tuesday, June 4
6:30 pm in the Social Room**

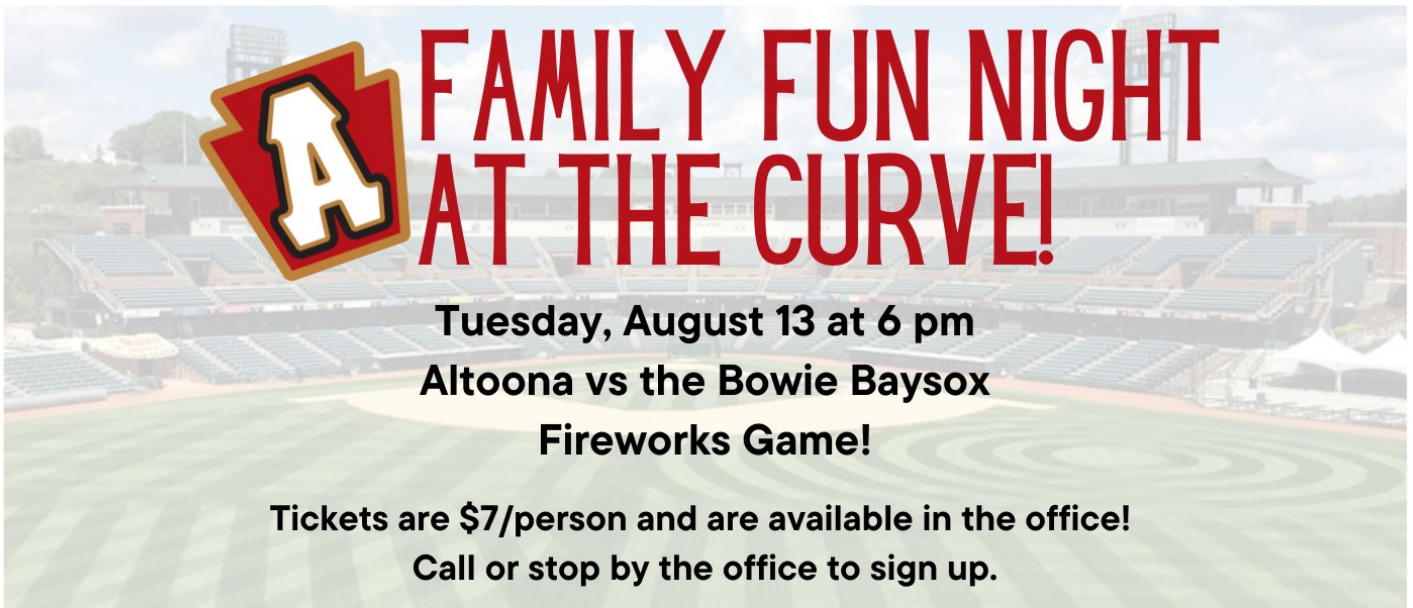
All are welcome to join us for a potluck picnic with the Penn State Seed to Supper Program! You can sign up on the sheet in the sanctuary, or by calling the office. A main dish and corn on the cob will be provided, please bring a garden fresh inspired side dish if possible!



FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT THE CURVE!

**Tuesday, August 13 at 6 pm
Altoona vs the Bowie Baysox
Fireworks Game!**

**Tickets are \$7/person and are available in the office!
Call or stop by the office to sign up.**





Storytime on the Square



Fridays in June
10 - 10:30 am
(June 7, 14, 21, 28)



Join us for this free event in the Bedford Square and enjoy stories, music, and snacks with your children! This event is weather permitting. All are welcome!!
Contact Becky Miller if you are interested in helping to set up, serve snacks, or read a story!



2024 CLASS OF



Joseph Windows

Joseph Windows recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from Penn State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His future plans are to continue his education at Penn State, getting his masters and working as a research assistant.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S !

Happy Retirement Beth!

After 40 years of teaching, Beth is excited to retire in June. She looks forward to reinventing her days to include traveling, spending time with her mom and dog, Dottie and Addie, visiting her son and daughter-in-law in Wisconsin, Clay and Andrea, continuing music ministry, and maintaining a private piano studio.

Since she was a young girl, Beth Hull has enjoyed playing piano and making music with other musicians. Her performance and teaching roles have included faculty positions at Belmont and Vanderbilt Universities in Nashville, Tennessee, Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio. Of all the musicians with whom Beth has collaborated, her favorites have always remained her father-Clay, her son-Clay, and the Hull/Farabaugh family members.

After 20 years living and working in Tennessee and Ohio, Beth returned to her hometown of New Enterprise in 1999, and she began Pennsylvania public school teaching in our local school districts of Altoona, Northern Bedford, Bellwood, and Bedford.

Beth has also been a church musician for 55 years in the Methodist, Brethren, Baptist, Catholic, and Presbyterian denominations. Since 2004, she has been part of the congregation and music ministry at Bedford Presbyterian Church, and she thanks God daily for the opportunity to serve here as one of His greatest gifts and blessings to her.





Save The Date

Our Annual Church Picnic
will be held on September 8
from 12-4 pm at
Egolf Park!

Missions Committee Request

The missions committee is asking for help in stocking our Person In Need (PIN) closet. We keep a pantry in the annex meeting room with non-perishable food items like cereal, oatmeal, canned goods, rice, ready to make dinner boxes, mac & cheese, and canned meats. We also stock it with personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies.

You can drop off donations in the office anytime.
Thank you for your consistent generosity!



Laughter After Loss

Grief Support Group

Wednesday, June 26th

11 am

Springhouse Café

For more information contact
the church office.



Shoebox Gang

Collection Requests:

In June we're asking for the following items:

Small Stuffed Animals & Little Boy Toys

You can drop donations in the box found in the
sanctuary entryway, or in the office anytime!



Free Community Dinner

**BPC Serve Date:
July 9**

We are in need of volunteers to help prep and serve this meal in to-go containers! Contact Barb Koontz or call the office to find out how you can help!

Save the Date!

JUNETEENTH CONCERT

**SUNDAY, JUNE 23 AT 4 PM
MT. PISGAH AME ZION CHURCH**

A worshipful celebration
of faith and freedom
presented by the Mt.
Pisgah Choir & Friends



Stewardship Corner

We are so grateful for your support of our ministry – through your prayers, your time, and your financial tithes and offerings.

Ways to Give:

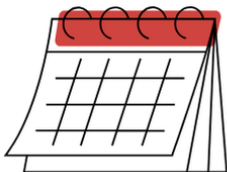
Offering
Plate/By
Mail

Online
Giving

Automatic
Bank
Payment

Monthly
Offering Goal:
\$21,512.33

Online giving can be done through our church website: bedfordpresby.com
If you have questions regarding automatic bank payments contact the office!



June Committee Meetings

Sunday, June 2: Deacons, following worship
Monday, June 3: Finance & Property, 7 pm
Monday, June 17: Session, 7 pm
Wednesday, June 19: Missions, 1 pm

Our Daily Bread & The Upper Room Devotionals
are available in the office or on the table in the sanctuary entryway.



JUNE

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

AA meets Tuesdays at 12 pm in the upstairs annex room
NA meets Wednesdays at 8 pm in the upstairs annex room

You can find the entire Action for Happiness calendar at:
actionforhappiness.org

1
Decide to look for what's good every day this month

2
Worship, 9:30 am
Deacons, following worship

3
Finance & Property, 7 pm

4
Season of Growth Picnic with Seed to Supper, 6:30 pm in the Social Room

5
Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down

6
Get out into green space and feel that joy that nature brings

7
Do something healthy which makes you feel good

8
Find joy in music: sing, play, dance, listen or share

9
Worship, 9:30 am
VBS, 6-8 pm

10
VBS, 6-8 pm

11
VBS, 6-8 pm

12
VBS, 6-8 pm

13
Take a light-hearted approach. Choose to see the funny side

14
Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you

15
Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it

16
Worship, 9:30 am

17
Session, 7 pm

18
Look for something good in a difficult situation

19
Missions, 1 pm

20
Rediscover and enjoy a fun childhood activity

21
Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement

22
Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh

23/30
Worship, 9:30 am

24
Bring to mind a favorite memory you feel grateful for

25
Show your appreciation to people who are helping others

26
Laughter After Loss, 11 am (Springhouse)

27
Be kind to you. Do something that brings you joy

28
Notice how positive emotions are contagious between people

29
Share a friendly smile with people you see today

THE CHURCH WINDOW

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

June

July

- 2 Michael Meehan
- 5 Jackie Moxley
- 7 Bobby Fleetwood
- 9 Joan Leach
- 13 Bob Shippy
- 21 Ron Hillegass
Barb Koontz
- 22 Matthew Bonchi
- 24 Shirley Stuby
Beth Hull
- 27 Justin Dibert
- 29 Jerry Klyne

- 1 Trudy Cseko
- 6 Brittney Lamb
- 9 Cristi Gasperich
- 11 Gannon Ziviello
- 19 Anna Waltman
Ben Bullington
Mary Karns
- 21 Carolyn Speicher
- 22 Mike Lamb
- 24 Connie Hillegass
- 25 Tyler Hull
- 29 Allison Hess
- 30 Thalia Fleetwood



Is it your birthday?!

If your birthday isn't showing up in our newsletter, let us know. Your day is important, and we don't want to miss it! Call or email the office and we'll update our list!



To date we have raised \$720 for the Presbyterian Pentecost Offering!

This offering helps impact the lives of children at risk, youth, and young adults.

40% Stays with our Congregation

60% is sent to the Presbytery to support young adult volunteers, ministries with youth, and children at-risk.

The next special offering to be collected will be the Peace & Global Witness Offering in October.

JULY DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, July 4: Office Closed, 4th of July!

Tuesday, July 9: Community Dinner Serve Night
Seed to Supper Program, 6 pm

Wednesday, July 24: Laughter After Loss, 11 am (Springhouse Cafe)

Wednesday, July 31: Garden Club Flower Show (Annex)



Bedford Presbyterian Church

115 E Penn St

PO Box 7

Bedford, PA 15522

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT. STD.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BEDFORD, PA
PERMIT NO. 3



BPC Summer Schedule:

No Sunday School

Worship at 9:30 am

Rev. Jack Miller, Pastor
Jacquelyn Paxton, Office Manager
Beth Hull, Music Director
Tammy Diehl, Custodian
Drew Evans, Streaming Tech
Jodie Zembower, Treasurer

Sunday Worship 9:30 am
*Nursery Available during worship
for Children 2nd grade and younger*

Email:

pastorjackmiller@gmail.com

office@bedfordpresby.com

Phone: 814-623-6891
