

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4 Church Road, Bedford, NH 03110

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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.

Please help us take care of our new carpet!

Water and baby bottles are A-ok; coffee, tea, and food please keep away.

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

BPC CALENDAR

Sun. 12/9 NO CHURCH SCHOOL TODAY – CHILDREN’S MUSICAL

10:00 a.m. Worship – Second Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. Fellowship/Science and Spirit in Youth Lounge

4:30 p.m. Youth Planning in Youth Room

Wed. 12/12 8:30 a.m. Hilltop Ringers

1:30 p.m. Birch Hill Service

7:15 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sun. 12/16 10:00 a.m. Worship/Third Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. “Boost Your Immune System” offering in Youth Lounge

5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

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 to our giving website. It’s fun, fast, easy, and makes a huge difference to our ministry!

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:



Plan Ahead - We invited you to fulfill your pledges for the 2018 Operating Budget and the Capital Campaign throughout the month of December, if you plan to take these donations for your 2018 tax deductions. Since December 31st is a holiday for our staff and the church office will be closed, we encourage you to have your offerings in by December 30th. If you choose, you can fulfill your pledges online through My BPC as late as December 31st.



Bedford Presbyterian Church
“God’s Name is Merciful” Second Sunday in Advent
Children’s and Youth Christmas Musical
December 9, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Gathering Music “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” arr. Helvey

Chimes

Welcome Co-Pastor Karen Hagy

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Advent Wreath Lighting The Rudduck Family

Jesus says: I am coming to my people soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ...

My soul magnifies the Lord,

And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

God sees us as we are: vulnerable and in need of help.

Full of wrongdoing and in need of God’s mercy.

Everyone, in all times and places, has known God’s compassion.

May we know it too.

All: God has done great things for us. God’s name is Merciful.

Sung Response

***Christmas is coming! The church is glad to sing,
And let the Advent candles brightly burn in a ring.***

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Amen.

***Hymn # 82** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Prayer of the Day

Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal yourself to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. Strengthen us for victories over temptation, for renewal of our love for you and one another, for leadership and service in your church. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. Amen.

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:34-40
Luke 2:8-14

The Children’s Musical “Back to the Manger”

Created by Christy Semsen; Arranged by Daniel Semsen

1. “Back to the Manger”
“Can You Hear the Bells”; “Angels We Have Heard on High”
2. “Let Us Love”
3. “Come Let Us Adore Him”; “O Come All Ye Faithful”; “Away in a Manger”
4. “Ring Ring-A-Ling”
5. “Song of the Sheep and the Goats”
6. “Peace on Earth”; “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”
7. “Ring the Bells”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Call for the Offering

Co-Pastor John Sawyer

Offertory

“People Look East”

arr. Wood

***Doxology** *(Tune: Old Hundreth)*

*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)

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth – giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your mercy and faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come, through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (“Debts”)

Co-Pastor John Sawyer

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.

GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

***Hymn # 105**

“People Look East”
vs. 1, 4, 5

***Charge and Benediction**

Co-Pastors Karen Hagy and John Sawyer

Be patient and strengthen your hearts. The coming of the Lord is near.

We will be ready, for our merciful Lord will come at an unexpected hour.

Bless the Lord with all your soul, and may the blessings of God be with you forevermore.

Amen.

Postlude

“Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow”

arr. Hayes

**All are invited to stand, in body and/or spirit.*

STAGE BREAK DOWN HELP NEEDED TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP – PLEASE MEET IN FRONT OF SANCTUARY IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

December 16 at 5:00 p.m.

At BPC, we love celebrating the joys of the Christmas season, but we know that this season can be hard and not-so-joyful for those who are missing loved ones, mourning a loss, or are just feeling "blue". Join us at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 16 as we sing, pray, and reflect on the Light of the world who shines in darkness.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service with Candlelighting

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Youth Led Service with Candlelighting

9:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Candlelighting

PLEASE NOTE: No Church School or Nursery on Sunday, December 30th!

“Boost Your Immune System” on Sunday, December 16th at 11:00 a.m.

Join Kim Lovely, registered dietician, and learn how you can nourish your body to ward off or minimize the impact of the germs that cause colds and flu.

We are now into viral season. Unless you plan to spend the winter holed up at home, it’s impossible to not be exposed to the invisible germs around us. But a healthy immune system can help defend you against invasion and it can help you recover more quickly if you do catch a virus.

You will have the opportunity to taste immune boosting foods and drinks. At the end of the seminar you will be given a “Seven Day Slim Down”. This is an opportunity to follow a menu with recipes eliminating sugar while boosting immune building nutrition.

We look forward to seeing you at this educational seminar in the Youth Lounge, Sunday, December 16th at 11:00 a.m.!!

Caring Closet needs specific donations

Our Caring Closet Ministry is in need of specific items to fulfill the needs of the women that we serve. We would greatly appreciate clean and usable items, in **large sizes only**: Womens' Large, XL, and XL+. We cannot accept nor store any more smalls or mediums. Clothing needs to be machine washable (i.e. nothing that requires dry cleaning).

Critical items include: Women’s winter coats, sweaters, long sleeved tops, stretch or yoga style pants. Shoes and boots over size 7, as well as hats, scarves and gloves.

Other items such as undergarments, socks, and pajamas are purchased with Caring Closet funds; we do not provide and cannot accept any of these as used items.

If you can make any such donations, please drop them off at the church behind the Welcome Desk, and we will pick them up daily. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Reese at 603-867-5481 or susan_g_reese@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of this ministry!

The Peace Light of Bethlehem Returns to BPC - December 16

On Sunday, December 16, a small flame of candlelight that has traveled all the way from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Palestine, will be part of the worship service. The Peace Light has come to BPC before and is a welcome sign of peace and hope in the season of Advent and Christmas. If you would like to take the Peace Light home with you, know that you are welcome to bring a candle or lantern and light it after the worship service that day to enjoy the light that has traveled half-way around the world to be here and to pray for peace in our time.

Academy: Science and Spirit Forum

BPC member Paul Carr Ph.D. will be offering the last module on the topic of “Truth & Beauty in Science, Spirit & Society in the Youth Lounge at 11:00AM on 12/9 “The Creative Cooperative Cosmos.” Grab a cup of coffee at the coffee hour and join in this time of lively discussion and enrichment! For questions or more information please email Paul at paul.carr2@comcast.net.

Café 1269 Volunteer Needed

Food Delivery Volunteer Needed: One additional individual is needed to help deliver food once every six weeks with another team member. Pick up is at 8:30 am on your designated Saturday at the Jenkins Rd (Bedford) Hannaford. Deliveries are made at Cafe 1269 in downtown Manchester. Contact Sue Gobel at 471-0248 or 714-8496 or s.gobel@comcast.net for more info.

Christmas is Coming!

Plans are already well underway for BPC’s Advent and Christmas season. If you are a 6-12th grader and would like a part in the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service, please contact Co-Pastor John at jsawyer@bedfordpresbyterian.org.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

WE STILL HAVE A TREMENDOUS NEED! TODAY IS THE LAST DAY!

Adopt a Family - Gift Giving Program

Adopt A Family is a Mission outreach opportunity, where BPC members purchase Christmas gifts for local children and families in need.

WE STILL HAVE 39 CHILDREN’S TAGS ON THE TREE!

Ornaments will be hung on a Christmas Tree, listing the age, sex and suggested gift ideas.

1. Chose an ornament tag from our Tree in Fellowship Hall 12/9
2. Sign up, so we know what tag you choose, please leave your contact information
3. Purchase the gifts or gift card listed on the tag
4. Return the unwrapped gifts or gift cards to BPC no later than 12/16 (NO EXCEPTIONS) in the Session Room

You can also help support this program by

1. By purchasing gifts or gift cards
2. Helping with the ornament distribution and sign ups
3. Helping deliver Gifts

Thank you for giving the gift of Christmas to someone in need!

******Please contact Deb Stanas (dstanas@comcast.net) if you are unable to pick a tag but would like to be involved. Thank you for your support!**

Living Nativity Sunday, December 23 at 6 p.m.

The annual Living Nativity has been a part of BPC's Christmas celebration for over 30 years and is our single largest outreach event to the community. We begin with a carol sing and handbell ring and continue with a theatrical presentation of the Nativity story complete with Mary, Joseph, Wisemen, shepherds and angels and of course baby Jesus! We even have animals, including the humble donkey! Afterwards come inside for hot chocolate and cookies in the Fellowship Hall. **Please note the new start time**, mark your calendars and join us for this cherished tradition. It happens rain or shine and all are welcome.

Calling all angels and shepherds!! Shepherds can be all ages, male and female, plus a few adults involved since they gather around a campfire. The angel choir can be girls or boys through middle school. Angels should be ready to sing some simple carols, Helpers are also needed that afternoon to help set up sound and snacks and other small tasks. In the evening we need help to assist with costumes and to pass out snacks to the cast. If you would like to be a part of this fun joyous event contact organizer Sean Michalski at 240-315-8909 or sean.michalski@gmail.com.

Helpers are needed to set up our Living Nativity stable after church on Sunday, December 23rd right after worship. It takes no more than an hour, but strong arms and screw guns are needed. Can't help put the stable up? That's okay, we need to take it down too right after the Living Nativity on the 23rd. It is the same process but in reverse, takes no more than an hour and strong arms are needed. Contact Sean Michalski to sign up!

We need help with our sound system this year---Are you willing? See above to contact Sean.

Sponsoring the Living Nativity: As an extension of our gift-giving at this upcoming joyous time of year, we invite you to become part of our "Creche and Critters" Club. Membership is attained by sponsoring the live animal actors in our Living Nativity on December 23rd. Our goal is to raise funds each year for the rental of these "critters". For a donation of:

Up to \$10 – You are a "Christmas Chick"
\$10-\$25 – You are a "Bethlehem Bunny"
\$25-\$50 – You are "Gabriel's Goat"
\$50-\$100 – You are a "Delightful Donkey"
\$100 or more – You are simply an "ANGEL"

Your sponsorship will be listed with thanks in that evening's program. This is the one time of year we can bring the gospel to life. Donations can be made **through the church office and offering**. Make sure to mark your checks with "Creche and Critters". Thank you!

"Back to the Manger"

Created by Christy Semsen Arranged by Daniel Semsen

Cast

Tayja Berry	Gabriel Boucher	Bradley Bourcier
Zoey Bourcier	Addie Bunie	Arwyn Chen
Laurel Chen	Cindy Chagnon	Maddy Costello
Abby Dopfer	Brendan Gourley	Rheya King
Megan Labrie	Ellie MacDonald	Malcolm MacDonald
Susanna Michalski	Carter Murai	Cassie Murai
Teagan O'Donnell	Cameron Pakler	Vivienne Pakler
George Reese	Catherine Small	Julia Small
Grace Wolf	Marissa Wu	Olivia Wu
Kat Zimmerman		

Sarah Murai – Director/Choreography/Costumes
Melinda Chen – Music Director/Costumes/Piano/Keyboard
Kyle Eno – Sound Board
Patty Helbig – Sound Effects Cues
Jill Pennington - Drums
Lynn Plants – Costumes
John Sawyer – Sound Direction/Guitar

Time Machine Constuction

Marc Murai
Bill and Lynn Plants
Patsy Petit

Backstage Help/Dressers

Anna Bagnardi, Skyler Eno, Liam MacDonald,
Nancy and Tommy Martineau, Marc Murai
Kathy Pawley, Patsy Petit, Lynn Plants

Special Thanks

Lisa and Scott Bourcier, Michael Chen, Mary Beth and Abby Dopfer,
Barb Flocc, Gretchen Gray, Stage Set-Up Crew, and
Mary's Closet