

## DRAFT Statement of Welcome and Affirmation

The Building Bridges Committee has been working with Session on a “Statement of Welcome”, to be used on BPC’s website. At the heart of this statement is the desire to affirm all who come through our doors, whether they have been a member for a lifetime, or are visiting for the first time today, assuring them they are welcome to our worship and to our church family. The following is a draft of the statement from Building Bridges, and is, we believe, a natural extension of what Bedford Presbyterian already strives to do and in keeping with recent stances taken by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Here is the draft statement:

*“No matter who, no matter what, you are welcome.”*

- *We worship an inclusive and loving God, who calls all persons into relationship, both with God and with neighbor.*
- *In response to this love, demonstrated most perfectly in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as an open and affirming community.*
- *Believing that all persons are children of God, made in God’s image, we welcome and celebrate persons of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, economic situations, immigration statuses, social statuses, and theological and political perspectives.”*

The Session is encouraging a time of congregation-wide comment and conversation about this statement, awaiting feedback from the church family before Session’s final consideration.

As members of this church family, we welcome questions and discussion regarding this addition. Please come and talk to us after worship on 9/16, 10/14, and 10/21. We will be in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information, contact Melinda Chen ([maestrachen@gmail.com](mailto:maestrachen@gmail.com)).



## Bedford Presbyterian Church “Mission- Sharing Your Life’s Story” September 16, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Bedford Presbyterian Church. Our doors are open wide and we are glad you are here! Guests, we invite you to take a welcome packet found in our narthex. Disciple Doodle Boards are available in the narthex for older children to use during the service.

Thank you and welcome everyone!

### GATHERING TOGETHER

Gathering Music “Called As Partners in Christ’s Service” Chopin/Halberg  
Chimes

Welcome Co-Pastor Karen Hagy

### PREPARING FOR THE WORD

Introit “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”  
Soho Traditional Spiritual

### Call to Worship

How majestic is God’s name in all the earth!  
We see God’s glory in the expanse of the heavens.  
**All that God has made reflects God’s goodness.**  
We are created in God’s image, to relate to God.  
We receive great abundance and care from our Creator.  
**God blesses us day by day with good things.**  
We gather to praise God and greet one another.  
We celebrate all the ways God is revealed to us.  
**We rejoice in Christ’s promise of the Holy Spirit.**  
**Let us we worship the Creator and Sustainer of all things.**

### Invocation

O Lord our God and Savior, who sent the disciples and apostles to the very ends of the earth to teach and proclaim your message, to heal all illnesses and to reveal the mysteries of the faith, send us your blessing in this time of worship and enlighten our understanding, so that we be given the gift of faithful perseverance. By your Spirit, enable us to do and to act in accordance with your commands as set out in the gospel, and may the fruit of the gospel be increased in us many times over through our ministry and mission.

\*Hymn # 761 “Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”

**Call to Confession**

Elder Larry Cowen

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**Amazing God, the more we learn of your creation, the more we are filled with awe and wonder. Yet our vision narrows to our limited concerns, and we forget the immense reaches of the stewardship to which you appoint us. We have not taken good care of this tiny spaceship, Earth, which is our home. We have not cared well for one another as sisters and brothers. Our doubts outweigh our obedience. O God, help us fulfill our baptism and claim our discipleship, as forgiven and forgiving sinners...**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Elder Larry Cowen

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God’s grace and will in our daily lives.

**God cares for us and invests us with responsibility.**

Thus, God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life’s best for all people.

**We are loved. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for God’s goodness, mercy, and grace!**

**\*Hymn # 582**

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,*

*And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,*

*And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen. (3x)*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

**ENCOUNTERING THE WORD**

**Children’s Message**

Co-Pastor Karen Hagy

**The 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.**

**Scripture Readings**

John 17:18, Acts 20:24

Elder Larry Cowen

**Anthem**

“Christ Calls Us Forth”  
(Congregation joins on vs. 4. See insert)

K. Lee Scott

**Scripture Readings**

Matthew 28:16-20, I Thessalonians 1:8

**Homily**

“Part II – Mission and Sharing Your Life’s Story”

Co-Pastor Karen Hagy

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*Hymn # 298**

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

vs. 1 & 5 All; vs. 2 Women; vs. 3 Men; vs 4 Choir

**Call for the Offering**

Deacon Charlene Isham

**Offertory**

Matt Bader, dulcimer; Patsy Petit, piano

**Offering**

**\*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)**

Deacon Charlene Isham

**Lord, we come to dedicate our time, talent and treasure to realize your reign on earth, majestic God. As we enjoy your bounty, we give that all our sisters and brothers might also come to appreciate the amazing gifts you entrust to us. Thank you for life and all its wonders. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

Co-Pastor Karen Hagy

**\*The Peace**

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please greet one another with signs of peace and reconciliation.*

**GOING FORTH IN GOD’S NAME**

**\*Hymn # 733**

“We All Are One in Mission”

**\*Commission and Blessing**

Go and tell the world that God cares. Celebrate the gift of life and all its possibilities.

**We are awed by God’s vast creation. We are amazed at how God honors us.**

Generations before us have passed on God’s gifts. Generations to follow depend on our faithfulness.

**We pray for insight and generosity to share this legacy. We seek to live in peace and love with everyone.**

Our mission is to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ and serve him.

Amen. **Amen.**

**Postlude**

“Wherever You May Wander”

arr. Thompson

*\*Those who are able are invited to stand.*

**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** – Larry Cowen

**Deacon of the Day** – Charlene Isham

**Flowers today are given** “in loving memory of my husband Don Torbich” by his wife Penny.

**BPC CALENDAR**

Sun. 9/16	10:00 a.m. Worship
	11:00 a.m. Fellowship, Building Bridges Conversation Welcome
Wed. 9/19	8:30 a.m. Hilltop Ringers
	7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal
Thurs. 9/20	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts
Sun. 9/23	10:00 a.m. Worship
	11:00 a.m. Fellowship

**All Church Apple Picking – Sunday, September 30**  
**McLeod Orchards, 735 North River Road, Milford, NH**

**11:30 departure from BPC! (Be green – Car Pool!)**  
**Pack a picnic lunch – they have picnic tables!**

**Peck bags - \$14; ½ Bushel bags - \$24**  
**Discount if we go as a group!**

**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:



**New Member Class**

For those interested in learning more about BPC or in becoming a member, you are invited to join us at 4:30 p.m., on Sunday October 14 for snacks and conversation. If you need child care please Contact the church office at 472-5841

\*\*\*

**Fellowship Committee and Coffee Hour Changes**

The Fellowship Committee will be introducing a small change to Coffee Hour this year. We will meet for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall and serve **only** Coffee and Tea for adults and lemonade for our youth. We will save serving baked goods and treats for special occasion Coffee Hours. ***It will be twice as sweet when we have a celebration.***

Fellowship is currently seeking members to host Coffee Hour this fall. The responsibilities just got a little easier to host ~ Just Coffee ! Signup sheet in Fellowship Hall, on MyBPC, in upcoming Bulletin inserts, or email Linda Phelps ~ [linda.phelps@comcast.net](mailto:linda.phelps@comcast.net). Current dates: September 23, and September 30.

If you have questions about **Fellowship Committee** or would like to come to a meeting please contact Linda Phelps by phone (471-1004) or email ( above ). We would love to have you!

\*\*\*

**Third Grade Bibles**

On World Communion Sunday, October 7th, CMC will be presenting all third graders with their very own Bibles! If you have a third grader, can you please email CMC Elder Melinda Chen at [maestrachen@gmail.com](mailto:maestrachen@gmail.com) with your child’s full name for their Bible and please plan to have your third grader attend worship at 10AM to receive their Bible. Sharing the Word with our children is such a blessing!

\*\*\*

**Wednesday Nights at BPC – Dinner and Discussion**  
**6-7:15 p.m. Starting Wednesday, October 10**

*Muslims, Christians, and Jesus* – this video series and discussion will provide an introduction to Islam and an opportunity to learn about how to be good neighbors. Bring a covered dish to share!