

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

Hilltop Crier for March 20



Staying Close while Social Distancing

This past Wednesday evening at 6 PM, I had the privilege of being part of the "Holy Conversations" group that has been meeting during the season of Lent. We had Bethany and Kevin Avery, Marcia Morgan, Alicia Wooldridge, and Sharon Cowen. The conversation was wonderful - people were thinking and talking, deeply, about their own life experiences and how they have seen God at work in their lives.

I was thankful just to be listening in on these people from our congregation.

And, the interesting thing was, even though we were "together" in conversation and prayer, we were not in the same room. We weren't even in the same neighborhood. We had gathered on the church's new "Zoom" web-conferencing page. And, after a few minutes of getting used to seeing people on the computer screen instead of seeing them in person, the

people on the computer screen instead of seeing them in person, the technology faded into the background and what remained was real and faithful and holy conversation. We'll be using Zoom for committee meetings in the coming weeks as well as for some other gatherings for prayer and study.

While we are separated by the walls of our houses and the very important and moral act of social distancing for the overall health of our community, there are ways to stay connected. I have had some great phone conversations with some of you this week and I'm looking forward to talking with more of you in the coming week. Your Deacons should have reached out to you by now. And, if you have not answered your phone when they called, or if you have not called them back, there's no time like the present. Oh, and just so you know, if you see a weird "478" area code from Macon, GA on your caller ID, that's probably me, calling you on my cell phone.

You might have some pressing questions about all of this, but your main question is likely, "**So, what are we going to do about worship?**"

This Sunday morning, by 10 AM, you will be sent a link to a website called SoundCloud. You will also be able to click on the same link on the home page of the church website (www.bedfordpresbyterian.org) or our church Facebook page. Click the link and you will be able to hear a pre-recorded version of our worship service from the comfort of wherever you might be. You can listen on a computer, or a smartphone, or a tablet. You can even download the service, burn it to a CD and then dub it to a cassette tape to listen to on your Walkman. Oh, and feel free to open the link to the bulletin (below) and follow along with the service with prayers, hymns, responsive readings, and everything else.

It will be like listening to a familiar radio show with Barb Flocco and me as your hosts, as well as several wonderful guests.

I know that times are strange. But the beautiful thing about these strange times is that we are being forced to be the church in new and different ways.

The Body of Christ has been through stranger times than these, even if those of us living in the present day and time have not. So, how do we - as the Body of Christ - maintain our connection and do the important work to which Jesus is calling us? Well, some days will be better than others, but the main thing we need is to try and to trust. And, with the help of the Holy Spirit, there are great and helpful and holy and loving things that God will do through us.

In Christ,

John Sawyer

Prepare for Worship

This Week: "Here's What I Know - Seeing Clearly in Wilderness Times"

- Read Psalm 23
- Read John 9 - The story is long, but you're going to want to know the whole story.
- Read or sing Hymn # 450 - "Be Thou My Vision"

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

https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/files/4115/8471/3147/2020-03-22_-_Worship_Bulletin_.pdf



News for BPC from Mission at the Eastward in Maine Spring 2020

Dear Bedford Presbyterian Church,

Greetings in Christ BPC! We are writing to say thank you BPC for your dedication and work with the housing ministry at MATE for over a decade!

We love having your youth mission teams come up in the summer, helping us create safe places to live! The Board of MATE also wants to welcome new leaders to MATE from BPC. We welcome the following folks to leadership roles:

Sharon Cowen brings a wealth of experience in marketing and a heart for mission to MATE. She will be on the Board providing stellar leadership to the Marketing & Communications Team. Paula Olsen and Dave Mackey

MacKey

will also be serving on the Marketing and Communications Team. Paula's expertise lies in graphic design, websites, and exhibits. She has already created some wonderful, inviting print materials for MATE. David Mackey has also put his expertise into motion writing for us, spreading good news about MATE's mission via excellent newspaper articles. We couldn't be more pleased to have them participate with MATE, what a blessing!

George Reese, the main leader for your youth mission teams, has graciously agreed to be on Mate's Housing Ministry Team. George's commitment to MATE's mission to "love thy neighbor" by creating safe housing, and his willingness to help raise the level of volunteerism and fundraising at MATE is so needed for the future of MATE.

BPC's Pastor Emeritus, Karen Hagy, is currently serving as the Presbytery representative on the MATE Board and is chairing the Board through 2020.

She already loves MATE, because bringing youth up to MATE to serve with George all those years was a highlight for her. Pastor John Sawyer will be joining us for the first time this July when your youth mission team comes up. We are glad to have him join in the work up in Maine! Welcome John!

So, in these very tenuous times, we want you to know that your partnership with MATE is deeply appreciated. We are praying for your church and thank these new leaders for sharing their gifts with us. And thank you BPC, for supporting us at Mission at the Eastward all these years.

God Bless,
The Board at Mission at the Eastward





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).

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