

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4 Church Road, Bedford, NH 03110

Phone (603) 472-5841 Fax (603) 472-5708

www.bedfordpresbyterian.org/Facebook.com/bedfordpresbyterianchurch

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Karen J. Hagy, *Co-Pastor*

The Rev. John Sawyer, *Co-Pastor*

Barbara Flocco, *Music Director*

Michelle Jones, *Administrative Assistant*

The Rev. Harold G. Williams, Jr., *Pastor Emeritus*

During worship, please refrain from taking flash photos and silence your cell phones.

In an emergency, call Pastor Sawyer (478-335-1628) or Pastor Hagy (603-714-5628)

Elder of the Day – Manny Barreto

Deacon of the Day – Tom Green

Ushers – Gwen Broder, Scott and Judy Crandall

Flowers today are given by Tom Green, “in loving memory of my mother, Martha Green, and my wife, Nany Green.”

*April 23rd is open for flowers. Contact Charlene Isham at ecisham@comcast.net.

Welcome today to Alice Parker, our guest conductor, who has been composing, arranging for, and conducting choirs for over 70 years. We are honored to have her with us today.

We Also Welcome 16 year-old Adeline Parker, one of 12 children, who has been studying harp for 13 years. In her spare time she maintains a private piano studio with 14 students!

Many thanks to our featured Quartet today: Matt Bader, tenor; Christina DeMaio, mezzo; Sarah Murai, soprano; John Sawyer, bass.

BPC CALENDAR

Sun. 3/26	Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Worship, Church School Classes, Nursery 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Brunch 4:00 p.m. Alice Parker Hymn Sing 6:00 p.m. Youth Program
Weds. 3/29	8:30 a.m. Handbells 6:00 p.m. Lenten Potluck Supper and Discussion on the Old Testament 7:15 p.m. Senior Choir
Thurs. 3/30	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts
Sun. 4/2	Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:00 a.m. Worship, Church School Classes, Nursery 11:00 a.m. No Coffee Hour Today 2:00 p.m. John and Amy Sawyer Baby Shower 6:00 p.m. “Be Bold” Drug Awareness Program



Bedford Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church. We are glad you have found your way through our big front doors! You are invited to join us for coffee hour at the conclusion of the 10:00 a.m. service in our Fellowship Hall. Guests, we invite you to take a welcome packet found in our narthex. Should you find the need to take your children out of the service, our nursery is available to you at the 10:00 a.m. hour. The Nursery is located in the lower level. Worship folders are available in the narthex for older children to use during the service. Thank you and welcome everyone!

GATHERING TOGETHER

Chimes

Prelude

“Amazing Grace”

Newton

Welcome

Co-Pastor John Sawyer

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Introit

“House of Our God”

arr. Alice Parker

From *Melodious Accord*

Call to Worship

God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.

May Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as God sees.

God has given us eyes to see what is good and right and true.

May we be blind no more.

May our eyes be opened to see as God sees.

Come, let us worship the Lord.

Let us worship God, together!

***Hymn**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Red Hymnal #451

Call to Confession

Elder Manny Barreto

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly, know ourselves loved, and live more fruitful lives. Raise us from the deadness of sin and shine upon us with your grace. This we pray in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world....

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ. Friends, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

Children's Message

Co-Pastor John Sawyer

Anthem

"How Pleasant Thus to Dwell Below" arr. Alice Parker
From *Melodious Accord*

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-12, 35-41 NT pg. 102
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Learning to See the Light" Co-Pastor John Sawyer
(‘Surely We Are Not Blind, Are We?’)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision" Red Hymnal #450
vs. 1-Solo, Christina DeMaio mezzo soprano

Call for the Offering

Deacon Tom Green

Offertory

"Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal" arr. Alice Parker
Adeline Parker, Harp

*Doxology (Tune: Old Hundred)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts – praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Deacon Tom Green

In gratitude, O God, we come into your presence to give you thanks for all that you have done for us. You have brought us into the light of Jesus Christ and we offer you thanks and praise. You have given us eyes to see you at work in the world and have shown us what it means to be faithful and bear fruit. May our gifts and our lives bear fruit in our community and in the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer ("debts")

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

GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

"God Moves In A Mysterious Way"
From *Melodious Accord*

arr. Alice Parker

6. Blind unbelief is sure to err, And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter And he will make it plain.

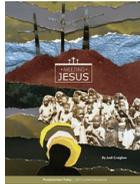
*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"That Glorious Day is Drawing Nigh" arr. Alice Parker

*Those who are able are invited to stand

**Join us for a special coffee hour today after worship
as we welcome Alice Parker and all are welcome
to the Hymn Sing at 4:00 p.m. today in the Sanctuary.**



An Invitation for Lent - The season of Lent is the 40 days that lead up to Easter each year. It is a time of attentiveness and spiritual preparation as we get ready to celebrate on Easter Sunday. Oftentimes, people will give something up for Lent - chocolate, Diet Coke, or something tangible - as a kind of fasting. This year, we are encouraging the BPC family to *take something up for Lent* - a spiritual practice of prayer, scripture and daily devotion. We are providing *Meeting Jesus*, a Lenten devotional book. Each day, you are invited to spend time with someone who met Jesus face to face. Copies of the book are available in the sanctuary and at the Welcome Desk. This is sure to be a meaningful season. Join us as we meet Jesus together!

Giving at Bedford Presbyterian Church – BPC is a generous church! We give thanks that the members and friends of our congregation give of their time, talent, and treasure. Giving your gifts at BPC makes a direct impact on the ways that the love of God through the good news of Jesus Christ is shared. In order to make giving even easier, we are introducing a QR scanner code for your smartphone. Download a free QR app to your phone and scan the code (<<<<<), which will take you directly to our giving website. It's fun, fast, easy, and makes a huge difference to our ministry! Thank you!



BPC is now a beneficiary of Amazon Smile! [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) Smile will donate 0.5% of each purchase when BPC is selected as the charitable organization. So for every \$100 of purchases 50 cents is received. You can access [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and benefit BPC using this QR Code:



BPC's Yoga Class - Join us on any of the following afternoons from 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. April 9 & 23. The class is donation only and is taught by Amy Sawyer, who is an experienced Certified Yoga Teacher and Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Presbytery of Boston and Northern New England Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - October 16-25, 2017 This 10-day journey to the Holy Land will bring you close encounters with the land of ancient Judaism and Christianity. Watch the scriptures come to life as you walk through the wilderness and pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. Experience modern religious traditions as we celebrate Shabbat with Jewish Israelis and walk down the Mount of Olives. At Progressive Pilgrimage, every journey is carefully crafted to meet the interests and ability of the group. Cost for the trip starts at \$3,490 a person. This is a once in a lifetime event! For more information, contact Heather Prince-Doss, who will be leading the trip and is a PC(USA) pastor in Lowell, MA - heather@progressivepilgrimage.com.

JOIN US ON WEDNESDAYS IN LENT...

Continuing through Wednesday, April 12 from 6:00-7:15 p.m. join us as we enjoy a potluck dinner and discussion on "Going Deeper in the Old Testament". For more information or to sign-up contact the church office at 472-5841 or see the Lenten Brochure or the big bulletin board.

Children's Ministry Important Information



Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday – April 9

Kids meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 to receive your palms and get ready for the Palm Parade at the 10 a.m. worship! Kids will process in on the first hymn and sit up front until the Children's Message then head off to Church School. This is our last Sunday for nursery. CMC hopes to offer year round nursery in 2018!



Saturday, April 15 – 10-11:30 a.m.

"God's Gave Us Easter"

A Children's Ministry Easter Program for Little Ones through Fifth Graders!

Join us for story, scripture, song, crafts, fun, and great snacks and of course the Easter Egg Hunt! Bring your Easter baskets with you!

RSVP to the office is a must, please email Michelle, mjones@bedfordpresbyterian.org or call 472-5841 and talk with Michelle.

Together we will learn all about the true meaning of Easter! Join us for this fun, faithful event!



Easter Sunday, April 16, 8:30 a.m. Family Worship

Confirmants will be welcomed into membership and Cherubs will sing. Cherubs practice with Mrs. Caswell is at 8:15 a.m. right before the service. There will be a Children's Message. No Sunday School on Easter!

Last Evening Class for 3rd-5th Graders: March 26 from 6-7:30 p.m. You will be invited to view Moses Story in Prince of Egypt. 6-6:30 p.m. Dinner – 6:30-7:30 movie in Fellowship Hall.

Church School Calendar – Church School Meets on:

- 4/2 – 10:00 a.m. after Children's Message
- 4/9 – 10:00 a.m. after Children's Message
- 4/16 – Easter Sunday – No Church School
- 4/23 – 10:00 a.m. after Children's Message
- 4/30 – End of Church School Year and a Party!