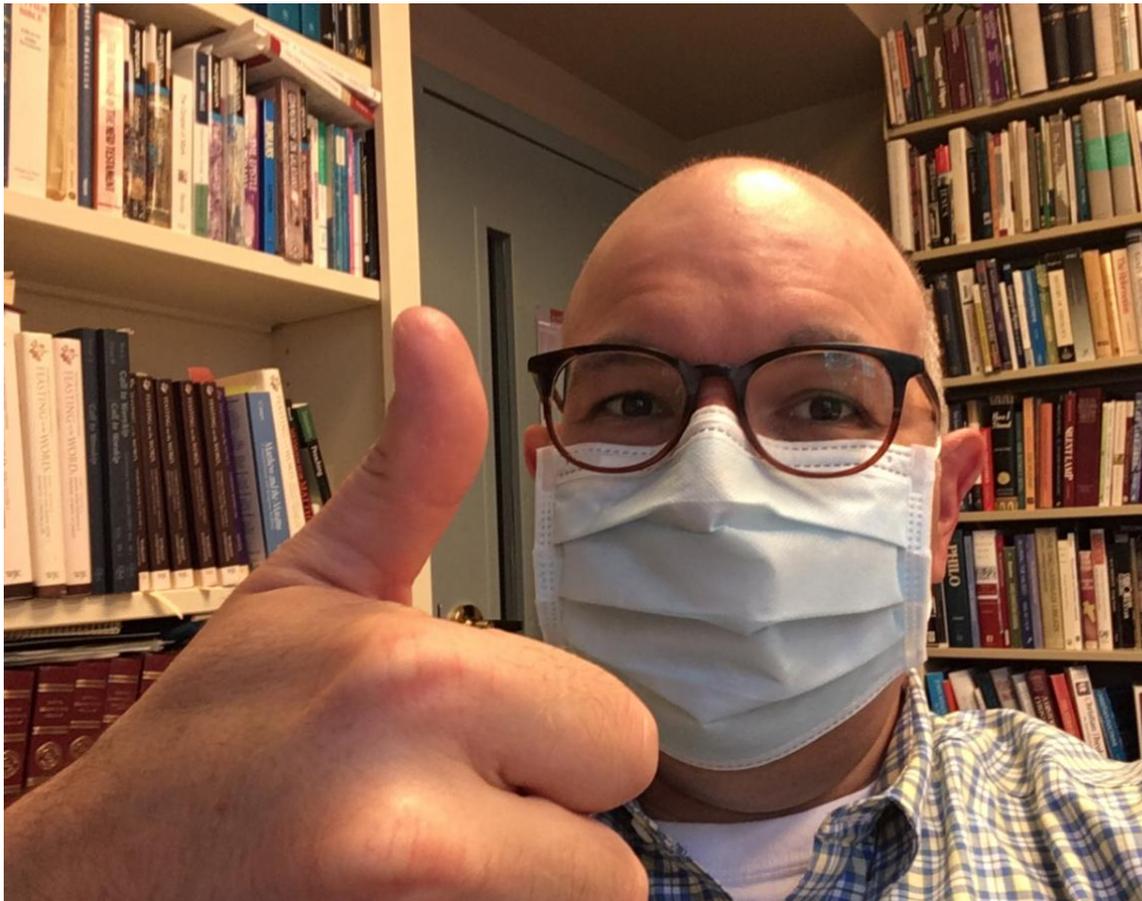


From: **Bedford Presbyterian Church** news@bedfordpresbyterian.org
Subject: Weekly Hilltop Crier
Date: July 31, 2020 at 10:11 AM
To: karen.rutherfordhome.com@bedfordpresbyterian.org

BC

Bedford Presbyterian Church

Hilltop Crier for July 31



Mask in the Office? [Check!]

As many of you know, last week my family traveled down to North Carolina to visit grandparents. On our travels, we wore masks whenever we were out of the car or public spaces, kept our hands clean, and made sure to not hang out with large groups of people or be closer than six feet.

We thought we were being "safe" and doing the right thing even in these risky times. After all, when we have the only grandchild in the family, living so far away from grandparents is really hard and they really want to see him before he gets much older.

We had a nice visit, but while we were away, the New Hampshire Department of Health issued new guidelines that said that anyone who has traveled outside of New England needs to self-quarantine for 14 days and/or take a Covid-19 test and receive a negative result. As soon as I got the news, I started thinking about the domino effect of what this would mean for the worship life of the church as well as the job of being a pastor.

Upon our return to New Hampshire, I went to take a Covid test. They told me the results wouldn't be back for at least 10 days. I'm still waiting. . .

After consulting with our church's Covid-19 Task Force and the Personnel Committee, they said that I can work alone in my office at the church as long as the door is closed. If the door is open, I need to wear a mask. On Sunday morning, I won't be in the sanctuary for the live-stream until my parts of the worship service (preaching and Lord's Supper), during which everyone else in the sanctuary will be seated way in back (six feet away from each other and nearly fifty feet away from me). This Saturday, for Earle Tryder's outdoor graveside service, I'll be wearing a mask, too (unless I hear back about my Covid test earlier).

All will be well, though. All will be well and all will be well. . .

Even though it might seem like a bit of overkill (and definitely is inconvenient), I respect the guidelines from the state and the wisdom of our own people at BPC. It is so important to take proper precautions. I want to keep you safe from me - just in case - and hope that you are doing the right things to keep those around you safe,

This is one of the many ways that we can love our neighbors during this strange season.

I hope that all of you are doing well and are having a great summer. If you leave New England, though, be aware that your vacation may need to be extended (or just look really weird) when you get back. Again. . . all will be well.

Grace and Peace,

John

Worship This Week:
"Don't Let Go" (Wrestling with God)

- Read Genesis 32:22-31

• Read Psalm 17

- read psalm 1/
- Read or sing Hymn # 833 - "O Love, That Will Not Let Me Go"
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiZ9xXoZ1Mk>

Please join us this Sunday, August 2nd, for Virtual Worship

Participate in Worship This Week - Sunday at 10 AM

ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Watch the service on Facebook Live through BPC's Facebook Page
[https://www.facebook.com/bedfordpresbyterianchurch/?ref=bookmarks.](https://www.facebook.com/bedfordpresbyterianchurch/?ref=bookmarks)

If you are watching the service on Facebook live this Sunday use the
bulletin
(or if you're watching a later broadcast or just want to get a sneak peek
for next Sunday's broadcast). . .

https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/files/3015/9612/0198/2020-08-02_Worship_Bulletin.pdf

ON BCTV

BPC's Worship Service from LAST SUNDAY (7/26)
will be broadcast on Sunday, 8/2 at 10 AM on BCTV,
Channel 16 and 1072 for Bedford residents.

Non-Bedford residents can watch online at 10 AM
at www.bedfordtv.com and click on "Watch Live" under Channel 1

If you're watching the service on BCTV this Sunday use this bulletin

<https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/files/1315/9560/1955/7-26-20Bulletin.pdf>

Flowers from 7/26 were given in memory of Kyle Erf with love from his family

Children's Ministry Lesson

<https://youtu.be/sysnkFiIDKM>



Evening Prayer - Wednesday Nights on the Front Lawn

Every Wednesday night at 6:30 PM through the summer we will hold an in-person gathering for **Evening Prayer** on the front lawn of the church (right next to Church Rd.).

There are a few things you need to know before you come:

1. We will be encouraging you to **practice physical distancing**. So, everyone needs to be aware of their surroundings and not get too close to their neighbor. Sorry, but no hugs or handshakes. **Stay at least 6 feet apart from anyone not in your household.**
2. **Bring a mask** and be ready to wear it, if asked.
3. **Bring a chair and/or a blanket to sit.**
4. **You will be directed to sit in a certain spot.** You might need to wait to be seated. Please do so at a distance of 6 feet from anyone not in your household.
5. **The service will last between 15 and 20 minutes.** We're carefully dipping our toes into the water of in-person worship and want to do all that we can to keep everyone safe.
6. **The church building will NOT be open** - even for the restroom (except in an emergency, of course).

7. **If it rains** (lightly), bring an umbrella. **If it pours** (heavily), the service will be postponed until the following Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

Looking forward to seeing you at church - Wednesdays at 6:30 PM



Buildings and Grounds Committee

Greetings from the Buildings and Grounds Committee!

While in person worship and meetings have been on hiatus, the B&G group has been quite busy. We are in constant and dire need of volunteers to help make committee decisions, and to help with odd jobs at the church. If you are willing to help in either capacity, please contact B&G Elder Sean Michalski at sean.michalski@gmail.com



BPC AND OTHERS BOOK GROUP

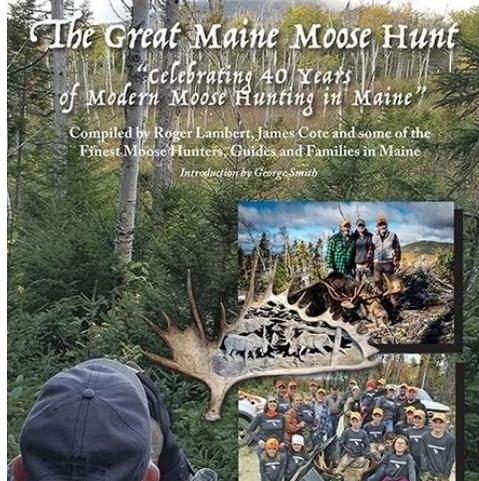
Looking for opportunities to stay connected to BPC during our time of social distancing? Enjoy reading and discussing books with other readers?

Join us for the **BPC and Others Book Group!** We meet monthly via Zoom with dates to be decided by the group. Our next meeting is August 18 to explore *Braiding Sweetgrass*, available through the Bedford Public Library's Hoopla phone app.

Anyone is invited: you don't have to attend BPC. If you know someone who might

interested, pass this on.

For more information or to get the Zoom meeting link, email Sharon Cowen at cowenfamily@comcast.net, or Bethany Avery at plantebethany@gmail.com



PORCH PARTY!!!

Hi All,

It's not Puerto Rico it's Maine!! Some of us will be traveling to Maine next week to work with the Mission at the Eastward's (MATE) Housing Ministry.

On Sunday evening, August 2nd, at 5:30 p.m. MATE will be hosting a "Porch Party" featuring Roger Lambert their Project Manager. Roger is New England's foremost authority on, you guessed it, **moose** (It is Maine). If you ever met him you'll remember him.

This is an opportunity to bring your drink and your questions. Hang out with us with some frivolous fun, discussing Roger's new book and what is going on with MATE. We promise to give you some of Maine's scenery through the camera!

Below is **the Zoom link**.

Mission at the Eastward is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: PORCH PARTY

Time: Aug 2, 2020 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94262377544>

Meeting ID: 942 6237 7544
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,94262377544# US (Chicago)
+16465588656,,94262377544# US (New York)



WAYS TO CONNECT VIRTUALLY THIS WEEK AT B

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN THE FOLLOWING ZOOM MEETINGS. . .

Click the link or call the phone number, provided,
and then follow any prompts that are on your screen for how to join. . .

Virtual Coffee Hour **Sunday at 11 AM**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86224206586?
pwd=cFBnc0ZKd3R3cTFUQ2xQVzB6V1hJUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86224206586?pwd=cFBnc0ZKd3R3cTFUQ2xQVzB6V1hJUT09)

Meeting ID: 862 2420 6586
Passcode: 191448

Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 862 2420 6586
Passcode: 191448



The Fellowship Network

We miss our time of Fellowship at BPC ~ our REAL time of Fellowship. The kind of Fellowship that is closer than six feet and involves a cup of coffee and a pastry! I miss sharing funny or frustrating stories about our week, seeing pictures of grandchildren, exchanging recipes, hearing about binge-watchable or cringe worthy Netflix series and empathizing about DIY home repair that went horribly wrong. I miss the serendipity of Coffee Hour!

Our church family has experienced dramatic changes in how we worship, work, educate our children, support family from afar, and how we connect on just a small more intimate level.

The BPC leadership and the congregation have always shown resilience and adaptation in difficult times and this time is no different. We thank everyone who has gone above and beyond!

The Parish Life / Fellowship Committee would like to try something new. Would you like to be part of a **Fellowship Network** to simply connect with one another. NO agenda ~ just make a call, send a card, FaceTime, email, text, however you feel comfortable communicating weekly with a small group of BPC members. I think of it as we have all become Deacons for a little while ~ caring, connecting, reaching out, listening, and laughing together.

If you would like to join The Fellowship Network please email or call Parish Life Executive Director Kathy Loveless (kbloveless74@gmail.com or 603-668-1521) or Linda Phelps (linda.phelps@comcast.net or 471-1004). Send us a little information in how you feel comfortable communicating and include email, home phone or cell phone number. We will organize BPC members (of ALL ages) into small groups and we will start connecting in small but profound ways. Our community thrives when neighbors look out for one another.

THANK A HEALTHCARE WORKER



BPC Is Blessed to Have Healthcare Workers as part of our Church Family

**Here is a partial list of the people from our church family
who deserve our thanks and our prayers. . .**

Scott Crandall

Bob Davis

Garrick and Dawn Johnson

Su Metcalfe

Sarah Murai

Mark Myers

Rick Phelps

James Reese

Amy Sawyer

Keith Stahl

Audrey Stanas

Deb Stanas

Andrew Wu

Karen Wu

Say a prayer for these fine people and their colleagues. . .

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give
your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to
the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous;
all for your love's sake.

Amen.

***Have someone that we need to add to this list?
Please notify the Church Office!***



COVID-19 Dedicated Fund

In an effort to support our community during the COVID19 pandemic, Bedford Presbyterian Church has established a dedicated fund that programs and individuals may resource during this difficult time. Equally important, members of our community who are looking to help can donate to this fund with the commitment from Bedford Presbyterian Church that your donation is serving those in need due to the impact of COVID-19. Jesus taught us that we must provide for our neighbors especially in difficult times. *For what you have done to the least of these, you have done to me.* Matthew 25:45. May we both provide and receive in His grace. Donations can be sent to the church office with COVID-19 in the Memo line and also be made online at <https://bedfordpresbyterian.org/giving/>.



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).

Per Capita for 2020 is \$49 per member.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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