

From: **Bedford Presbyterian Church** news@bedfordpresbyterian.org  
Subject: Weekly Hilltop Crier  
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To: news@bedfordpresbyterian.org

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# Bedford Presbyterian Church

Hilltop Crier for February 7



This past week, a car pulled up in front of our house. "Oh," I said. "It looks like we have some canvassers who have come to talk about some presidential candidate or another." Just a few moments later, there was a knock at our door. . . Behold, the canvassers had arrived! When I opened the door, a nice man and his wife were standing there. They introduced themselves and then asked me if I know anything about what it says in the Bible about God's great battle with evil. I said, "Yes, I do. I am a Presbyterian pastor." "Well," they said, "we're Jehovah's Witnesses." Now, the Jehovah's Witnesses and I don't exactly speak the same theological language, but we had a polite and brief conversation. And, in the end, it turned out that they weren't there to stump for one human candidate or another. They were there to stump for God.

As I write this, various candidates and canvassers are criss-crossing the state, trying to meet as many people as possible and trying to convince as many voters as they can to cast their votes a certain way. I don't know who you're voting for - or even if you are voting - in the New Hampshire Primary Election. And, it's not my job to tell what to do if and when you get to the polls. It is my job, however, to point toward Jesus - the One who has

polis. It is my job, however, to point toward Jesus - the One who has conquered, and continues to conquer evil in the world. If you were to stump for Jesus, what would you say? And, if you were to cast your vote for Jesus, what would that mean?

As we have been exploring in worship over these past few weeks, Jesus has said that the kingdom of heaven has come near and that citizenship in the kingdom of heaven asks certain things of us in the ways we rely upon God, and care for others, and see the world, and offer ourselves in service. Citizenship in the kingdom of heaven can actually be quite political because it has everything to do with lovingly and faithfully working toward the good of the *polis*, which is a Greek word for the city and state (or even nation) in which we live.

As Christians, the primary (pun intended) party in which we hold membership, by the grace of God, is the Kingdom of Heaven Party. Would you join the party of Jesus? Would you let it change your life, your views, and your affiliation with any other party? How might your citizenship in the kingdom of heaven inform how you live and how you see the world. . . and even how you vote?

See you in church!

Grace and Peace,

John

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### **Prepare for Worship**

This Week: More Salt! More Light! - The Church at Work in the World

- Read Isaiah 58:1-9
- Read Matthew 5:13-20
- Read or sing Hymn # 312 - "Take Us as We Are, O God" - Here's the tune to this new (to us) hymn, just to get a sense of how the melody goes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjgZIEgluLg>.

Click on the link below for a copy of the bulletin:

[https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/files/6715/8108/4769/2020\\_February\\_9\\_Bulletin\\_.pdf](https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/files/6715/8108/4769/2020_February_9_Bulletin_.pdf)

# MAMMA MIA!

## **BPC Meet Group Event**

Join us on February 28th at 7:30 p.m. to see *Mamma Mia, the Musical* at the Palace Theatre in Manchester.

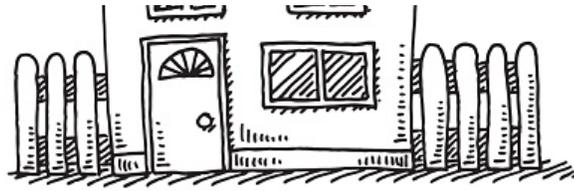
Tickets: \$30 per person

Includes a special reception afterward to meet the cast.

For more information see Sara Eno or contact her at [saraeno@yahoo.com](mailto:saraeno@yahoo.com).

Ticket purchase deadline in February 9th.





## Creating Congregational Connections House Meetings with Pastor John

How well do you know your church?  
How well do you know your pastor?  
How well do you know the people who are involved in the life of BPC?

Even if you've been at BPC for a loooong time, you might not know your neighbors as well as you could.

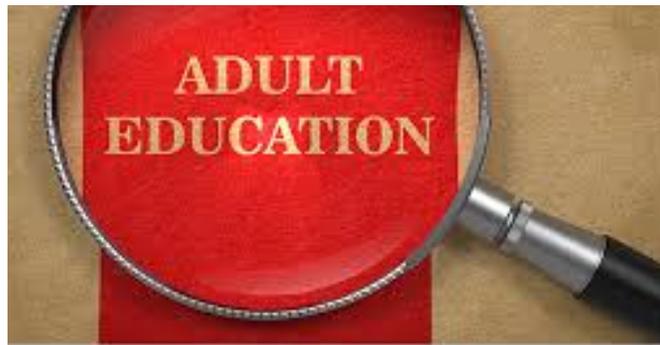
In this time of change in the life of our congregation, BPC is providing a place to connect and reconnect with your church. We are doing this through meeting in people's homes during the season of Lent and asking you to reflect on two questions with Pastor John: "Why church?" and "What does support look like from your pastor?"

Everyone involved in the life of BPC is invited to attend one of the house meetings, which will be held on Sundays, starting on February 23. You only need to attend one of the meetings and we have plenty of dates and times from which to choose. Once you "opt in" for a date and time, we'll let you know where that meeting will take place. Sign up by Sunday, March 1!

- Sunday, February 23 - 7-8:15 PM
- Sunday, March 1 - 7-8:15 PM
- Sunday, March 8 - 11:15-12:15 PM at BPC
- Sunday, March 15 - 7-8:15 PM
- Sunday, March 22 - 7-8:15 PM
- Sunday, March 29 - 7-8:15 PM
- Sunday, April 5 - 11:15-12:15 PM at BPC

If you would like to host a house meeting for 15-20 people on one of the dates and times listed above, please let us know by contacting the church office: 603-472-5841 or [mjones@bedfordpresbyterian.org](mailto:mjones@bedfordpresbyterian.org).





### **Two Classes for Lent**

BPC will be offering two special classes for adults in the season of Lent:

"Holy Conversations", led by Bethany Avery, on Wednesday evenings 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1 and 4/8 at 6 PM. Everybody is on a spiritual pilgrimage. Everybody. Even those who curse God. True, they may be going in the wrong direction (away from God) but they are still on a spiritual journey. They can't help it. This is the way God made us. Agnostics, atheists, deists, seekers, the disillusioned, the contented, the hedonists - lots of names for different stopping places on the journey. The point is that different people are at different stops on the journey. May be hungry for real conversations about their journeys. This is when holy conversation can take place. This book, *HolyConversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life* by Richard Peace will guide us into ways to talk our journey that is personal, true, and helpful to others.

In "The Beatitudes," led by Bob Godbout, why is the Sermon on the Mount often called the "Christian Manifesto", i.e. the essential core of what it means for us to be "Christian"? And why is the challenge of the Sermon expressed as the "Christian Counterculture"? Let's begin our inquiry with the eight Beatitudes with which the Sermon begins. (Mt. 5: 3-12). These eight (apparently) simple declarations hold for us inexhaustible wisdom and relevance for our everyday lives. All of you are invited to join our class during Lent, each Sunday at 11 AM, starting March 1 through April 5, using the book by John R.W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*. This will not be a high-powered "academic" class but rather a deep devotional study intended to improve our relationship with Jesus our Lord. Questions? Call Pastor John or Bob Godbout at 717-5562. Please sign up ASAP to help us with logistics. Thank you!"





**MISSION AUCTION  
SUNDY, MARCH 8  
4 P.M.**

Please support BPC's many mission activities (including mission trips, Helping Hands, and the Bedford Food Pantry) by participating in the upcoming Mission Auction on Sunday, March 8 at 4 pm. There are many ways to contribute, even if you cannot attend the auction itself.

**Donate:**

Items(sports tickets, theater tickets, vacation home "rentals", etc.)

Services/Experiences(cooking a gourmet meal, knitting/quilting a custom blanket, babysitting, lessons, boating outing, etc.)

Money

**Attend:**the auction (and bring a friend!)

**Bid** on auction items (even if you can't be present in person!)

Auctions are held only every 3-4 years, so our goal is to raise \$30,000.

**To donate, look for the form in the weekly bulletins and place it in the offering plate. Contact Deb Stanas (dstanas@yahoo.com, 603-670-8448) or George Reese (georeese@msn.com, 603-714-4317) with questions or for more details.**



Please note Sunday School will not meet during school vacations so there will be no Sunday School on 2/23, 3/1, 4/26, 5/3. We will celebrate the

conclusion of our church School year on May 17th!

### **BPC Kids "Love Your Neighbor" School Supply Drive**

As we approach Valentine's Day, the Children and Youth of BPC will be holding a school supply drive for our neighbors at Bakersville Elementary School in Manchester. A box for the donated supplies will be outside the Sunday School classrooms. The items needed most are: markers, crayons, glue, glue sticks, math flash cards, dice, and sight word flashcards. Donations will be collected from now until Valentine's Day.

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### **Valentine's Day Parents Night Out**

Please mark your calendars for our annual Parent's Night Out **"Un-sleepover"** to be held on Valentine's Day (Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 pm). Children aged 4-12 can wear their pajamas and bring pillow, sleeping bag, and stuffed animal to the party. The party will include silly games, a movie, optional kid-friendly manicures, and of course, PIZZA! **Please RSVP to [eliza.michalski@gmail.com](mailto:eliza.michalski@gmail.com).**

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**Be on the lookout for more children's ministry activities to come!!!**  
**The Children's Ministry Committee at BPC is joyfully called to inspire and nurture the children of BPC, to introduce them to faith, church life, to help them know and love God, and to know they belong to a close church family! If CMC can be of service to your family or if you have a question about CMC and children's programming at BPC, please email Melinda Chen at [maestrachen@gmail.com](mailto:maestrachen@gmail.com)!**

**God Bless!The Children's Ministry Committee of BPC**





The New 2020 Coffee Hour Host schedule is posted on MyBPC and on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Please take a look and see if you and a friend ( or group ) can host Coffee Hour.

To sign up on MyBPC : Login, select "Groups" in left column, select Coffee Hour Hosts, select "Needs", click on Winter 2020 Coffee Hour Hosts, and check off **I'll Take It** ~ that easy !!

If you would like to be on the Fellowship Committee, MyBPC Coffee Hour Host Group or the Baker's Dozen please contact Linda Phelps at [linda.phelps@comcast.net](mailto:linda.phelps@comcast.net) or talk to any Fellowship member during the Coffee Hour.

A great way to share your time and talent when your schedule allows !



## **Welcome to RYODBC ~ Read Your Own Darn Book Club**

RYODB is not your traditional book club. It works more like a book swap. Simply arrive with a few books ( any genre ) that you really enjoyed or even **LOVED !**

Say a few words about the books. Did it take you on a compelling journey, have quirky characters, wonderful dialogue, a unique view point, or just a great story.

Be willing to part with the book(s) or at least send it on a lengthy journey! Once everyone is done sharing ~ the book swap begins!

We hope you will join is for a fun evening.

RYODBC next meeting:

**Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM**

Hosted by Linda Phelps ~ 17 Rumford Ln Bedford NH

RSVP Linda at [linda.phelps@comcast.net](mailto:linda.phelps@comcast.net) or 603-471-1004 ( leave a message )

Beverages and Appetizers will be served



The Women's Books and Bible Group will meet on Thursdays at 10:30 outside Fellowship Hall. We will read and discuss the book "Grateful" by Diana Butler Bass. All are welcome-men and women. A quote from "Grateful" is below:

"...gratitude strengthens our character and moral resolve, giving each of us the possibility of living peaceably and justly. Being thankful is the very essence of what it means to be alive and to know that life abundantly."

This book was suggested by Pastor John.

We will discuss the book in five parts for five weeks. Parts I - IV and then the Epilogue. Meetings will be weather permitting.

The book is available from Amazon.





## Giving at BPC

**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 the following link ([bit.ly/smilebpc](https://bit.ly/smilebpc)).

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