

Ministry Name: Bedford Presbyterian Church

Email: office@bedfordpreschurch.org

Mailing Address: PO Box 280, Bedford, NY 10506

Congregation Size: 101-250 members

Preferred Phone: 914-243-3672

Our vision is a vibrant, welcoming, inclusive community of God, that inspires and motivates its members to live their faith in action. As a church, we aim to be a voice for progressive Christian values in the local community.

Our priorities include compelling Sunday worship (including children's classes), and activities during the week that provide a spiritually positive context, helpful information, and guidance for today's complex world. Collaborating with other organizations that sponsor similar activities is also part of our vision.

Among our specific goals are increased opportunities for the congregation to connect with each other, for the inclusion of music and art in our programs, and for a more effective means of congregational care and support where needed.

Especially important is a refinement of our goals for mission, so as to best harness the congregation's time and talents for volunteering and outreach in our local community.

Bedford Village is one of three hamlets in the Town of Bedford, which is a suburb of New York City. There are 16,000 residents in the town, and it is an affluent and educated community. It is a diverse school district because of its proximity to Mount Kisco which has a large immigrant population. BPC has a long history of partnering with other faith organizations to further our mission and vision.

Our mission is to be an inclusive, progressive Christian community—offering a place where we have the bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other, exploring our faith with both tradition and relevance. Sunday worship remains a centerpiece of our journey together, and it is a starting point for our work to serve others and our community. "Church is more than just Sundays" has become a mantra. With the leadership of a talented Director of Family Ministries, our children's programs have been revitalized, signaling our ongoing commitment to nurturing the spiritual lives of young people and their families.

We seek engagement beyond Sunday mornings and the church walls. This includes offering programs that speak to real-life challenges through a progressive Christian lens; programs that bring people from both the congregation and the outside community in through our “side doors”. These “side door” programs create ways to bring in new ideas, new faces and new opportunities built on mutual support, while also strengthening relationships within our congregation. Ultimately, we believe these programs have the potential to attract more people to our Sunday worship services.

Regarding specific emerging needs impacting our community, priorities include supporting the homeless and immigrant population, encouraging effective civil discourse, and pursuing avenues for inclusivity. Finally, we are committed to growing our congregational care team, realizing that our commitment to one another is a foundational need.

We seek an inspiring, visible, organizational leader—Someone who has joy in their heart and dedication in their soul! Someone who is both intellectually engaging and relationally warm. The congregation at BPC has spent the past years learning more about ourselves and understanding our own relevance towards strengthening our church. We seek a unifier, a consensus builder, leading us in our next steps; a leader who takes the time to learn about BPC so they can manage BPC’s priorities wisely and who develops a strong understanding of our organization’s working structures. Someone who has the skills to work with and lead both Session and volunteer leaders with clarity and purpose.

Ideally, our next pastor will use their ideas and vision to be a catalyst for growth, while continuing to acknowledge and nurture existing programs. They will need to be comfortable representing our church in the broader community and leading us in meaningful, hands-on mission work. We hope that our next leader will be deeply rooted in faith, with a strong sense of calling, and a commitment to building a healthy, imaginative, and inclusive church together. We seek a pastor whose weekly sermons teach, prompt important questions, and inspire us to live our faith in action. As an educated and informed congregation, we hope to welcome a skilled preacher who can integrate scripture into today’s complicated world, with vivid examples and references

Responsibilities

WORSHIP

-Lead the congregation in vibrant, exciting and thoughtful Sunday worship using appropriate liturgy and including administering of the sacraments.

-Collaborate with music and worship committees generally, and make efforts to include art, music and other creative innovations as appropriate in worship services.

-Participate in special services beyond Sunday morning as they are needed, such as prayer services after a significant event or tragedy, and occasional evening programs.

PASTORAL CARE

-Give regular pastoral care to those confined to their homes and special attention to folks suffering a health crisis in hospital or a difficult personal loss.

-Keep regular weekly office hours

-Train and offer ongoing support to the Care Team, encouraging church-wide participation in caring for one another in times of particular need, such as help with shopping, cooking, transportation or visits.

TEACHING

-Use the Sunday morning service as an opportunity for learning as well as inspiration.

-Plan and lead the annual confirmation class.

-Come up with other ideas on how to engage the congregation in creative ways - that is nurturing for the new pastor and congregants

-Contribute to the instruction of elders and deacons in aspects of their roles and their responsibilities.

LEADERSHIP

-Moderate the regular session meetings.

-As head of staff, take an appropriate level of responsibility for all paid staff of the church, in conjunction with the session appointed personnel committee

-Work with the session and committees involved in maintaining and expanding current mission projects and also program new mission projects which will utilize our best talents and resources.

-Take the initiative to meet with and be in contact with leaders of other churches, faith groups and civic organizations with whom we can work toward solutions of interest to the whole community of Bedford Village and its surrounding area.

-Be an active member of the Hudson River Presbytery.